Shimpling News

Spring 2026 **Issue 145**



The Parish Council:

Mrs Liz Brunwin	01284 828122
Mr Gerry Shrimpton	01284 827219
Mr David Dunkley	07809 148630
Mr Mark Milhench	07770 668660
Ms Jen O'Reilly-Turner	07769 894806
Mr Laurence Rooke	07818 797081
Vacancy	

Contact details for the Clerk are:
4 Park Farm Cottages, Brettenham, Suffolk, IP7 7QP
(Correspondence and Appointment only)
Email: clerk@shimpling-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07940 223200

The Parish Council meet bi-monthly in January, March, May (AGM), July, September and November every year. Extra meetings may also be held throughout the year when required.

Annual Parish Assembly – Reports presented by the Council and local groups / charities / committees from within the parish. Members of the public can speak freely at this meeting in May, raise issues and ask questions relating to the reports.

Annual Meeting of the Council (AGM) – Each May, Election of officers of the council. Declarations of acceptance of office.

Parish Council Meetings – Council considers matters relating to finance, planning and the Parish. Additional extraordinary meetings are held when required.

Dates of meetings: Parish council meetings will be held at 7pm on the following dates;

- Monday 9th March 2026
- Monday 11th May 2026 (Annual Meeting of the Parish, Annual General Meeting followed by normal May PC meeting)

Please note that these meetings will be held at the Village Hall.

Parish Council Website and Social Media and Notice Boards

You can find council information on the notice board by the bus stop in The Street. This is also circulated via our Village Round Robin System and posted on the Shimpling Community Facebook page. Alternatively, the village web site is regularly updated as well as our Facebook page. Please like our Facebook page:
Facebook: Shimpling Parish Council
Website: https://shimpling-pc.gov.uk/

Could you volunteer to help your Village?

We need a new Parish Councillor to join our team. Parish Councillors do a worthwhile job ensuring that your voice is heard and overseeing work so that your village is kept looking good. If you would like to know more about becoming a Councillor then please get in touch with the Clerk or any of our wonderful Councillors.

Report from Chair, David Dunkley:

The Chair reported in the January meeting;
Let me offer my best wishes to everyone for 2026 and hope that you had a pleasant holiday period.

On that theme, the village green Christmas decorations again looked very festive and many thanks to all who made that possible, including the set-up, provision of the tree and the electricity for the lights.
A new supplier has been found to support the installation of the EV chargers and although we were hoping to hear from them before Christmas this did not happen. Hopefully 2026 will be more successful in completing this work.
The installation of InPost storage lockers at the village hall was halted following concerns from some villagers. Although the number was small, they represented those most likely to be affected by the installation. Going forward, obtaining acceptable answers to their genuine concerns will be necessary to enable the project to re-start.
The final draft of the Neighbourhood Plan was issued to the Parish Council at the November meeting and was accepted. The public consultation on the plan will begin on the 17th January kicked off by an open event at the village hall. The consultation continues for 6 weeks, following which the plan, with any changes, goes to Babergh DC for evaluation.
Information of the potential local government reorganisation is still being disseminated but, as yet, no decision has been announced.

Recycling

Please remember that the Parish Council receives money from the paper (although not cardboard) glass, clothing and shoes deposited in the recycling bins near the Bush Inn. Clothing and shoes should be bagged before depositing in the clothing/shoe bank. This income helps to run the council and therefore is a direct benefit to the village. **Please keep recycling.**

What the Parish Council have been up to …

Over the last couple of months, we have:

- Worked on fixing minor issues with the playground
- Prepared a budget for 2026/27

Do you have new neighbours?

For some time now, the Village Hall Committee have been sending welcome letters with local information to new residents. If you have new neighbours, can you please let the Village Hall Committee shimplingvh@gmail.com know so that they can organise a welcome letter.

Shimpling WhatsApp Support Group

This was set up at the start of COVID to support those in need but has developed into a good way of communicating with others in the village. Recently we were asked to relay an urgent message to a villager and were able to locate the person quickly using the WhatsApp Group. If you would like to join the group, please contact Katie Haselhurst kh.shimpling@gmail.com.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group are working hard! For more information on the process or what has been produced so far look on the website: https://shimpling-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan-2/

Speeding

There have been issues raised regarding speeding in the Village, this has been raised both to the PC and it was commented on frequently in the Neighbourhood Plan Surveys. The PC are looking at possibly setting up a community speed watch. However, we will need volunteers!

To set up a scheme

- You must have a minimum of 6 volunteers
- All the volunteers must be over 18 years old
- Each scheme must have a co-ordinator (who will be the point of contact for the team) and where possible a deputy
- The Parish (or local) Council support the scheme
- You will have to sign a CSW agreement and be vetted
- Equipment will be provided by the Constabulary
- Training will be provided on using the equipment and on Health and Safety issues
- Volunteers will be covered by the Constabulary's insurance
- Locations chosen will be assessed by the Constabulary

If you would like to volunteer, please do get in touch and let us know. We can only move this forward with enough volunteers.

Buses

Here is a link to the full timetable
https://passenger-line-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/hedinghamandchambers/HEDO/45-timetable-20250831-5f294bdd.pdf

District Councillors

Our District Councillors usually attend each Parish Council meeting and can also be contacted as follows:

Michael Holt
Phone: 01787 281712, Mobile: 07801 766813
Email: michael.holt@babergh.gov.uk



Stephen Plumb
Phone: 01787 280890
Email: stephen.plumb@babergh.gov.uk



Planning

There have been a number of planning applications since our last newsletter. Others are updated below:

Application	Shimpling PC Comments	Planning Authority Decision
DC/25/05341- Lyndhurst Little Chadacre Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4HL- Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/25/02008 – Condition 5 (Cycle Storage and Refuse Bins)	Did not comment	Granted
DC/25/05339 - Stable Barn Thorne Court Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 0JN - Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of Use of Buildings on Agricultural Units and former Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (Class C3), which may include extension of the building and/or building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Conversion of Stable Barn to 1no. dwellinghouse	Did not comment	Granted

Shimpling Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you to everyone who attended the Consultation Session at the Village Hall on the 17th January; the time flew by with many interesting conversations.

By the time this newsletter comes out the opportunity to comment/support the Plan via the survey will have closed but thank you to all that did – we appreciate it was slightly time consuming!

The next stage will be for the Draft Plan to be amended, where necessary, to take on board comments received via the survey before submission to Babergh District Council. Following this consultation period the Plan will then be sent for Independent Examination.

The final stage will be for the formal Parish Referendum where everyone in the Parish has the opportunity to vote on the adoption of the Plan. If this is positive Babergh District Council will then be required to take the Plan into account on any decisions made.

We will keep you up to date with progress through the next stages.

Committee members: Mark Beaver, Claire Douglas-Hughes (Chair), David Dunkley, Mike Fahie-Wilson, Jane Wall.

THE HALLIFAX TRUST

A locally based charity providing grants to students under the age of 25 receiving further education at colleges or universities or undergoing formal training for a profession or vocation. These are non-means tested. To qualify students must simply have parents living in Shimpling or alternatively have in the past attended Lawshall School whilst their parents were living in Shimpling.

Funding is additionally available for other school and village projects. Applications from students for funding for the forthcoming academic year must be received by 30th September.

HELP US TO HELP OUR CHILDREN

We have recently received a small number of donations to the Charity for which we are extremely grateful. Please consider whether you could help with a donation or a legacy. These are tough times for students and the more funds we have the more we can help. For grants or donations contact:

hallifaxtrust@gmail.com

Claire Wilson 01284 830574 or Jenny Pine 01284 827073

Hallifax Educational Trust is a Registered Charity No.310396

Village Personalities ?

Would you like to have an article published in the form of a small piece written about youself and your life in Shimpling as an item of social interest?

It would not be more than a page. There are so many interesting people in our village ! If so, email me , Jayne Schofield, on jas.65@btinternet.com or call on 01284 828 322

Let there be light?

A visitor to the UK recently commented to a member of my family that there must be corruption at the highest level … because we are such a rich country and yet nothing seems to work! I suspect that I dismissed this comment too lightly, but have since been reminded about it following the recent revelations about Jeffrey Epstein and the behaviour of many powerful Western leaders in politics, business, science and the arts. I do not think I am alone at being appalled. I was particularly disgusted how Epstein advised people how to discredit those who had been abused when they sought justice in court.

I am conscious that these revelations have affected people within our parishes - probably not directly relating to Epstein, but with respect to other people abusing power. This has been weighing particularly heavily on my heart these recent weeks, and I have been praying for any in our villages who have been affected that you would not feel alone, and that you would have trusted people to share with and to support you.

It can feel that we are so weak against the powerful, and yet I have been reminded that God will not tolerate injustice forever. Yes of course I have faith that at the end of this age justice will be restored to all the earth. But I am also praying that God will shine his light on corruption right now - and that of course includes any corruption or abuse in the church. Psalm 94 starts like this:

1 The LORD is a God who avenges. O God who avenges, shine forth.
2 Rise up, Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve.
3 How long, LORD, will the wicked, how long will the wicked be jubilant?

But the psalm ends like this:

21 The wicked band together against the righteous and condemn the innocent to death.
22 But the LORD has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge.
23 He will repay them for their sins and destroy them for their wickedness;
the Lord our God will destroy them.

So I pray, Lord, Let there be light! And let us pray that justice and mercy will be held in right balance.

(Late addendum - I am very concerned to have just heard news about an allegation leading to a Bishop being suspended - I am glad it is being taken seriously).

Reverand Matthew Lawson

Volunteer Opportunity for someone good with words

The Parochial Church Council are looking for a secretary to send out documents and take notes at our meetings. We only have 6 meetings a year but it would help us enormously if someone could help. Training and support (and plenty of laughter, tea, coffee, and biscuits) will be provided. Please contact Revd Lawson on 01787 310 845 or revmattis@gmail.com.



THE PARISH OF ALPHETON AND SHIMPLINGTHORNE

Church Services Include:

March			
Sun 1st	9.00am	Alpheton	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Family Communion
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 8th	4.00pm	Shimpling	Pub Social at The Bush Inn #
Sun 15th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Mothering Sunday Service
Sun 22nd	4.00pm	tbc	Wild Lent #
Sun 29th	10.30am	Melford	Traditional Passiontide Service
	4.00pm	Melford	Messy Easter at Holy Trinity #
	6.30pm	Lawshall	Evening Communion
April			
Thurs 2nd	7.00pm	Melford	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri 3rd	10.00am	Shimpling	Walk with the Cross, Bush to V. Hall
	2.00pm	Melford	Devotional Service
Sat 4th	8.30pm	Melford	Traditional Easter Vigil
Sun 5th	10.30am	Melford	Easter Celebration & Communion (family friendly)
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 19th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
Sun 26th	6.30pm	Lawshall	Communion
May			
Sun 3rd	9.00am	Alpheton	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Family Communion
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 10th	4.00pm	Melford Sch.	Messy Church #
Sun 17th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
Sun 31st	6.30pm	Lawshall	Evening Communion

… and Communion at Holy Trinity Long Melford **every Sunday at 10.30am** (Google 'Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook' for livestream).

for our 4 o'clock community with family friendly services socials and events almost every Sunday at 4.00pm, contact Nicky on 07938 681319 or chadbrooklightwave@gmail.com

... and Communion at Holy Trinity Long Melford every Sunday at 10.30am (Google 'Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook' for livestream).

Children welcome at all 10.30am services there is a children's area at the back of Holy Trinity Please see www.longmelfordchurch.com for any updates. For further information on our toddler and youth groups, please contact Pam on 07890or melfordfamilyworker@gmail.com.

For more details or any questions, please contact Vicky on 07804 558160 or chadbrookoffice@gmail.com.

Rector:Rev'd Matthew Lawson 01787 310845
Churchwarden: Vacant
Church Contact : Charlotte Blyth 01284 828544
07939 194233

SHIMPLING MOBILE LIBRARY 2026

Do you like reading?

Each month on a Friday the mobile library comes to Shimpling and has many books on board, including children's options. Library membership is free and once you join it's very easy to order a vast range of books online, which can be collected from the mobile library.

You can borrow up to 20 books and 6 audio books at any one time, and if no-one has reserved them, they can be renewed up to 6 times. So, no excuses if you're a slow reader!

The library bus, route 13, calls at HALLIFAX PLACE between 1230 and 1250 on the following Fridays this year:

March 13, April 10, May 8

www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk

So let's use it, or we may lose it. Happy Reading!

From Greening Shimpling

At the beginning of January we had a great turnout for the planting of trees at the top of the footpath leading away from Gents Lane, in an area which will now be known as Hill Field Spinney. In under 2 hours we planted about 200 trees, all of which have been staked and protected with tree guards. We were very fortunate with the weather, considering how awful it's been!

It is hoped that we will be able to follow this up with the planting of wild flowers, the siting of bird boxes and the construction of a log pile to provide a habitat for insects and small mammals, hopefully when the weather improves and the ground dries out a little!

In a follow up meeting, we discussed how we might be able to work with the Parish Council to protect and further enhance the environment in and around our beautiful village and will be sending a representative to the next PC meeting.

If you would like further information regarding the Greening Shimpling group please contact Jane 07453 453 906 or email jane.wall@hotmail.co.uk and we will add you to our WhatsApp group.



GREENING SHIMPLING

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

The Annual Village Clean Up Morning will take place on Sunday 22nd March at 11.30am from the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

We have some high vis vests and litter picking sticks but if you have your own high vis vest and gloves, please bring them along

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult



Shimpling & Alpheton WI
Lindsey Barrell aka Cherry Bombe - Burlesque

Lindsey turned out to be quite a stand up comic, dressed in - well - not what you would expect from a typical WI member, let's say. She certainly knew how to tell her stories!
She has been doing burlesque for 14 years and comes from Lancashire and grew up in County Durham but has lived in Essex for 32 years. Subjects she talked about included the North/South divide, being a single Mum, crafts - especially sewing, the WI, shopping in Aldi, confidence building, salsa and the quest to find friends.

Films like Sweet Charity, Moulin Rouge etc include burlesque. At her first session she was told to wear keep fit clothes for burlesque classes. When she got there, all the other women were wearing burlesque style clothes. Leopard Lily, became the first character whom she portrayed in burlesque, wearing leopardskin from head to toe, choreographing her three and a half minute dance act herself. She did a routine to a Chris de Burgh song called Patricia the Stripper. (If you are intrigued you can see her with a group of ladies outdoors performing to this very song on YouTube, dressed as Cherry Bombe.)

Her success with this meant jealousies amongst the other women so she didn't really make friends there as she had hoped. In a continued quest to make friends, she joined a new WI in Chelmsford which attracted around 200 new women. She had thought it would be a bit like the Brownies for grown ups. She joined the

largest WI branch in the country with 350 members which was so large that they could only meet in Chelmsford Cathedral. Because of the size, subgroups were formed and Lindsey ran a Burlesque subgroup of about 20 members who met in a village hall in Great Baddow. By this stage Lindsey had portrayed the character of Cherry Bombe. They formed the first ever WI Burlesque troupe. The ladies all made friends and performed at Chelmsford Cathedral, removing clothes. ..this led to fundraising by her troupe called the Burlesque Bombshells via performances, raising thousands for charities.

Lindsey ended up forming another Burlesque group at Canvey Island called the Wild Island Burlesquers. The average age of the troupe was in the 70s with some ladies aged 80 odd. One lady wearing a corset for the first time put it on upside down! The Covid lockdown brought new challenges and Lindsey gave 400 talks on Zoom from her kitchen dressed in her corset. Sometimes she gave three talks in a day.

Lindsey moved from the enormous WI to a smaller WI and is now the president of a third WI.

Copy for the June 2026 edition is required by 22nd May 2026 (A4 WORD or .PDF file please)
Sarah Smith—slsconsulting21@outlook.com
07774 116128
When advertising events please ensure there is a contact name with a landline number.
Please remember not everyone is on the Internet !!

The Alpheton Film night is on the 2nd Monday of each month.



Mon. 9th March. THE COLOUR ROOM. (Phoebe Dynevor, Matthew Goode)

Mon 13th April A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (Timothee Chalamet)

Mon 11th May LIVING (Bill Nighy)

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Admission price is £5 including tea/coffee & biscuits. The Bar will be open.

Have you tried it yet?



Take the number 45 bus to Bury St Edmunds (Monday to Saturday). Meet nice people as you travel through the villages.

Brighten up your day, even when it is overcast.
Give it a go this week, you will be amazed how much better you feel. No car park fees, no queuing for a space, no expensive fuel, leave it to the bus driver and see a different view of your surroundings.
Looking forward to seeing you very soon!

Timetables are available on the bus, in the village or
www.konectbuses.co.uk
www.suffolkonboard.com

HARTEST & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

2026 has started with a very wet and soggy January, so those of us with clay gardens are dealing with boggy ground and a rising water table. Mud has made gardening, or even stepping outside, practically impossible at times. However, spring is on its way, with snowdrops in bloom in the hedgerows and gardens, and other spring bulbs starting to peep out of the ground. We just need a little bit of blue sky and sunshine to tempt us outside to see which plants have survived the endless rain.

We started this year with a really interesting talk on Delphiniums from Greg Veness of The Front Gardeners Nursery, who are based at the Willow Tree Farm Shop. We learned how to care for these beautiful plants, the seed sowing process and how to take basal cuttings. Delphiniums are fully hardy and (with good drainage) can tolerate a cold winter. Even better, they can be grown from seed from January onwards!

Looking ahead we have some key dates for your diaries:
On Sunday 1 March, 2.30pm we welcome guest speaker Michael Marriott to the Hartest Institute for an expert talk on roses. Michael was the Head Rosarian at David Austin Roses for 35 years and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of all things related to roses. Whilst Michael's enthusiasm for roses is infectious, he is equally known for his garden designs, organic methods and common sense approach.

At the time of writing, there are still a small number of tickets left, priced at £15 for our 2026 club members and £18 for non-members. If you would like to attend, email hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com with the number of tickets you require.

Further ahead, other key dates for your diary are the:

- Annual Plant Sale Sunday 17th May at 2pm, Hartest Green where there will be lots of plants, veg and garden items for sale.

  We welcome donations of plants, perennials, annuals, saplings and veg seedlings (all labelled please). This year we also hope to offer gardening books, plant pots and any other garden-related equipment. If you are having a spring clear out and want to donate items, please do get in touch.

- Annual Show Sunday 6th September at 2.30pm, The Institute.
  More information about this nearer the date.

The club is going from strength to strength and has a great buzz about it with lots of new members and renewed energy from long-standing members. If you are interested in finding out about who we are and what we offer, do come along. We are very friendly and welcoming!

We hold monthly meetings at 7.30pm, on the first Monday of each month at the Hartest Institute. Membership is £15 per person or £25 for a couple. In the summer months our members enjoy access to exclusive garden visits. Members also enjoy a healthy 50% discount on seeds from our club supplier, Kings Seeds, who have a fantastic selection of veg, flower and herb seeds.

Find out more via our:
Website: https://hartestgardeningclub.onesuffolk.net/
Instagram: hartest_gardening_club
Facebook: Hartest & District Gardening Club
Email: hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com
Kit Morrison, on behalf of H&DGC hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com

Shimpling Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee meets every 8 weeks, to manage the hall and arrange events that residents can enjoy and generate income to keep the hall running & open.
We welcome interest from any resident who would like to get involved – please email Carol Squire: shimplingvh@gmail.com or phone, WhatsApp or text: 07855 762812
Meeting minutes and information on all activities are available to read on the Village website http://shimplingpc.onesuffolk.net/village-hall/
Events and activities timetable on the Your Hall website https://yourhall.co.uk/hall/shimpling-village-hall/

Village Hall Activities

Future Arts & Crafts Sessions in the village hall 2026 (see posters in this newsletter).



Spring Wreath Making Workshop -
Ever thought you would like to be able to make your own wreaths - why not start with a beautiful spring flower wreath using spring bulbs that can be re-potted and come again. The workshop will be in the village hall on the 21st of March 2026 at 10am. The session tutor will be expert florist Anne Brown - http://www.justanneflowers.co.uk/
Booking for places open now - see the poster in this month's newsletter.
All sessions have minimum attendance targets and will not take place if not reached.

Other Events
Schools' half term saw the hall made available for free to residents and families to use the table tennis set, the children's billiards table and other indoor games. Those who took advantage enjoyed the opportunity - *"We had a brilliant time and have all become experts at table tennis!"* We will do the same every half term in 2026

Also, if you are stuck for something to do with the family – don't forget you can book the hall to play a variety of games including Table Tennis and Billiards at other times





PANTOMIME - Due to the popularity of the live screening of the Christmas Pantomime last year, we linked up with the Wolsey Theatre Ipswich again this year on the Saturday 27th December and live streamed Beauty and the Beast.

The Regular Village Hall Activities
These continue as scheduled so check the village website, notice boards, Facebook and WhatsApp and join in.

- PILATES classes are on a Monday mornings and Wednesday evening and with occasional attendance from other villages boosting numbers, these have mainly been well attended but there is still room for a few more so don't be shy – come and join in. It's time to get summer holiday fit.
- ZUMBA GOLD continues term time Fridays – a great way to dance your way to fitness - no prior experience or skill needed - just dance for the fun of it.
- FILM NIGHTS have also continued the 3rd Tuesday evening of the month, showing some great films, but in Feb and March - the film will be shown in the afternoon. Attendance could improve to help make a profit on these sessions so come along and enjoy the films.
  Let us know what films you want to see. WhatsApp or Text Carol on 07855 762812 with your ideas

The **RURAL COFFEE CARAVAN** come to the village hall every **4th Thursday of the month** offering their excellent range of home-made coffee (or tea) cakes & savouries, coupled with advice, up to date information and signposting for help and information.

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL
PILATES CLASSES

THE BENEFITS OF PILATES

The focus is on core strength & spinal mobility to ensure optimum alignment of the body.

The breathing and mindful aspect of Pilates supports both physical and mental well-being.

It is intelligent exercise!



3 Sessions are held

Mondays at 9.30 – 10.30 and **11 – 12noon**

WEDNESDAYS 6.30 – 7.30pm

term time only

£7 per session - Equipment provided free

NO EXPERIENCE OR BOOKING NEEDED

Want to know more?

Contact Tutor- Louise Fuller 07875 370902



SPRING WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

10am SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL

£35 PER PERSON

Learn how to make a beautiful wreath with spring bulbs that can be replanted in a pot to come again!

Book your place by emailing
shimplingvh@gmail.com or

text Carol on 07855762812

Rural Coffee Caravan

Making a difference to rural communities throughout Suffolk

Come and share a pot of tea, our welcome is warm and our friendship free!

We'll be visiting:

Shimpling

Village Hall IP29 4HS

10am - 12pm

Thursdays:

22nd Jan / 26th Feb / 26th March

Come along for some company and a catch up with your neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and cake. We bring a great source of information along with the free refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you.

All Welcome!



www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk tel: 01379 855 338

Registered No: 1187423

Meet Up Mondays™

c-a-f-e coffee and friends events

More Than A Shop

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Alpheton and Shimpling Marmalade Competition



at the Spring Market (11th April)

Please bring 2 jars at 10am (one for the competition, one for the produce stall)

Judging will take place at 12 noon

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

During Half Terms we are pleased to offer **Shimpling Village Hall** for hire - **FREE** of charge

Play

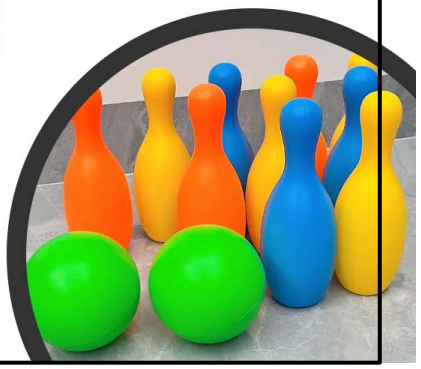
- TABLE TENNIS, BILLIARDS, or GAMES SESSIONS
- BRING YOUR OWN GAMES OR USE OURS!
- BOOK YOUR SESSION
- Email shimplingvh@gmail.com
- or text 07855762812











Barn Dance with 'Catch the Pigeon'

More details to follow !



alphetonandshimplingchurches.com

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL

SPRING 2026 FILM SESSIONS

3rd TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

March - Matinee - 1.45 for 2pm start

April & May 7.15pm for 7.30 start

COME AND WATCH NEW AND FAVOURITE FILMS ON THE BIG SCREEN



COMING NEXT

March 17th - Agatha and the Truth of Murder

A British alternative history drama about crime writer Agatha Christie becoming embroiled in a real-life murder case during her 11-day disappearance in 1926. Based on real people & events, it depicts Christie investigating the murder of Florence Nightingale's goddaughter, & how involvement in this case, influenced her later writing.

April 21st Hemingway and Gellhorn

This powerful drama recounts the relationship between literary giant Ernest Hemingway (Nick Owen) & War correspondent Martha Gellhorn (Nicole Kidman) - Hemingway's inspiration for "For Whom the Bell Tolls".

May 19th - The Choral

British historical drama written by Alan Bennett starring Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam, Mark Addy. Set in 1916, the film follows the members of the local choral society which recruits a group of teenagers for a performance of Edward Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*.

PUT THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY

REFRESHMENTS & FILM £4.50 PER PERSON
ICECREAM, SWEETS & POPCORN ALSO ON SALE.



Do you have a film you want to see? Just let us know

Friday 27th March 2026
From 5pm
The Swan Inn, Lawshall

Face the flames and crush the glass to help raise vital funds! After the incredible success of our first ever firewalk in 2024, Green Light Trust are bringing it back again this year with a twist – a glass walk too! Experience the thrill of walking bare foot across scorching flames and razor sharp glass, facing your fears in the Spring.

Our fundraising challenge offers the chance for team building, creating lasting memories and bonds. Not only will you be testing your limits, but you will raise valuable funds for Green Light Trust.

Located at the stunning Swan Inn pub, join us from 5pm to register and grab a delicious bite to eat. This event is hosted by Fundraising Firewalk Association, one of the UK's leading firewalk companies, who will provide training sessions on the night.

Your fundraising efforts and entry ticket will include an achievement certificate, photographs of the event, fundraising support and a limited edition Green Light Trust fire and glass walk t-shirt.

See our website events page for more details and how to sign up- greenlighttrust.org

GREEN LIGHT TRUST



ZUMBA® gold



Shimpling Village Hall

Friday's 1-1.45pm - term time only

£5 per session

No booking required, just come along

CONTACT YOUR LICENSED ZUMBA INSTRUCTOR :

Jo Brown

Call/text : 07851962112
Email : joanna-m-brown@hotmail.co.uk
find me on Facebook : Jo Brown

HARTEST FARMERS & CRAFT MARKET

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH
10:00-12:30

The Little Dip Company
Chicken and Bird feed
Bread & pastries, Sparling & Faiers
Sue's Savouries
Fuller's Honey
Dr Kat's Luxury Granola
Meadow and Woodland Livestock
B'Wrappy Eco Food Wraps
Hartest made Power-Grit Health food mix
Conical peg bags & Sewn items by Tamara Jones
Walking sticks & wooden items
Moonvine jewellery
Artist Janet Munro
Chocolate, Edible Creations by Rosey
Cambridge Artisan Cheese
Local eggs & curry kits
Fruit and veg, Cox Boxes
Coiled rope baskets by Debbie Regent
Soap, ljp balms and bath bombs by FB Designs
Tropic Skincare by Debra Graham
Artist Juliette Hudson
Crochet & jewellery by Pat

Cafe: Hot bacon, sausage rolls, tea, coffee & homemade cakes
Friends of Hartest School

HARTESTFARMERSMARKET@GMAIL.COM

Hartest Institute, Hartest, Bury Saint Edmunds IP29 4DH

Advertising in the Shimpling News

You could reach 200 households.....!
The fees for advertising in the Shimpling News for 2025 (of which this is for the 4 editions – one for each season) will be;

Full page £100, Half page £50 , Quarter page £25

With any residents of Shimpling able to have a 25% discount so making the cost Full page £75, Half page £37.50 and Quarter page £18.75. Individual adverts (ie for sale items) are £3 up to a £100 and £5 over £100 per issue
If you would like to advertise please email the Clerk shimplingpc@gmail.com



SAVE

(Shimpling AED Village Enterprise)

As most people are aware the village has an AED located in a locked cabinet outside The Bush. The device is registered with the East of England Ambulance Service, who have the access code details.
In the event of an emergency, the precise location of the AED would need to be given, to enable the Ambulance Service to give the code. The location is

The Bush, The Street, Shimpling **IP29 4HU**

Please make a note of these details, as it could save time in gaining access.
If you require any further details, please contact me Marian Peck Chair, SAVE 01284 828187

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St James's Place

SJP Approved 15/09/2025

RECYCLING Shimpling has a bottle bank, a Paper and Card Bank and a Clothing Bank. If they are full please call

BOTTLE BANK— 0344 880 7700

CLOTHING BANK—08000 902 321

Electronic Version of The Shimpling News

If you would prefer to receive an email informing you when the latest issue is available online, rather than have a printed copy delivered to your door please let me know slsconsulting21@outlook.com



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Useful Online Reporting Tools
Many issues can be reported online by residents at https;//www.babergh.gov.uk/report-online Including potholes, overgrown vegetation, littering and fly-tipping
Flooding can be reported at https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/report-a-flood-in-suffolk
Local road closure information can be found at one.network

LARK VALLEY WILLOW LTD.

Lark Valley Willow Ltd.
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Training and support will be given. Enjoying working outside is a must. You will need to have transport and be practical and hard working.

Please email cmcooke@icloud.com with a brief CV

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USEFUL VILLAGE CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

County Cllr—Richard Kemp 01787 378149
Shimpling Village Hall—Carol Squire 07855 762812 or email shimplingvh@gmail.com
St George's Church—Rev'd Matthew Lawson 01787 310845
The Bush Public house 07961 947497 and email thebushpubshimpling@gmail.com
Shimpling Postal Collections:-
The Street Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am, Little Chadacre Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am, Aveley Lane Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am
Medical Services
NHS Helpline :- 111 (Non-emergency)
Glemsford Surgery:—01787 280484
Lavenham/Long Melford Surgery:—01787 378226
Samaritans:- 116 123
Domestic Abuse Helpline:- 0808 2000 247
Vet Surgeries:-
Swayne & Partners Long Melford—01787 370773
Bury St Edmunds - 01284 701444
Anglian Water Emergency :- 0800 771881
UK Power Networks Emergency:- 0800 31 63 105
Citizens Advice Bureau:- 01284 753675
Suffolk Libraries Library Van—Next visit Friday 13th March Hallifax Place 12:30-12:50, then April 10th and May 8th
Chambers Bus Service 45—Daily except Sunday depart Hallifax Place to Bury 07:39*/10:01 return arrival at Hallifax Place 16:56*/13:35 *Schooldays
Felix Taxis :- 01787 310574
Shimpling Park Farm for loose sheep and broken fences etc. Shepherd Emily Elnaugh on 07415 311252.

Shimpling News

Spring 2026 **Issue 145**



The Parish Council:

Mrs Liz Brunwin	01284 828122
Mr Gerry Shrimpton	01284 827219
Mr David Dunkley	07809 148630
Mr Mark Milhench	07770 668660
Ms Jen O'Reilly-Turner	07769 894806
Mr Laurence Rooke	07818 797081
Vacancy	

Contact details for the Clerk are:
4 Park Farm Cottages, Brettenham, Suffolk, IP7 7QP
(Correspondence and Appointment only)
Email: clerk@shimpling-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07940 223200

The Parish Council meet bi-monthly in January, March, May (AGM), July, September and November every year. Extra meetings may also be held throughout the year when required.

Annual Parish Assembly – Reports presented by the Council and local groups / charities / committees from within the parish. Members of the public can speak freely at this meeting in May, raise issues and ask questions relating to the reports.

Annual Meeting of the Council (AGM) – Each May, Election of officers of the council. Declarations of acceptance of office.

Parish Council Meetings – Council considers matters relating to finance, planning and the Parish. Additional extraordinary meetings are held when required.

Dates of meetings: Parish council meetings will be held at 7pm on the following dates;

- Monday 9th March 2026
- Monday 11th May 2026 (Annual Meeting of the Parish, Annual General Meeting followed by normal May PC meeting)

Please note that these meetings will be held at the Village Hall.

Parish Council Website and Social Media and Notice Boards

You can find council information on the notice board by the bus stop in The Street. This is also circulated via our Village Round Robin System and posted on the Shimpling Community Facebook page. Alternatively, the village web site is regularly updated as well as our Facebook page. Please like our Facebook page:
Facebook: Shimpling Parish Council
Website: https://shimpling-pc.gov.uk/

Could you volunteer to help your Village?

We need a new Parish Councillor to join our team. Parish Councillors do a worthwhile job ensuring that your voice is heard and overseeing work so that your village is kept looking good. If you would like to know more about becoming a Councillor then please get in touch with the Clerk or any of our wonderful Councillors.

Report from Chair, David Dunkley:

The Chair reported in the January meeting;
Let me offer my best wishes to everyone for 2026 and hope that you had a pleasant holiday period.

On that theme, the village green Christmas decorations again looked very festive and many thanks to all who made that possible, including the set-up, provision of the tree and the electricity for the lights.
A new supplier has been found to support the installation of the EV chargers and although we were hoping to hear from them before Christmas this did not happen. Hopefully 2026 will be more successful in completing this work.
The installation of InPost storage lockers at the village hall was halted following concerns from some villagers. Although the number was small, they represented those most likely to be affected by the installation. Going forward, obtaining acceptable answers to their genuine concerns will be necessary to enable the project to re-start.
The final draft of the Neighbourhood Plan was issued to the Parish Council at the November meeting and was accepted. The public consultation on the plan will begin on the 17th January kicked off by an open event at the village hall. The consultation continues for 6 weeks, following which the plan, with any changes, goes to Babergh DC for evaluation.
Information of the potential local government reorganisation is still being disseminated but, as yet, no decision has been announced.

Recycling

Please remember that the Parish Council receives money from the paper (although not cardboard) glass, clothing and shoes deposited in the recycling bins near the Bush Inn. Clothing and shoes should be bagged before depositing in the clothing/shoe bank. This income helps to run the council and therefore is a direct benefit to the village. **Please keep recycling.**

What the Parish Council have been up to …

Over the last couple of months, we have:

- Worked on fixing minor issues with the playground
- Prepared a budget for 2026/27

Do you have new neighbours?

For some time now, the Village Hall Committee have been sending welcome letters with local information to new residents. If you have new neighbours, can you please let the Village Hall Committee shimplingvh@gmail.com know so that they can organise a welcome letter.

Shimpling WhatsApp Support Group

This was set up at the start of COVID to support those in need but has developed into a good way of communicating with others in the village. Recently we were asked to relay an urgent message to a villager and were able to locate the person quickly using the WhatsApp Group. If you would like to join the group, please contact Katie Haselhurst kh.shimpling@gmail.com.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group are working hard! For more information on the process or what has been produced so far look on the website: https://shimpling-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan-2/

Speeding

There have been issues raised regarding speeding in the Village, this has been raised both to the PC and it was commented on frequently in the Neighbourhood Plan Surveys. The PC are looking at possibly setting up a community speed watch. However, we will need volunteers!

To set up a scheme

- You must have a minimum of 6 volunteers
- All the volunteers must be over 18 years old
- Each scheme must have a co-ordinator (who will be the point of contact for the team) and where possible a deputy
- The Parish (or local) Council support the scheme
- You will have to sign a CSW agreement and be vetted
- Equipment will be provided by the Constabulary
- Training will be provided on using the equipment and on Health and Safety issues
- Volunteers will be covered by the Constabulary's insurance
- Locations chosen will be assessed by the Constabulary

If you would like to volunteer, please do get in touch and let us know. We can only move this forward with enough volunteers.

Buses

Here is a link to the full timetable
https://passenger-line-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/hedinghamandchambers/HEDO/45-timetable-20250831-5f294bdd.pdf

District Councillors

Our District Councillors usually attend each Parish Council meeting and can also be contacted as follows:

Michael Holt
Phone: 01787 281712, Mobile: 07801 766813
Email: michael.holt@babergh.gov.uk



Stephen Plumb
Phone: 01787 280890
Email: stephen.plumb@babergh.gov.uk



Planning

There have been a number of planning applications since our last newsletter. Others are updated below:

Application	Shimpling PC Comments	Planning Authority Decision
DC/25/05341- Lyndhurst Little Chadacre Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4HL- Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/25/02008 – Condition 5 (Cycle Storage and Refuse Bins)	Did not comment	Granted
DC/25/05339 - Stable Barn Thorne Court Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 0JN - Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of Use of Buildings on Agricultural Units and former Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (Class C3), which may include extension of the building and/or building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Conversion of Stable Barn to 1no. dwellinghouse	Did not comment	Granted

Shimpling Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you to everyone who attended the Consultation Session at the Village Hall on the 17th January; the time flew by with many interesting conversations.

By the time this newsletter comes out the opportunity to comment/support the Plan via the survey will have closed but thank you to all that did – we appreciate it was slightly time consuming!

The next stage will be for the Draft Plan to be amended, where necessary, to take on board comments received via the survey before submission to Babergh District Council. Following this consultation period the Plan will then be sent for Independent Examination.

The final stage will be for the formal Parish Referendum where everyone in the Parish has the opportunity to vote on the adoption of the Plan. If this is positive Babergh District Council will then be required to take the Plan into account on any decisions made.

We will keep you up to date with progress through the next stages.

Committee members: Mark Beaver, Claire Douglas-Hughes (Chair), David Dunkley, Mike Fahie-Wilson, Jane Wall.

THE HALLIFAX TRUST

A locally based charity providing grants to students under the age of 25 receiving further education at colleges or universities or undergoing formal training for a profession or vocation. These are non-means tested. To qualify students must simply have parents living in Shimpling or alternatively have in the past attended Lawshall School whilst their parents were living in Shimpling.

Funding is additionally available for other school and village projects. Applications from students for funding for the forthcoming academic year must be received by 30th September.

HELP US TO HELP OUR CHILDREN

We have recently received a small number of donations to the Charity for which we are extremely grateful. Please consider whether you could help with a donation or a legacy. These are tough times for students and the more funds we have the more we can help. For grants or donations contact:

hallifaxtrust@gmail.com

Claire Wilson 01284 830574 or Jenny Pine 01284 827073

Hallifax Educational Trust is a Registered Charity No.310396

Village Personalities ?

Would you like to have an article published in the form of a small piece written about youself and your life in Shimpling as an item of social interest?

It would not be more than a page. There are so many interesting people in our village ! If so, email me , Jayne Schofield, on jas.65@btinternet.com or call on 01284 828 322

Let there be light?

A visitor to the UK recently commented to a member of my family that there must be corruption at the highest level … because we are such a rich country and yet nothing seems to work! I suspect that I dismissed this comment too lightly, but have since been reminded about it following the recent revelations about Jeffrey Epstein and the behaviour of many powerful Western leaders in politics, business, science and the arts. I do not think I am alone at being appalled. I was particularly disgusted how Epstein advised people how to discredit those who had been abused when they sought justice in court.

I am conscious that these revelations have affected people within our parishes - probably not directly relating to Epstein, but with respect to other people abusing power. This has been weighing particularly heavily on my heart these recent weeks, and I have been praying for any in our villages who have been affected that you would not feel alone, and that you would have trusted people to share with and to support you.

It can feel that we are so weak against the powerful, and yet I have been reminded that God will not tolerate injustice forever. Yes of course I have faith that at the end of this age justice will be restored to all the earth. But I am also praying that God will shine his light on corruption right now - and that of course includes any corruption or abuse in the church. Psalm 94 starts like this:

1 The LORD is a God who avenges. O God who avenges, shine forth.
2 Rise up, Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve.
3 How long, LORD, will the wicked, how long will the wicked be jubilant?

But the psalm ends like this:

21 The wicked band together against the righteous and condemn the innocent to death.
22 But the LORD has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge.
23 He will repay them for their sins and destroy them for their wickedness;
the Lord our God will destroy them.

So I pray, Lord, Let there be light! And let us pray that justice and mercy will be held in right balance.

(Late addendum - I am very concerned to have just heard news about an allegation leading to a Bishop being suspended - I am glad it is being taken seriously).

Reverand Matthew Lawson

Volunteer Opportunity for someone good with words

The Parochial Church Council are looking for a secretary to send out documents and take notes at our meetings. We only have 6 meetings a year but it would help us enormously if someone could help. Training and support (and plenty of laughter, tea, coffee, and biscuits) will be provided. Please contact Revd Lawson on 01787 310 845 or revmattis@gmail.com.



THE PARISH OF ALPHETON AND SHIMPLINGTHORNE

Church Services Include:

March			
Sun 1st	9.00am	Alpheton	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Family Communion
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 8th	4.00pm	Shimpling	Pub Social at The Bush Inn #
Sun 15th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Mothering Sunday Service
Sun 22nd	4.00pm	tbc	Wild Lent #
Sun 29th	10.30am	Melford	Traditional Passiontide Service
	4.00pm	Melford	Messy Easter at Holy Trinity #
	6.30pm	Lawshall	Evening Communion
April			
Thurs 2nd	7.00pm	Melford	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri 3rd	10.00am	Shimpling	Walk with the Cross, Bush to V. Hall
	2.00pm	Melford	Devotional Service
Sat 4th	8.30pm	Melford	Traditional Easter Vigil
Sun 5th	10.30am	Melford	Easter Celebration & Communion (family friendly)
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 19th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
Sun 26th	6.30pm	Lawshall	Communion
May			
Sun 3rd	9.00am	Alpheton	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Family Communion
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 10th	4.00pm	Melford Sch.	Messy Church #
Sun 17th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
Sun 31st	6.30pm	Lawshall	Evening Communion

… and Communion at Holy Trinity Long Melford **every Sunday at 10.30am** (Google 'Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook' for livestream).

for our 4 o'clock community with family friendly services socials and events almost every Sunday at 4.00pm, contact Nicky on 07938 681319 or chadbrooklightwave@gmail.com

... and Communion at Holy Trinity Long Melford every Sunday at 10.30am (Google 'Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook' for livestream).

Children welcome at all 10.30am services there is a children's area at the back of Holy Trinity Please see www.longmelfordchurch.com for any updates. For further information on our toddler and youth groups, please contact Pam on 07890or melfordfamilyworker@gmail.com.

For more details or any questions, please contact Vicky on 07804 558160 or chadbrookoffice@gmail.com.

Rector:Rev'd Matthew Lawson 01787 310845
Churchwarden: Vacant
Church Contact : Charlotte Blyth 01284 828544
07939 194233

SHIMPLING MOBILE LIBRARY 2026

Do you like reading?

Each month on a Friday the mobile library comes to Shimpling and has many books on board, including children's options. Library membership is free and once you join it's very easy to order a vast range of books online, which can be collected from the mobile library.

You can borrow up to 20 books and 6 audio books at any one time, and if no-one has reserved them, they can be renewed up to 6 times. So, no excuses if you're a slow reader!

The library bus, route 13, calls at HALLIFAX PLACE between 1230 and 1250 on the following Fridays this year:

March 13, April 10, May 8

www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk

So let's use it, or we may lose it. Happy Reading!

From Greening Shimpling

At the beginning of January we had a great turnout for the planting of trees at the top of the footpath leading away from Gents Lane, in an area which will now be known as Hill Field Spinney. In under 2 hours we planted about 200 trees, all of which have been staked and protected with tree guards. We were very fortunate with the weather, considering how awful it's been!

It is hoped that we will be able to follow this up with the planting of wild flowers, the siting of bird boxes and the construction of a log pile to provide a habitat for insects and small mammals, hopefully when the weather improves and the ground dries out a little!

In a follow up meeting, we discussed how we might be able to work with the Parish Council to protect and further enhance the environment in and around our beautiful village and will be sending a representative to the next PC meeting.

If you would like further information regarding the Greening Shimpling group please contact Jane 07453 453 906 or email jane.wall@hotmail.co.uk and we will add you to our WhatsApp group.



GREENING SHIMPLING

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

The Annual Village Clean Up Morning will take place on Sunday 22nd March at 11.30am from the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

We have some high vis vests and litter picking sticks but if you have your own high vis vest and gloves, please bring them along

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult



Shimpling & Alpheton WI
Lindsey Barrell aka Cherry Bombe - Burlesque

Lindsey turned out to be quite a stand up comic, dressed in - well - not what you would expect from a typical WI member, let's say. She certainly knew how to tell her stories!
She has been doing burlesque for 14 years and comes from Lancashire and grew up in County Durham but has lived in Essex for 32 years. Subjects she talked about included the North/South divide, being a single Mum, crafts - especially sewing, the WI, shopping in Aldi, confidence building, salsa and the quest to find friends.

Films like Sweet Charity, Moulin Rouge etc include burlesque. At her first session she was told to wear keep fit clothes for burlesque classes. When she got there, all the other women were wearing burlesque style clothes. Leopard Lily, became the first character whom she portrayed in burlesque, wearing leopardskin from head to toe, choreographing her three and a half minute dance act herself. She did a routine to a Chris de Burgh song called Patricia the Stripper. (If you are intrigued you can see her with a group of ladies outdoors performing to this very song on YouTube, dressed as Cherry Bombe.)

Her success with this meant jealousies amongst the other women so she didn't really make friends there as she had hoped. In a continued quest to make friends, she joined a new WI in Chelmsford which attracted around 200 new women. She had thought it would be a bit like the Brownies for grown ups. She joined the

largest WI branch in the country with 350 members which was so large that they could only meet in Chelmsford Cathedral. Because of the size, subgroups were formed and Lindsey ran a Burlesque subgroup of about 20 members who met in a village hall in Great Baddow. By this stage Lindsey had portrayed the character of Cherry Bombe. They formed the first ever WI Burlesque troupe. The ladies all made friends and performed at Chelmsford Cathedral, removing clothes. ..this led to fundraising by her troupe called the Burlesque Bombshells via performances, raising thousands for charities.

Lindsey ended up forming another Burlesque group at Canvey Island called the Wild Island Burlesquers. The average age of the troupe was in the 70s with some ladies aged 80 odd. One lady wearing a corset for the first time put it on upside down! The Covid lockdown brought new challenges and Lindsey gave 400 talks on Zoom from her kitchen dressed in her corset. Sometimes she gave three talks in a day.

Lindsey moved from the enormous WI to a smaller WI and is now the president of a third WI.

Copy for the June 2026 edition is required by 22nd May 2026 (A4 WORD or .PDF file please)
Sarah Smith—slsconsulting21@outlook.com
07774 116128
When advertising events please ensure there is a contact name with a landline number.
Please remember not everyone is on the Internet !!

The Alpheton Film night is on the 2nd Monday of each month.



Mon. 9th March. THE COLOUR ROOM. (Phoebe Dynevor, Matthew Goode)

Mon 13th April A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (Timothee Chalamet)

Mon 11th May LIVING (Bill Nighy)

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Admission price is £5 including tea/coffee & biscuits. The Bar will be open.

Have you tried it yet?



Take the number 45 bus to Bury St Edmunds (Monday to Saturday). Meet nice people as you travel through the villages.

Brighten up your day, even when it is overcast.
Give it a go this week, you will be amazed how much better you feel. No car park fees, no queuing for a space, no expensive fuel, leave it to the bus driver and see a different view of your surroundings.
Looking forward to seeing you very soon!

Timetables are available on the bus, in the village or
www.konectbuses.co.uk
www.suffolkonboard.com

HARTEST & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

2026 has started with a very wet and soggy January, so those of us with clay gardens are dealing with boggy ground and a rising water table. Mud has made gardening, or even stepping outside, practically impossible at times. However, spring is on its way, with snowdrops in bloom in the hedgerows and gardens, and other spring bulbs starting to peep out of the ground. We just need a little bit of blue sky and sunshine to tempt us outside to see which plants have survived the endless rain.

We started this year with a really interesting talk on Delphiniums from Greg Veness of The Front Gardeners Nursery, who are based at the Willow Tree Farm Shop. We learned how to care for these beautiful plants, the seed sowing process and how to take basal cuttings. Delphiniums are fully hardy and (with good drainage) can tolerate a cold winter. Even better, they can be grown from seed from January onwards!

Looking ahead we have some key dates for your diaries:
On Sunday 1 March, 2.30pm we welcome guest speaker Michael Marriott to the Hartest Institute for an expert talk on roses. Michael was the Head Rosarian at David Austin Roses for 35 years and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of all things related to roses. Whilst Michael's enthusiasm for roses is infectious, he is equally known for his garden designs, organic methods and common sense approach.

At the time of writing, there are still a small number of tickets left, priced at £15 for our 2026 club members and £18 for non-members. If you would like to attend, email hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com with the number of tickets you require.

Further ahead, other key dates for your diary are the:

- Annual Plant Sale Sunday 17th May at 2pm, Hartest Green where there will be lots of plants, veg and garden items for sale.

  We welcome donations of plants, perennials, annuals, saplings and veg seedlings (all labelled please). This year we also hope to offer gardening books, plant pots and any other garden-related equipment. If you are having a spring clear out and want to donate items, please do get in touch.

- Annual Show Sunday 6th September at 2.30pm, The Institute.
  More information about this nearer the date.

The club is going from strength to strength and has a great buzz about it with lots of new members and renewed energy from long-standing members. If you are interested in finding out about who we are and what we offer, do come along. We are very friendly and welcoming!

We hold monthly meetings at 7.30pm, on the first Monday of each month at the Hartest Institute. Membership is £15 per person or £25 for a couple. In the summer months our members enjoy access to exclusive garden visits. Members also enjoy a healthy 50% discount on seeds from our club supplier, Kings Seeds, who have a fantastic selection of veg, flower and herb seeds.

Find out more via our:
Website: https://hartestgardeningclub.onesuffolk.net/
Instagram: hartest_gardening_club
Facebook: Hartest & District Gardening Club
Email: hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com
Kit Morrison, on behalf of H&DGC hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com

Shimpling Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee meets every 8 weeks, to manage the hall and arrange events that residents can enjoy and generate income to keep the hall running & open.
We welcome interest from any resident who would like to get involved – please email Carol Squire: shimplingvh@gmail.com or phone, WhatsApp or text: 07855 762812
Meeting minutes and information on all activities are available to read on the Village website http://shimplingpc.onesuffolk.net/village-hall/
Events and activities timetable on the Your Hall website https://yourhall.co.uk/hall/shimpling-village-hall/

Village Hall Activities

Future Arts & Crafts Sessions in the village hall 2026 (see posters in this newsletter).



Spring Wreath Making Workshop -
Ever thought you would like to be able to make your own wreaths - why not start with a beautiful spring flower wreath using spring bulbs that can be re-potted and come again. The workshop will be in the village hall on the 21st of March 2026 at 10am. The session tutor will be expert florist Anne Brown - http://www.justanneflowers.co.uk/
Booking for places open now - see the poster in this month's newsletter.
All sessions have minimum attendance targets and will not take place if not reached.

Other Events
Schools' half term saw the hall made available for free to residents and families to use the table tennis set, the children's billiards table and other indoor games. Those who took advantage enjoyed the opportunity - *"We had a brilliant time and have all become experts at table tennis!"* We will do the same every half term in 2026

Also, if you are stuck for something to do with the family – don't forget you can book the hall to play a variety of games including Table Tennis and Billiards at other times





PANTOMIME - Due to the popularity of the live screening of the Christmas Pantomime last year, we linked up with the Wolsey Theatre Ipswich again this year on the Saturday 27th December and live streamed Beauty and the Beast.

The Regular Village Hall Activities
These continue as scheduled so check the village website, notice boards, Facebook and WhatsApp and join in.

- PILATES classes are on a Monday mornings and Wednesday evening and with occasional attendance from other villages boosting numbers, these have mainly been well attended but there is still room for a few more so don't be shy – come and join in. It's time to get summer holiday fit.
- ZUMBA GOLD continues term time Fridays – a great way to dance your way to fitness - no prior experience or skill needed - just dance for the fun of it.
- FILM NIGHTS have also continued the 3rd Tuesday evening of the month, showing some great films, but in Feb and March - the film will be shown in the afternoon. Attendance could improve to help make a profit on these sessions so come along and enjoy the films.
  Let us know what films you want to see. WhatsApp or Text Carol on 07855 762812 with your ideas

The **RURAL COFFEE CARAVAN** come to the village hall every **4th Thursday of the month** offering their excellent range of home-made coffee (or tea) cakes & savouries, coupled with advice, up to date information and signposting for help and information.

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL
PILATES CLASSES

THE BENEFITS OF PILATES

The focus is on core strength & spinal mobility to ensure optimum alignment of the body.

The breathing and mindful aspect of Pilates supports both physical and mental well-being.

It is intelligent exercise!



3 Sessions are held

Mondays at 9.30 – 10.30 and **11 – 12noon**

WEDNESDAYS 6.30 – 7.30pm

term time only

£7 per session - Equipment provided free

NO EXPERIENCE OR BOOKING NEEDED

Want to know more?

Contact Tutor- Louise Fuller 07875 370902



SPRING WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

10am SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL

£35 PER PERSON

Learn how to make a beautiful wreath with spring bulbs that can be replanted in a pot to come again!

Book your place by emailing
shimplingvh@gmail.com or

text Carol on 07855762812

Rural Coffee Caravan

Making a difference to rural communities throughout Suffolk

Come and share a pot of tea, our welcome is warm and our friendship free!

We'll be visiting:

Shimpling

Village Hall IP29 4HS

10am - 12pm

Thursdays:

22nd Jan / 26th Feb / 26th March

Come along for some company and a catch up with your neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and cake. We bring a great source of information along with the free refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you.

All Welcome!



www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk tel: 01379 855 338

Registered No: 1187423

Meet Up Mondays™

c-a-f-e coffee and friends events

More Than A Shop

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Alpheton and Shimpling Marmalade Competition



at the Spring Market (11th April)

Please bring 2 jars at 10am (one for the competition, one for the produce stall)

Judging will take place at 12 noon

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

During Half Terms we are pleased to offer **Shimpling Village Hall** for hire - **FREE** of charge

Play

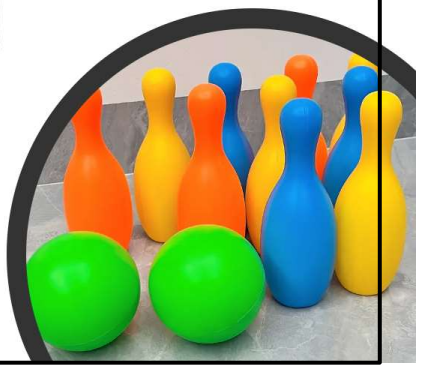
- TABLE TENNIS, BILLIARDS, or GAMES SESSIONS
- BRING YOUR OWN GAMES OR USE OURS!
- BOOK YOUR SESSION
- Email shimplingvh@gmail.com
- or text 07855762812











Barn Dance with 'Catch the Pigeon'

More details to follow !



alphetonandshimplingchurches.com

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL

SPRING 2026 FILM SESSIONS

3rd TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

March - Matinee - 1.45 for 2pm start

April & May 7.15pm for 7.30 start

COME AND WATCH NEW AND FAVOURITE FILMS ON THE BIG SCREEN



COMING NEXT

March 17th - Agatha and the Truth of Murder

A British alternative history drama about crime writer Agatha Christie becoming embroiled in a real-life murder case during her 11-day disappearance in 1926. Based on real people & events, it depicts Christie investigating the murder of Florence Nightingale's goddaughter, & how involvement in this case, influenced her later writing.

April 21st Hemingway and Gellhorn

This powerful drama recounts the relationship between literary giant Ernest Hemingway (Nick Owen) & War correspondent Martha Gellhorn (Nicole Kidman) - Hemingway's inspiration for "For Whom the Bell Tolls".

May 19th - The Choral

British historical drama written by Alan Bennett starring Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam, Mark Addy. Set in 1916, the film follows the members of the local choral society which recruits a group of teenagers for a performance of Edward Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*.

PUT THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY

REFRESHMENTS & FILM £4.50 PER PERSON
ICECREAM, SWEETS & POPCORN ALSO ON SALE.



Do you have a film you want to see? Just let us know

Friday 27th March 2026
From 5pm
The Swan Inn, Lawshall

Face the flames and crush the glass to help raise vital funds! After the incredible success of our first ever firewalk in 2024, Green Light Trust are bringing it back again this year with a twist – a glass walk too! Experience the thrill of walking bare foot across scorching flames and razor sharp glass, facing your fears in the Spring.

Our fundraising challenge offers the chance for team building, creating lasting memories and bonds. Not only will you be testing your limits, but you will raise valuable funds for Green Light Trust.

Located at the stunning Swan Inn pub, join us from 5pm to register and grab a delicious bite to eat. This event is hosted by Fundraising Firewalk Association, one of the UK's leading firewalk companies, who will provide training sessions on the night.

Your fundraising efforts and entry ticket will include an achievement certificate, photographs of the event, fundraising support and a limited edition Green Light Trust fire and glass walk t-shirt.

See our website events page for more details and how to sign up- greenlighttrust.org

GREEN LIGHT TRUST



ZUMBA® gold



Shimpling Village Hall

Friday's 1-1.45pm - term time only

£5 per session

No booking required, just come along

CONTACT YOUR LICENSED ZUMBA INSTRUCTOR :

Jo Brown

Call/text : 07851962112
Email : joanna-m-brown@hotmail.co.uk
find me on Facebook : Jo Brown

HARTEST FARMERS & CRAFT MARKET

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH
10:00-12:30

The Little Dip Company
Chicken and Bird feed
Bread & pastries, Sparling & Faiers
Sue's Savouries
Fuller's Honey
Dr Kat's Luxury Granola
Meadow and Woodland Livestock
B'Wrappy Eco Food Wraps
Hartest made Power-Grit Health food mix
Conical peg bags & Sewn items by Tamara Jones
Walking sticks & wooden items
Moonvine jewellery
Artist Janet Munro
Chocolate, Edible Creations by Rosey
Cambridge Artisan Cheese
Local eggs & curry kits
Fruit and veg, Cox Boxes
Coiled rope baskets by Debbie Regent
Soap, ljp balms and bath bombs by FB Designs
Tropic Skincare by Debra Graham
Artist Juliette Hudson
Crochet & jewellery by Pat

Cafe: Hot bacon, sausage rolls, tea, coffee & homemade cakes
Friends of Hartest School

HARTESTFARMERSMARKET@GMAIL.COM

Hartest Institute, Hartest, Bury Saint Edmunds IP29 4DH

Advertising in the Shimpling News

You could reach 200 households.....!
The fees for advertising in the Shimpling News for 2025 (of which this is for the 4 editions – one for each season) will be;

Full page £100, Half page £50 , Quarter page £25

With any residents of Shimpling able to have a 25% discount so making the cost Full page £75, Half page £37.50 and Quarter page £18.75. Individual adverts (ie for sale items) are £3 up to a £100 and £5 over £100 per issue
If you would like to advertise please email the Clerk shimplingpc@gmail.com



SAVE

(Shimpling AED Village Enterprise)

As most people are aware the village has an AED located in a locked cabinet outside The Bush. The device is registered with the East of England Ambulance Service, who have the access code details.
In the event of an emergency, the precise location of the AED would need to be given, to enable the Ambulance Service to give the code. The location is

The Bush, The Street, Shimpling **IP29 4HU**

Please make a note of these details, as it could save time in gaining access.
If you require any further details, please contact me Marian Peck Chair, SAVE 01284 828187

THOMAS & YOUNG

WEALTH MANAGEMENT LTD

- Investment Planning
- Retirement Planning
- Business Protection
- Income Protection
- Financial Education
- Later Life Planning
- Life Insurance
- Mortgage protection
- Inheritance tax planning

Find us at:
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Newmarket Road,
Risby, Bury Saint Edmunds
IP28 6RD

01284 334400

www.tywm.co.uk

CHARTERED FINANCIAL PLANNERS

Thomas and Young Wealth Management Limited is an Appointed Representative of and represents only St. James's Place Wealth Management plc (which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority) for the purpose of advising solely on the group's wealth management products and services, more details of which are set out on the group's website www.sjp.co.uk/products The 'St. James's Place Partnership' and the titles 'Partner' and 'Partner Practice' are marketing terms used to describe St. James's Place representatives.

Senior Partner Practice

St James's Place

SJP Approved 15/09/2025

RECYCLING Shimpling has a bottle bank, a Paper and Card Bank and a Clothing Bank. If they are full please call

BOTTLE BANK— 0344 880 7700

CLOTHING BANK—08000 902 321

Electronic Version of The Shimpling News

If you would prefer to receive an email informing you when the latest issue is available online, rather than have a printed copy delivered to your door please let me know slsconsulting21@outlook.com



Domestic, Commercial & Agricultural Electrical Work Undertaken



Including rewires, new builds, extensions, All Electric heating, new consumer units, testing and inspection for insurance purposes, smoke detectors, TV & phone points, outside lighting, low energy & LED lighting. NICEIC registered, Part P Certified, ECA member with Public Liability and guaranteed by the ECA

For competitive rates, a personal service and good quality workmanship contact:

Kevin Seggie Electrical Services

Beechwood Cottage, Bury Road, Lawshall, IP29 4PJ

01284 830786 / 07768 108157

R&Z Electrical

NICEIC APPROVED CONTRACTOR

All Aspects of Electrical Works Undertaken
Extra Sockets / Lights
Full / Part Rewires
Consumer Unit Upgrades
Fault Finding & Repairs
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All Works Carried Out to Current Regulations
All Works Certified and Guaranteed
Fully Insured
Free Estimates
24 Hour Call Outs

rz.electricalservices@gmail.com

ecs electrotechnical certification scheme

Anthony - 07801990584

City & Guilds Qualified



Useful Online Reporting Tools
Many issues can be reported online by residents at https;//www.babergh.gov.uk/report-online Including potholes, overgrown vegetation, littering and fly-tipping
Flooding can be reported at https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/report-a-flood-in-suffolk
Local road closure information can be found at one.network

LARK VALLEY WILLOW LTD.

Lark Valley Willow Ltd.
Rose Cottage
The Street
Shimpling
Suffolk
IP29 4HS

We are looking for casual (self employed) part time workers to join our friendly team weaving in-situ willow fences in Suffolk and Essex.
Training and support will be given. Enjoying working outside is a must. You will need to have transport and be practical and hard working.

Please email cmcooke@icloud.com with a brief CV

PEST PROBLEMS SOLVED BY LOCAL SPECIALIST

Anglia PEST MANAGEMENT

DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL • AGRICULTURAL

insects ✓ birds ✓ moles ✓ rabbits ✓ rats ✓

Based in Lawshall
Contact Tim Cox

- 24hr call out / 7 days a week
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07776 205 346

info@angliapestmanagement.co.uk ■ www.angliapestmanagement.co.uk

DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL CONTRACTING

C G WARNER Ltd

1 Cordell Cottages,
Little Chadacre, Shimpling,
Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk IP29 4HL

Tel 01284 828774 Mobile 07971 248320
Email: cgwarner@btinternet.com

- Hard & Soft Landscaping
- Patios & Driveways
- All types of Domestic, Agricultural & Commercial Fencing
- Seasonal Hedge / Garden Maintenance





- Ménage Construction
- Supply & Installation of Grass reinforcement matting
- Lawnmower servicing & repairs
- Grass Cutting
- Paddock Maintenance

- Stump removal
- Firewood
- NPTC qualified Tree Surgeons
- Woodland Management
- Tree / Hedge Planting



Fully Insured ***40 years + experience***

FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTES

USEFUL VILLAGE CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

County Cllr—Richard Kemp 01787 378149
Shimpling Village Hall—Carol Squire 07855 762812 or email shimplingvh@gmail.com
St George's Church—Rev'd Matthew Lawson 01787 310845
The Bush Public house 07961 947497 and email thebushpubshimpling@gmail.com
Shimpling Postal Collections:-
The Street Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am, Little Chadacre Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am, Aveley Lane Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am
Medical Services
NHS Helpline :- 111 (Non-emergency)
Glemsford Surgery:—01787 280484
Lavenham/Long Melford Surgery:—01787 378226
Samaritans:- 116 123
Domestic Abuse Helpline:- 0808 2000 247
Vet Surgeries:-
Swayne & Partners Long Melford—01787 370773
Bury St Edmunds - 01284 701444
Anglian Water Emergency :- 0800 771881
UK Power Networks Emergency:- 0800 31 63 105
Citizens Advice Bureau:- 01284 753675
Suffolk Libraries Library Van—Next visit Friday 13th March Hallifax Place 12:30-12:50, then April 10th and May 8th
Chambers Bus Service 45—Daily except Sunday depart Hallifax Place to Bury 07:39*/10:01 return arrival at Hallifax Place 16:56*/13:35 *Schooldays
Felix Taxis :- 01787 310574
Shimpling Park Farm for loose sheep and broken fences etc. Shepherd Emily Elnaugh on 07415 311252.

Shimpling News

Spring 2026 **Issue 145**



The Parish Council:

Mrs Liz Brunwin	01284 828122
Mr Gerry Shrimpton	01284 827219
Mr David Dunkley	07809 148630
Mr Mark Milhench	07770 668660
Ms Jen O'Reilly-Turner	07769 894806
Mr Laurence Rooke	07818 797081
Vacancy	

Contact details for the Clerk are:
4 Park Farm Cottages, Brettenham, Suffolk, IP7 7QP
(Correspondence and Appointment only)
Email: clerk@shimpling-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07940 223200

The Parish Council meet bi-monthly in January, March, May (AGM), July, September and November every year. Extra meetings may also be held throughout the year when required.

Annual Parish Assembly – Reports presented by the Council and local groups / charities / committees from within the parish. Members of the public can speak freely at this meeting in May, raise issues and ask questions relating to the reports.

Annual Meeting of the Council (AGM) – Each May, Election of officers of the council. Declarations of acceptance of office.

Parish Council Meetings – Council considers matters relating to finance, planning and the Parish. Additional extraordinary meetings are held when required.

Dates of meetings: Parish council meetings will be held at 7pm on the following dates;

- Monday 9th March 2026
- Monday 11th May 2026 (Annual Meeting of the Parish, Annual General Meeting followed by normal May PC meeting)

Please note that these meetings will be held at the Village Hall.

Parish Council Website and Social Media and Notice Boards

You can find council information on the notice board by the bus stop in The Street. This is also circulated via our Village Round Robin System and posted on the Shimpling Community Facebook page. Alternatively, the village web site is regularly updated as well as our Facebook page. Please like our Facebook page:
Facebook: Shimpling Parish Council
Website: https://shimpling-pc.gov.uk/

Could you volunteer to help your Village?

We need a new Parish Councillor to join our team. Parish Councillors do a worthwhile job ensuring that your voice is heard and overseeing work so that your village is kept looking good. If you would like to know more about becoming a Councillor then please get in touch with the Clerk or any of our wonderful Councillors.

Report from Chair, David Dunkley:

The Chair reported in the January meeting;
Let me offer my best wishes to everyone for 2026 and hope that you had a pleasant holiday period.

On that theme, the village green Christmas decorations again looked very festive and many thanks to all who made that possible, including the set-up, provision of the tree and the electricity for the lights.
A new supplier has been found to support the installation of the EV chargers and although we were hoping to hear from them before Christmas this did not happen. Hopefully 2026 will be more successful in completing this work.
The installation of InPost storage lockers at the village hall was halted following concerns from some villagers. Although the number was small, they represented those most likely to be affected by the installation. Going forward, obtaining acceptable answers to their genuine concerns will be necessary to enable the project to re-start.
The final draft of the Neighbourhood Plan was issued to the Parish Council at the November meeting and was accepted. The public consultation on the plan will begin on the 17th January kicked off by an open event at the village hall. The consultation continues for 6 weeks, following which the plan, with any changes, goes to Babergh DC for evaluation.
Information of the potential local government reorganisation is still being disseminated but, as yet, no decision has been announced.

Recycling

Please remember that the Parish Council receives money from the paper (although not cardboard) glass, clothing and shoes deposited in the recycling bins near the Bush Inn. Clothing and shoes should be bagged before depositing in the clothing/shoe bank. This income helps to run the council and therefore is a direct benefit to the village. **Please keep recycling.**

What the Parish Council have been up to …

Over the last couple of months, we have:

- Worked on fixing minor issues with the playground
- Prepared a budget for 2026/27

Do you have new neighbours?

For some time now, the Village Hall Committee have been sending welcome letters with local information to new residents. If you have new neighbours, can you please let the Village Hall Committee shimplingvh@gmail.com know so that they can organise a welcome letter.

Shimpling WhatsApp Support Group

This was set up at the start of COVID to support those in need but has developed into a good way of communicating with others in the village. Recently we were asked to relay an urgent message to a villager and were able to locate the person quickly using the WhatsApp Group. If you would like to join the group, please contact Katie Haselhurst kh.shimpling@gmail.com.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group are working hard! For more information on the process or what has been produced so far look on the website: https://shimpling-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan-2/

Speeding

There have been issues raised regarding speeding in the Village, this has been raised both to the PC and it was commented on frequently in the Neighbourhood Plan Surveys. The PC are looking at possibly setting up a community speed watch. However, we will need volunteers!

To set up a scheme

- You must have a minimum of 6 volunteers
- All the volunteers must be over 18 years old
- Each scheme must have a co-ordinator (who will be the point of contact for the team) and where possible a deputy
- The Parish (or local) Council support the scheme
- You will have to sign a CSW agreement and be vetted
- Equipment will be provided by the Constabulary
- Training will be provided on using the equipment and on Health and Safety issues
- Volunteers will be covered by the Constabulary's insurance
- Locations chosen will be assessed by the Constabulary

If you would like to volunteer, please do get in touch and let us know. We can only move this forward with enough volunteers.

Buses

Here is a link to the full timetable
https://passenger-line-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/hedinghamandchambers/HEDO/45-timetable-20250831-5f294bdd.pdf

District Councillors

Our District Councillors usually attend each Parish Council meeting and can also be contacted as follows:

Michael Holt
Phone: 01787 281712, Mobile: 07801 766813
Email: michael.holt@babergh.gov.uk



Stephen Plumb
Phone: 01787 280890
Email: stephen.plumb@babergh.gov.uk



Planning

There have been a number of planning applications since our last newsletter. Others are updated below:

Application	Shimpling PC Comments	Planning Authority Decision
DC/25/05341- Lyndhurst Little Chadacre Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4HL- Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/25/02008 – Condition 5 (Cycle Storage and Refuse Bins)	Did not comment	Granted
DC/25/05339 - Stable Barn Thorne Court Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 0JN - Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of Use of Buildings on Agricultural Units and former Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (Class C3), which may include extension of the building and/or building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Conversion of Stable Barn to 1no. dwellinghouse	Did not comment	Granted

Shimpling Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you to everyone who attended the Consultation Session at the Village Hall on the 17th January; the time flew by with many interesting conversations.

By the time this newsletter comes out the opportunity to comment/support the Plan via the survey will have closed but thank you to all that did – we appreciate it was slightly time consuming!

The next stage will be for the Draft Plan to be amended, where necessary, to take on board comments received via the survey before submission to Babergh District Council. Following this consultation period the Plan will then be sent for Independent Examination.

The final stage will be for the formal Parish Referendum where everyone in the Parish has the opportunity to vote on the adoption of the Plan. If this is positive Babergh District Council will then be required to take the Plan into account on any decisions made.

We will keep you up to date with progress through the next stages.

Committee members: Mark Beaver, Claire Douglas-Hughes (Chair), David Dunkley, Mike Fahie-Wilson, Jane Wall.

THE HALLIFAX TRUST

A locally based charity providing grants to students under the age of 25 receiving further education at colleges or universities or undergoing formal training for a profession or vocation. These are non-means tested. To qualify students must simply have parents living in Shimpling or alternatively have in the past attended Lawshall School whilst their parents were living in Shimpling.

Funding is additionally available for other school and village projects. Applications from students for funding for the forthcoming academic year must be received by 30th September.

HELP US TO HELP OUR CHILDREN

We have recently received a small number of donations to the Charity for which we are extremely grateful. Please consider whether you could help with a donation or a legacy. These are tough times for students and the more funds we have the more we can help. For grants or donations contact:

hallifaxtrust@gmail.com

Claire Wilson 01284 830574 or Jenny Pine 01284 827073

Hallifax Educational Trust is a Registered Charity No.310396

Village Personalities ?

Would you like to have an article published in the form of a small piece written about youself and your life in Shimpling as an item of social interest?

It would not be more than a page. There are so many interesting people in our village ! If so, email me , Jayne Schofield, on jas.65@btinternet.com or call on 01284 828 322

Let there be light?

A visitor to the UK recently commented to a member of my family that there must be corruption at the highest level … because we are such a rich country and yet nothing seems to work! I suspect that I dismissed this comment too lightly, but have since been reminded about it following the recent revelations about Jeffrey Epstein and the behaviour of many powerful Western leaders in politics, business, science and the arts. I do not think I am alone at being appalled. I was particularly disgusted how Epstein advised people how to discredit those who had been abused when they sought justice in court.

I am conscious that these revelations have affected people within our parishes - probably not directly relating to Epstein, but with respect to other people abusing power. This has been weighing particularly heavily on my heart these recent weeks, and I have been praying for any in our villages who have been affected that you would not feel alone, and that you would have trusted people to share with and to support you.

It can feel that we are so weak against the powerful, and yet I have been reminded that God will not tolerate injustice forever. Yes of course I have faith that at the end of this age justice will be restored to all the earth. But I am also praying that God will shine his light on corruption right now - and that of course includes any corruption or abuse in the church. Psalm 94 starts like this:

1 The LORD is a God who avenges. O God who avenges, shine forth.
2 Rise up, Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve.
3 How long, LORD, will the wicked, how long will the wicked be jubilant?

But the psalm ends like this:

21 The wicked band together against the righteous and condemn the innocent to death.
22 But the LORD has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge.
23 He will repay them for their sins and destroy them for their wickedness;
the Lord our God will destroy them.

So I pray, Lord, Let there be light! And let us pray that justice and mercy will be held in right balance.

(Late addendum - I am very concerned to have just heard news about an allegation leading to a Bishop being suspended - I am glad it is being taken seriously).

Reverand Matthew Lawson

Volunteer Opportunity for someone good with words

The Parochial Church Council are looking for a secretary to send out documents and take notes at our meetings. We only have 6 meetings a year but it would help us enormously if someone could help. Training and support (and plenty of laughter, tea, coffee, and biscuits) will be provided. Please contact Revd Lawson on 01787 310 845 or revmattis@gmail.com.



THE PARISH OF ALPHETON AND SHIMPLINGTHORNE

Church Services Include:

March			
Sun 1st	9.00am	Alpheton	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Family Communion
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 8th	4.00pm	Shimpling	Pub Social at The Bush Inn #
Sun 15th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Mothering Sunday Service
Sun 22nd	4.00pm	tbc	Wild Lent #
Sun 29th	10.30am	Melford	Traditional Passiontide Service
	4.00pm	Melford	Messy Easter at Holy Trinity #
	6.30pm	Lawshall	Evening Communion
April			
Thurs 2nd	7.00pm	Melford	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri 3rd	10.00am	Shimpling	Walk with the Cross, Bush to V. Hall
	2.00pm	Melford	Devotional Service
Sat 4th	8.30pm	Melford	Traditional Easter Vigil
Sun 5th	10.30am	Melford	Easter Celebration & Communion (family friendly)
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 19th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
Sun 26th	6.30pm	Lawshall	Communion
May			
Sun 3rd	9.00am	Alpheton	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Family Communion
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 10th	4.00pm	Melford Sch.	Messy Church #
Sun 17th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
Sun 31st	6.30pm	Lawshall	Evening Communion

… and Communion at Holy Trinity Long Melford **every Sunday at 10.30am** (Google 'Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook' for livestream).

for our 4 o'clock community with family friendly services socials and events almost every Sunday at 4.00pm, contact Nicky on 07938 681319 or chadbrooklightwave@gmail.com

... and Communion at Holy Trinity Long Melford every Sunday at 10.30am (Google 'Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook' for livestream).

Children welcome at all 10.30am services there is a children's area at the back of Holy Trinity Please see www.longmelfordchurch.com for any updates. For further information on our toddler and youth groups, please contact Pam on 07890or melfordfamilyworker@gmail.com.

For more details or any questions, please contact Vicky on 07804 558160 or chadbrookoffice@gmail.com.

Rector:Rev'd Matthew Lawson 01787 310845
Churchwarden: Vacant
Church Contact : Charlotte Blyth 01284 828544
07939 194233

SHIMPLING MOBILE LIBRARY 2026

Do you like reading?

Each month on a Friday the mobile library comes to Shimpling and has many books on board, including children's options. Library membership is free and once you join it's very easy to order a vast range of books online, which can be collected from the mobile library.

You can borrow up to 20 books and 6 audio books at any one time, and if no-one has reserved them, they can be renewed up to 6 times. So, no excuses if you're a slow reader!

The library bus, route 13, calls at HALLIFAX PLACE between 1230 and 1250 on the following Fridays this year:

March 13, April 10, May 8

www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk

So let's use it, or we may lose it. Happy Reading!

From Greening Shimpling

At the beginning of January we had a great turnout for the planting of trees at the top of the footpath leading away from Gents Lane, in an area which will now be known as Hill Field Spinney. In under 2 hours we planted about 200 trees, all of which have been staked and protected with tree guards. We were very fortunate with the weather, considering how awful it's been!

It is hoped that we will be able to follow this up with the planting of wild flowers, the siting of bird boxes and the construction of a log pile to provide a habitat for insects and small mammals, hopefully when the weather improves and the ground dries out a little!

In a follow up meeting, we discussed how we might be able to work with the Parish Council to protect and further enhance the environment in and around our beautiful village and will be sending a representative to the next PC meeting.

If you would like further information regarding the Greening Shimpling group please contact Jane 07453 453 906 or email jane.wall@hotmail.co.uk and we will add you to our WhatsApp group.



GREENING SHIMPLING

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

The Annual Village Clean Up Morning will take place on Sunday 22nd March at 11.30am from the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

We have some high vis vests and litter picking sticks but if you have your own high vis vest and gloves, please bring them along

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult



Shimpling & Alpheton WI
Lindsey Barrell aka Cherry Bombe - Burlesque

Lindsey turned out to be quite a stand up comic, dressed in - well - not what you would expect from a typical WI member, let's say. She certainly knew how to tell her stories!
She has been doing burlesque for 14 years and comes from Lancashire and grew up in County Durham but has lived in Essex for 32 years. Subjects she talked about included the North/South divide, being a single Mum, crafts - especially sewing, the WI, shopping in Aldi, confidence building, salsa and the quest to find friends.

Films like Sweet Charity, Moulin Rouge etc include burlesque. At her first session she was told to wear keep fit clothes for burlesque classes. When she got there, all the other women were wearing burlesque style clothes. Leopard Lily, became the first character whom she portrayed in burlesque, wearing leopardskin from head to toe, choreographing her three and a half minute dance act herself. She did a routine to a Chris de Burgh song called Patricia the Stripper. (If you are intrigued you can see her with a group of ladies outdoors performing to this very song on YouTube, dressed as Cherry Bombe.)

Her success with this meant jealousies amongst the other women so she didn't really make friends there as she had hoped. In a continued quest to make friends, she joined a new WI in Chelmsford which attracted around 200 new women. She had thought it would be a bit like the Brownies for grown ups. She joined the

largest WI branch in the country with 350 members which was so large that they could only meet in Chelmsford Cathedral. Because of the size, subgroups were formed and Lindsey ran a Burlesque subgroup of about 20 members who met in a village hall in Great Baddow. By this stage Lindsey had portrayed the character of Cherry Bombe. They formed the first ever WI Burlesque troupe. The ladies all made friends and performed at Chelmsford Cathedral, removing clothes. ..this led to fundraising by her troupe called the Burlesque Bombshells via performances, raising thousands for charities.

Lindsey ended up forming another Burlesque group at Canvey Island called the Wild Island Burlesquers. The average age of the troupe was in the 70s with some ladies aged 80 odd. One lady wearing a corset for the first time put it on upside down! The Covid lockdown brought new challenges and Lindsey gave 400 talks on Zoom from her kitchen dressed in her corset. Sometimes she gave three talks in a day.

Lindsey moved from the enormous WI to a smaller WI and is now the president of a third WI.

Copy for the June 2026 edition is required by 22nd May 2026 (A4 WORD or .PDF file please)
Sarah Smith—slsconsulting21@outlook.com
07774 116128
When advertising events please ensure there is a contact name with a landline number.
Please remember not everyone is on the Internet !!

The Alpheton Film night is on the 2nd Monday of each month.



Mon. 9th March. THE COLOUR ROOM. (Phoebe Dynevor, Matthew Goode)

Mon 13th April A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (Timothee Chalamet)

Mon 11th May LIVING (Bill Nighy)

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Admission price is £5 including tea/coffee & biscuits. The Bar will be open.

Have you tried it yet?



Take the number 45 bus to Bury St Edmunds (Monday to Saturday). Meet nice people as you travel through the villages.

Brighten up your day, even when it is overcast.
Give it a go this week, you will be amazed how much better you feel. No car park fees, no queuing for a space, no expensive fuel, leave it to the bus driver and see a different view of your surroundings.
Looking forward to seeing you very soon!

Timetables are available on the bus, in the village or
www.konectbuses.co.uk
www.suffolkonboard.com

HARTEST & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

2026 has started with a very wet and soggy January, so those of us with clay gardens are dealing with boggy ground and a rising water table. Mud has made gardening, or even stepping outside, practically impossible at times. However, spring is on its way, with snowdrops in bloom in the hedgerows and gardens, and other spring bulbs starting to peep out of the ground. We just need a little bit of blue sky and sunshine to tempt us outside to see which plants have survived the endless rain.

We started this year with a really interesting talk on Delphiniums from Greg Veness of The Front Gardeners Nursery, who are based at the Willow Tree Farm Shop. We learned how to care for these beautiful plants, the seed sowing process and how to take basal cuttings. Delphiniums are fully hardy and (with good drainage) can tolerate a cold winter. Even better, they can be grown from seed from January onwards!

Looking ahead we have some key dates for your diaries:
On Sunday 1 March, 2.30pm we welcome guest speaker Michael Marriott to the Hartest Institute for an expert talk on roses. Michael was the Head Rosarian at David Austin Roses for 35 years and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of all things related to roses. Whilst Michael's enthusiasm for roses is infectious, he is equally known for his garden designs, organic methods and common sense approach.

At the time of writing, there are still a small number of tickets left, priced at £15 for our 2026 club members and £18 for non-members. If you would like to attend, email hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com with the number of tickets you require.

Further ahead, other key dates for your diary are the:

- Annual Plant Sale Sunday 17th May at 2pm, Hartest Green where there will be lots of plants, veg and garden items for sale.

  We welcome donations of plants, perennials, annuals, saplings and veg seedlings (all labelled please). This year we also hope to offer gardening books, plant pots and any other garden-related equipment. If you are having a spring clear out and want to donate items, please do get in touch.

- Annual Show Sunday 6th September at 2.30pm, The Institute.
  More information about this nearer the date.

The club is going from strength to strength and has a great buzz about it with lots of new members and renewed energy from long-standing members. If you are interested in finding out about who we are and what we offer, do come along. We are very friendly and welcoming!

We hold monthly meetings at 7.30pm, on the first Monday of each month at the Hartest Institute. Membership is £15 per person or £25 for a couple. In the summer months our members enjoy access to exclusive garden visits. Members also enjoy a healthy 50% discount on seeds from our club supplier, Kings Seeds, who have a fantastic selection of veg, flower and herb seeds.

Find out more via our:
Website: https://hartestgardeningclub.onesuffolk.net/
Instagram: hartest_gardening_club
Facebook: Hartest & District Gardening Club
Email: hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com
Kit Morrison, on behalf of H&DGC hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com

Shimpling Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee meets every 8 weeks, to manage the hall and arrange events that residents can enjoy and generate income to keep the hall running & open.
We welcome interest from any resident who would like to get involved – please email Carol Squire: shimplingvh@gmail.com or phone, WhatsApp or text: 07855 762812
Meeting minutes and information on all activities are available to read on the Village website http://shimplingpc.onesuffolk.net/village-hall/
Events and activities timetable on the Your Hall website https://yourhall.co.uk/hall/shimpling-village-hall/

Village Hall Activities

Future Arts & Crafts Sessions in the village hall 2026 (see posters in this newsletter).



Spring Wreath Making Workshop -
Ever thought you would like to be able to make your own wreaths - why not start with a beautiful spring flower wreath using spring bulbs that can be re-potted and come again. The workshop will be in the village hall on the 21st of March 2026 at 10am. The session tutor will be expert florist Anne Brown - http://www.justanneflowers.co.uk/
Booking for places open now - see the poster in this month's newsletter.
All sessions have minimum attendance targets and will not take place if not reached.

Other Events
Schools' half term saw the hall made available for free to residents and families to use the table tennis set, the children's billiards table and other indoor games. Those who took advantage enjoyed the opportunity - *"We had a brilliant time and have all become experts at table tennis!"* We will do the same every half term in 2026

Also, if you are stuck for something to do with the family – don't forget you can book the hall to play a variety of games including Table Tennis and Billiards at other times





PANTOMIME - Due to the popularity of the live screening of the Christmas Pantomime last year, we linked up with the Wolsey Theatre Ipswich again this year on the Saturday 27th December and live streamed Beauty and the Beast.

The Regular Village Hall Activities
These continue as scheduled so check the village website, notice boards, Facebook and WhatsApp and join in.

- PILATES classes are on a Monday mornings and Wednesday evening and with occasional attendance from other villages boosting numbers, these have mainly been well attended but there is still room for a few more so don't be shy – come and join in. It's time to get summer holiday fit.
- ZUMBA GOLD continues term time Fridays – a great way to dance your way to fitness - no prior experience or skill needed - just dance for the fun of it.
- FILM NIGHTS have also continued the 3rd Tuesday evening of the month, showing some great films, but in Feb and March - the film will be shown in the afternoon. Attendance could improve to help make a profit on these sessions so come along and enjoy the films.
  Let us know what films you want to see. WhatsApp or Text Carol on 07855 762812 with your ideas

The **RURAL COFFEE CARAVAN** come to the village hall every **4th Thursday of the month** offering their excellent range of home-made coffee (or tea) cakes & savouries, coupled with advice, up to date information and signposting for help and information.

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL
PILATES CLASSES

THE BENEFITS OF PILATES

The focus is on core strength & spinal mobility to ensure optimum alignment of the body.

The breathing and mindful aspect of Pilates supports both physical and mental well-being.

It is intelligent exercise!



3 Sessions are held

Mondays at 9.30 – 10.30 and **11 – 12noon**

WEDNESDAYS 6.30 – 7.30pm

term time only

£7 per session - Equipment provided free

NO EXPERIENCE OR BOOKING NEEDED

Want to know more?

Contact Tutor- Louise Fuller 07875 370902



SPRING WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

10am SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL

£35 PER PERSON

Learn how to make a beautiful wreath with spring bulbs that can be replanted in a pot to come again!

Book your place by emailing
shimplingvh@gmail.com or

text Carol on 07855762812

Rural Coffee Caravan

Making a difference to rural communities throughout Suffolk

Come and share a pot of tea, our welcome is warm and our friendship free!

We'll be visiting:

Shimpling

Village Hall IP29 4HS

10am - 12pm

Thursdays:

22nd Jan / 26th Feb / 26th March

Come along for some company and a catch up with your neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and cake. We bring a great source of information along with the free refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you.

All Welcome!



www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk tel: 01379 855 338

Registered No: 1187423

Meet Up Mondays™

c-a-f-e coffee and friends events

More Than A Shop

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Alpheton and Shimpling Marmalade Competition



at the Spring Market (11th April)

Please bring 2 jars at 10am (one for the competition, one for the produce stall)

Judging will take place at 12 noon

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

During Half Terms we are pleased to offer **Shimpling Village Hall** for hire - **FREE** of charge

Play

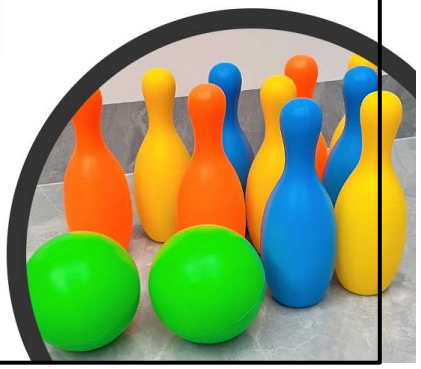
- TABLE TENNIS, BILLIARDS, or GAMES SESSIONS
- BRING YOUR OWN GAMES OR USE OURS!
- BOOK YOUR SESSION
- Email shimplingvh@gmail.com
- or text 07855762812











Barn Dance with 'Catch the Pigeon'

More details to follow !



alphetonandshimplingchurches.com

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL

SPRING 2026 FILM SESSIONS

3rd TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

March - Matinee - 1.45 for 2pm start

April & May 7.15pm for 7.30 start

COME AND WATCH NEW AND FAVOURITE FILMS ON THE BIG SCREEN



COMING NEXT

March 17th - Agatha and the Truth of Murder

A British alternative history drama about crime writer Agatha Christie becoming embroiled in a real-life murder case during her 11-day disappearance in 1926. Based on real people & events, it depicts Christie investigating the murder of Florence Nightingale's goddaughter, & how involvement in this case, influenced her later writing.

April 21st Hemingway and Gellhorn

This powerful drama recounts the relationship between literary giant Ernest Hemingway (Nick Owen) & War correspondent Martha Gellhorn (Nicole Kidman) - Hemingway's inspiration for "For Whom the Bell Tolls".

May 19th - The Choral

British historical drama written by Alan Bennett starring Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam, Mark Addy. Set in 1916, the film follows the members of the local choral society which recruits a group of teenagers for a performance of Edward Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*.

PUT THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY

REFRESHMENTS & FILM £4.50 PER PERSON
ICECREAM, SWEETS & POPCORN ALSO ON SALE.



Do you have a film you want to see? Just let us know

Friday 27th March 2026
From 5pm
The Swan Inn, Lawshall

Face the flames and crush the glass to help raise vital funds! After the incredible success of our first ever firewalk in 2024, Green Light Trust are bringing it back again this year with a twist – a glass walk too! Experience the thrill of walking bare foot across scorching flames and razor sharp glass, facing your fears in the Spring.

Our fundraising challenge offers the chance for team building, creating lasting memories and bonds. Not only will you be testing your limits, but you will raise valuable funds for Green Light Trust.

Located at the stunning Swan Inn pub, join us from 5pm to register and grab a delicious bite to eat. This event is hosted by Fundraising Firewalk Association, one of the UK's leading firewalk companies, who will provide training sessions on the night.

Your fundraising efforts and entry ticket will include an achievement certificate, photographs of the event, fundraising support and a limited edition Green Light Trust fire and glass walk t-shirt.

See our website events page for more details and how to sign up- greenlighttrust.org

GREEN LIGHT TRUST



ZUMBA® gold



Shimpling Village Hall

Friday's 1-1.45pm - term time only

£5 per session

No booking required, just come along

CONTACT YOUR LICENSED ZUMBA INSTRUCTOR :

Jo Brown

Call/text : 07851962112
Email : joanna-m-brown@hotmail.co.uk
find me on Facebook : Jo Brown

HARTEST FARMERS & CRAFT MARKET

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH
10:00-12:30

The Little Dip Company
Chicken and Bird feed
Bread & pastries, Sparling & Faiers
Sue's Savouries
Fuller's Honey
Dr Kat's Luxury Granola
Meadow and Woodland Livestock
B'Wrappy Eco Food Wraps
Hartest made Power-Grit Health food mix
Conical peg bags & Sewn items by Tamara Jones
Walking sticks & wooden items
Moonvine jewellery
Artist Janet Munro
Chocolate, Edible Creations by Rosey
Cambridge Artisan Cheese
Local eggs & curry kits
Fruit and veg, Cox Boxes
Coiled rope baskets by Debbie Regent
Soap, ljp balms and bath bombs by FB Designs
Tropic Skincare by Debra Graham
Artist Juliette Hudson
Crochet & jewellery by Pat

Cafe: Hot bacon, sausage rolls, tea, coffee & homemade cakes
Friends of Hartest School

HARTESTFARMERSMARKET@GMAIL.COM

Hartest Institute, Hartest, Bury Saint Edmunds IP29 4DH

Advertising in the Shimpling News

You could reach 200 households.....!
The fees for advertising in the Shimpling News for 2025 (of which this is for the 4 editions – one for each season) will be;

Full page £100, Half page £50 , Quarter page £25

With any residents of Shimpling able to have a 25% discount so making the cost Full page £75, Half page £37.50 and Quarter page £18.75. Individual adverts (ie for sale items) are £3 up to a £100 and £5 over £100 per issue
If you would like to advertise please email the Clerk shimplingpc@gmail.com



SAVE

(Shimpling AED Village Enterprise)

As most people are aware the village has an AED located in a locked cabinet outside The Bush. The device is registered with the East of England Ambulance Service, who have the access code details.
In the event of an emergency, the precise location of the AED would need to be given, to enable the Ambulance Service to give the code. The location is

The Bush, The Street, Shimpling **IP29 4HU**

Please make a note of these details, as it could save time in gaining access.
If you require any further details, please contact me Marian Peck Chair, SAVE 01284 828187

THOMAS & YOUNG

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Risby, Bury Saint Edmunds
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01284 334400

www.tywm.co.uk

CHARTERED FINANCIAL PLANNERS

Thomas and Young Wealth Management Limited is an Appointed Representative of and represents only St. James's Place Wealth Management plc (which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority) for the purpose of advising solely on the group's wealth management products and services, more details of which are set out on the group's website www.sjp.co.uk/products The 'St. James's Place Partnership' and the titles 'Partner' and 'Partner Practice' are marketing terms used to describe St. James's Place representatives.

Senior Partner Practice

St James's Place

SJP Approved 15/09/2025

RECYCLING Shimpling has a bottle bank, a Paper and Card Bank and a Clothing Bank. If they are full please call

BOTTLE BANK— 0344 880 7700

CLOTHING BANK—08000 902 321

Electronic Version of The Shimpling News

If you would prefer to receive an email informing you when the latest issue is available online, rather than have a printed copy delivered to your door please let me know slsconsulting21@outlook.com



Domestic, Commercial & Agricultural Electrical Work Undertaken



Including rewires, new builds, extensions, All Electric heating, new consumer units, testing and inspection for insurance purposes, smoke detectors, TV & phone points, outside lighting, low energy & LED lighting. NICEIC registered, Part P Certified, ECA member with Public Liability and guaranteed by the ECA

For competitive rates, a personal service and good quality workmanship contact:

Kevin Seggie Electrical Services

Beechwood Cottage, Bury Road, Lawshall, IP29 4PJ

01284 830786 / 07768 108157

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ecs electrotechnical certification scheme

Anthony - 07801990584

City & Guilds Qualified



Useful Online Reporting Tools
Many issues can be reported online by residents at https;//www.babergh.gov.uk/report-online Including potholes, overgrown vegetation, littering and fly-tipping
Flooding can be reported at https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/report-a-flood-in-suffolk
Local road closure information can be found at one.network

LARK VALLEY WILLOW LTD.

Lark Valley Willow Ltd.
Rose Cottage
The Street
Shimpling
Suffolk
IP29 4HS

We are looking for casual (self employed) part time workers to join our friendly team weaving in-situ willow fences in Suffolk and Essex.
Training and support will be given. Enjoying working outside is a must. You will need to have transport and be practical and hard working.

Please email cmcooke@icloud.com with a brief CV

PEST PROBLEMS SOLVED BY LOCAL SPECIALIST

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Email: cgwarner@btinternet.com

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- Woodland Management
- Tree / Hedge Planting



Fully Insured ***40 years + experience***

FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTES

USEFUL VILLAGE CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

County Cllr—Richard Kemp 01787 378149
Shimpling Village Hall—Carol Squire 07855 762812 or email shimplingvh@gmail.com
St George's Church—Rev'd Matthew Lawson 01787 310845
The Bush Public house 07961 947497 and email thebushpubshimpling@gmail.com
Shimpling Postal Collections:-
The Street Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am, Little Chadacre Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am, Aveley Lane Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am
Medical Services
NHS Helpline :- 111 (Non-emergency)
Glemsford Surgery:—01787 280484
Lavenham/Long Melford Surgery:—01787 378226
Samaritans:- 116 123
Domestic Abuse Helpline:- 0808 2000 247
Vet Surgeries:-
Swayne & Partners Long Melford—01787 370773
Bury St Edmunds - 01284 701444
Anglian Water Emergency :- 0800 771881
UK Power Networks Emergency:- 0800 31 63 105
Citizens Advice Bureau:- 01284 753675
Suffolk Libraries Library Van—Next visit Friday 13th March Hallifax Place 12:30-12:50, then April 10th and May 8th
Chambers Bus Service 45—Daily except Sunday depart Hallifax Place to Bury 07:39*/10:01 return arrival at Hallifax Place 16:56*/13:35 *Schooldays
Felix Taxis :- 01787 310574
Shimpling Park Farm for loose sheep and broken fences etc. Shepherd Emily Elnaugh on 07415 311252.

Shimpling News

Spring 2026 **Issue 145**



The Parish Council:

Mrs Liz Brunwin	01284 828122
Mr Gerry Shrimpton	01284 827219
Mr David Dunkley	07809 148630
Mr Mark Milhench	07770 668660
Ms Jen O'Reilly-Turner	07769 894806
Mr Laurence Rooke	07818 797081
Vacancy	

Contact details for the Clerk are:
4 Park Farm Cottages, Brettenham, Suffolk, IP7 7QP
(Correspondence and Appointment only)
Email: clerk@shimpling-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07940 223200

The Parish Council meet bi-monthly in January, March, May (AGM), July, September and November every year. Extra meetings may also be held throughout the year when required.

Annual Parish Assembly – Reports presented by the Council and local groups / charities / committees from within the parish. Members of the public can speak freely at this meeting in May, raise issues and ask questions relating to the reports.

Annual Meeting of the Council (AGM) – Each May, Election of officers of the council. Declarations of acceptance of office.

Parish Council Meetings – Council considers matters relating to finance, planning and the Parish. Additional extraordinary meetings are held when required.

Dates of meetings: Parish council meetings will be held at 7pm on the following dates;

- Monday 9th March 2026
- Monday 11th May 2026 (Annual Meeting of the Parish, Annual General Meeting followed by normal May PC meeting)

Please note that these meetings will be held at the Village Hall.

Parish Council Website and Social Media and Notice Boards

You can find council information on the notice board by the bus stop in The Street. This is also circulated via our Village Round Robin System and posted on the Shimpling Community Facebook page. Alternatively, the village web site is regularly updated as well as our Facebook page. Please like our Facebook page:
Facebook: Shimpling Parish Council
Website: https://shimpling-pc.gov.uk/

Could you volunteer to help your Village?

We need a new Parish Councillor to join our team. Parish Councillors do a worthwhile job ensuring that your voice is heard and overseeing work so that your village is kept looking good. If you would like to know more about becoming a Councillor then please get in touch with the Clerk or any of our wonderful Councillors.

Report from Chair, David Dunkley:

The Chair reported in the January meeting;
Let me offer my best wishes to everyone for 2026 and hope that you had a pleasant holiday period.

On that theme, the village green Christmas decorations again looked very festive and many thanks to all who made that possible, including the set-up, provision of the tree and the electricity for the lights.
A new supplier has been found to support the installation of the EV chargers and although we were hoping to hear from them before Christmas this did not happen. Hopefully 2026 will be more successful in completing this work.
The installation of InPost storage lockers at the village hall was halted following concerns from some villagers. Although the number was small, they represented those most likely to be affected by the installation. Going forward, obtaining acceptable answers to their genuine concerns will be necessary to enable the project to re-start.
The final draft of the Neighbourhood Plan was issued to the Parish Council at the November meeting and was accepted. The public consultation on the plan will begin on the 17th January kicked off by an open event at the village hall. The consultation continues for 6 weeks, following which the plan, with any changes, goes to Babergh DC for evaluation.
Information of the potential local government reorganisation is still being disseminated but, as yet, no decision has been announced.

Recycling

Please remember that the Parish Council receives money from the paper (although not cardboard) glass, clothing and shoes deposited in the recycling bins near the Bush Inn. Clothing and shoes should be bagged before depositing in the clothing/shoe bank. This income helps to run the council and therefore is a direct benefit to the village. **Please keep recycling.**

What the Parish Council have been up to …

Over the last couple of months, we have:

- Worked on fixing minor issues with the playground
- Prepared a budget for 2026/27

Do you have new neighbours?

For some time now, the Village Hall Committee have been sending welcome letters with local information to new residents. If you have new neighbours, can you please let the Village Hall Committee shimplingvh@gmail.com know so that they can organise a welcome letter.

Shimpling WhatsApp Support Group

This was set up at the start of COVID to support those in need but has developed into a good way of communicating with others in the village. Recently we were asked to relay an urgent message to a villager and were able to locate the person quickly using the WhatsApp Group. If you would like to join the group, please contact Katie Haselhurst kh.shimpling@gmail.com.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group are working hard! For more information on the process or what has been produced so far look on the website: https://shimpling-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan-2/

Speeding

There have been issues raised regarding speeding in the Village, this has been raised both to the PC and it was commented on frequently in the Neighbourhood Plan Surveys. The PC are looking at possibly setting up a community speed watch. However, we will need volunteers!

To set up a scheme

- You must have a minimum of 6 volunteers
- All the volunteers must be over 18 years old
- Each scheme must have a co-ordinator (who will be the point of contact for the team) and where possible a deputy
- The Parish (or local) Council support the scheme
- You will have to sign a CSW agreement and be vetted
- Equipment will be provided by the Constabulary
- Training will be provided on using the equipment and on Health and Safety issues
- Volunteers will be covered by the Constabulary's insurance
- Locations chosen will be assessed by the Constabulary

If you would like to volunteer, please do get in touch and let us know. We can only move this forward with enough volunteers.

Buses

Here is a link to the full timetable
https://passenger-line-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/hedinghamandchambers/HEDO/45-timetable-20250831-5f294bdd.pdf

District Councillors

Our District Councillors usually attend each Parish Council meeting and can also be contacted as follows:

Michael Holt
Phone: 01787 281712, Mobile: 07801 766813
Email: michael.holt@babergh.gov.uk



Stephen Plumb
Phone: 01787 280890
Email: stephen.plumb@babergh.gov.uk



Planning

There have been a number of planning applications since our last newsletter. Others are updated below:

Application	Shimpling PC Comments	Planning Authority Decision
DC/25/05341- Lyndhurst Little Chadacre Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4HL- Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/25/02008 – Condition 5 (Cycle Storage and Refuse Bins)	Did not comment	Granted
DC/25/05339 - Stable Barn Thorne Court Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 0JN - Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of Use of Buildings on Agricultural Units and former Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (Class C3), which may include extension of the building and/or building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Conversion of Stable Barn to 1no. dwellinghouse	Did not comment	Granted

Shimpling Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you to everyone who attended the Consultation Session at the Village Hall on the 17th January; the time flew by with many interesting conversations.

By the time this newsletter comes out the opportunity to comment/support the Plan via the survey will have closed but thank you to all that did – we appreciate it was slightly time consuming!

The next stage will be for the Draft Plan to be amended, where necessary, to take on board comments received via the survey before submission to Babergh District Council. Following this consultation period the Plan will then be sent for Independent Examination.

The final stage will be for the formal Parish Referendum where everyone in the Parish has the opportunity to vote on the adoption of the Plan. If this is positive Babergh District Council will then be required to take the Plan into account on any decisions made.

We will keep you up to date with progress through the next stages.

Committee members: Mark Beaver, Claire Douglas-Hughes (Chair), David Dunkley, Mike Fahie-Wilson, Jane Wall.

THE HALLIFAX TRUST

A locally based charity providing grants to students under the age of 25 receiving further education at colleges or universities or undergoing formal training for a profession or vocation. These are non-means tested. To qualify students must simply have parents living in Shimpling or alternatively have in the past attended Lawshall School whilst their parents were living in Shimpling.

Funding is additionally available for other school and village projects. Applications from students for funding for the forthcoming academic year must be received by 30th September.

HELP US TO HELP OUR CHILDREN

We have recently received a small number of donations to the Charity for which we are extremely grateful. Please consider whether you could help with a donation or a legacy. These are tough times for students and the more funds we have the more we can help. For grants or donations contact:

hallifaxtrust@gmail.com

Claire Wilson 01284 830574 or Jenny Pine 01284 827073

Hallifax Educational Trust is a Registered Charity No.310396

Village Personalities ?

Would you like to have an article published in the form of a small piece written about youself and your life in Shimpling as an item of social interest?

It would not be more than a page. There are so many interesting people in our village ! If so, email me , Jayne Schofield, on jas.65@btinternet.com or call on 01284 828 322

Let there be light?

A visitor to the UK recently commented to a member of my family that there must be corruption at the highest level … because we are such a rich country and yet nothing seems to work! I suspect that I dismissed this comment too lightly, but have since been reminded about it following the recent revelations about Jeffrey Epstein and the behaviour of many powerful Western leaders in politics, business, science and the arts. I do not think I am alone at being appalled. I was particularly disgusted how Epstein advised people how to discredit those who had been abused when they sought justice in court.

I am conscious that these revelations have affected people within our parishes - probably not directly relating to Epstein, but with respect to other people abusing power. This has been weighing particularly heavily on my heart these recent weeks, and I have been praying for any in our villages who have been affected that you would not feel alone, and that you would have trusted people to share with and to support you.

It can feel that we are so weak against the powerful, and yet I have been reminded that God will not tolerate injustice forever. Yes of course I have faith that at the end of this age justice will be restored to all the earth. But I am also praying that God will shine his light on corruption right now - and that of course includes any corruption or abuse in the church. Psalm 94 starts like this:

1 The LORD is a God who avenges. O God who avenges, shine forth.
2 Rise up, Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve.
3 How long, LORD, will the wicked, how long will the wicked be jubilant?

But the psalm ends like this:

21 The wicked band together against the righteous and condemn the innocent to death.
22 But the LORD has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge.
23 He will repay them for their sins and destroy them for their wickedness;
the Lord our God will destroy them.

So I pray, Lord, Let there be light! And let us pray that justice and mercy will be held in right balance.

(Late addendum - I am very concerned to have just heard news about an allegation leading to a Bishop being suspended - I am glad it is being taken seriously).

Reverand Matthew Lawson

Volunteer Opportunity for someone good with words

The Parochial Church Council are looking for a secretary to send out documents and take notes at our meetings. We only have 6 meetings a year but it would help us enormously if someone could help. Training and support (and plenty of laughter, tea, coffee, and biscuits) will be provided. Please contact Revd Lawson on 01787 310 845 or revmattis@gmail.com.



THE PARISH OF ALPHETON AND SHIMPLINGTHORNE

Church Services Include:

March			
Sun 1st	9.00am	Alpheton	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Family Communion
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 8th	4.00pm	Shimpling	Pub Social at The Bush Inn #
Sun 15th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Mothering Sunday Service
Sun 22nd	4.00pm	tbc	Wild Lent #
Sun 29th	10.30am	Melford	Traditional Passiontide Service
	4.00pm	Melford	Messy Easter at Holy Trinity #
	6.30pm	Lawshall	Evening Communion
April			
Thurs 2nd	7.00pm	Melford	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri 3rd	10.00am	Shimpling	Walk with the Cross, Bush to V. Hall
	2.00pm	Melford	Devotional Service
Sat 4th	8.30pm	Melford	Traditional Easter Vigil
Sun 5th	10.30am	Melford	Easter Celebration & Communion (family friendly)
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 19th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
Sun 26th	6.30pm	Lawshall	Communion
May			
Sun 3rd	9.00am	Alpheton	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Family Communion
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 10th	4.00pm	Melford Sch.	Messy Church #
Sun 17th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
Sun 31st	6.30pm	Lawshall	Evening Communion

… and Communion at Holy Trinity Long Melford **every Sunday at 10.30am** (Google 'Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook' for livestream).

for our 4 o'clock community with family friendly services socials and events almost every Sunday at 4.00pm, contact Nicky on 07938 681319 or chadbrooklightwave@gmail.com

... and Communion at Holy Trinity Long Melford every Sunday at 10.30am (Google 'Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook' for livestream).

Children welcome at all 10.30am services there is a children's area at the back of Holy Trinity Please see www.longmelfordchurch.com for any updates. For further information on our toddler and youth groups, please contact Pam on 07890or melfordfamilyworker@gmail.com.

For more details or any questions, please contact Vicky on 07804 558160 or chadbrookoffice@gmail.com.

Rector:Rev'd Matthew Lawson 01787 310845
Churchwarden: Vacant
Church Contact : Charlotte Blyth 01284 828544
07939 194233

SHIMPLING MOBILE LIBRARY 2026

Do you like reading?

Each month on a Friday the mobile library comes to Shimpling and has many books on board, including children's options. Library membership is free and once you join it's very easy to order a vast range of books online, which can be collected from the mobile library.

You can borrow up to 20 books and 6 audio books at any one time, and if no-one has reserved them, they can be renewed up to 6 times. So, no excuses if you're a slow reader!

The library bus, route 13, calls at HALLIFAX PLACE between 1230 and 1250 on the following Fridays this year:

March 13, April 10, May 8

www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk

So let's use it, or we may lose it. Happy Reading!

From Greening Shimpling

At the beginning of January we had a great turnout for the planting of trees at the top of the footpath leading away from Gents Lane, in an area which will now be known as Hill Field Spinney. In under 2 hours we planted about 200 trees, all of which have been staked and protected with tree guards. We were very fortunate with the weather, considering how awful it's been!

It is hoped that we will be able to follow this up with the planting of wild flowers, the siting of bird boxes and the construction of a log pile to provide a habitat for insects and small mammals, hopefully when the weather improves and the ground dries out a little!

In a follow up meeting, we discussed how we might be able to work with the Parish Council to protect and further enhance the environment in and around our beautiful village and will be sending a representative to the next PC meeting.

If you would like further information regarding the Greening Shimpling group please contact Jane 07453 453 906 or email jane.wall@hotmail.co.uk and we will add you to our WhatsApp group.



GREENING SHIMPLING

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

The Annual Village Clean Up Morning will take place on Sunday 22nd March at 11.30am from the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

We have some high vis vests and litter picking sticks but if you have your own high vis vest and gloves, please bring them along

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult



Shimpling & Alpheton WI
Lindsey Barrell aka Cherry Bombe - Burlesque

Lindsey turned out to be quite a stand up comic, dressed in - well - not what you would expect from a typical WI member, let's say. She certainly knew how to tell her stories!
She has been doing burlesque for 14 years and comes from Lancashire and grew up in County Durham but has lived in Essex for 32 years. Subjects she talked about included the North/South divide, being a single Mum, crafts - especially sewing, the WI, shopping in Aldi, confidence building, salsa and the quest to find friends.

Films like Sweet Charity, Moulin Rouge etc include burlesque. At her first session she was told to wear keep fit clothes for burlesque classes. When she got there, all the other women were wearing burlesque style clothes. Leopard Lily, became the first character whom she portrayed in burlesque, wearing leopardskin from head to toe, choreographing her three and a half minute dance act herself. She did a routine to a Chris de Burgh song called Patricia the Stripper. (If you are intrigued you can see her with a group of ladies outdoors performing to this very song on YouTube, dressed as Cherry Bombe.)

Her success with this meant jealousies amongst the other women so she didn't really make friends there as she had hoped. In a continued quest to make friends, she joined a new WI in Chelmsford which attracted around 200 new women. She had thought it would be a bit like the Brownies for grown ups. She joined the

largest WI branch in the country with 350 members which was so large that they could only meet in Chelmsford Cathedral. Because of the size, subgroups were formed and Lindsey ran a Burlesque subgroup of about 20 members who met in a village hall in Great Baddow. By this stage Lindsey had portrayed the character of Cherry Bombe. They formed the first ever WI Burlesque troupe. The ladies all made friends and performed at Chelmsford Cathedral, removing clothes. ..this led to fundraising by her troupe called the Burlesque Bombshells via performances, raising thousands for charities.

Lindsey ended up forming another Burlesque group at Canvey Island called the Wild Island Burlesquers. The average age of the troupe was in the 70s with some ladies aged 80 odd. One lady wearing a corset for the first time put it on upside down! The Covid lockdown brought new challenges and Lindsey gave 400 talks on Zoom from her kitchen dressed in her corset. Sometimes she gave three talks in a day.

Lindsey moved from the enormous WI to a smaller WI and is now the president of a third WI.

Copy for the June 2026 edition is required by 22nd May 2026 (A4 WORD or .PDF file please)
Sarah Smith—slsconsulting21@outlook.com
07774 116128
When advertising events please ensure there is a contact name with a landline number.
Please remember not everyone is on the Internet !!

The Alpheton Film night is on the 2nd Monday of each month.



Mon. 9th March. THE COLOUR ROOM. (Phoebe Dynevor, Matthew Goode)

Mon 13th April A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (Timothee Chalamet)

Mon 11th May LIVING (Bill Nighy)

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Admission price is £5 including tea/coffee & biscuits. The Bar will be open.

Have you tried it yet?



Take the number 45 bus to Bury St Edmunds (Monday to Saturday). Meet nice people as you travel through the villages.

Brighten up your day, even when it is overcast.
Give it a go this week, you will be amazed how much better you feel. No car park fees, no queuing for a space, no expensive fuel, leave it to the bus driver and see a different view of your surroundings.
Looking forward to seeing you very soon!

Timetables are available on the bus, in the village or
www.konectbuses.co.uk
www.suffolkonboard.com

HARTEST & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

2026 has started with a very wet and soggy January, so those of us with clay gardens are dealing with boggy ground and a rising water table. Mud has made gardening, or even stepping outside, practically impossible at times. However, spring is on its way, with snowdrops in bloom in the hedgerows and gardens, and other spring bulbs starting to peep out of the ground. We just need a little bit of blue sky and sunshine to tempt us outside to see which plants have survived the endless rain.

We started this year with a really interesting talk on Delphiniums from Greg Veness of The Front Gardeners Nursery, who are based at the Willow Tree Farm Shop. We learned how to care for these beautiful plants, the seed sowing process and how to take basal cuttings. Delphiniums are fully hardy and (with good drainage) can tolerate a cold winter. Even better, they can be grown from seed from January onwards!

Looking ahead we have some key dates for your diaries:
On Sunday 1 March, 2.30pm we welcome guest speaker Michael Marriott to the Hartest Institute for an expert talk on roses. Michael was the Head Rosarian at David Austin Roses for 35 years and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of all things related to roses. Whilst Michael's enthusiasm for roses is infectious, he is equally known for his garden designs, organic methods and common sense approach.

At the time of writing, there are still a small number of tickets left, priced at £15 for our 2026 club members and £18 for non-members. If you would like to attend, email hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com with the number of tickets you require.

Further ahead, other key dates for your diary are the:

- Annual Plant Sale Sunday 17th May at 2pm, Hartest Green where there will be lots of plants, veg and garden items for sale.

  We welcome donations of plants, perennials, annuals, saplings and veg seedlings (all labelled please). This year we also hope to offer gardening books, plant pots and any other garden-related equipment. If you are having a spring clear out and want to donate items, please do get in touch.

- Annual Show Sunday 6th September at 2.30pm, The Institute.
  More information about this nearer the date.

The club is going from strength to strength and has a great buzz about it with lots of new members and renewed energy from long-standing members. If you are interested in finding out about who we are and what we offer, do come along. We are very friendly and welcoming!

We hold monthly meetings at 7.30pm, on the first Monday of each month at the Hartest Institute. Membership is £15 per person or £25 for a couple. In the summer months our members enjoy access to exclusive garden visits. Members also enjoy a healthy 50% discount on seeds from our club supplier, Kings Seeds, who have a fantastic selection of veg, flower and herb seeds.

Find out more via our:
Website: https://hartestgardeningclub.onesuffolk.net/
Instagram: hartest_gardening_club
Facebook: Hartest & District Gardening Club
Email: hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com
Kit Morrison, on behalf of H&DGC hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com

Shimpling Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee meets every 8 weeks, to manage the hall and arrange events that residents can enjoy and generate income to keep the hall running & open.
We welcome interest from any resident who would like to get involved – please email Carol Squire: shimplingvh@gmail.com or phone, WhatsApp or text: 07855 762812
Meeting minutes and information on all activities are available to read on the Village website http://shimplingpc.onesuffolk.net/village-hall/
Events and activities timetable on the Your Hall website https://yourhall.co.uk/hall/shimpling-village-hall/

Village Hall Activities

Future Arts & Crafts Sessions in the village hall 2026 (see posters in this newsletter).



Spring Wreath Making Workshop -
Ever thought you would like to be able to make your own wreaths - why not start with a beautiful spring flower wreath using spring bulbs that can be re-potted and come again. The workshop will be in the village hall on the 21st of March 2026 at 10am. The session tutor will be expert florist Anne Brown - http://www.justanneflowers.co.uk/
Booking for places open now - see the poster in this month's newsletter.
All sessions have minimum attendance targets and will not take place if not reached.

Other Events
Schools' half term saw the hall made available for free to residents and families to use the table tennis set, the children's billiards table and other indoor games. Those who took advantage enjoyed the opportunity - *"We had a brilliant time and have all become experts at table tennis!"* We will do the same every half term in 2026

Also, if you are stuck for something to do with the family – don't forget you can book the hall to play a variety of games including Table Tennis and Billiards at other times





PANTOMIME - Due to the popularity of the live screening of the Christmas Pantomime last year, we linked up with the Wolsey Theatre Ipswich again this year on the Saturday 27th December and live streamed Beauty and the Beast.

The Regular Village Hall Activities
These continue as scheduled so check the village website, notice boards, Facebook and WhatsApp and join in.

- PILATES classes are on a Monday mornings and Wednesday evening and with occasional attendance from other villages boosting numbers, these have mainly been well attended but there is still room for a few more so don't be shy – come and join in. It's time to get summer holiday fit.
- ZUMBA GOLD continues term time Fridays – a great way to dance your way to fitness - no prior experience or skill needed - just dance for the fun of it.
- FILM NIGHTS have also continued the 3rd Tuesday evening of the month, showing some great films, but in Feb and March - the film will be shown in the afternoon. Attendance could improve to help make a profit on these sessions so come along and enjoy the films.
  Let us know what films you want to see. WhatsApp or Text Carol on 07855 762812 with your ideas

The **RURAL COFFEE CARAVAN** come to the village hall every **4th Thursday of the month** offering their excellent range of home-made coffee (or tea) cakes & savouries, coupled with advice, up to date information and signposting for help and information.

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL
PILATES CLASSES

THE BENEFITS OF PILATES

The focus is on core strength & spinal mobility to ensure optimum alignment of the body.

The breathing and mindful aspect of Pilates supports both physical and mental well-being.

It is intelligent exercise!



3 Sessions are held

Mondays at 9.30 – 10.30 and **11 – 12noon**

WEDNESDAYS 6.30 – 7.30pm

term time only

£7 per session - Equipment provided free

NO EXPERIENCE OR BOOKING NEEDED

Want to know more?

Contact Tutor- Louise Fuller 07875 370902



SPRING WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

10am SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL

£35 PER PERSON

Learn how to make a beautiful wreath with spring bulbs that can be replanted in a pot to come again!

Book your place by emailing
shimplingvh@gmail.com or

text Carol on 07855762812

Rural Coffee Caravan

Making a difference to rural communities throughout Suffolk

Come and share a pot of tea, our welcome is warm and our friendship free!

We'll be visiting:

Shimpling

Village Hall IP29 4HS

10am - 12pm

Thursdays:

22nd Jan / 26th Feb / 26th March

Come along for some company and a catch up with your neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and cake. We bring a great source of information along with the free refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you.

All Welcome!



www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk tel: 01379 855 338

Registered No: 1187423

Meet Up Mondays™

c-a-f-e coffee and friends events

More Than A Shop

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Alpheton and Shimpling Marmalade Competition



at the Spring Market (11th April)

Please bring 2 jars at 10am (one for the competition, one for the produce stall)

Judging will take place at 12 noon

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

During Half Terms we are pleased to offer **Shimpling Village Hall** for hire - **FREE** of charge

Play

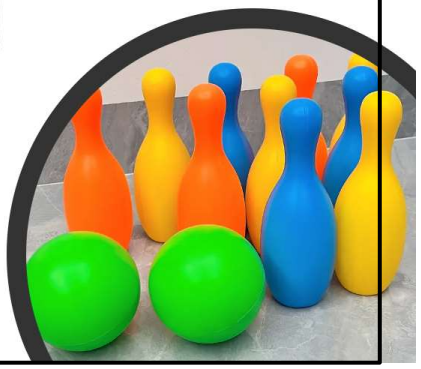
- TABLE TENNIS, BILLIARDS, or GAMES SESSIONS
- BRING YOUR OWN GAMES OR USE OURS!
- BOOK YOUR SESSION
- Email shimplingvh@gmail.com
- or text 07855762812











Barn Dance with 'Catch the Pigeon'

More details to follow !



alphetonandshimplingchurches.com

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL

SPRING 2026 FILM SESSIONS

3rd TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

March - Matinee - 1.45 for 2pm start

April & May 7.15pm for 7.30 start

COME AND WATCH NEW AND FAVOURITE FILMS ON THE BIG SCREEN



COMING NEXT

March 17th - Agatha and the Truth of Murder

A British alternative history drama about crime writer Agatha Christie becoming embroiled in a real-life murder case during her 11-day disappearance in 1926. Based on real people & events, it depicts Christie investigating the murder of Florence Nightingale's goddaughter, & how involvement in this case, influenced her later writing.

April 21st Hemingway and Gellhorn

This powerful drama recounts the relationship between literary giant Ernest Hemingway (Nick Owen) & War correspondent Martha Gellhorn (Nicole Kidman) - Hemingway's inspiration for "For Whom the Bell Tolls".

May 19th - The Choral

British historical drama written by Alan Bennett starring Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam, Mark Addy. Set in 1916, the film follows the members of the local choral society which recruits a group of teenagers for a performance of Edward Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*.

PUT THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY

REFRESHMENTS & FILM £4.50 PER PERSON
ICECREAM, SWEETS & POPCORN ALSO ON SALE.



Do you have a film you want to see? Just let us know

Friday 27th March 2026
From 5pm
The Swan Inn, Lawshall

Face the flames and crush the glass to help raise vital funds! After the incredible success of our first ever firewalk in 2024, Green Light Trust are bringing it back again this year with a twist – a glass walk too! Experience the thrill of walking bare foot across scorching flames and razor sharp glass, facing your fears in the Spring.

Our fundraising challenge offers the chance for team building, creating lasting memories and bonds. Not only will you be testing your limits, but you will raise valuable funds for Green Light Trust.

Located at the stunning Swan Inn pub, join us from 5pm to register and grab a delicious bite to eat. This event is hosted by Fundraising Firewalk Association, one of the UK's leading firewalk companies, who will provide training sessions on the night.

Your fundraising efforts and entry ticket will include an achievement certificate, photographs of the event, fundraising support and a limited edition Green Light Trust fire and glass walk t-shirt.

See our website events page for more details and how to sign up- greenlighttrust.org

GREEN LIGHT TRUST



ZUMBA® gold



Shimpling Village Hall

Friday's 1-1.45pm - term time only

£5 per session

No booking required, just come along

CONTACT YOUR LICENSED ZUMBA INSTRUCTOR :

Jo Brown

Call/text : 07851962112
Email : joanna-m-brown@hotmail.co.uk
find me on Facebook : Jo Brown

HARTEST FARMERS & CRAFT MARKET

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH
10:00-12:30

The Little Dip Company
Chicken and Bird feed
Bread & pastries, Sparling & Faiers
Sue's Savouries
Fuller's Honey
Dr Kat's Luxury Granola
Meadow and Woodland Livestock
B'Wrappy Eco Food Wraps
Hartest made Power-Grit Health food mix
Conical peg bags & Sewn items by Tamara Jones
Walking sticks & wooden items
Moonvine jewellery
Artist Janet Munro
Chocolate, Edible Creations by Rosey
Cambridge Artisan Cheese
Local eggs & curry kits
Fruit and veg, Cox Boxes
Coiled rope baskets by Debbie Regent
Soap, ljp balms and bath bombs by FB Designs
Tropic Skincare by Debra Graham
Artist Juliette Hudson
Crochet & jewellery by Pat

Cafe: Hot bacon, sausage rolls, tea, coffee & homemade cakes
Friends of Hartest School

HARTESTFARMERSMARKET@GMAIL.COM

Hartest Institute, Hartest, Bury Saint Edmunds IP29 4DH

Advertising in the Shimpling News

You could reach 200 households.....!
The fees for advertising in the Shimpling News for 2025 (of which this is for the 4 editions – one for each season) will be;

Full page £100, Half page £50 , Quarter page £25

With any residents of Shimpling able to have a 25% discount so making the cost Full page £75, Half page £37.50 and Quarter page £18.75. Individual adverts (ie for sale items) are £3 up to a £100 and £5 over £100 per issue
If you would like to advertise please email the Clerk shimplingpc@gmail.com



SAVE

(Shimpling AED Village Enterprise)

As most people are aware the village has an AED located in a locked cabinet outside The Bush. The device is registered with the East of England Ambulance Service, who have the access code details.
In the event of an emergency, the precise location of the AED would need to be given, to enable the Ambulance Service to give the code. The location is

The Bush, The Street, Shimpling **IP29 4HU**

Please make a note of these details, as it could save time in gaining access.
If you require any further details, please contact me Marian Peck Chair, SAVE 01284 828187

THOMAS & YOUNG

WEALTH MANAGEMENT LTD

- Investment Planning
- Retirement Planning
- Business Protection
- Income Protection
- Financial Education
- Later Life Planning
- Life Insurance
- Mortgage protection
- Inheritance tax planning

Find us at:
Risby Business Park,
Newmarket Road,
Risby, Bury Saint Edmunds
IP28 6RD

01284 334400

www.tywm.co.uk

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SJP Approved 15/09/2025

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Useful Online Reporting Tools
Many issues can be reported online by residents at https;//www.babergh.gov.uk/report-online Including potholes, overgrown vegetation, littering and fly-tipping
Flooding can be reported at https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/report-a-flood-in-suffolk
Local road closure information can be found at one.network

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Please email cmcooke@icloud.com with a brief CV

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USEFUL VILLAGE CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

County Cllr—Richard Kemp 01787 378149
Shimpling Village Hall—Carol Squire 07855 762812 or email shimplingvh@gmail.com
St George's Church—Rev'd Matthew Lawson 01787 310845
The Bush Public house 07961 947497 and email thebushpubshimpling@gmail.com
Shimpling Postal Collections:-
The Street Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am, Little Chadacre Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am, Aveley Lane Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am
Medical Services
NHS Helpline :- 111 (Non-emergency)
Glemsford Surgery:—01787 280484
Lavenham/Long Melford Surgery:—01787 378226
Samaritans:- 116 123
Domestic Abuse Helpline:- 0808 2000 247
Vet Surgeries:-
Swayne & Partners Long Melford—01787 370773
Bury St Edmunds - 01284 701444
Anglian Water Emergency :- 0800 771881
UK Power Networks Emergency:- 0800 31 63 105
Citizens Advice Bureau:- 01284 753675
Suffolk Libraries Library Van—Next visit Friday 13th March Hallifax Place 12:30-12:50, then April 10th and May 8th
Chambers Bus Service 45—Daily except Sunday depart Hallifax Place to Bury 07:39*/10:01 return arrival at Hallifax Place 16:56*/13:35 *Schooldays
Felix Taxis :- 01787 310574
Shimpling Park Farm for loose sheep and broken fences etc. Shepherd Emily Elnaugh on 07415 311252.

Shimpling News

Spring 2026 **Issue 145**



The Parish Council:

Mrs Liz Brunwin	01284 828122
Mr Gerry Shrimpton	01284 827219
Mr David Dunkley	07809 148630
Mr Mark Milhench	07770 668660
Ms Jen O'Reilly-Turner	07769 894806
Mr Laurence Rooke	07818 797081
Vacancy	

Contact details for the Clerk are:
4 Park Farm Cottages, Brettenham, Suffolk, IP7 7QP
(Correspondence and Appointment only)
Email: clerk@shimpling-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07940 223200

The Parish Council meet bi-monthly in January, March, May (AGM), July, September and November every year. Extra meetings may also be held throughout the year when required.

Annual Parish Assembly – Reports presented by the Council and local groups / charities / committees from within the parish. Members of the public can speak freely at this meeting in May, raise issues and ask questions relating to the reports.

Annual Meeting of the Council (AGM) – Each May, Election of officers of the council. Declarations of acceptance of office.

Parish Council Meetings – Council considers matters relating to finance, planning and the Parish. Additional extraordinary meetings are held when required.

Dates of meetings: Parish council meetings will be held at 7pm on the following dates;

- Monday 9th March 2026
- Monday 11th May 2026 (Annual Meeting of the Parish, Annual General Meeting followed by normal May PC meeting)

Please note that these meetings will be held at the Village Hall.

Parish Council Website and Social Media and Notice Boards

You can find council information on the notice board by the bus stop in The Street. This is also circulated via our Village Round Robin System and posted on the Shimpling Community Facebook page. Alternatively, the village web site is regularly updated as well as our Facebook page. Please like our Facebook page:
Facebook: Shimpling Parish Council
Website: https://shimpling-pc.gov.uk/

Could you volunteer to help your Village?

We need a new Parish Councillor to join our team. Parish Councillors do a worthwhile job ensuring that your voice is heard and overseeing work so that your village is kept looking good. If you would like to know more about becoming a Councillor then please get in touch with the Clerk or any of our wonderful Councillors.

Report from Chair, David Dunkley:

The Chair reported in the January meeting;
Let me offer my best wishes to everyone for 2026 and hope that you had a pleasant holiday period.

On that theme, the village green Christmas decorations again looked very festive and many thanks to all who made that possible, including the set-up, provision of the tree and the electricity for the lights.
A new supplier has been found to support the installation of the EV chargers and although we were hoping to hear from them before Christmas this did not happen. Hopefully 2026 will be more successful in completing this work.
The installation of InPost storage lockers at the village hall was halted following concerns from some villagers. Although the number was small, they represented those most likely to be affected by the installation. Going forward, obtaining acceptable answers to their genuine concerns will be necessary to enable the project to re-start.
The final draft of the Neighbourhood Plan was issued to the Parish Council at the November meeting and was accepted. The public consultation on the plan will begin on the 17th January kicked off by an open event at the village hall. The consultation continues for 6 weeks, following which the plan, with any changes, goes to Babergh DC for evaluation.
Information of the potential local government reorganisation is still being disseminated but, as yet, no decision has been announced.

Recycling

Please remember that the Parish Council receives money from the paper (although not cardboard) glass, clothing and shoes deposited in the recycling bins near the Bush Inn. Clothing and shoes should be bagged before depositing in the clothing/shoe bank. This income helps to run the council and therefore is a direct benefit to the village. **Please keep recycling.**

What the Parish Council have been up to …

Over the last couple of months, we have:

- Worked on fixing minor issues with the playground
- Prepared a budget for 2026/27

Do you have new neighbours?

For some time now, the Village Hall Committee have been sending welcome letters with local information to new residents. If you have new neighbours, can you please let the Village Hall Committee shimplingvh@gmail.com know so that they can organise a welcome letter.

Shimpling WhatsApp Support Group

This was set up at the start of COVID to support those in need but has developed into a good way of communicating with others in the village. Recently we were asked to relay an urgent message to a villager and were able to locate the person quickly using the WhatsApp Group. If you would like to join the group, please contact Katie Haselhurst kh.shimpling@gmail.com.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group are working hard! For more information on the process or what has been produced so far look on the website: https://shimpling-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan-2/

Speeding

There have been issues raised regarding speeding in the Village, this has been raised both to the PC and it was commented on frequently in the Neighbourhood Plan Surveys. The PC are looking at possibly setting up a community speed watch. However, we will need volunteers!

To set up a scheme

- You must have a minimum of 6 volunteers
- All the volunteers must be over 18 years old
- Each scheme must have a co-ordinator (who will be the point of contact for the team) and where possible a deputy
- The Parish (or local) Council support the scheme
- You will have to sign a CSW agreement and be vetted
- Equipment will be provided by the Constabulary
- Training will be provided on using the equipment and on Health and Safety issues
- Volunteers will be covered by the Constabulary's insurance
- Locations chosen will be assessed by the Constabulary

If you would like to volunteer, please do get in touch and let us know. We can only move this forward with enough volunteers.

Buses

Here is a link to the full timetable
https://passenger-line-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/hedinghamandchambers/HEDO/45-timetable-20250831-5f294bdd.pdf

District Councillors

Our District Councillors usually attend each Parish Council meeting and can also be contacted as follows:

Michael Holt
Phone: 01787 281712, Mobile: 07801 766813
Email: michael.holt@babergh.gov.uk



Stephen Plumb
Phone: 01787 280890
Email: stephen.plumb@babergh.gov.uk



Planning

There have been a number of planning applications since our last newsletter. Others are updated below:

Application	Shimpling PC Comments	Planning Authority Decision
DC/25/05341- Lyndhurst Little Chadacre Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4HL- Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/25/02008 – Condition 5 (Cycle Storage and Refuse Bins)	Did not comment	Granted
DC/25/05339 - Stable Barn Thorne Court Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 0JN - Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of Use of Buildings on Agricultural Units and former Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (Class C3), which may include extension of the building and/or building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Conversion of Stable Barn to 1no. dwellinghouse	Did not comment	Granted

Shimpling Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you to everyone who attended the Consultation Session at the Village Hall on the 17th January; the time flew by with many interesting conversations.

By the time this newsletter comes out the opportunity to comment/support the Plan via the survey will have closed but thank you to all that did – we appreciate it was slightly time consuming!

The next stage will be for the Draft Plan to be amended, where necessary, to take on board comments received via the survey before submission to Babergh District Council. Following this consultation period the Plan will then be sent for Independent Examination.

The final stage will be for the formal Parish Referendum where everyone in the Parish has the opportunity to vote on the adoption of the Plan. If this is positive Babergh District Council will then be required to take the Plan into account on any decisions made.

We will keep you up to date with progress through the next stages.

Committee members: Mark Beaver, Claire Douglas-Hughes (Chair), David Dunkley, Mike Fahie-Wilson, Jane Wall.

THE HALLIFAX TRUST

A locally based charity providing grants to students under the age of 25 receiving further education at colleges or universities or undergoing formal training for a profession or vocation. These are non-means tested. To qualify students must simply have parents living in Shimpling or alternatively have in the past attended Lawshall School whilst their parents were living in Shimpling.

Funding is additionally available for other school and village projects. Applications from students for funding for the forthcoming academic year must be received by 30th September.

HELP US TO HELP OUR CHILDREN

We have recently received a small number of donations to the Charity for which we are extremely grateful. Please consider whether you could help with a donation or a legacy. These are tough times for students and the more funds we have the more we can help. For grants or donations contact:

hallifaxtrust@gmail.com

Claire Wilson 01284 830574 or Jenny Pine 01284 827073

Hallifax Educational Trust is a Registered Charity No.310396

Village Personalities ?

Would you like to have an article published in the form of a small piece written about youself and your life in Shimpling as an item of social interest?

It would not be more than a page. There are so many interesting people in our village ! If so, email me , Jayne Schofield, on jas.65@btinternet.com or call on 01284 828 322

Let there be light?

A visitor to the UK recently commented to a member of my family that there must be corruption at the highest level … because we are such a rich country and yet nothing seems to work! I suspect that I dismissed this comment too lightly, but have since been reminded about it following the recent revelations about Jeffrey Epstein and the behaviour of many powerful Western leaders in politics, business, science and the arts. I do not think I am alone at being appalled. I was particularly disgusted how Epstein advised people how to discredit those who had been abused when they sought justice in court.

I am conscious that these revelations have affected people within our parishes - probably not directly relating to Epstein, but with respect to other people abusing power. This has been weighing particularly heavily on my heart these recent weeks, and I have been praying for any in our villages who have been affected that you would not feel alone, and that you would have trusted people to share with and to support you.

It can feel that we are so weak against the powerful, and yet I have been reminded that God will not tolerate injustice forever. Yes of course I have faith that at the end of this age justice will be restored to all the earth. But I am also praying that God will shine his light on corruption right now - and that of course includes any corruption or abuse in the church. Psalm 94 starts like this:

1 The LORD is a God who avenges. O God who avenges, shine forth.
2 Rise up, Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve.
3 How long, LORD, will the wicked, how long will the wicked be jubilant?

But the psalm ends like this:

21 The wicked band together against the righteous and condemn the innocent to death.
22 But the LORD has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge.
23 He will repay them for their sins and destroy them for their wickedness;
the Lord our God will destroy them.

So I pray, Lord, Let there be light! And let us pray that justice and mercy will be held in right balance.

(Late addendum - I am very concerned to have just heard news about an allegation leading to a Bishop being suspended - I am glad it is being taken seriously).

Reverand Matthew Lawson

Volunteer Opportunity for someone good with words

The Parochial Church Council are looking for a secretary to send out documents and take notes at our meetings. We only have 6 meetings a year but it would help us enormously if someone could help. Training and support (and plenty of laughter, tea, coffee, and biscuits) will be provided. Please contact Revd Lawson on 01787 310 845 or revmattis@gmail.com.



THE PARISH OF ALPHETON AND SHIMPLINGTHORNE

Church Services Include:

March			
Sun 1st	9.00am	Alpheton	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Family Communion
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 8th	4.00pm	Shimpling	Pub Social at The Bush Inn #
Sun 15th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Mothering Sunday Service
Sun 22nd	4.00pm	tbc	Wild Lent #
Sun 29th	10.30am	Melford	Traditional Passiontide Service
	4.00pm	Melford	Messy Easter at Holy Trinity #
	6.30pm	Lawshall	Evening Communion
April			
Thurs 2nd	7.00pm	Melford	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri 3rd	10.00am	Shimpling	Walk with the Cross, Bush to V. Hall
	2.00pm	Melford	Devotional Service
Sat 4th	8.30pm	Melford	Traditional Easter Vigil
Sun 5th	10.30am	Melford	Easter Celebration & Communion (family friendly)
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 19th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
Sun 26th	6.30pm	Lawshall	Communion
May			
Sun 3rd	9.00am	Alpheton	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Family Communion
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 10th	4.00pm	Melford Sch.	Messy Church #
Sun 17th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
Sun 31st	6.30pm	Lawshall	Evening Communion

… and Communion at Holy Trinity Long Melford **every Sunday at 10.30am** (Google 'Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook' for livestream).

for our 4 o'clock community with family friendly services socials and events almost every Sunday at 4.00pm, contact Nicky on 07938 681319 or chadbrooklightwave@gmail.com

... and Communion at Holy Trinity Long Melford every Sunday at 10.30am (Google 'Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook' for livestream).

Children welcome at all 10.30am services there is a children's area at the back of Holy Trinity Please see www.longmelfordchurch.com for any updates. For further information on our toddler and youth groups, please contact Pam on 07890or melfordfamilyworker@gmail.com.

For more details or any questions, please contact Vicky on 07804 558160 or chadbrookoffice@gmail.com.

Rector:Rev'd Matthew Lawson 01787 310845
Churchwarden: Vacant
Church Contact : Charlotte Blyth 01284 828544
07939 194233

SHIMPLING MOBILE LIBRARY 2026

Do you like reading?

Each month on a Friday the mobile library comes to Shimpling and has many books on board, including children's options. Library membership is free and once you join it's very easy to order a vast range of books online, which can be collected from the mobile library.

You can borrow up to 20 books and 6 audio books at any one time, and if no-one has reserved them, they can be renewed up to 6 times. So, no excuses if you're a slow reader!

The library bus, route 13, calls at HALLIFAX PLACE between 1230 and 1250 on the following Fridays this year:

March 13, April 10, May 8

www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk

So let's use it, or we may lose it. Happy Reading!

From Greening Shimpling

At the beginning of January we had a great turnout for the planting of trees at the top of the footpath leading away from Gents Lane, in an area which will now be known as Hill Field Spinney. In under 2 hours we planted about 200 trees, all of which have been staked and protected with tree guards. We were very fortunate with the weather, considering how awful it's been!

It is hoped that we will be able to follow this up with the planting of wild flowers, the siting of bird boxes and the construction of a log pile to provide a habitat for insects and small mammals, hopefully when the weather improves and the ground dries out a little!

In a follow up meeting, we discussed how we might be able to work with the Parish Council to protect and further enhance the environment in and around our beautiful village and will be sending a representative to the next PC meeting.

If you would like further information regarding the Greening Shimpling group please contact Jane 07453 453 906 or email jane.wall@hotmail.co.uk and we will add you to our WhatsApp group.



GREENING SHIMPLING

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

The Annual Village Clean Up Morning will take place on Sunday 22nd March at 11.30am from the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

We have some high vis vests and litter picking sticks but if you have your own high vis vest and gloves, please bring them along

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult



Shimpling & Alpheton WI
Lindsey Barrell aka Cherry Bombe - Burlesque

Lindsey turned out to be quite a stand up comic, dressed in - well - not what you would expect from a typical WI member, let's say. She certainly knew how to tell her stories!
She has been doing burlesque for 14 years and comes from Lancashire and grew up in County Durham but has lived in Essex for 32 years. Subjects she talked about included the North/South divide, being a single Mum, crafts - especially sewing, the WI, shopping in Aldi, confidence building, salsa and the quest to find friends.

Films like Sweet Charity, Moulin Rouge etc include burlesque. At her first session she was told to wear keep fit clothes for burlesque classes. When she got there, all the other women were wearing burlesque style clothes. Leopard Lily, became the first character whom she portrayed in burlesque, wearing leopardskin from head to toe, choreographing her three and a half minute dance act herself. She did a routine to a Chris de Burgh song called Patricia the Stripper. (If you are intrigued you can see her with a group of ladies outdoors performing to this very song on YouTube, dressed as Cherry Bombe.)

Her success with this meant jealousies amongst the other women so she didn't really make friends there as she had hoped. In a continued quest to make friends, she joined a new WI in Chelmsford which attracted around 200 new women. She had thought it would be a bit like the Brownies for grown ups. She joined the

largest WI branch in the country with 350 members which was so large that they could only meet in Chelmsford Cathedral. Because of the size, subgroups were formed and Lindsey ran a Burlesque subgroup of about 20 members who met in a village hall in Great Baddow. By this stage Lindsey had portrayed the character of Cherry Bombe. They formed the first ever WI Burlesque troupe. The ladies all made friends and performed at Chelmsford Cathedral, removing clothes. ..this led to fundraising by her troupe called the Burlesque Bombshells via performances, raising thousands for charities.

Lindsey ended up forming another Burlesque group at Canvey Island called the Wild Island Burlesquers. The average age of the troupe was in the 70s with some ladies aged 80 odd. One lady wearing a corset for the first time put it on upside down! The Covid lockdown brought new challenges and Lindsey gave 400 talks on Zoom from her kitchen dressed in her corset. Sometimes she gave three talks in a day.

Lindsey moved from the enormous WI to a smaller WI and is now the president of a third WI.

Copy for the June 2026 edition is required by 22nd May 2026 (A4 WORD or .PDF file please)
Sarah Smith—slsconsulting21@outlook.com
07774 116128
When advertising events please ensure there is a contact name with a landline number.
Please remember not everyone is on the Internet !!

The Alpheton Film night is on the 2nd Monday of each month.



Mon. 9th March. THE COLOUR ROOM. (Phoebe Dynevor, Matthew Goode)

Mon 13th April A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (Timothee Chalamet)

Mon 11th May LIVING (Bill Nighy)

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Admission price is £5 including tea/coffee & biscuits. The Bar will be open.

Have you tried it yet?



Take the number 45 bus to Bury St Edmunds (Monday to Saturday). Meet nice people as you travel through the villages.

Brighten up your day, even when it is overcast.
Give it a go this week, you will be amazed how much better you feel. No car park fees, no queuing for a space, no expensive fuel, leave it to the bus driver and see a different view of your surroundings.
Looking forward to seeing you very soon!

Timetables are available on the bus, in the village or
www.konectbuses.co.uk
www.suffolkonboard.com

HARTEST & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

2026 has started with a very wet and soggy January, so those of us with clay gardens are dealing with boggy ground and a rising water table. Mud has made gardening, or even stepping outside, practically impossible at times. However, spring is on its way, with snowdrops in bloom in the hedgerows and gardens, and other spring bulbs starting to peep out of the ground. We just need a little bit of blue sky and sunshine to tempt us outside to see which plants have survived the endless rain.

We started this year with a really interesting talk on Delphiniums from Greg Veness of The Front Gardeners Nursery, who are based at the Willow Tree Farm Shop. We learned how to care for these beautiful plants, the seed sowing process and how to take basal cuttings. Delphiniums are fully hardy and (with good drainage) can tolerate a cold winter. Even better, they can be grown from seed from January onwards!

Looking ahead we have some key dates for your diaries:
On Sunday 1 March, 2.30pm we welcome guest speaker Michael Marriott to the Hartest Institute for an expert talk on roses. Michael was the Head Rosarian at David Austin Roses for 35 years and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of all things related to roses. Whilst Michael's enthusiasm for roses is infectious, he is equally known for his garden designs, organic methods and common sense approach.

At the time of writing, there are still a small number of tickets left, priced at £15 for our 2026 club members and £18 for non-members. If you would like to attend, email hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com with the number of tickets you require.

Further ahead, other key dates for your diary are the:

- Annual Plant Sale Sunday 17th May at 2pm, Hartest Green where there will be lots of plants, veg and garden items for sale.

  We welcome donations of plants, perennials, annuals, saplings and veg seedlings (all labelled please). This year we also hope to offer gardening books, plant pots and any other garden-related equipment. If you are having a spring clear out and want to donate items, please do get in touch.

- Annual Show Sunday 6th September at 2.30pm, The Institute.
  More information about this nearer the date.

The club is going from strength to strength and has a great buzz about it with lots of new members and renewed energy from long-standing members. If you are interested in finding out about who we are and what we offer, do come along. We are very friendly and welcoming!

We hold monthly meetings at 7.30pm, on the first Monday of each month at the Hartest Institute. Membership is £15 per person or £25 for a couple. In the summer months our members enjoy access to exclusive garden visits. Members also enjoy a healthy 50% discount on seeds from our club supplier, Kings Seeds, who have a fantastic selection of veg, flower and herb seeds.

Find out more via our:
Website: https://hartestgardeningclub.onesuffolk.net/
Instagram: hartest_gardening_club
Facebook: Hartest & District Gardening Club
Email: hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com
Kit Morrison, on behalf of H&DGC hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com

Shimpling Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee meets every 8 weeks, to manage the hall and arrange events that residents can enjoy and generate income to keep the hall running & open.
We welcome interest from any resident who would like to get involved – please email Carol Squire: shimplingvh@gmail.com or phone, WhatsApp or text: 07855 762812
Meeting minutes and information on all activities are available to read on the Village website http://shimplingpc.onesuffolk.net/village-hall/
Events and activities timetable on the Your Hall website https://yourhall.co.uk/hall/shimpling-village-hall/

Village Hall Activities

Future Arts & Crafts Sessions in the village hall 2026 (see posters in this newsletter).



Spring Wreath Making Workshop -
Ever thought you would like to be able to make your own wreaths - why not start with a beautiful spring flower wreath using spring bulbs that can be re-potted and come again. The workshop will be in the village hall on the 21st of March 2026 at 10am. The session tutor will be expert florist Anne Brown - http://www.justanneflowers.co.uk/
Booking for places open now - see the poster in this month's newsletter.
All sessions have minimum attendance targets and will not take place if not reached.

Other Events
Schools' half term saw the hall made available for free to residents and families to use the table tennis set, the children's billiards table and other indoor games. Those who took advantage enjoyed the opportunity - *"We had a brilliant time and have all become experts at table tennis!"* We will do the same every half term in 2026

Also, if you are stuck for something to do with the family – don't forget you can book the hall to play a variety of games including Table Tennis and Billiards at other times





PANTOMIME - Due to the popularity of the live screening of the Christmas Pantomime last year, we linked up with the Wolsey Theatre Ipswich again this year on the Saturday 27th December and live streamed Beauty and the Beast.

The Regular Village Hall Activities
These continue as scheduled so check the village website, notice boards, Facebook and WhatsApp and join in.

- PILATES classes are on a Monday mornings and Wednesday evening and with occasional attendance from other villages boosting numbers, these have mainly been well attended but there is still room for a few more so don't be shy – come and join in. It's time to get summer holiday fit.
- ZUMBA GOLD continues term time Fridays – a great way to dance your way to fitness - no prior experience or skill needed - just dance for the fun of it.
- FILM NIGHTS have also continued the 3rd Tuesday evening of the month, showing some great films, but in Feb and March - the film will be shown in the afternoon. Attendance could improve to help make a profit on these sessions so come along and enjoy the films.
  Let us know what films you want to see. WhatsApp or Text Carol on 07855 762812 with your ideas

The **RURAL COFFEE CARAVAN** come to the village hall every **4th Thursday of the month** offering their excellent range of home-made coffee (or tea) cakes & savouries, coupled with advice, up to date information and signposting for help and information.

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL
PILATES CLASSES

THE BENEFITS OF PILATES

The focus is on core strength & spinal mobility to ensure optimum alignment of the body.

The breathing and mindful aspect of Pilates supports both physical and mental well-being.

It is intelligent exercise!



3 Sessions are held

Mondays at 9.30 – 10.30 and **11 – 12noon**

WEDNESDAYS 6.30 – 7.30pm

term time only

£7 per session - Equipment provided free

NO EXPERIENCE OR BOOKING NEEDED

Want to know more?

Contact Tutor- Louise Fuller 07875 370902



SPRING WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

10am SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL

£35 PER PERSON

Learn how to make a beautiful wreath with spring bulbs that can be replanted in a pot to come again!

Book your place by emailing
shimplingvh@gmail.com or

text Carol on 07855762812

Rural Coffee Caravan

Making a difference to rural communities throughout Suffolk

Come and share a pot of tea, our welcome is warm and our friendship free!

We'll be visiting:

Shimpling

Village Hall IP29 4HS

10am - 12pm

Thursdays:

22nd Jan / 26th Feb / 26th March

Come along for some company and a catch up with your neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and cake. We bring a great source of information along with the free refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you.

All Welcome!



www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk tel: 01379 855 338

Registered No: 1187423

Meet Up Mondays™

c-a-f-e coffee and friends events

More Than A Shop

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Alpheton and Shimpling Marmalade Competition



at the Spring Market (11th April)

Please bring 2 jars at 10am (one for the competition, one for the produce stall)

Judging will take place at 12 noon

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

During Half Terms we are pleased to offer **Shimpling Village Hall** for hire - **FREE** of charge

Play

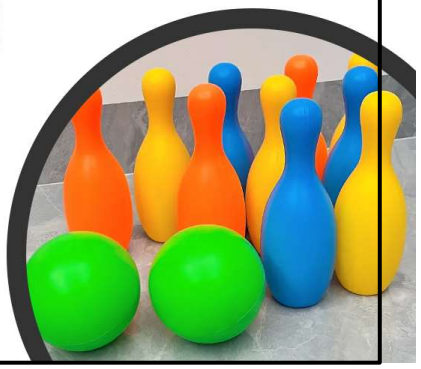
- TABLE TENNIS, BILLIARDS, or GAMES SESSIONS
- BRING YOUR OWN GAMES OR USE OURS!
- BOOK YOUR SESSION
- Email shimplingvh@gmail.com
- or text 07855762812











Barn Dance with 'Catch the Pigeon'

More details to follow !



alphetonandshimplingchurches.com

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL

SPRING 2026 FILM SESSIONS

3rd TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

March - Matinee - 1.45 for 2pm start

April & May 7.15pm for 7.30 start

COME AND WATCH NEW AND FAVOURITE FILMS ON THE BIG SCREEN



COMING NEXT

March 17th - Agatha and the Truth of Murder

A British alternative history drama about crime writer Agatha Christie becoming embroiled in a real-life murder case during her 11-day disappearance in 1926. Based on real people & events, it depicts Christie investigating the murder of Florence Nightingale's goddaughter, & how involvement in this case, influenced her later writing.

April 21st Hemingway and Gellhorn

This powerful drama recounts the relationship between literary giant Ernest Hemingway (Nick Owen) & War correspondent Martha Gellhorn (Nicole Kidman) - Hemingway's inspiration for "For Whom the Bell Tolls".

May 19th - The Choral

British historical drama written by Alan Bennett starring Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam, Mark Addy. Set in 1916, the film follows the members of the local choral society which recruits a group of teenagers for a performance of Edward Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*.

PUT THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY

REFRESHMENTS & FILM £4.50 PER PERSON
ICECREAM, SWEETS & POPCORN ALSO ON SALE.



Do you have a film you want to see? Just let us know

Friday 27th March 2026
From 5pm
The Swan Inn, Lawshall

Face the flames and crush the glass to help raise vital funds! After the incredible success of our first ever firewalk in 2024, Green Light Trust are bringing it back again this year with a twist – a glass walk too! Experience the thrill of walking bare foot across scorching flames and razor sharp glass, facing your fears in the Spring.

Our fundraising challenge offers the chance for team building, creating lasting memories and bonds. Not only will you be testing your limits, but you will raise valuable funds for Green Light Trust.

Located at the stunning Swan Inn pub, join us from 5pm to register and grab a delicious bite to eat. This event is hosted by Fundraising Firewalk Association, one of the UK's leading firewalk companies, who will provide training sessions on the night.

Your fundraising efforts and entry ticket will include an achievement certificate, photographs of the event, fundraising support and a limited edition Green Light Trust fire and glass walk t-shirt.

See our website events page for more details and how to sign up- greenlighttrust.org

GREEN LIGHT TRUST



ZUMBA® gold



Shimpling Village Hall

Friday's 1-1.45pm - term time only

£5 per session

No booking required, just come along

CONTACT YOUR LICENSED ZUMBA INSTRUCTOR :

Jo Brown

Call/text : 07851962112
Email : joanna-m-brown@hotmail.co.uk
find me on Facebook : Jo Brown

HARTEST FARMERS & CRAFT MARKET

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH
10:00-12:30

The Little Dip Company
Chicken and Bird feed
Bread & pastries, Sparling & Faiers
Sue's Savouries
Fuller's Honey
Dr Kat's Luxury Granola
Meadow and Woodland Livestock
B'Wrappy Eco Food Wraps
Hartest made Power-Grit Health food mix
Conical peg bags & Sewn items by Tamara Jones
Walking sticks & wooden items
Moonvine jewellery
Artist Janet Munro
Chocolate, Edible Creations by Rosey
Cambridge Artisan Cheese
Local eggs & curry kits
Fruit and veg, Cox Boxes
Coiled rope baskets by Debbie Regent
Soap, ljp balms and bath bombs by FB Designs
Tropic Skincare by Debra Graham
Artist Juliette Hudson
Crochet & jewellery by Pat

Cafe: Hot bacon, sausage rolls, tea, coffee & homemade cakes
Friends of Hartest School

HARTESTFARMERSMARKET@GMAIL.COM

Hartest Institute, Hartest, Bury Saint Edmunds IP29 4DH

Advertising in the Shimpling News

You could reach 200 households.....!
The fees for advertising in the Shimpling News for 2025 (of which this is for the 4 editions – one for each season) will be;

Full page £100, Half page £50 , Quarter page £25

With any residents of Shimpling able to have a 25% discount so making the cost Full page £75, Half page £37.50 and Quarter page £18.75. Individual adverts (ie for sale items) are £3 up to a £100 and £5 over £100 per issue
If you would like to advertise please email the Clerk shimplingpc@gmail.com



SAVE

(Shimpling AED Village Enterprise)

As most people are aware the village has an AED located in a locked cabinet outside The Bush. The device is registered with the East of England Ambulance Service, who have the access code details.
In the event of an emergency, the precise location of the AED would need to be given, to enable the Ambulance Service to give the code. The location is

The Bush, The Street, Shimpling **IP29 4HU**

Please make a note of these details, as it could save time in gaining access.
If you require any further details, please contact me Marian Peck Chair, SAVE 01284 828187

THOMAS & YOUNG

WEALTH MANAGEMENT LTD

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CHARTERED FINANCIAL PLANNERS

Thomas and Young Wealth Management Limited is an Appointed Representative of and represents only St. James's Place Wealth Management plc (which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority) for the purpose of advising solely on the group's wealth management products and services, more details of which are set out on the group's website www.sjp.co.uk/products The 'St. James's Place Partnership' and the titles 'Partner' and 'Partner Practice' are marketing terms used to describe St. James's Place representatives.

Senior Partner Practice

St James's Place

SJP Approved 15/09/2025

RECYCLING Shimpling has a bottle bank, a Paper and Card Bank and a Clothing Bank. If they are full please call

BOTTLE BANK— 0344 880 7700

CLOTHING BANK—08000 902 321

Electronic Version of The Shimpling News

If you would prefer to receive an email informing you when the latest issue is available online, rather than have a printed copy delivered to your door please let me know slsconsulting21@outlook.com



Domestic, Commercial & Agricultural Electrical Work Undertaken



Including rewires, new builds, extensions, All Electric heating, new consumer units, testing and inspection for insurance purposes, smoke detectors, TV & phone points, outside lighting, low energy & LED lighting. NICEIC registered, Part P Certified, ECA member with Public Liability and guaranteed by the ECA

For competitive rates, a personal service and good quality workmanship contact:

Kevin Seggie Electrical Services

Beechwood Cottage, Bury Road, Lawshall, IP29 4PJ

01284 830786 / 07768 108157

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All Aspects of Electrical Works Undertaken
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rz.electricalservices@gmail.com

ecs electrotechnical certification scheme

Anthony - 07801990584

City & Guilds Qualified



Useful Online Reporting Tools
Many issues can be reported online by residents at https;//www.babergh.gov.uk/report-online Including potholes, overgrown vegetation, littering and fly-tipping
Flooding can be reported at https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/report-a-flood-in-suffolk
Local road closure information can be found at one.network

LARK VALLEY WILLOW LTD.

Lark Valley Willow Ltd.
Rose Cottage
The Street
Shimpling
Suffolk
IP29 4HS

We are looking for casual (self employed) part time workers to join our friendly team weaving in-situ willow fences in Suffolk and Essex.
Training and support will be given. Enjoying working outside is a must. You will need to have transport and be practical and hard working.

Please email cmcooke@icloud.com with a brief CV

PEST PROBLEMS SOLVED BY LOCAL SPECIALIST

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- Woodland Management
- Tree / Hedge Planting



Fully Insured ***40 years + experience***

FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTES

USEFUL VILLAGE CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

County Cllr—Richard Kemp 01787 378149
Shimpling Village Hall—Carol Squire 07855 762812 or email shimplingvh@gmail.com
St George's Church—Rev'd Matthew Lawson 01787 310845
The Bush Public house 07961 947497 and email thebushpubshimpling@gmail.com
Shimpling Postal Collections:-
The Street Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am, Little Chadacre Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am, Aveley Lane Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am
Medical Services
NHS Helpline :- 111 (Non-emergency)
Glemsford Surgery:—01787 280484
Lavenham/Long Melford Surgery:—01787 378226
Samaritans:- 116 123
Domestic Abuse Helpline:- 0808 2000 247
Vet Surgeries:-
Swayne & Partners Long Melford—01787 370773
Bury St Edmunds - 01284 701444
Anglian Water Emergency :- 0800 771881
UK Power Networks Emergency:- 0800 31 63 105
Citizens Advice Bureau:- 01284 753675
Suffolk Libraries Library Van—Next visit Friday 13th March Hallifax Place 12:30-12:50, then April 10th and May 8th
Chambers Bus Service 45—Daily except Sunday depart Hallifax Place to Bury 07:39*/10:01 return arrival at Hallifax Place 16:56*/13:35 *Schooldays
Felix Taxis :- 01787 310574
Shimpling Park Farm for loose sheep and broken fences etc. Shepherd Emily Elnaugh on 07415 311252.

Shimpling News

Spring 2026 **Issue 145**



The Parish Council:

Mrs Liz Brunwin	01284 828122
Mr Gerry Shrimpton	01284 827219
Mr David Dunkley	07809 148630
Mr Mark Milhench	07770 668660
Ms Jen O'Reilly-Turner	07769 894806
Mr Laurence Rooke	07818 797081
Vacancy	

Contact details for the Clerk are:
4 Park Farm Cottages, Brettenham, Suffolk, IP7 7QP
(Correspondence and Appointment only)
Email: clerk@shimpling-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07940 223200

The Parish Council meet bi-monthly in January, March, May (AGM), July, September and November every year. Extra meetings may also be held throughout the year when required.

Annual Parish Assembly – Reports presented by the Council and local groups / charities / committees from within the parish. Members of the public can speak freely at this meeting in May, raise issues and ask questions relating to the reports.

Annual Meeting of the Council (AGM) – Each May, Election of officers of the council. Declarations of acceptance of office.

Parish Council Meetings – Council considers matters relating to finance, planning and the Parish. Additional extraordinary meetings are held when required.

Dates of meetings: Parish council meetings will be held at 7pm on the following dates;

- Monday 9th March 2026
- Monday 11th May 2026 (Annual Meeting of the Parish, Annual General Meeting followed by normal May PC meeting)

Please note that these meetings will be held at the Village Hall.

Parish Council Website and Social Media and Notice Boards

You can find council information on the notice board by the bus stop in The Street. This is also circulated via our Village Round Robin System and posted on the Shimpling Community Facebook page. Alternatively, the village web site is regularly updated as well as our Facebook page. Please like our Facebook page:
Facebook: Shimpling Parish Council
Website: https://shimpling-pc.gov.uk/

Could you volunteer to help your Village?

We need a new Parish Councillor to join our team. Parish Councillors do a worthwhile job ensuring that your voice is heard and overseeing work so that your village is kept looking good. If you would like to know more about becoming a Councillor then please get in touch with the Clerk or any of our wonderful Councillors.

Report from Chair, David Dunkley:

The Chair reported in the January meeting;
Let me offer my best wishes to everyone for 2026 and hope that you had a pleasant holiday period.

On that theme, the village green Christmas decorations again looked very festive and many thanks to all who made that possible, including the set-up, provision of the tree and the electricity for the lights.
A new supplier has been found to support the installation of the EV chargers and although we were hoping to hear from them before Christmas this did not happen. Hopefully 2026 will be more successful in completing this work.
The installation of InPost storage lockers at the village hall was halted following concerns from some villagers. Although the number was small, they represented those most likely to be affected by the installation. Going forward, obtaining acceptable answers to their genuine concerns will be necessary to enable the project to re-start.
The final draft of the Neighbourhood Plan was issued to the Parish Council at the November meeting and was accepted. The public consultation on the plan will begin on the 17th January kicked off by an open event at the village hall. The consultation continues for 6 weeks, following which the plan, with any changes, goes to Babergh DC for evaluation.
Information of the potential local government reorganisation is still being disseminated but, as yet, no decision has been announced.

Recycling

Please remember that the Parish Council receives money from the paper (although not cardboard) glass, clothing and shoes deposited in the recycling bins near the Bush Inn. Clothing and shoes should be bagged before depositing in the clothing/shoe bank. This income helps to run the council and therefore is a direct benefit to the village. **Please keep recycling.**

What the Parish Council have been up to …

Over the last couple of months, we have:

- Worked on fixing minor issues with the playground
- Prepared a budget for 2026/27

Do you have new neighbours?

For some time now, the Village Hall Committee have been sending welcome letters with local information to new residents. If you have new neighbours, can you please let the Village Hall Committee shimplingvh@gmail.com know so that they can organise a welcome letter.

Shimpling WhatsApp Support Group

This was set up at the start of COVID to support those in need but has developed into a good way of communicating with others in the village. Recently we were asked to relay an urgent message to a villager and were able to locate the person quickly using the WhatsApp Group. If you would like to join the group, please contact Katie Haselhurst kh.shimpling@gmail.com.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group are working hard! For more information on the process or what has been produced so far look on the website: https://shimpling-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan-2/

Speeding

There have been issues raised regarding speeding in the Village, this has been raised both to the PC and it was commented on frequently in the Neighbourhood Plan Surveys. The PC are looking at possibly setting up a community speed watch. However, we will need volunteers!

To set up a scheme

- You must have a minimum of 6 volunteers
- All the volunteers must be over 18 years old
- Each scheme must have a co-ordinator (who will be the point of contact for the team) and where possible a deputy
- The Parish (or local) Council support the scheme
- You will have to sign a CSW agreement and be vetted
- Equipment will be provided by the Constabulary
- Training will be provided on using the equipment and on Health and Safety issues
- Volunteers will be covered by the Constabulary's insurance
- Locations chosen will be assessed by the Constabulary

If you would like to volunteer, please do get in touch and let us know. We can only move this forward with enough volunteers.

Buses

Here is a link to the full timetable
https://passenger-line-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/hedinghamandchambers/HEDO/45-timetable-20250831-5f294bdd.pdf

District Councillors

Our District Councillors usually attend each Parish Council meeting and can also be contacted as follows:

Michael Holt
Phone: 01787 281712, Mobile: 07801 766813
Email: michael.holt@babergh.gov.uk



Stephen Plumb
Phone: 01787 280890
Email: stephen.plumb@babergh.gov.uk



Planning

There have been a number of planning applications since our last newsletter. Others are updated below:

Application	Shimpling PC Comments	Planning Authority Decision
DC/25/05341- Lyndhurst Little Chadacre Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4HL- Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/25/02008 – Condition 5 (Cycle Storage and Refuse Bins)	Did not comment	Granted
DC/25/05339 - Stable Barn Thorne Court Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 0JN - Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of Use of Buildings on Agricultural Units and former Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (Class C3), which may include extension of the building and/or building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Conversion of Stable Barn to 1no. dwellinghouse	Did not comment	Granted

Shimpling Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you to everyone who attended the Consultation Session at the Village Hall on the 17th January; the time flew by with many interesting conversations.

By the time this newsletter comes out the opportunity to comment/support the Plan via the survey will have closed but thank you to all that did – we appreciate it was slightly time consuming!

The next stage will be for the Draft Plan to be amended, where necessary, to take on board comments received via the survey before submission to Babergh District Council. Following this consultation period the Plan will then be sent for Independent Examination.

The final stage will be for the formal Parish Referendum where everyone in the Parish has the opportunity to vote on the adoption of the Plan. If this is positive Babergh District Council will then be required to take the Plan into account on any decisions made.

We will keep you up to date with progress through the next stages.

Committee members: Mark Beaver, Claire Douglas-Hughes (Chair), David Dunkley, Mike Fahie-Wilson, Jane Wall.

THE HALLIFAX TRUST

A locally based charity providing grants to students under the age of 25 receiving further education at colleges or universities or undergoing formal training for a profession or vocation. These are non-means tested. To qualify students must simply have parents living in Shimpling or alternatively have in the past attended Lawshall School whilst their parents were living in Shimpling.

Funding is additionally available for other school and village projects. Applications from students for funding for the forthcoming academic year must be received by 30th September.

HELP US TO HELP OUR CHILDREN

We have recently received a small number of donations to the Charity for which we are extremely grateful. Please consider whether you could help with a donation or a legacy. These are tough times for students and the more funds we have the more we can help. For grants or donations contact:

hallifaxtrust@gmail.com

Claire Wilson 01284 830574 or Jenny Pine 01284 827073

Hallifax Educational Trust is a Registered Charity No.310396

Village Personalities ?

Would you like to have an article published in the form of a small piece written about youself and your life in Shimpling as an item of social interest?

It would not be more than a page. There are so many interesting people in our village ! If so, email me , Jayne Schofield, on jas.65@btinternet.com or call on 01284 828 322

Let there be light?

A visitor to the UK recently commented to a member of my family that there must be corruption at the highest level … because we are such a rich country and yet nothing seems to work! I suspect that I dismissed this comment too lightly, but have since been reminded about it following the recent revelations about Jeffrey Epstein and the behaviour of many powerful Western leaders in politics, business, science and the arts. I do not think I am alone at being appalled. I was particularly disgusted how Epstein advised people how to discredit those who had been abused when they sought justice in court.

I am conscious that these revelations have affected people within our parishes - probably not directly relating to Epstein, but with respect to other people abusing power. This has been weighing particularly heavily on my heart these recent weeks, and I have been praying for any in our villages who have been affected that you would not feel alone, and that you would have trusted people to share with and to support you.

It can feel that we are so weak against the powerful, and yet I have been reminded that God will not tolerate injustice forever. Yes of course I have faith that at the end of this age justice will be restored to all the earth. But I am also praying that God will shine his light on corruption right now - and that of course includes any corruption or abuse in the church. Psalm 94 starts like this:

1 The LORD is a God who avenges. O God who avenges, shine forth.
2 Rise up, Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve.
3 How long, LORD, will the wicked, how long will the wicked be jubilant?

But the psalm ends like this:

21 The wicked band together against the righteous and condemn the innocent to death.
22 But the LORD has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge.
23 He will repay them for their sins and destroy them for their wickedness;
the Lord our God will destroy them.

So I pray, Lord, Let there be light! And let us pray that justice and mercy will be held in right balance.

(Late addendum - I am very concerned to have just heard news about an allegation leading to a Bishop being suspended - I am glad it is being taken seriously).

Reverand Matthew Lawson

Volunteer Opportunity for someone good with words

The Parochial Church Council are looking for a secretary to send out documents and take notes at our meetings. We only have 6 meetings a year but it would help us enormously if someone could help. Training and support (and plenty of laughter, tea, coffee, and biscuits) will be provided. Please contact Revd Lawson on 01787 310 845 or revmattis@gmail.com.



THE PARISH OF ALPHETON AND SHIMPLINGTHORNE

Church Services Include:

March			
Sun 1st	9.00am	Alpheton	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Family Communion
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 8th	4.00pm	Shimpling	Pub Social at The Bush Inn #
Sun 15th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Mothering Sunday Service
Sun 22nd	4.00pm	tbc	Wild Lent #
Sun 29th	10.30am	Melford	Traditional Passiontide Service
	4.00pm	Melford	Messy Easter at Holy Trinity #
	6.30pm	Lawshall	Evening Communion
April			
Thurs 2nd	7.00pm	Melford	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri 3rd	10.00am	Shimpling	Walk with the Cross, Bush to V. Hall
	2.00pm	Melford	Devotional Service
Sat 4th	8.30pm	Melford	Traditional Easter Vigil
Sun 5th	10.30am	Melford	Easter Celebration & Communion (family friendly)
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 19th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
Sun 26th	6.30pm	Lawshall	Communion
May			
Sun 3rd	9.00am	Alpheton	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Family Communion
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 10th	4.00pm	Melford Sch.	Messy Church #
Sun 17th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
Sun 31st	6.30pm	Lawshall	Evening Communion

… and Communion at Holy Trinity Long Melford **every Sunday at 10.30am** (Google 'Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook' for livestream).

for our 4 o'clock community with family friendly services socials and events almost every Sunday at 4.00pm, contact Nicky on 07938 681319 or chadbrooklightwave@gmail.com

... and Communion at Holy Trinity Long Melford every Sunday at 10.30am (Google 'Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook' for livestream).

Children welcome at all 10.30am services there is a children's area at the back of Holy Trinity Please see www.longmelfordchurch.com for any updates. For further information on our toddler and youth groups, please contact Pam on 07890or melfordfamilyworker@gmail.com.

For more details or any questions, please contact Vicky on 07804 558160 or chadbrookoffice@gmail.com.

Rector:Rev'd Matthew Lawson 01787 310845
Churchwarden: Vacant
Church Contact : Charlotte Blyth 01284 828544
07939 194233

SHIMPLING MOBILE LIBRARY 2026

Do you like reading?

Each month on a Friday the mobile library comes to Shimpling and has many books on board, including children's options. Library membership is free and once you join it's very easy to order a vast range of books online, which can be collected from the mobile library.

You can borrow up to 20 books and 6 audio books at any one time, and if no-one has reserved them, they can be renewed up to 6 times. So, no excuses if you're a slow reader!

The library bus, route 13, calls at HALLIFAX PLACE between 1230 and 1250 on the following Fridays this year:

March 13, April 10, May 8

www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk

So let's use it, or we may lose it. Happy Reading!

From Greening Shimpling

At the beginning of January we had a great turnout for the planting of trees at the top of the footpath leading away from Gents Lane, in an area which will now be known as Hill Field Spinney. In under 2 hours we planted about 200 trees, all of which have been staked and protected with tree guards. We were very fortunate with the weather, considering how awful it's been!

It is hoped that we will be able to follow this up with the planting of wild flowers, the siting of bird boxes and the construction of a log pile to provide a habitat for insects and small mammals, hopefully when the weather improves and the ground dries out a little!

In a follow up meeting, we discussed how we might be able to work with the Parish Council to protect and further enhance the environment in and around our beautiful village and will be sending a representative to the next PC meeting.

If you would like further information regarding the Greening Shimpling group please contact Jane 07453 453 906 or email jane.wall@hotmail.co.uk and we will add you to our WhatsApp group.



GREENING SHIMPLING

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

The Annual Village Clean Up Morning will take place on Sunday 22nd March at 11.30am from the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

We have some high vis vests and litter picking sticks but if you have your own high vis vest and gloves, please bring them along

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult



Shimpling & Alpheton WI
Lindsey Barrell aka Cherry Bombe - Burlesque

Lindsey turned out to be quite a stand up comic, dressed in - well - not what you would expect from a typical WI member, let's say. She certainly knew how to tell her stories!
She has been doing burlesque for 14 years and comes from Lancashire and grew up in County Durham but has lived in Essex for 32 years. Subjects she talked about included the North/South divide, being a single Mum, crafts - especially sewing, the WI, shopping in Aldi, confidence building, salsa and the quest to find friends.

Films like Sweet Charity, Moulin Rouge etc include burlesque. At her first session she was told to wear keep fit clothes for burlesque classes. When she got there, all the other women were wearing burlesque style clothes. Leopard Lily, became the first character whom she portrayed in burlesque, wearing leopardskin from head to toe, choreographing her three and a half minute dance act herself. She did a routine to a Chris de Burgh song called Patricia the Stripper. (If you are intrigued you can see her with a group of ladies outdoors performing to this very song on YouTube, dressed as Cherry Bombe.)

Her success with this meant jealousies amongst the other women so she didn't really make friends there as she had hoped. In a continued quest to make friends, she joined a new WI in Chelmsford which attracted around 200 new women. She had thought it would be a bit like the Brownies for grown ups. She joined the

largest WI branch in the country with 350 members which was so large that they could only meet in Chelmsford Cathedral. Because of the size, subgroups were formed and Lindsey ran a Burlesque subgroup of about 20 members who met in a village hall in Great Baddow. By this stage Lindsey had portrayed the character of Cherry Bombe. They formed the first ever WI Burlesque troupe. The ladies all made friends and performed at Chelmsford Cathedral, removing clothes. ..this led to fundraising by her troupe called the Burlesque Bombshells via performances, raising thousands for charities.

Lindsey ended up forming another Burlesque group at Canvey Island called the Wild Island Burlesquers. The average age of the troupe was in the 70s with some ladies aged 80 odd. One lady wearing a corset for the first time put it on upside down! The Covid lockdown brought new challenges and Lindsey gave 400 talks on Zoom from her kitchen dressed in her corset. Sometimes she gave three talks in a day.

Lindsey moved from the enormous WI to a smaller WI and is now the president of a third WI.

Copy for the June 2026 edition is required by 22nd May 2026 (A4 WORD or .PDF file please)
Sarah Smith—slsconsulting21@outlook.com
07774 116128
When advertising events please ensure there is a contact name with a landline number.
Please remember not everyone is on the Internet !!

The Alpheton Film night is on the 2nd Monday of each month.



Mon. 9th March. THE COLOUR ROOM. (Phoebe Dynevor, Matthew Goode)

Mon 13th April A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (Timothee Chalamet)

Mon 11th May LIVING (Bill Nighy)

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Admission price is £5 including tea/coffee & biscuits. The Bar will be open.

Have you tried it yet?



Take the number 45 bus to Bury St Edmunds (Monday to Saturday). Meet nice people as you travel through the villages.

Brighten up your day, even when it is overcast.
Give it a go this week, you will be amazed how much better you feel. No car park fees, no queuing for a space, no expensive fuel, leave it to the bus driver and see a different view of your surroundings.
Looking forward to seeing you very soon!

Timetables are available on the bus, in the village or
www.konectbuses.co.uk
www.suffolkonboard.com

HARTEST & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

2026 has started with a very wet and soggy January, so those of us with clay gardens are dealing with boggy ground and a rising water table. Mud has made gardening, or even stepping outside, practically impossible at times. However, spring is on its way, with snowdrops in bloom in the hedgerows and gardens, and other spring bulbs starting to peep out of the ground. We just need a little bit of blue sky and sunshine to tempt us outside to see which plants have survived the endless rain.

We started this year with a really interesting talk on Delphiniums from Greg Veness of The Front Gardeners Nursery, who are based at the Willow Tree Farm Shop. We learned how to care for these beautiful plants, the seed sowing process and how to take basal cuttings. Delphiniums are fully hardy and (with good drainage) can tolerate a cold winter. Even better, they can be grown from seed from January onwards!

Looking ahead we have some key dates for your diaries:
On Sunday 1 March, 2.30pm we welcome guest speaker Michael Marriott to the Hartest Institute for an expert talk on roses. Michael was the Head Rosarian at David Austin Roses for 35 years and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of all things related to roses. Whilst Michael's enthusiasm for roses is infectious, he is equally known for his garden designs, organic methods and common sense approach.

At the time of writing, there are still a small number of tickets left, priced at £15 for our 2026 club members and £18 for non-members. If you would like to attend, email hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com with the number of tickets you require.

Further ahead, other key dates for your diary are the:

- Annual Plant Sale Sunday 17th May at 2pm, Hartest Green where there will be lots of plants, veg and garden items for sale.

  We welcome donations of plants, perennials, annuals, saplings and veg seedlings (all labelled please). This year we also hope to offer gardening books, plant pots and any other garden-related equipment. If you are having a spring clear out and want to donate items, please do get in touch.

- Annual Show Sunday 6th September at 2.30pm, The Institute.
  More information about this nearer the date.

The club is going from strength to strength and has a great buzz about it with lots of new members and renewed energy from long-standing members. If you are interested in finding out about who we are and what we offer, do come along. We are very friendly and welcoming!

We hold monthly meetings at 7.30pm, on the first Monday of each month at the Hartest Institute. Membership is £15 per person or £25 for a couple. In the summer months our members enjoy access to exclusive garden visits. Members also enjoy a healthy 50% discount on seeds from our club supplier, Kings Seeds, who have a fantastic selection of veg, flower and herb seeds.

Find out more via our:
Website: https://hartestgardeningclub.onesuffolk.net/
Instagram: hartest_gardening_club
Facebook: Hartest & District Gardening Club
Email: hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com
Kit Morrison, on behalf of H&DGC hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com

Shimpling Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee meets every 8 weeks, to manage the hall and arrange events that residents can enjoy and generate income to keep the hall running & open.
We welcome interest from any resident who would like to get involved – please email Carol Squire: shimplingvh@gmail.com or phone, WhatsApp or text: 07855 762812
Meeting minutes and information on all activities are available to read on the Village website http://shimplingpc.onesuffolk.net/village-hall/
Events and activities timetable on the Your Hall website https://yourhall.co.uk/hall/shimpling-village-hall/

Village Hall Activities

Future Arts & Crafts Sessions in the village hall 2026 (see posters in this newsletter).



Spring Wreath Making Workshop -
Ever thought you would like to be able to make your own wreaths - why not start with a beautiful spring flower wreath using spring bulbs that can be re-potted and come again. The workshop will be in the village hall on the 21st of March 2026 at 10am. The session tutor will be expert florist Anne Brown - http://www.justanneflowers.co.uk/
Booking for places open now - see the poster in this month's newsletter.
All sessions have minimum attendance targets and will not take place if not reached.

Other Events
Schools' half term saw the hall made available for free to residents and families to use the table tennis set, the children's billiards table and other indoor games. Those who took advantage enjoyed the opportunity - *"We had a brilliant time and have all become experts at table tennis!"* We will do the same every half term in 2026

Also, if you are stuck for something to do with the family – don't forget you can book the hall to play a variety of games including Table Tennis and Billiards at other times





PANTOMIME - Due to the popularity of the live screening of the Christmas Pantomime last year, we linked up with the Wolsey Theatre Ipswich again this year on the Saturday 27th December and live streamed Beauty and the Beast.

The Regular Village Hall Activities
These continue as scheduled so check the village website, notice boards, Facebook and WhatsApp and join in.

- PILATES classes are on a Monday mornings and Wednesday evening and with occasional attendance from other villages boosting numbers, these have mainly been well attended but there is still room for a few more so don't be shy – come and join in. It's time to get summer holiday fit.
- ZUMBA GOLD continues term time Fridays – a great way to dance your way to fitness - no prior experience or skill needed - just dance for the fun of it.
- FILM NIGHTS have also continued the 3rd Tuesday evening of the month, showing some great films, but in Feb and March - the film will be shown in the afternoon. Attendance could improve to help make a profit on these sessions so come along and enjoy the films.
  Let us know what films you want to see. WhatsApp or Text Carol on 07855 762812 with your ideas

The **RURAL COFFEE CARAVAN** come to the village hall every **4th Thursday of the month** offering their excellent range of home-made coffee (or tea) cakes & savouries, coupled with advice, up to date information and signposting for help and information.

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL
PILATES CLASSES

THE BENEFITS OF PILATES

The focus is on core strength & spinal mobility to ensure optimum alignment of the body.

The breathing and mindful aspect of Pilates supports both physical and mental well-being.

It is intelligent exercise!



3 Sessions are held

Mondays at 9.30 – 10.30 and **11 – 12noon**

WEDNESDAYS 6.30 – 7.30pm

term time only

£7 per session - Equipment provided free

NO EXPERIENCE OR BOOKING NEEDED

Want to know more?

Contact Tutor- Louise Fuller 07875 370902



SPRING WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

10am SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL

£35 PER PERSON

Learn how to make a beautiful wreath with spring bulbs that can be replanted in a pot to come again!

Book your place by emailing
shimplingvh@gmail.com or

text Carol on 07855762812

Rural Coffee Caravan

Making a difference to rural communities throughout Suffolk

Come and share a pot of tea, our welcome is warm and our friendship free!

We'll be visiting:

Shimpling

Village Hall IP29 4HS

10am - 12pm

Thursdays:

22nd Jan / 26th Feb / 26th March

Come along for some company and a catch up with your neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and cake. We bring a great source of information along with the free refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you.

All Welcome!



www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk tel: 01379 855 338

Registered No: 1187423

Meet Up Mondays™

c-a-f-e coffee and friends events

More Than A Shop

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Alpheton and Shimpling Marmalade Competition



at the Spring Market (11th April)

Please bring 2 jars at 10am (one for the competition, one for the produce stall)

Judging will take place at 12 noon

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

During Half Terms we are pleased to offer **Shimpling Village Hall** for hire - **FREE** of charge

Play

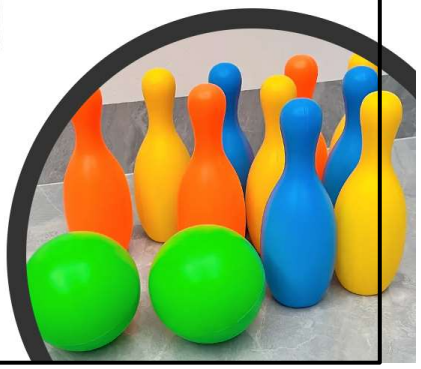
- TABLE TENNIS, BILLIARDS, or GAMES SESSIONS
- BRING YOUR OWN GAMES OR USE OURS!
- BOOK YOUR SESSION
- Email shimplingvh@gmail.com
- or text 07855762812











Barn Dance with 'Catch the Pigeon'

More details to follow !



alphetonandshimplingchurches.com

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL

SPRING 2026 FILM SESSIONS

3rd TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

March - Matinee - 1.45 for 2pm start

April & May 7.15pm for 7.30 start

COME AND WATCH NEW AND FAVOURITE FILMS ON THE BIG SCREEN



COMING NEXT

March 17th - Agatha and the Truth of Murder

A British alternative history drama about crime writer Agatha Christie becoming embroiled in a real-life murder case during her 11-day disappearance in 1926. Based on real people & events, it depicts Christie investigating the murder of Florence Nightingale's goddaughter, & how involvement in this case, influenced her later writing.

April 21st Hemingway and Gellhorn

This powerful drama recounts the relationship between literary giant Ernest Hemingway (Nick Owen) & War correspondent Martha Gellhorn (Nicole Kidman) - Hemingway's inspiration for "For Whom the Bell Tolls".

May 19th - The Choral

British historical drama written by Alan Bennett starring Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam, Mark Addy. Set in 1916, the film follows the members of the local choral society which recruits a group of teenagers for a performance of Edward Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*.

PUT THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY

REFRESHMENTS & FILM £4.50 PER PERSON
ICECREAM, SWEETS & POPCORN ALSO ON SALE.



Do you have a film you want to see? Just let us know

Friday 27th March 2026
From 5pm
The Swan Inn, Lawshall

Face the flames and crush the glass to help raise vital funds! After the incredible success of our first ever firewalk in 2024, Green Light Trust are bringing it back again this year with a twist – a glass walk too! Experience the thrill of walking bare foot across scorching flames and razor sharp glass, facing your fears in the Spring.

Our fundraising challenge offers the chance for team building, creating lasting memories and bonds. Not only will you be testing your limits, but you will raise valuable funds for Green Light Trust.

Located at the stunning Swan Inn pub, join us from 5pm to register and grab a delicious bite to eat. This event is hosted by Fundraising Firewalk Association, one of the UK's leading firewalk companies, who will provide training sessions on the night.

Your fundraising efforts and entry ticket will include an achievement certificate, photographs of the event, fundraising support and a limited edition Green Light Trust fire and glass walk t-shirt.

See our website events page for more details and how to sign up- greenlighttrust.org

GREEN LIGHT TRUST



ZUMBA® gold



Shimpling Village Hall

Friday's 1-1.45pm - term time only

£5 per session

No booking required, just come along

CONTACT YOUR LICENSED ZUMBA INSTRUCTOR :

Jo Brown

Call/text : 07851962112
Email : joanna-m-brown@hotmail.co.uk
find me on Facebook : Jo Brown

HARTEST FARMERS & CRAFT MARKET

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH
10:00-12:30

The Little Dip Company
Chicken and Bird feed
Bread & pastries, Sparling & Faiers
Sue's Savouries
Fuller's Honey
Dr Kat's Luxury Granola
Meadow and Woodland Livestock
B'Wrappy Eco Food Wraps
Hartest made Power-Grit Health food mix
Conical peg bags & Sewn items by Tamara Jones
Walking sticks & wooden items
Moonvine jewellery
Artist Janet Munro
Chocolate, Edible Creations by Rosey
Cambridge Artisan Cheese
Local eggs & curry kits
Fruit and veg, Cox Boxes
Coiled rope baskets by Debbie Regent
Soap, ljp balms and bath bombs by FB Designs
Tropic Skincare by Debra Graham
Artist Juliette Hudson
Crochet & jewellery by Pat

Cafe: Hot bacon, sausage rolls, tea, coffee & homemade cakes
Friends of Hartest School

HARTESTFARMERSMARKET@GMAIL.COM

Hartest Institute, Hartest, Bury Saint Edmunds IP29 4DH

Advertising in the Shimpling News

You could reach 200 households.....!
The fees for advertising in the Shimpling News for 2025 (of which this is for the 4 editions – one for each season) will be;

Full page £100, Half page £50 , Quarter page £25

With any residents of Shimpling able to have a 25% discount so making the cost Full page £75, Half page £37.50 and Quarter page £18.75. Individual adverts (ie for sale items) are £3 up to a £100 and £5 over £100 per issue
If you would like to advertise please email the Clerk shimplingpc@gmail.com



SAVE

(Shimpling AED Village Enterprise)

As most people are aware the village has an AED located in a locked cabinet outside The Bush. The device is registered with the East of England Ambulance Service, who have the access code details.
In the event of an emergency, the precise location of the AED would need to be given, to enable the Ambulance Service to give the code. The location is

The Bush, The Street, Shimpling **IP29 4HU**

Please make a note of these details, as it could save time in gaining access.
If you require any further details, please contact me Marian Peck Chair, SAVE 01284 828187

THOMAS & YOUNG

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CHARTERED FINANCIAL PLANNERS

Thomas and Young Wealth Management Limited is an Appointed Representative of and represents only St. James's Place Wealth Management plc (which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority) for the purpose of advising solely on the group's wealth management products and services, more details of which are set out on the group's website www.sjp.co.uk/products The 'St. James's Place Partnership' and the titles 'Partner' and 'Partner Practice' are marketing terms used to describe St. James's Place representatives.

Senior Partner Practice

St James's Place

SJP Approved 15/09/2025

RECYCLING Shimpling has a bottle bank, a Paper and Card Bank and a Clothing Bank. If they are full please call

BOTTLE BANK— 0344 880 7700

CLOTHING BANK—08000 902 321

Electronic Version of The Shimpling News

If you would prefer to receive an email informing you when the latest issue is available online, rather than have a printed copy delivered to your door please let me know slsconsulting21@outlook.com



Domestic, Commercial & Agricultural Electrical Work Undertaken



Including rewires, new builds, extensions, All Electric heating, new consumer units, testing and inspection for insurance purposes, smoke detectors, TV & phone points, outside lighting, low energy & LED lighting. NICEIC registered, Part P Certified, ECA member with Public Liability and guaranteed by the ECA

For competitive rates, a personal service and good quality workmanship contact:

Kevin Seggie Electrical Services

Beechwood Cottage, Bury Road, Lawshall, IP29 4PJ

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rz.electricalservices@gmail.com

ecs electrotechnical certification scheme

Anthony - 07801990584

City & Guilds Qualified



Useful Online Reporting Tools
Many issues can be reported online by residents at https;//www.babergh.gov.uk/report-online Including potholes, overgrown vegetation, littering and fly-tipping
Flooding can be reported at https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/report-a-flood-in-suffolk
Local road closure information can be found at one.network

LARK VALLEY WILLOW LTD.

Lark Valley Willow Ltd.
Rose Cottage
The Street
Shimpling
Suffolk
IP29 4HS

We are looking for casual (self employed) part time workers to join our friendly team weaving in-situ willow fences in Suffolk and Essex.
Training and support will be given. Enjoying working outside is a must. You will need to have transport and be practical and hard working.

Please email cmcooke@icloud.com with a brief CV

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DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL CONTRACTING

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- Woodland Management
- Tree / Hedge Planting



Fully Insured ***40 years + experience***

FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTES

USEFUL VILLAGE CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

County Cllr—Richard Kemp 01787 378149
Shimpling Village Hall—Carol Squire 07855 762812 or email shimplingvh@gmail.com
St George's Church—Rev'd Matthew Lawson 01787 310845
The Bush Public house 07961 947497 and email thebushpubshimpling@gmail.com
Shimpling Postal Collections:-
The Street Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am, Little Chadacre Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am, Aveley Lane Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am
Medical Services
NHS Helpline :- 111 (Non-emergency)
Glemsford Surgery:—01787 280484
Lavenham/Long Melford Surgery:—01787 378226
Samaritans:- 116 123
Domestic Abuse Helpline:- 0808 2000 247
Vet Surgeries:-
Swayne & Partners Long Melford—01787 370773
Bury St Edmunds - 01284 701444
Anglian Water Emergency :- 0800 771881
UK Power Networks Emergency:- 0800 31 63 105
Citizens Advice Bureau:- 01284 753675
Suffolk Libraries Library Van—Next visit Friday 13th March Hallifax Place 12:30-12:50, then April 10th and May 8th
Chambers Bus Service 45—Daily except Sunday depart Hallifax Place to Bury 07:39*/10:01 return arrival at Hallifax Place 16:56*/13:35 *Schooldays
Felix Taxis :- 01787 310574
Shimpling Park Farm for loose sheep and broken fences etc. Shepherd Emily Elnaugh on 07415 311252.

Shimpling News

Spring 2026 **Issue 145**



The Parish Council:

Mrs Liz Brunwin	01284 828122
Mr Gerry Shrimpton	01284 827219
Mr David Dunkley	07809 148630
Mr Mark Milhench	07770 668660
Ms Jen O'Reilly-Turner	07769 894806
Mr Laurence Rooke	07818 797081
Vacancy	

Contact details for the Clerk are:
4 Park Farm Cottages, Brettenham, Suffolk, IP7 7QP
(Correspondence and Appointment only)
Email: clerk@shimpling-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07940 223200

The Parish Council meet bi-monthly in January, March, May (AGM), July, September and November every year. Extra meetings may also be held throughout the year when required.

Annual Parish Assembly – Reports presented by the Council and local groups / charities / committees from within the parish. Members of the public can speak freely at this meeting in May, raise issues and ask questions relating to the reports.

Annual Meeting of the Council (AGM) – Each May, Election of officers of the council. Declarations of acceptance of office.

Parish Council Meetings – Council considers matters relating to finance, planning and the Parish. Additional extraordinary meetings are held when required.

Dates of meetings: Parish council meetings will be held at 7pm on the following dates;

- Monday 9th March 2026
- Monday 11th May 2026 (Annual Meeting of the Parish, Annual General Meeting followed by normal May PC meeting)

Please note that these meetings will be held at the Village Hall.

Parish Council Website and Social Media and Notice Boards

You can find council information on the notice board by the bus stop in The Street. This is also circulated via our Village Round Robin System and posted on the Shimpling Community Facebook page. Alternatively, the village web site is regularly updated as well as our Facebook page. Please like our Facebook page:
Facebook: Shimpling Parish Council
Website: https://shimpling-pc.gov.uk/

Could you volunteer to help your Village?

We need a new Parish Councillor to join our team. Parish Councillors do a worthwhile job ensuring that your voice is heard and overseeing work so that your village is kept looking good. If you would like to know more about becoming a Councillor then please get in touch with the Clerk or any of our wonderful Councillors.

Report from Chair, David Dunkley:

The Chair reported in the January meeting;
Let me offer my best wishes to everyone for 2026 and hope that you had a pleasant holiday period.

On that theme, the village green Christmas decorations again looked very festive and many thanks to all who made that possible, including the set-up, provision of the tree and the electricity for the lights.
A new supplier has been found to support the installation of the EV chargers and although we were hoping to hear from them before Christmas this did not happen. Hopefully 2026 will be more successful in completing this work.
The installation of InPost storage lockers at the village hall was halted following concerns from some villagers. Although the number was small, they represented those most likely to be affected by the installation. Going forward, obtaining acceptable answers to their genuine concerns will be necessary to enable the project to re-start.
The final draft of the Neighbourhood Plan was issued to the Parish Council at the November meeting and was accepted. The public consultation on the plan will begin on the 17th January kicked off by an open event at the village hall. The consultation continues for 6 weeks, following which the plan, with any changes, goes to Babergh DC for evaluation.
Information of the potential local government reorganisation is still being disseminated but, as yet, no decision has been announced.

Recycling

Please remember that the Parish Council receives money from the paper (although not cardboard) glass, clothing and shoes deposited in the recycling bins near the Bush Inn. Clothing and shoes should be bagged before depositing in the clothing/shoe bank. This income helps to run the council and therefore is a direct benefit to the village. **Please keep recycling.**

What the Parish Council have been up to …

Over the last couple of months, we have:

- Worked on fixing minor issues with the playground
- Prepared a budget for 2026/27

Do you have new neighbours?

For some time now, the Village Hall Committee have been sending welcome letters with local information to new residents. If you have new neighbours, can you please let the Village Hall Committee shimplingvh@gmail.com know so that they can organise a welcome letter.

Shimpling WhatsApp Support Group

This was set up at the start of COVID to support those in need but has developed into a good way of communicating with others in the village. Recently we were asked to relay an urgent message to a villager and were able to locate the person quickly using the WhatsApp Group. If you would like to join the group, please contact Katie Haselhurst kh.shimpling@gmail.com.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group are working hard! For more information on the process or what has been produced so far look on the website: https://shimpling-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan-2/

Speeding

There have been issues raised regarding speeding in the Village, this has been raised both to the PC and it was commented on frequently in the Neighbourhood Plan Surveys. The PC are looking at possibly setting up a community speed watch. However, we will need volunteers!

To set up a scheme

- You must have a minimum of 6 volunteers
- All the volunteers must be over 18 years old
- Each scheme must have a co-ordinator (who will be the point of contact for the team) and where possible a deputy
- The Parish (or local) Council support the scheme
- You will have to sign a CSW agreement and be vetted
- Equipment will be provided by the Constabulary
- Training will be provided on using the equipment and on Health and Safety issues
- Volunteers will be covered by the Constabulary's insurance
- Locations chosen will be assessed by the Constabulary

If you would like to volunteer, please do get in touch and let us know. We can only move this forward with enough volunteers.

Buses

Here is a link to the full timetable
https://passenger-line-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/hedinghamandchambers/HEDO/45-timetable-20250831-5f294bdd.pdf

District Councillors

Our District Councillors usually attend each Parish Council meeting and can also be contacted as follows:

Michael Holt
Phone: 01787 281712, Mobile: 07801 766813
Email: michael.holt@babergh.gov.uk



Stephen Plumb
Phone: 01787 280890
Email: stephen.plumb@babergh.gov.uk



Planning

There have been a number of planning applications since our last newsletter. Others are updated below:

Application	Shimpling PC Comments	Planning Authority Decision
DC/25/05341- Lyndhurst Little Chadacre Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4HL- Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/25/02008 – Condition 5 (Cycle Storage and Refuse Bins)	Did not comment	Granted
DC/25/05339 - Stable Barn Thorne Court Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 0JN - Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of Use of Buildings on Agricultural Units and former Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (Class C3), which may include extension of the building and/or building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Conversion of Stable Barn to 1no. dwellinghouse	Did not comment	Granted

Shimpling Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you to everyone who attended the Consultation Session at the Village Hall on the 17th January; the time flew by with many interesting conversations.

By the time this newsletter comes out the opportunity to comment/support the Plan via the survey will have closed but thank you to all that did – we appreciate it was slightly time consuming!

The next stage will be for the Draft Plan to be amended, where necessary, to take on board comments received via the survey before submission to Babergh District Council. Following this consultation period the Plan will then be sent for Independent Examination.

The final stage will be for the formal Parish Referendum where everyone in the Parish has the opportunity to vote on the adoption of the Plan. If this is positive Babergh District Council will then be required to take the Plan into account on any decisions made.

We will keep you up to date with progress through the next stages.

Committee members: Mark Beaver, Claire Douglas-Hughes (Chair), David Dunkley, Mike Fahie-Wilson, Jane Wall.

THE HALLIFAX TRUST

A locally based charity providing grants to students under the age of 25 receiving further education at colleges or universities or undergoing formal training for a profession or vocation. These are non-means tested. To qualify students must simply have parents living in Shimpling or alternatively have in the past attended Lawshall School whilst their parents were living in Shimpling.

Funding is additionally available for other school and village projects. Applications from students for funding for the forthcoming academic year must be received by 30th September.

HELP US TO HELP OUR CHILDREN

We have recently received a small number of donations to the Charity for which we are extremely grateful. Please consider whether you could help with a donation or a legacy. These are tough times for students and the more funds we have the more we can help. For grants or donations contact:

hallifaxtrust@gmail.com

Claire Wilson 01284 830574 or Jenny Pine 01284 827073

Hallifax Educational Trust is a Registered Charity No.310396

Village Personalities ?

Would you like to have an article published in the form of a small piece written about youself and your life in Shimpling as an item of social interest?

It would not be more than a page. There are so many interesting people in our village ! If so, email me , Jayne Schofield, on jas.65@btinternet.com or call on 01284 828 322

Let there be light?

A visitor to the UK recently commented to a member of my family that there must be corruption at the highest level … because we are such a rich country and yet nothing seems to work! I suspect that I dismissed this comment too lightly, but have since been reminded about it following the recent revelations about Jeffrey Epstein and the behaviour of many powerful Western leaders in politics, business, science and the arts. I do not think I am alone at being appalled. I was particularly disgusted how Epstein advised people how to discredit those who had been abused when they sought justice in court.

I am conscious that these revelations have affected people within our parishes - probably not directly relating to Epstein, but with respect to other people abusing power. This has been weighing particularly heavily on my heart these recent weeks, and I have been praying for any in our villages who have been affected that you would not feel alone, and that you would have trusted people to share with and to support you.

It can feel that we are so weak against the powerful, and yet I have been reminded that God will not tolerate injustice forever. Yes of course I have faith that at the end of this age justice will be restored to all the earth. But I am also praying that God will shine his light on corruption right now - and that of course includes any corruption or abuse in the church. Psalm 94 starts like this:

1 The LORD is a God who avenges. O God who avenges, shine forth.
2 Rise up, Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve.
3 How long, LORD, will the wicked, how long will the wicked be jubilant?

But the psalm ends like this:

21 The wicked band together against the righteous and condemn the innocent to death.
22 But the LORD has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge.
23 He will repay them for their sins and destroy them for their wickedness;
the Lord our God will destroy them.

So I pray, Lord, Let there be light! And let us pray that justice and mercy will be held in right balance.

(Late addendum - I am very concerned to have just heard news about an allegation leading to a Bishop being suspended - I am glad it is being taken seriously).

Reverand Matthew Lawson

Volunteer Opportunity for someone good with words

The Parochial Church Council are looking for a secretary to send out documents and take notes at our meetings. We only have 6 meetings a year but it would help us enormously if someone could help. Training and support (and plenty of laughter, tea, coffee, and biscuits) will be provided. Please contact Revd Lawson on 01787 310 845 or revmattis@gmail.com.



THE PARISH OF ALPHETON AND SHIMPLINGTHORNE

Church Services Include:

March			
Sun 1st	9.00am	Alpheton	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Family Communion
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 8th	4.00pm	Shimpling	Pub Social at The Bush Inn #
Sun 15th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Mothering Sunday Service
Sun 22nd	4.00pm	tbc	Wild Lent #
Sun 29th	10.30am	Melford	Traditional Passiontide Service
	4.00pm	Melford	Messy Easter at Holy Trinity #
	6.30pm	Lawshall	Evening Communion
April			
Thurs 2nd	7.00pm	Melford	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri 3rd	10.00am	Shimpling	Walk with the Cross, Bush to V. Hall
	2.00pm	Melford	Devotional Service
Sat 4th	8.30pm	Melford	Traditional Easter Vigil
Sun 5th	10.30am	Melford	Easter Celebration & Communion (family friendly)
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 19th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
Sun 26th	6.30pm	Lawshall	Communion
May			
Sun 3rd	9.00am	Alpheton	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Family Communion
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 10th	4.00pm	Melford Sch.	Messy Church #
Sun 17th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
Sun 31st	6.30pm	Lawshall	Evening Communion

… and Communion at Holy Trinity Long Melford **every Sunday at 10.30am** (Google 'Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook' for livestream).

for our 4 o'clock community with family friendly services socials and events almost every Sunday at 4.00pm, contact Nicky on 07938 681319 or chadbrooklightwave@gmail.com

... and Communion at Holy Trinity Long Melford every Sunday at 10.30am (Google 'Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook' for livestream).

Children welcome at all 10.30am services there is a children's area at the back of Holy Trinity Please see www.longmelfordchurch.com for any updates. For further information on our toddler and youth groups, please contact Pam on 07890or melfordfamilyworker@gmail.com.

For more details or any questions, please contact Vicky on 07804 558160 or chadbrookoffice@gmail.com.

Rector:Rev'd Matthew Lawson 01787 310845
Churchwarden: Vacant
Church Contact : Charlotte Blyth 01284 828544
07939 194233

SHIMPLING MOBILE LIBRARY 2026

Do you like reading?

Each month on a Friday the mobile library comes to Shimpling and has many books on board, including children's options. Library membership is free and once you join it's very easy to order a vast range of books online, which can be collected from the mobile library.

You can borrow up to 20 books and 6 audio books at any one time, and if no-one has reserved them, they can be renewed up to 6 times. So, no excuses if you're a slow reader!

The library bus, route 13, calls at HALLIFAX PLACE between 1230 and 1250 on the following Fridays this year:

March 13, April 10, May 8

www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk

So let's use it, or we may lose it. Happy Reading!

From Greening Shimpling

At the beginning of January we had a great turnout for the planting of trees at the top of the footpath leading away from Gents Lane, in an area which will now be known as Hill Field Spinney. In under 2 hours we planted about 200 trees, all of which have been staked and protected with tree guards. We were very fortunate with the weather, considering how awful it's been!

It is hoped that we will be able to follow this up with the planting of wild flowers, the siting of bird boxes and the construction of a log pile to provide a habitat for insects and small mammals, hopefully when the weather improves and the ground dries out a little!

In a follow up meeting, we discussed how we might be able to work with the Parish Council to protect and further enhance the environment in and around our beautiful village and will be sending a representative to the next PC meeting.

If you would like further information regarding the Greening Shimpling group please contact Jane 07453 453 906 or email jane.wall@hotmail.co.uk and we will add you to our WhatsApp group.



GREENING SHIMPLING

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

The Annual Village Clean Up Morning will take place on Sunday 22nd March at 11.30am from the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

We have some high vis vests and litter picking sticks but if you have your own high vis vest and gloves, please bring them along

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult



Shimpling & Alpheton WI
Lindsey Barrell aka Cherry Bombe - Burlesque

Lindsey turned out to be quite a stand up comic, dressed in - well - not what you would expect from a typical WI member, let's say. She certainly knew how to tell her stories!
She has been doing burlesque for 14 years and comes from Lancashire and grew up in County Durham but has lived in Essex for 32 years. Subjects she talked about included the North/South divide, being a single Mum, crafts - especially sewing, the WI, shopping in Aldi, confidence building, salsa and the quest to find friends.

Films like Sweet Charity, Moulin Rouge etc include burlesque. At her first session she was told to wear keep fit clothes for burlesque classes. When she got there, all the other women were wearing burlesque style clothes. Leopard Lily, became the first character whom she portrayed in burlesque, wearing leopardskin from head to toe, choreographing her three and a half minute dance act herself. She did a routine to a Chris de Burgh song called Patricia the Stripper. (If you are intrigued you can see her with a group of ladies outdoors performing to this very song on YouTube, dressed as Cherry Bombe.)

Her success with this meant jealousies amongst the other women so she didn't really make friends there as she had hoped. In a continued quest to make friends, she joined a new WI in Chelmsford which attracted around 200 new women. She had thought it would be a bit like the Brownies for grown ups. She joined the

largest WI branch in the country with 350 members which was so large that they could only meet in Chelmsford Cathedral. Because of the size, subgroups were formed and Lindsey ran a Burlesque subgroup of about 20 members who met in a village hall in Great Baddow. By this stage Lindsey had portrayed the character of Cherry Bombe. They formed the first ever WI Burlesque troupe. The ladies all made friends and performed at Chelmsford Cathedral, removing clothes. ..this led to fundraising by her troupe called the Burlesque Bombshells via performances, raising thousands for charities.

Lindsey ended up forming another Burlesque group at Canvey Island called the Wild Island Burlesquers. The average age of the troupe was in the 70s with some ladies aged 80 odd. One lady wearing a corset for the first time put it on upside down! The Covid lockdown brought new challenges and Lindsey gave 400 talks on Zoom from her kitchen dressed in her corset. Sometimes she gave three talks in a day.

Lindsey moved from the enormous WI to a smaller WI and is now the president of a third WI.

Copy for the June 2026 edition is required by 22nd May 2026 (A4 WORD or .PDF file please)
Sarah Smith—slsconsulting21@outlook.com
07774 116128
When advertising events please ensure there is a contact name with a landline number.
Please remember not everyone is on the Internet !!

The Alpheton Film night is on the 2nd Monday of each month.



Mon. 9th March. THE COLOUR ROOM. (Phoebe Dynevor, Matthew Goode)

Mon 13th April A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (Timothee Chalamet)

Mon 11th May LIVING (Bill Nighy)

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Admission price is £5 including tea/coffee & biscuits. The Bar will be open.

Have you tried it yet?



Take the number 45 bus to Bury St Edmunds (Monday to Saturday). Meet nice people as you travel through the villages.

Brighten up your day, even when it is overcast.
Give it a go this week, you will be amazed how much better you feel. No car park fees, no queuing for a space, no expensive fuel, leave it to the bus driver and see a different view of your surroundings.
Looking forward to seeing you very soon!

Timetables are available on the bus, in the village or
www.konectbuses.co.uk
www.suffolkonboard.com

HARTEST & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

2026 has started with a very wet and soggy January, so those of us with clay gardens are dealing with boggy ground and a rising water table. Mud has made gardening, or even stepping outside, practically impossible at times. However, spring is on its way, with snowdrops in bloom in the hedgerows and gardens, and other spring bulbs starting to peep out of the ground. We just need a little bit of blue sky and sunshine to tempt us outside to see which plants have survived the endless rain.

We started this year with a really interesting talk on Delphiniums from Greg Veness of The Front Gardeners Nursery, who are based at the Willow Tree Farm Shop. We learned how to care for these beautiful plants, the seed sowing process and how to take basal cuttings. Delphiniums are fully hardy and (with good drainage) can tolerate a cold winter. Even better, they can be grown from seed from January onwards!

Looking ahead we have some key dates for your diaries:
On Sunday 1 March, 2.30pm we welcome guest speaker Michael Marriott to the Hartest Institute for an expert talk on roses. Michael was the Head Rosarian at David Austin Roses for 35 years and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of all things related to roses. Whilst Michael's enthusiasm for roses is infectious, he is equally known for his garden designs, organic methods and common sense approach.

At the time of writing, there are still a small number of tickets left, priced at £15 for our 2026 club members and £18 for non-members. If you would like to attend, email hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com with the number of tickets you require.

Further ahead, other key dates for your diary are the:

- Annual Plant Sale Sunday 17th May at 2pm, Hartest Green where there will be lots of plants, veg and garden items for sale.

  We welcome donations of plants, perennials, annuals, saplings and veg seedlings (all labelled please). This year we also hope to offer gardening books, plant pots and any other garden-related equipment. If you are having a spring clear out and want to donate items, please do get in touch.

- Annual Show Sunday 6th September at 2.30pm, The Institute.
  More information about this nearer the date.

The club is going from strength to strength and has a great buzz about it with lots of new members and renewed energy from long-standing members. If you are interested in finding out about who we are and what we offer, do come along. We are very friendly and welcoming!

We hold monthly meetings at 7.30pm, on the first Monday of each month at the Hartest Institute. Membership is £15 per person or £25 for a couple. In the summer months our members enjoy access to exclusive garden visits. Members also enjoy a healthy 50% discount on seeds from our club supplier, Kings Seeds, who have a fantastic selection of veg, flower and herb seeds.

Find out more via our:
Website: https://hartestgardeningclub.onesuffolk.net/
Instagram: hartest_gardening_club
Facebook: Hartest & District Gardening Club
Email: hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com
Kit Morrison, on behalf of H&DGC hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com

Shimpling Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee meets every 8 weeks, to manage the hall and arrange events that residents can enjoy and generate income to keep the hall running & open.
We welcome interest from any resident who would like to get involved – please email Carol Squire: shimplingvh@gmail.com or phone, WhatsApp or text: 07855 762812
Meeting minutes and information on all activities are available to read on the Village website http://shimplingpc.onesuffolk.net/village-hall/
Events and activities timetable on the Your Hall website https://yourhall.co.uk/hall/shimpling-village-hall/

Village Hall Activities

Future Arts & Crafts Sessions in the village hall 2026 (see posters in this newsletter).



Spring Wreath Making Workshop -
Ever thought you would like to be able to make your own wreaths - why not start with a beautiful spring flower wreath using spring bulbs that can be re-potted and come again. The workshop will be in the village hall on the 21st of March 2026 at 10am. The session tutor will be expert florist Anne Brown - http://www.justanneflowers.co.uk/
Booking for places open now - see the poster in this month's newsletter.
All sessions have minimum attendance targets and will not take place if not reached.

Other Events
Schools' half term saw the hall made available for free to residents and families to use the table tennis set, the children's billiards table and other indoor games. Those who took advantage enjoyed the opportunity - *"We had a brilliant time and have all become experts at table tennis!"* We will do the same every half term in 2026

Also, if you are stuck for something to do with the family – don't forget you can book the hall to play a variety of games including Table Tennis and Billiards at other times





PANTOMIME - Due to the popularity of the live screening of the Christmas Pantomime last year, we linked up with the Wolsey Theatre Ipswich again this year on the Saturday 27th December and live streamed Beauty and the Beast.

The Regular Village Hall Activities
These continue as scheduled so check the village website, notice boards, Facebook and WhatsApp and join in.

- PILATES classes are on a Monday mornings and Wednesday evening and with occasional attendance from other villages boosting numbers, these have mainly been well attended but there is still room for a few more so don't be shy – come and join in. It's time to get summer holiday fit.
- ZUMBA GOLD continues term time Fridays – a great way to dance your way to fitness - no prior experience or skill needed - just dance for the fun of it.
- FILM NIGHTS have also continued the 3rd Tuesday evening of the month, showing some great films, but in Feb and March - the film will be shown in the afternoon. Attendance could improve to help make a profit on these sessions so come along and enjoy the films.
  Let us know what films you want to see. WhatsApp or Text Carol on 07855 762812 with your ideas

The **RURAL COFFEE CARAVAN** come to the village hall every **4th Thursday of the month** offering their excellent range of home-made coffee (or tea) cakes & savouries, coupled with advice, up to date information and signposting for help and information.

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL
PILATES CLASSES

THE BENEFITS OF PILATES

The focus is on core strength & spinal mobility to ensure optimum alignment of the body.

The breathing and mindful aspect of Pilates supports both physical and mental well-being.

It is intelligent exercise!



3 Sessions are held

Mondays at 9.30 – 10.30 and **11 – 12noon**

WEDNESDAYS 6.30 – 7.30pm

term time only

£7 per session - Equipment provided free

NO EXPERIENCE OR BOOKING NEEDED

Want to know more?

Contact Tutor- Louise Fuller 07875 370902



SPRING WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

10am SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL

£35 PER PERSON

Learn how to make a beautiful wreath with spring bulbs that can be replanted in a pot to come again!

Book your place by emailing
shimplingvh@gmail.com or

text Carol on 07855762812

Rural Coffee Caravan

Making a difference to rural communities throughout Suffolk

Come and share a pot of tea, our welcome is warm and our friendship free!

We'll be visiting:

Shimpling

Village Hall IP29 4HS

10am - 12pm

Thursdays:

22nd Jan / 26th Feb / 26th March

Come along for some company and a catch up with your neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and cake. We bring a great source of information along with the free refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you.

All Welcome!



www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk tel: 01379 855 338

Registered No: 1187423

Meet Up Mondays™

c-a-f-e coffee and friends events

More Than A Shop

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Alpheton and Shimpling Marmalade Competition



at the Spring Market (11th April)

Please bring 2 jars at 10am (one for the competition, one for the produce stall)

Judging will take place at 12 noon

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

During Half Terms we are pleased to offer **Shimpling Village Hall** for hire - **FREE** of charge

Play

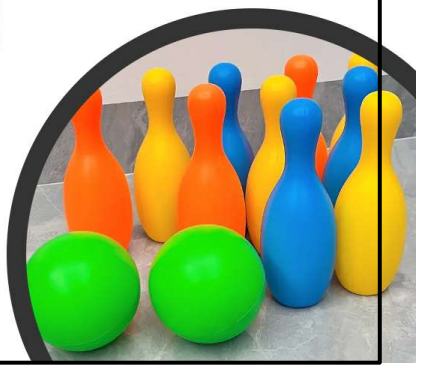
- TABLE TENNIS, BILLIARDS, or GAMES SESSIONS
- BRING YOUR OWN GAMES OR USE OURS!
- BOOK YOUR SESSION
- Email shimplingvh@gmail.com
- or text 07855762812











Barn Dance with 'Catch the Pigeon'

More details to follow !



alphetonandshimplingchurches.com

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL

SPRING 2026 FILM SESSIONS

3rd TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

March - Matinee - 1.45 for 2pm start

April & May 7.15pm for 7.30 start

COME AND WATCH NEW AND FAVOURITE FILMS ON THE BIG SCREEN



COMING NEXT

March 17th - Agatha and the Truth of Murder

A British alternative history drama about crime writer Agatha Christie becoming embroiled in a real-life murder case during her 11-day disappearance in 1926. Based on real people & events, it depicts Christie investigating the murder of Florence Nightingale's goddaughter, & how involvement in this case, influenced her later writing.

April 21st Hemingway and Gellhorn

This powerful drama recounts the relationship between literary giant Ernest Hemingway (Nick Owen) & War correspondent Martha Gellhorn (Nicole Kidman) - Hemingway's inspiration for "For Whom the Bell Tolls".

May 19th - The Choral

British historical drama written by Alan Bennett starring Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam, Mark Addy. Set in 1916, the film follows the members of the local choral society which recruits a group of teenagers for a performance of Edward Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*.

PUT THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY

REFRESHMENTS & FILM £4.50 PER PERSON
ICECREAM, SWEETS & POPCORN ALSO ON SALE.



Do you have a film you want to see? Just let us know

Friday 27th March 2026
From 5pm
The Swan Inn, Lawshall

Face the flames and crush the glass to help raise vital funds! After the incredible success of our first ever firewalk in 2024, Green Light Trust are bringing it back again this year with a twist – a glass walk too! Experience the thrill of walking bare foot across scorching flames and razor sharp glass, facing your fears in the Spring.

Our fundraising challenge offers the chance for team building, creating lasting memories and bonds. Not only will you be testing your limits, but you will raise valuable funds for Green Light Trust.

Located at the stunning Swan Inn pub, join us from 5pm to register and grab a delicious bite to eat. This event is hosted by Fundraising Firewalk Association, one of the UK's leading firewalk companies, who will provide training sessions on the night.

Your fundraising efforts and entry ticket will include an achievement certificate, photographs of the event, fundraising support and a limited edition Green Light Trust fire and glass walk t-shirt.

See our website events page for more details and how to sign up- greenlighttrust.org

GREEN LIGHT TRUST



ZUMBA® gold



Shimpling Village Hall

Friday's 1-1.45pm - term time only

£5 per session

No booking required, just come along

CONTACT YOUR LICENSED ZUMBA INSTRUCTOR :

Jo Brown

Call/text : 07851962112
Email : joanna-m-brown@hotmail.co.uk
find me on Facebook : Jo Brown

HARTEST FARMERS & CRAFT MARKET

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH
10:00-12:30

The Little Dip Company
Chicken and Bird feed
Bread & pastries, Sparling & Faiers
Sue's Savouries
Fuller's Honey
Dr Kat's Luxury Granola
Meadow and Woodland Livestock
B'Wrappy Eco Food Wraps
Hartest made Power-Grit Health food mix
Conical peg bags & Sewn items by Tamara Jones
Walking sticks & wooden items
Moonvine jewellery
Artist Janet Munro
Chocolate, Edible Creations by Rosey
Cambridge Artisan Cheese
Local eggs & curry kits
Fruit and veg, Cox Boxes
Coiled rope baskets by Debbie Regent
Soap, ljp balms and bath bombs by FB Designs
Tropic Skincare by Debra Graham
Artist Juliette Hudson
Crochet & jewellery by Pat

Cafe: Hot bacon, sausage rolls, tea, coffee & homemade cakes
Friends of Hartest School

HARTESTFARMERSMARKET@GMAIL.COM

Hartest Institute, Hartest, Bury Saint Edmunds IP29 4DH

Advertising in the Shimpling News

You could reach 200 households.....!
The fees for advertising in the Shimpling News for 2025 (of which this is for the 4 editions – one for each season) will be;

Full page £100, Half page £50 , Quarter page £25

With any residents of Shimpling able to have a 25% discount so making the cost Full page £75, Half page £37.50 and Quarter page £18.75. Individual adverts (ie for sale items) are £3 up to a £100 and £5 over £100 per issue
If you would like to advertise please email the Clerk shimplingpc@gmail.com



SAVE

(Shimpling AED Village Enterprise)

As most people are aware the village has an AED located in a locked cabinet outside The Bush. The device is registered with the East of England Ambulance Service, who have the access code details.
In the event of an emergency, the precise location of the AED would need to be given, to enable the Ambulance Service to give the code. The location is

The Bush, The Street, Shimpling **IP29 4HU**

Please make a note of these details, as it could save time in gaining access.
If you require any further details, please contact me Marian Peck Chair, SAVE 01284 828187

THOMAS & YOUNG

WEALTH MANAGEMENT LTD

- Investment Planning
- Retirement Planning
- Business Protection
- Income Protection
- Financial Education
- Later Life Planning
- Life Insurance
- Mortgage protection
- Inheritance tax planning

Find us at:
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Newmarket Road,
Risby, Bury Saint Edmunds
IP28 6RD

01284 334400

www.tywm.co.uk

CHARTERED FINANCIAL PLANNERS

Thomas and Young Wealth Management Limited is an Appointed Representative of and represents only St. James's Place Wealth Management plc (which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority) for the purpose of advising solely on the group's wealth management products and services, more details of which are set out on the group's website www.sjp.co.uk/products The 'St. James's Place Partnership' and the titles 'Partner' and 'Partner Practice' are marketing terms used to describe St. James's Place representatives.

Senior Partner Practice

St James's Place

SJP Approved 15/09/2025

RECYCLING Shimpling has a bottle bank, a Paper and Card Bank and a Clothing Bank. If they are full please call

BOTTLE BANK— 0344 880 7700

CLOTHING BANK—08000 902 321

Electronic Version of The Shimpling News

If you would prefer to receive an email informing you when the latest issue is available online, rather than have a printed copy delivered to your door please let me know slsconsulting21@outlook.com



Domestic, Commercial & Agricultural Electrical Work Undertaken



Including rewires, new builds, extensions, All Electric heating, new consumer units, testing and inspection for insurance purposes, smoke detectors, TV & phone points, outside lighting, low energy & LED lighting. NICEIC registered, Part P Certified, ECA member with Public Liability and guaranteed by the ECA

For competitive rates, a personal service and good quality workmanship contact:

Kevin Seggie Electrical Services

Beechwood Cottage, Bury Road, Lawshall, IP29 4PJ

01284 830786 / 07768 108157

R&Z Electrical

NICEIC APPROVED CONTRACTOR

All Aspects of Electrical Works Undertaken
Extra Sockets / Lights
Full / Part Rewires
Consumer Unit Upgrades
Fault Finding & Repairs
Testing & Inspection
All Works Carried Out to Current Regulations
All Works Certified and Guaranteed
Fully Insured
Free Estimates
24 Hour Call Outs

rz.electricalservices@gmail.com

ecs electrotechnical certification scheme

Anthony - 07801990584

City & Guilds Qualified



Useful Online Reporting Tools
Many issues can be reported online by residents at https;//www.babergh.gov.uk/report-online Including potholes, overgrown vegetation, littering and fly-tipping
Flooding can be reported at https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/report-a-flood-in-suffolk
Local road closure information can be found at one.network

LARK VALLEY WILLOW LTD.

Lark Valley Willow Ltd.
Rose Cottage
The Street
Shimpling
Suffolk
IP29 4HS

We are looking for casual (self employed) part time workers to join our friendly team weaving in-situ willow fences in Suffolk and Essex.
Training and support will be given. Enjoying working outside is a must. You will need to have transport and be practical and hard working.

Please email cmcooke@icloud.com with a brief CV

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USEFUL VILLAGE CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

County Cllr—Richard Kemp 01787 378149
Shimpling Village Hall—Carol Squire 07855 762812 or email shimplingvh@gmail.com
St George's Church—Rev'd Matthew Lawson 01787 310845
The Bush Public house 07961 947497 and email thebushpubshimpling@gmail.com
Shimpling Postal Collections:-
The Street Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am, Little Chadacre Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am, Aveley Lane Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am
Medical Services
NHS Helpline :- 111 (Non-emergency)
Glemsford Surgery:—01787 280484
Lavenham/Long Melford Surgery:—01787 378226
Samaritans:- 116 123
Domestic Abuse Helpline:- 0808 2000 247
Vet Surgeries:-
Swayne & Partners Long Melford—01787 370773
Bury St Edmunds - 01284 701444
Anglian Water Emergency :- 0800 771881
UK Power Networks Emergency:- 0800 31 63 105
Citizens Advice Bureau:- 01284 753675
Suffolk Libraries Library Van—Next visit Friday 13th March Hallifax Place 12:30-12:50, then April 10th and May 8th
Chambers Bus Service 45—Daily except Sunday depart Hallifax Place to Bury 07:39*/10:01 return arrival at Hallifax Place 16:56*/13:35 *Schooldays
Felix Taxis :- 01787 310574
Shimpling Park Farm for loose sheep and broken fences etc. Shepherd Emily Elnaugh on 07415 311252.

Shimpling News

Spring 2026 **Issue 145**



The Parish Council:

Mrs Liz Brunwin	01284 828122
Mr Gerry Shrimpton	01284 827219
Mr David Dunkley	07809 148630
Mr Mark Milhench	07770 668660
Ms Jen O'Reilly-Turner	07769 894806
Mr Laurence Rooke	07818 797081
Vacancy	

Contact details for the Clerk are:
4 Park Farm Cottages, Brettenham, Suffolk, IP7 7QP
(Correspondence and Appointment only)
Email: clerk@shimpling-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07940 223200

The Parish Council meet bi-monthly in January, March, May (AGM), July, September and November every year. Extra meetings may also be held throughout the year when required.

Annual Parish Assembly – Reports presented by the Council and local groups / charities / committees from within the parish. Members of the public can speak freely at this meeting in May, raise issues and ask questions relating to the reports.

Annual Meeting of the Council (AGM) – Each May, Election of officers of the council. Declarations of acceptance of office.

Parish Council Meetings – Council considers matters relating to finance, planning and the Parish. Additional extraordinary meetings are held when required.

Dates of meetings: Parish council meetings will be held at 7pm on the following dates;

- Monday 9th March 2026
- Monday 11th May 2026 (Annual Meeting of the Parish, Annual General Meeting followed by normal May PC meeting)

Please note that these meetings will be held at the Village Hall.

Parish Council Website and Social Media and Notice Boards

You can find council information on the notice board by the bus stop in The Street. This is also circulated via our Village Round Robin System and posted on the Shimpling Community Facebook page. Alternatively, the village web site is regularly updated as well as our Facebook page. Please like our Facebook page:
Facebook: Shimpling Parish Council
Website: https://shimpling-pc.gov.uk/

Could you volunteer to help your Village?

We need a new Parish Councillor to join our team. Parish Councillors do a worthwhile job ensuring that your voice is heard and overseeing work so that your village is kept looking good. If you would like to know more about becoming a Councillor then please get in touch with the Clerk or any of our wonderful Councillors.

Report from Chair, David Dunkley:

The Chair reported in the January meeting;
Let me offer my best wishes to everyone for 2026 and hope that you had a pleasant holiday period.

On that theme, the village green Christmas decorations again looked very festive and many thanks to all who made that possible, including the set-up, provision of the tree and the electricity for the lights.
A new supplier has been found to support the installation of the EV chargers and although we were hoping to hear from them before Christmas this did not happen. Hopefully 2026 will be more successful in completing this work.
The installation of InPost storage lockers at the village hall was halted following concerns from some villagers. Although the number was small, they represented those most likely to be affected by the installation. Going forward, obtaining acceptable answers to their genuine concerns will be necessary to enable the project to re-start.
The final draft of the Neighbourhood Plan was issued to the Parish Council at the November meeting and was accepted. The public consultation on the plan will begin on the 17th January kicked off by an open event at the village hall. The consultation continues for 6 weeks, following which the plan, with any changes, goes to Babergh DC for evaluation.
Information of the potential local government reorganisation is still being disseminated but, as yet, no decision has been announced.

Recycling

Please remember that the Parish Council receives money from the paper (although not cardboard) glass, clothing and shoes deposited in the recycling bins near the Bush Inn. Clothing and shoes should be bagged before depositing in the clothing/shoe bank. This income helps to run the council and therefore is a direct benefit to the village. **Please keep recycling.**

What the Parish Council have been up to …

Over the last couple of months, we have:

- Worked on fixing minor issues with the playground
- Prepared a budget for 2026/27

Do you have new neighbours?

For some time now, the Village Hall Committee have been sending welcome letters with local information to new residents. If you have new neighbours, can you please let the Village Hall Committee shimplingvh@gmail.com know so that they can organise a welcome letter.

Shimpling WhatsApp Support Group

This was set up at the start of COVID to support those in need but has developed into a good way of communicating with others in the village. Recently we were asked to relay an urgent message to a villager and were able to locate the person quickly using the WhatsApp Group. If you would like to join the group, please contact Katie Haselhurst kh.shimpling@gmail.com.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group are working hard! For more information on the process or what has been produced so far look on the website: https://shimpling-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan-2/

Speeding

There have been issues raised regarding speeding in the Village, this has been raised both to the PC and it was commented on frequently in the Neighbourhood Plan Surveys. The PC are looking at possibly setting up a community speed watch. However, we will need volunteers!

To set up a scheme

- You must have a minimum of 6 volunteers
- All the volunteers must be over 18 years old
- Each scheme must have a co-ordinator (who will be the point of contact for the team) and where possible a deputy
- The Parish (or local) Council support the scheme
- You will have to sign a CSW agreement and be vetted
- Equipment will be provided by the Constabulary
- Training will be provided on using the equipment and on Health and Safety issues
- Volunteers will be covered by the Constabulary's insurance
- Locations chosen will be assessed by the Constabulary

If you would like to volunteer, please do get in touch and let us know. We can only move this forward with enough volunteers.

Buses

Here is a link to the full timetable
https://passenger-line-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/hedinghamandchambers/HEDO/45-timetable-20250831-5f294bdd.pdf

District Councillors

Our District Councillors usually attend each Parish Council meeting and can also be contacted as follows:

Michael Holt
Phone: 01787 281712, Mobile: 07801 766813
Email: michael.holt@babergh.gov.uk



Stephen Plumb
Phone: 01787 280890
Email: stephen.plumb@babergh.gov.uk



Planning

There have been a number of planning applications since our last newsletter. Others are updated below:

Application	Shimpling PC Comments	Planning Authority Decision
DC/25/05341- Lyndhurst Little Chadacre Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4HL- Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/25/02008 – Condition 5 (Cycle Storage and Refuse Bins)	Did not comment	Granted
DC/25/05339 - Stable Barn Thorne Court Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 0JN - Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of Use of Buildings on Agricultural Units and former Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (Class C3), which may include extension of the building and/or building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Conversion of Stable Barn to 1no. dwellinghouse	Did not comment	Granted

Shimpling Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you to everyone who attended the Consultation Session at the Village Hall on the 17th January; the time flew by with many interesting conversations.

By the time this newsletter comes out the opportunity to comment/support the Plan via the survey will have closed but thank you to all that did – we appreciate it was slightly time consuming!

The next stage will be for the Draft Plan to be amended, where necessary, to take on board comments received via the survey before submission to Babergh District Council. Following this consultation period the Plan will then be sent for Independent Examination.

The final stage will be for the formal Parish Referendum where everyone in the Parish has the opportunity to vote on the adoption of the Plan. If this is positive Babergh District Council will then be required to take the Plan into account on any decisions made.

We will keep you up to date with progress through the next stages.

Committee members: Mark Beaver, Claire Douglas-Hughes (Chair), David Dunkley, Mike Fahie-Wilson, Jane Wall.

THE HALLIFAX TRUST

A locally based charity providing grants to students under the age of 25 receiving further education at colleges or universities or undergoing formal training for a profession or vocation. These are non-means tested. To qualify students must simply have parents living in Shimpling or alternatively have in the past attended Lawshall School whilst their parents were living in Shimpling.

Funding is additionally available for other school and village projects. Applications from students for funding for the forthcoming academic year must be received by 30th September.

HELP US TO HELP OUR CHILDREN

We have recently received a small number of donations to the Charity for which we are extremely grateful. Please consider whether you could help with a donation or a legacy. These are tough times for students and the more funds we have the more we can help. For grants or donations contact:

hallifaxtrust@gmail.com

Claire Wilson 01284 830574 or Jenny Pine 01284 827073

Hallifax Educational Trust is a Registered Charity No.310396

Village Personalities ?

Would you like to have an article published in the form of a small piece written about youself and your life in Shimpling as an item of social interest?

It would not be more than a page. There are so many interesting people in our village ! If so, email me , Jayne Schofield, on jas.65@btinternet.com or call on 01284 828 322

Let there be light?

A visitor to the UK recently commented to a member of my family that there must be corruption at the highest level … because we are such a rich country and yet nothing seems to work! I suspect that I dismissed this comment too lightly, but have since been reminded about it following the recent revelations about Jeffrey Epstein and the behaviour of many powerful Western leaders in politics, business, science and the arts. I do not think I am alone at being appalled. I was particularly disgusted how Epstein advised people how to discredit those who had been abused when they sought justice in court.

I am conscious that these revelations have affected people within our parishes - probably not directly relating to Epstein, but with respect to other people abusing power. This has been weighing particularly heavily on my heart these recent weeks, and I have been praying for any in our villages who have been affected that you would not feel alone, and that you would have trusted people to share with and to support you.

It can feel that we are so weak against the powerful, and yet I have been reminded that God will not tolerate injustice forever. Yes of course I have faith that at the end of this age justice will be restored to all the earth. But I am also praying that God will shine his light on corruption right now - and that of course includes any corruption or abuse in the church. Psalm 94 starts like this:

1 The LORD is a God who avenges. O God who avenges, shine forth.
2 Rise up, Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve.
3 How long, LORD, will the wicked, how long will the wicked be jubilant?

But the psalm ends like this:

21 The wicked band together against the righteous and condemn the innocent to death.
22 But the LORD has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge.
23 He will repay them for their sins and destroy them for their wickedness;
the Lord our God will destroy them.

So I pray, Lord, Let there be light! And let us pray that justice and mercy will be held in right balance.

(Late addendum - I am very concerned to have just heard news about an allegation leading to a Bishop being suspended - I am glad it is being taken seriously).

Reverand Matthew Lawson

Volunteer Opportunity for someone good with words

The Parochial Church Council are looking for a secretary to send out documents and take notes at our meetings. We only have 6 meetings a year but it would help us enormously if someone could help. Training and support (and plenty of laughter, tea, coffee, and biscuits) will be provided. Please contact Revd Lawson on 01787 310 845 or revmattis@gmail.com.



THE PARISH OF ALPHETON AND SHIMPLINGTHORNE

Church Services Include:

March			
Sun 1st	9.00am	Alpheton	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Family Communion
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 8th	4.00pm	Shimpling	Pub Social at The Bush Inn #
Sun 15th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Mothering Sunday Service
Sun 22nd	4.00pm	tbc	Wild Lent #
Sun 29th	10.30am	Melford	Traditional Passiontide Service
	4.00pm	Melford	Messy Easter at Holy Trinity #
	6.30pm	Lawshall	Evening Communion
April			
Thurs 2nd	7.00pm	Melford	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri 3rd	10.00am	Shimpling	Walk with the Cross, Bush to V. Hall
	2.00pm	Melford	Devotional Service
Sat 4th	8.30pm	Melford	Traditional Easter Vigil
Sun 5th	10.30am	Melford	Easter Celebration & Communion (family friendly)
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 19th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
Sun 26th	6.30pm	Lawshall	Communion
May			
Sun 3rd	9.00am	Alpheton	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Family Communion
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 10th	4.00pm	Melford Sch.	Messy Church #
Sun 17th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
Sun 31st	6.30pm	Lawshall	Evening Communion

… and Communion at Holy Trinity Long Melford **every Sunday at 10.30am** (Google 'Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook' for livestream).

for our 4 o'clock community with family friendly services socials and events almost every Sunday at 4.00pm, contact Nicky on 07938 681319 or chadbrooklightwave@gmail.com

... and Communion at Holy Trinity Long Melford every Sunday at 10.30am (Google 'Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook' for livestream).

Children welcome at all 10.30am services there is a children's area at the back of Holy Trinity Please see www.longmelfordchurch.com for any updates. For further information on our toddler and youth groups, please contact Pam on 07890or melfordfamilyworker@gmail.com.

For more details or any questions, please contact Vicky on 07804 558160 or chadbrookoffice@gmail.com.

Rector:Rev'd Matthew Lawson 01787 310845
Churchwarden: Vacant
Church Contact : Charlotte Blyth 01284 828544
07939 194233

SHIMPLING MOBILE LIBRARY 2026

Do you like reading?

Each month on a Friday the mobile library comes to Shimpling and has many books on board, including children's options. Library membership is free and once you join it's very easy to order a vast range of books online, which can be collected from the mobile library.

You can borrow up to 20 books and 6 audio books at any one time, and if no-one has reserved them, they can be renewed up to 6 times. So, no excuses if you're a slow reader!

The library bus, route 13, calls at HALLIFAX PLACE between 1230 and 1250 on the following Fridays this year:

March 13, April 10, May 8

www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk

So let's use it, or we may lose it. Happy Reading!

From Greening Shimpling

At the beginning of January we had a great turnout for the planting of trees at the top of the footpath leading away from Gents Lane, in an area which will now be known as Hill Field Spinney. In under 2 hours we planted about 200 trees, all of which have been staked and protected with tree guards. We were very fortunate with the weather, considering how awful it's been!

It is hoped that we will be able to follow this up with the planting of wild flowers, the siting of bird boxes and the construction of a log pile to provide a habitat for insects and small mammals, hopefully when the weather improves and the ground dries out a little!

In a follow up meeting, we discussed how we might be able to work with the Parish Council to protect and further enhance the environment in and around our beautiful village and will be sending a representative to the next PC meeting.

If you would like further information regarding the Greening Shimpling group please contact Jane 07453 453 906 or email jane.wall@hotmail.co.uk and we will add you to our WhatsApp group.



GREENING SHIMPLING

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

The Annual Village Clean Up Morning will take place on Sunday 22nd March at 11.30am from the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

We have some high vis vests and litter picking sticks but if you have your own high vis vest and gloves, please bring them along

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult



Shimpling & Alpheton WI
Lindsey Barrell aka Cherry Bombe - Burlesque

Lindsey turned out to be quite a stand up comic, dressed in - well - not what you would expect from a typical WI member, let's say. She certainly knew how to tell her stories!
She has been doing burlesque for 14 years and comes from Lancashire and grew up in County Durham but has lived in Essex for 32 years. Subjects she talked about included the North/South divide, being a single Mum, crafts - especially sewing, the WI, shopping in Aldi, confidence building, salsa and the quest to find friends.

Films like Sweet Charity, Moulin Rouge etc include burlesque. At her first session she was told to wear keep fit clothes for burlesque classes. When she got there, all the other women were wearing burlesque style clothes. Leopard Lily, became the first character whom she portrayed in burlesque, wearing leopardskin from head to toe, choreographing her three and a half minute dance act herself. She did a routine to a Chris de Burgh song called Patricia the Stripper. (If you are intrigued you can see her with a group of ladies outdoors performing to this very song on YouTube, dressed as Cherry Bombe.)

Her success with this meant jealousies amongst the other women so she didn't really make friends there as she had hoped. In a continued quest to make friends, she joined a new WI in Chelmsford which attracted around 200 new women. She had thought it would be a bit like the Brownies for grown ups. She joined the

largest WI branch in the country with 350 members which was so large that they could only meet in Chelmsford Cathedral. Because of the size, subgroups were formed and Lindsey ran a Burlesque subgroup of about 20 members who met in a village hall in Great Baddow. By this stage Lindsey had portrayed the character of Cherry Bombe. They formed the first ever WI Burlesque troupe. The ladies all made friends and performed at Chelmsford Cathedral, removing clothes. ..this led to fundraising by her troupe called the Burlesque Bombshells via performances, raising thousands for charities.

Lindsey ended up forming another Burlesque group at Canvey Island called the Wild Island Burlesquers. The average age of the troupe was in the 70s with some ladies aged 80 odd. One lady wearing a corset for the first time put it on upside down! The Covid lockdown brought new challenges and Lindsey gave 400 talks on Zoom from her kitchen dressed in her corset. Sometimes she gave three talks in a day.

Lindsey moved from the enormous WI to a smaller WI and is now the president of a third WI.

Copy for the June 2026 edition is required by 22nd May 2026 (A4 WORD or .PDF file please)
Sarah Smith—slsconsulting21@outlook.com
07774 116128
When advertising events please ensure there is a contact name with a landline number.
Please remember not everyone is on the Internet !!

The Alpheton Film night is on the 2nd Monday of each month.



Mon. 9th March. THE COLOUR ROOM. (Phoebe Dynevor, Matthew Goode)

Mon 13th April A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (Timothee Chalamet)

Mon 11th May LIVING (Bill Nighy)

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Admission price is £5 including tea/coffee & biscuits. The Bar will be open.

Have you tried it yet?



Take the number 45 bus to Bury St Edmunds (Monday to Saturday). Meet nice people as you travel through the villages.

Brighten up your day, even when it is overcast.
Give it a go this week, you will be amazed how much better you feel. No car park fees, no queuing for a space, no expensive fuel, leave it to the bus driver and see a different view of your surroundings.
Looking forward to seeing you very soon!

Timetables are available on the bus, in the village or
www.konectbuses.co.uk
www.suffolkonboard.com

HARTEST & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

2026 has started with a very wet and soggy January, so those of us with clay gardens are dealing with boggy ground and a rising water table. Mud has made gardening, or even stepping outside, practically impossible at times. However, spring is on its way, with snowdrops in bloom in the hedgerows and gardens, and other spring bulbs starting to peep out of the ground. We just need a little bit of blue sky and sunshine to tempt us outside to see which plants have survived the endless rain.

We started this year with a really interesting talk on Delphiniums from Greg Veness of The Front Gardeners Nursery, who are based at the Willow Tree Farm Shop. We learned how to care for these beautiful plants, the seed sowing process and how to take basal cuttings. Delphiniums are fully hardy and (with good drainage) can tolerate a cold winter. Even better, they can be grown from seed from January onwards!

Looking ahead we have some key dates for your diaries:
On Sunday 1 March, 2.30pm we welcome guest speaker Michael Marriott to the Hartest Institute for an expert talk on roses. Michael was the Head Rosarian at David Austin Roses for 35 years and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of all things related to roses. Whilst Michael's enthusiasm for roses is infectious, he is equally known for his garden designs, organic methods and common sense approach.

At the time of writing, there are still a small number of tickets left, priced at £15 for our 2026 club members and £18 for non-members. If you would like to attend, email hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com with the number of tickets you require.

Further ahead, other key dates for your diary are the:

- Annual Plant Sale Sunday 17th May at 2pm, Hartest Green where there will be lots of plants, veg and garden items for sale.

  We welcome donations of plants, perennials, annuals, saplings and veg seedlings (all labelled please). This year we also hope to offer gardening books, plant pots and any other garden-related equipment. If you are having a spring clear out and want to donate items, please do get in touch.

- Annual Show Sunday 6th September at 2.30pm, The Institute.
  More information about this nearer the date.

The club is going from strength to strength and has a great buzz about it with lots of new members and renewed energy from long-standing members. If you are interested in finding out about who we are and what we offer, do come along. We are very friendly and welcoming!

We hold monthly meetings at 7.30pm, on the first Monday of each month at the Hartest Institute. Membership is £15 per person or £25 for a couple. In the summer months our members enjoy access to exclusive garden visits. Members also enjoy a healthy 50% discount on seeds from our club supplier, Kings Seeds, who have a fantastic selection of veg, flower and herb seeds.

Find out more via our:
Website: https://hartestgardeningclub.onesuffolk.net/
Instagram: hartest_gardening_club
Facebook: Hartest & District Gardening Club
Email: hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com
Kit Morrison, on behalf of H&DGC hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com

Shimpling Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee meets every 8 weeks, to manage the hall and arrange events that residents can enjoy and generate income to keep the hall running & open.
We welcome interest from any resident who would like to get involved – please email Carol Squire: shimplingvh@gmail.com or phone, WhatsApp or text: 07855 762812
Meeting minutes and information on all activities are available to read on the Village website http://shimplingpc.onesuffolk.net/village-hall/
Events and activities timetable on the Your Hall website https://yourhall.co.uk/hall/shimpling-village-hall/

Village Hall Activities

Future Arts & Crafts Sessions in the village hall 2026 (see posters in this newsletter).



Spring Wreath Making Workshop -
Ever thought you would like to be able to make your own wreaths - why not start with a beautiful spring flower wreath using spring bulbs that can be re-potted and come again. The workshop will be in the village hall on the 21st of March 2026 at 10am. The session tutor will be expert florist Anne Brown - http://www.justanneflowers.co.uk/
Booking for places open now - see the poster in this month's newsletter.
All sessions have minimum attendance targets and will not take place if not reached.

Other Events
Schools' half term saw the hall made available for free to residents and families to use the table tennis set, the children's billiards table and other indoor games. Those who took advantage enjoyed the opportunity - *"We had a brilliant time and have all become experts at table tennis!"* We will do the same every half term in 2026

Also, if you are stuck for something to do with the family – don't forget you can book the hall to play a variety of games including Table Tennis and Billiards at other times





PANTOMIME - Due to the popularity of the live screening of the Christmas Pantomime last year, we linked up with the Wolsey Theatre Ipswich again this year on the Saturday 27th December and live streamed Beauty and the Beast.

The Regular Village Hall Activities
These continue as scheduled so check the village website, notice boards, Facebook and WhatsApp and join in.

- PILATES classes are on a Monday mornings and Wednesday evening and with occasional attendance from other villages boosting numbers, these have mainly been well attended but there is still room for a few more so don't be shy – come and join in. It's time to get summer holiday fit.
- ZUMBA GOLD continues term time Fridays – a great way to dance your way to fitness - no prior experience or skill needed - just dance for the fun of it.
- FILM NIGHTS have also continued the 3rd Tuesday evening of the month, showing some great films, but in Feb and March - the film will be shown in the afternoon. Attendance could improve to help make a profit on these sessions so come along and enjoy the films.
  Let us know what films you want to see. WhatsApp or Text Carol on 07855 762812 with your ideas

The **RURAL COFFEE CARAVAN** come to the village hall every **4th Thursday of the month** offering their excellent range of home-made coffee (or tea) cakes & savouries, coupled with advice, up to date information and signposting for help and information.

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL
PILATES CLASSES

THE BENEFITS OF PILATES

The focus is on core strength & spinal mobility to ensure optimum alignment of the body.

The breathing and mindful aspect of Pilates supports both physical and mental well-being.

It is intelligent exercise!



3 Sessions are held

Mondays at 9.30 – 10.30 and **11 – 12noon**

WEDNESDAYS 6.30 – 7.30pm

term time only

£7 per session - Equipment provided free

NO EXPERIENCE OR BOOKING NEEDED

Want to know more?

Contact Tutor- Louise Fuller 07875 370902



SPRING WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

10am SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL

£35 PER PERSON

Learn how to make a beautiful wreath with spring bulbs that can be replanted in a pot to come again!

Book your place by emailing
shimplingvh@gmail.com or

text Carol on 07855762812

Rural Coffee Caravan

Making a difference to rural communities throughout Suffolk

Come and share a pot of tea, our welcome is warm and our friendship free!

We'll be visiting:

Shimpling

Village Hall IP29 4HS

10am - 12pm

Thursdays:

22nd Jan / 26th Feb / 26th March

Come along for some company and a catch up with your neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and cake. We bring a great source of information along with the free refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you.

All Welcome!



www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk tel: 01379 855 338

Registered No: 1187423

Meet Up Mondays™

c-a-f-e coffee and friends events

More Than A Shop

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Alpheton and Shimpling Marmalade Competition



at the Spring Market (11th April)

Please bring 2 jars at 10am (one for the competition, one for the produce stall)

Judging will take place at 12 noon

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

During Half Terms we are pleased to offer **Shimpling Village Hall** for hire - **FREE** of charge

Play

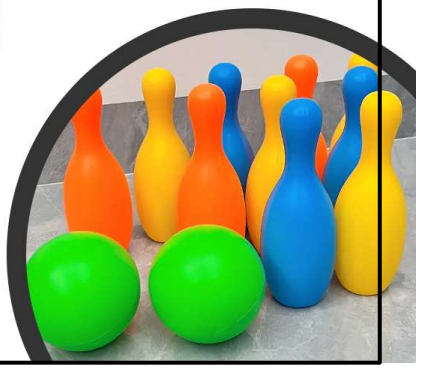
- TABLE TENNIS, BILLIARDS, or GAMES SESSIONS
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- Email shimplingvh@gmail.com
- or text 07855762812











Barn Dance with 'Catch the Pigeon'

More details to follow !



alphetonandshimplingchurches.com

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL

SPRING 2026 FILM SESSIONS

3rd TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

March - Matinee - 1.45 for 2pm start

April & May 7.15pm for 7.30 start

COME AND WATCH NEW AND FAVOURITE FILMS ON THE BIG SCREEN



COMING NEXT

March 17th - Agatha and the Truth of Murder

A British alternative history drama about crime writer Agatha Christie becoming embroiled in a real-life murder case during her 11-day disappearance in 1926. Based on real people & events, it depicts Christie investigating the murder of Florence Nightingale's goddaughter, & how involvement in this case, influenced her later writing.

April 21st Hemingway and Gellhorn

This powerful drama recounts the relationship between literary giant Ernest Hemingway (Nick Owen) & War correspondent Martha Gellhorn (Nicole Kidman) - Hemingway's inspiration for "For Whom the Bell Tolls".

May 19th - The Choral

British historical drama written by Alan Bennett starring Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam, Mark Addy. Set in 1916, the film follows the members of the local choral society which recruits a group of teenagers for a performance of Edward Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*.

PUT THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY

REFRESHMENTS & FILM £4.50 PER PERSON
ICECREAM, SWEETS & POPCORN ALSO ON SALE.



Do you have a film you want to see? Just let us know

Friday 27th March 2026
From 5pm
The Swan Inn, Lawshall

Face the flames and crush the glass to help raise vital funds! After the incredible success of our first ever firewalk in 2024, Green Light Trust are bringing it back again this year with a twist – a glass walk too! Experience the thrill of walking bare foot across scorching flames and razor sharp glass, facing your fears in the Spring.

Our fundraising challenge offers the chance for team building, creating lasting memories and bonds. Not only will you be testing your limits, but you will raise valuable funds for Green Light Trust.

Located at the stunning Swan Inn pub, join us from 5pm to register and grab a delicious bite to eat. This event is hosted by Fundraising Firewalk Association, one of the UK's leading firewalk companies, who will provide training sessions on the night.

Your fundraising efforts and entry ticket will include an achievement certificate, photographs of the event, fundraising support and a limited edition Green Light Trust fire and glass walk t-shirt.

See our website events page for more details and how to sign up- greenlighttrust.org

GREEN LIGHT TRUST



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Shimpling Village Hall

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Jo Brown

Call/text : 07851962112
Email : joanna-m-brown@hotmail.co.uk
find me on Facebook : Jo Brown

HARTEST FARMERS & CRAFT MARKET

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH
10:00-12:30

The Little Dip Company
Chicken and Bird feed
Bread & pastries, Sparling & Faiers
Sue's Savouries
Fuller's Honey
Dr Kat's Luxury Granola
Meadow and Woodland Livestock
B'Wrappy Eco Food Wraps
Hartest made Power-Grit Health food mix
Conical peg bags & Sewn items by Tamara Jones
Walking sticks & wooden items
Moonvine jewellery
Artist Janet Munro
Chocolate, Edible Creations by Rosey
Cambridge Artisan Cheese
Local eggs & curry kits
Fruit and veg, Cox Boxes
Coiled rope baskets by Debbie Regent
Soap, ljp balms and bath bombs by FB Designs
Tropic Skincare by Debra Graham
Artist Juliette Hudson
Crochet & jewellery by Pat

Cafe: Hot bacon, sausage rolls, tea, coffee & homemade cakes
Friends of Hartest School

HARTESTFARMERSMARKET@GMAIL.COM

Hartest Institute, Hartest, Bury Saint Edmunds IP29 4DH

Advertising in the Shimpling News

You could reach 200 households.....!
The fees for advertising in the Shimpling News for 2025 (of which this is for the 4 editions – one for each season) will be;

Full page £100, Half page £50 , Quarter page £25

With any residents of Shimpling able to have a 25% discount so making the cost Full page £75, Half page £37.50 and Quarter page £18.75. Individual adverts (ie for sale items) are £3 up to a £100 and £5 over £100 per issue
If you would like to advertise please email the Clerk shimplingpc@gmail.com



SAVE

(Shimpling AED Village Enterprise)

As most people are aware the village has an AED located in a locked cabinet outside The Bush. The device is registered with the East of England Ambulance Service, who have the access code details.
In the event of an emergency, the precise location of the AED would need to be given, to enable the Ambulance Service to give the code. The location is

The Bush, The Street, Shimpling **IP29 4HU**

Please make a note of these details, as it could save time in gaining access.
If you require any further details, please contact me Marian Peck Chair, SAVE 01284 828187

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Thomas and Young Wealth Management Limited is an Appointed Representative of and represents only St. James's Place Wealth Management plc (which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority) for the purpose of advising solely on the group's wealth management products and services, more details of which are set out on the group's website www.sjp.co.uk/products The 'St. James's Place Partnership' and the titles 'Partner' and 'Partner Practice' are marketing terms used to describe St. James's Place representatives.

Senior Partner Practice

St James's Place

SJP Approved 15/09/2025

RECYCLING Shimpling has a bottle bank, a Paper and Card Bank and a Clothing Bank. If they are full please call

BOTTLE BANK— 0344 880 7700

CLOTHING BANK—08000 902 321

Electronic Version of The Shimpling News

If you would prefer to receive an email informing you when the latest issue is available online, rather than have a printed copy delivered to your door please let me know slsconsulting21@outlook.com



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Including rewires, new builds, extensions, All Electric heating, new consumer units, testing and inspection for insurance purposes, smoke detectors, TV & phone points, outside lighting, low energy & LED lighting. NICEIC registered, Part P Certified, ECA member with Public Liability and guaranteed by the ECA

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Anthony - 07801990584

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Useful Online Reporting Tools
Many issues can be reported online by residents at https;//www.babergh.gov.uk/report-online Including potholes, overgrown vegetation, littering and fly-tipping
Flooding can be reported at https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/report-a-flood-in-suffolk
Local road closure information can be found at one.network

LARK VALLEY WILLOW LTD.

Lark Valley Willow Ltd.
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The Street
Shimpling
Suffolk
IP29 4HS

We are looking for casual (self employed) part time workers to join our friendly team weaving in-situ willow fences in Suffolk and Essex.
Training and support will be given. Enjoying working outside is a must. You will need to have transport and be practical and hard working.

Please email cmcooke@icloud.com with a brief CV

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USEFUL VILLAGE CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

County Cllr—Richard Kemp 01787 378149
Shimpling Village Hall—Carol Squire 07855 762812 or email shimplingvh@gmail.com
St George's Church—Rev'd Matthew Lawson 01787 310845
The Bush Public house 07961 947497 and email thebushpubshimpling@gmail.com
Shimpling Postal Collections:-
The Street Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am, Little Chadacre Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am, Aveley Lane Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am
Medical Services
NHS Helpline :- 111 (Non-emergency)
Glemsford Surgery:—01787 280484
Lavenham/Long Melford Surgery:—01787 378226
Samaritans:- 116 123
Domestic Abuse Helpline:- 0808 2000 247
Vet Surgeries:-
Swayne & Partners Long Melford—01787 370773
Bury St Edmunds - 01284 701444
Anglian Water Emergency :- 0800 771881
UK Power Networks Emergency:- 0800 31 63 105
Citizens Advice Bureau:- 01284 753675
Suffolk Libraries Library Van—Next visit Friday 13th March Hallifax Place 12:30-12:50, then April 10th and May 8th
Chambers Bus Service 45—Daily except Sunday depart Hallifax Place to Bury 07:39*/10:01 return arrival at Hallifax Place 16:56*/13:35 *Schooldays
Felix Taxis :- 01787 310574
Shimpling Park Farm for loose sheep and broken fences etc. Shepherd Emily Elnaugh on 07415 311252.

Shimpling News

Spring 2026 **Issue 145**



The Parish Council:

Mrs Liz Brunwin	01284 828122
Mr Gerry Shrimpton	01284 827219
Mr David Dunkley	07809 148630
Mr Mark Milhench	07770 668660
Ms Jen O'Reilly-Turner	07769 894806
Mr Laurence Rooke	07818 797081
Vacancy	

Contact details for the Clerk are:
4 Park Farm Cottages, Brettenham, Suffolk, IP7 7QP
(Correspondence and Appointment only)
Email: clerk@shimpling-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07940 223200

The Parish Council meet bi-monthly in January, March, May (AGM), July, September and November every year. Extra meetings may also be held throughout the year when required.

Annual Parish Assembly – Reports presented by the Council and local groups / charities / committees from within the parish. Members of the public can speak freely at this meeting in May, raise issues and ask questions relating to the reports.

Annual Meeting of the Council (AGM) – Each May, Election of officers of the council. Declarations of acceptance of office.

Parish Council Meetings – Council considers matters relating to finance, planning and the Parish. Additional extraordinary meetings are held when required.

Dates of meetings: Parish council meetings will be held at 7pm on the following dates;

- Monday 9th March 2026
- Monday 11th May 2026 (Annual Meeting of the Parish, Annual General Meeting followed by normal May PC meeting)

Please note that these meetings will be held at the Village Hall.

Parish Council Website and Social Media and Notice Boards

You can find council information on the notice board by the bus stop in The Street. This is also circulated via our Village Round Robin System and posted on the Shimpling Community Facebook page. Alternatively, the village web site is regularly updated as well as our Facebook page. Please like our Facebook page:
Facebook: Shimpling Parish Council
Website: https://shimpling-pc.gov.uk/

Could you volunteer to help your Village?

We need a new Parish Councillor to join our team. Parish Councillors do a worthwhile job ensuring that your voice is heard and overseeing work so that your village is kept looking good. If you would like to know more about becoming a Councillor then please get in touch with the Clerk or any of our wonderful Councillors.

Report from Chair, David Dunkley:

The Chair reported in the January meeting;
Let me offer my best wishes to everyone for 2026 and hope that you had a pleasant holiday period.

On that theme, the village green Christmas decorations again looked very festive and many thanks to all who made that possible, including the set-up, provision of the tree and the electricity for the lights.
A new supplier has been found to support the installation of the EV chargers and although we were hoping to hear from them before Christmas this did not happen. Hopefully 2026 will be more successful in completing this work.
The installation of InPost storage lockers at the village hall was halted following concerns from some villagers. Although the number was small, they represented those most likely to be affected by the installation. Going forward, obtaining acceptable answers to their genuine concerns will be necessary to enable the project to re-start.
The final draft of the Neighbourhood Plan was issued to the Parish Council at the November meeting and was accepted. The public consultation on the plan will begin on the 17th January kicked off by an open event at the village hall. The consultation continues for 6 weeks, following which the plan, with any changes, goes to Babergh DC for evaluation.
Information of the potential local government reorganisation is still being disseminated but, as yet, no decision has been announced.

Recycling

Please remember that the Parish Council receives money from the paper (although not cardboard) glass, clothing and shoes deposited in the recycling bins near the Bush Inn. Clothing and shoes should be bagged before depositing in the clothing/shoe bank. This income helps to run the council and therefore is a direct benefit to the village. **Please keep recycling.**

What the Parish Council have been up to …

Over the last couple of months, we have:

- Worked on fixing minor issues with the playground
- Prepared a budget for 2026/27

Do you have new neighbours?

For some time now, the Village Hall Committee have been sending welcome letters with local information to new residents. If you have new neighbours, can you please let the Village Hall Committee shimplingvh@gmail.com know so that they can organise a welcome letter.

Shimpling WhatsApp Support Group

This was set up at the start of COVID to support those in need but has developed into a good way of communicating with others in the village. Recently we were asked to relay an urgent message to a villager and were able to locate the person quickly using the WhatsApp Group. If you would like to join the group, please contact Katie Haselhurst kh.shimpling@gmail.com.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group are working hard! For more information on the process or what has been produced so far look on the website: https://shimpling-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan-2/

Speeding

There have been issues raised regarding speeding in the Village, this has been raised both to the PC and it was commented on frequently in the Neighbourhood Plan Surveys. The PC are looking at possibly setting up a community speed watch. However, we will need volunteers!

To set up a scheme

- You must have a minimum of 6 volunteers
- All the volunteers must be over 18 years old
- Each scheme must have a co-ordinator (who will be the point of contact for the team) and where possible a deputy
- The Parish (or local) Council support the scheme
- You will have to sign a CSW agreement and be vetted
- Equipment will be provided by the Constabulary
- Training will be provided on using the equipment and on Health and Safety issues
- Volunteers will be covered by the Constabulary's insurance
- Locations chosen will be assessed by the Constabulary

If you would like to volunteer, please do get in touch and let us know. We can only move this forward with enough volunteers.

Buses

Here is a link to the full timetable
https://passenger-line-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/hedinghamandchambers/HEDO/45-timetable-20250831-5f294bdd.pdf

District Councillors

Our District Councillors usually attend each Parish Council meeting and can also be contacted as follows:

Michael Holt
Phone: 01787 281712, Mobile: 07801 766813
Email: michael.holt@babergh.gov.uk



Stephen Plumb
Phone: 01787 280890
Email: stephen.plumb@babergh.gov.uk



Planning

There have been a number of planning applications since our last newsletter. Others are updated below:

Application	Shimpling PC Comments	Planning Authority Decision
DC/25/05341- Lyndhurst Little Chadacre Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4HL- Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/25/02008 – Condition 5 (Cycle Storage and Refuse Bins)	Did not comment	Granted
DC/25/05339 - Stable Barn Thorne Court Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 0JN - Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of Use of Buildings on Agricultural Units and former Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (Class C3), which may include extension of the building and/or building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Conversion of Stable Barn to 1no. dwellinghouse	Did not comment	Granted

Shimpling Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you to everyone who attended the Consultation Session at the Village Hall on the 17th January; the time flew by with many interesting conversations.

By the time this newsletter comes out the opportunity to comment/support the Plan via the survey will have closed but thank you to all that did – we appreciate it was slightly time consuming!

The next stage will be for the Draft Plan to be amended, where necessary, to take on board comments received via the survey before submission to Babergh District Council. Following this consultation period the Plan will then be sent for Independent Examination.

The final stage will be for the formal Parish Referendum where everyone in the Parish has the opportunity to vote on the adoption of the Plan. If this is positive Babergh District Council will then be required to take the Plan into account on any decisions made.

We will keep you up to date with progress through the next stages.

Committee members: Mark Beaver, Claire Douglas-Hughes (Chair), David Dunkley, Mike Fahie-Wilson, Jane Wall.

THE HALLIFAX TRUST

A locally based charity providing grants to students under the age of 25 receiving further education at colleges or universities or undergoing formal training for a profession or vocation. These are non-means tested. To qualify students must simply have parents living in Shimpling or alternatively have in the past attended Lawshall School whilst their parents were living in Shimpling.

Funding is additionally available for other school and village projects. Applications from students for funding for the forthcoming academic year must be received by 30th September.

HELP US TO HELP OUR CHILDREN

We have recently received a small number of donations to the Charity for which we are extremely grateful. Please consider whether you could help with a donation or a legacy. These are tough times for students and the more funds we have the more we can help. For grants or donations contact:

hallifaxtrust@gmail.com

Claire Wilson 01284 830574 or Jenny Pine 01284 827073

Hallifax Educational Trust is a Registered Charity No.310396

Village Personalities ?

Would you like to have an article published in the form of a small piece written about youself and your life in Shimpling as an item of social interest?

It would not be more than a page. There are so many interesting people in our village ! If so, email me , Jayne Schofield, on jas.65@btinternet.com or call on 01284 828 322

Let there be light?

A visitor to the UK recently commented to a member of my family that there must be corruption at the highest level … because we are such a rich country and yet nothing seems to work! I suspect that I dismissed this comment too lightly, but have since been reminded about it following the recent revelations about Jeffrey Epstein and the behaviour of many powerful Western leaders in politics, business, science and the arts. I do not think I am alone at being appalled. I was particularly disgusted how Epstein advised people how to discredit those who had been abused when they sought justice in court.

I am conscious that these revelations have affected people within our parishes - probably not directly relating to Epstein, but with respect to other people abusing power. This has been weighing particularly heavily on my heart these recent weeks, and I have been praying for any in our villages who have been affected that you would not feel alone, and that you would have trusted people to share with and to support you.

It can feel that we are so weak against the powerful, and yet I have been reminded that God will not tolerate injustice forever. Yes of course I have faith that at the end of this age justice will be restored to all the earth. But I am also praying that God will shine his light on corruption right now - and that of course includes any corruption or abuse in the church. Psalm 94 starts like this:

1 The LORD is a God who avenges. O God who avenges, shine forth.
2 Rise up, Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve.
3 How long, LORD, will the wicked, how long will the wicked be jubilant?

But the psalm ends like this:

21 The wicked band together against the righteous and condemn the innocent to death.
22 But the LORD has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge.
23 He will repay them for their sins and destroy them for their wickedness;
the Lord our God will destroy them.

So I pray, Lord, Let there be light! And let us pray that justice and mercy will be held in right balance.

(Late addendum - I am very concerned to have just heard news about an allegation leading to a Bishop being suspended - I am glad it is being taken seriously).

Reverand Matthew Lawson

Volunteer Opportunity for someone good with words

The Parochial Church Council are looking for a secretary to send out documents and take notes at our meetings. We only have 6 meetings a year but it would help us enormously if someone could help. Training and support (and plenty of laughter, tea, coffee, and biscuits) will be provided. Please contact Revd Lawson on 01787 310 845 or revmattis@gmail.com.



THE PARISH OF ALPHETON AND SHIMPLINGTHORNE

Church Services Include:

March			
Sun 1st	9.00am	Alpheton	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Family Communion
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 8th	4.00pm	Shimpling	Pub Social at The Bush Inn #
Sun 15th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Mothering Sunday Service
Sun 22nd	4.00pm	tbc	Wild Lent #
Sun 29th	10.30am	Melford	Traditional Passiontide Service
	4.00pm	Melford	Messy Easter at Holy Trinity #
	6.30pm	Lawshall	Evening Communion
April			
Thurs 2nd	7.00pm	Melford	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri 3rd	10.00am	Shimpling	Walk with the Cross, Bush to V. Hall
	2.00pm	Melford	Devotional Service
Sat 4th	8.30pm	Melford	Traditional Easter Vigil
Sun 5th	10.30am	Melford	Easter Celebration & Communion (family friendly)
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 19th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
Sun 26th	6.30pm	Lawshall	Communion
May			
Sun 3rd	9.00am	Alpheton	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Family Communion
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 10th	4.00pm	Melford Sch.	Messy Church #
Sun 17th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
Sun 31st	6.30pm	Lawshall	Evening Communion

… and Communion at Holy Trinity Long Melford **every Sunday at 10.30am** (Google 'Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook' for livestream).

for our 4 o'clock community with family friendly services socials and events almost every Sunday at 4.00pm, contact Nicky on 07938 681319 or chadbrooklightwave@gmail.com

... and Communion at Holy Trinity Long Melford every Sunday at 10.30am (Google 'Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook' for livestream).

Children welcome at all 10.30am services there is a children's area at the back of Holy Trinity Please see www.longmelfordchurch.com for any updates. For further information on our toddler and youth groups, please contact Pam on 07890or melfordfamilyworker@gmail.com.

For more details or any questions, please contact Vicky on 07804 558160 or chadbrookoffice@gmail.com.

Rector:Rev'd Matthew Lawson 01787 310845
Churchwarden: Vacant
Church Contact : Charlotte Blyth 01284 828544
07939 194233

SHIMPLING MOBILE LIBRARY 2026

Do you like reading?

Each month on a Friday the mobile library comes to Shimpling and has many books on board, including children's options. Library membership is free and once you join it's very easy to order a vast range of books online, which can be collected from the mobile library.

You can borrow up to 20 books and 6 audio books at any one time, and if no-one has reserved them, they can be renewed up to 6 times. So, no excuses if you're a slow reader!

The library bus, route 13, calls at HALLIFAX PLACE between 1230 and 1250 on the following Fridays this year:

March 13, April 10, May 8

www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk

So let's use it, or we may lose it. Happy Reading!

From Greening Shimpling

At the beginning of January we had a great turnout for the planting of trees at the top of the footpath leading away from Gents Lane, in an area which will now be known as Hill Field Spinney. In under 2 hours we planted about 200 trees, all of which have been staked and protected with tree guards. We were very fortunate with the weather, considering how awful it's been!

It is hoped that we will be able to follow this up with the planting of wild flowers, the siting of bird boxes and the construction of a log pile to provide a habitat for insects and small mammals, hopefully when the weather improves and the ground dries out a little!

In a follow up meeting, we discussed how we might be able to work with the Parish Council to protect and further enhance the environment in and around our beautiful village and will be sending a representative to the next PC meeting.

If you would like further information regarding the Greening Shimpling group please contact Jane 07453 453 906 or email jane.wall@hotmail.co.uk and we will add you to our WhatsApp group.



GREENING SHIMPLING

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

The Annual Village Clean Up Morning will take place on Sunday 22nd March at 11.30am from the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

We have some high vis vests and litter picking sticks but if you have your own high vis vest and gloves, please bring them along

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult



Shimpling & Alpheton WI
Lindsey Barrell aka Cherry Bombe - Burlesque

Lindsey turned out to be quite a stand up comic, dressed in - well - not what you would expect from a typical WI member, let's say. She certainly knew how to tell her stories!
She has been doing burlesque for 14 years and comes from Lancashire and grew up in County Durham but has lived in Essex for 32 years. Subjects she talked about included the North/South divide, being a single Mum, crafts - especially sewing, the WI, shopping in Aldi, confidence building, salsa and the quest to find friends.

Films like Sweet Charity, Moulin Rouge etc include burlesque. At her first session she was told to wear keep fit clothes for burlesque classes. When she got there, all the other women were wearing burlesque style clothes. Leopard Lily, became the first character whom she portrayed in burlesque, wearing leopardskin from head to toe, choreographing her three and a half minute dance act herself. She did a routine to a Chris de Burgh song called Patricia the Stripper. (If you are intrigued you can see her with a group of ladies outdoors performing to this very song on YouTube, dressed as Cherry Bombe.)

Her success with this meant jealousies amongst the other women so she didn't really make friends there as she had hoped. In a continued quest to make friends, she joined a new WI in Chelmsford which attracted around 200 new women. She had thought it would be a bit like the Brownies for grown ups. She joined the

largest WI branch in the country with 350 members which was so large that they could only meet in Chelmsford Cathedral. Because of the size, subgroups were formed and Lindsey ran a Burlesque subgroup of about 20 members who met in a village hall in Great Baddow. By this stage Lindsey had portrayed the character of Cherry Bombe. They formed the first ever WI Burlesque troupe. The ladies all made friends and performed at Chelmsford Cathedral, removing clothes. ..this led to fundraising by her troupe called the Burlesque Bombshells via performances, raising thousands for charities.

Lindsey ended up forming another Burlesque group at Canvey Island called the Wild Island Burlesquers. The average age of the troupe was in the 70s with some ladies aged 80 odd. One lady wearing a corset for the first time put it on upside down! The Covid lockdown brought new challenges and Lindsey gave 400 talks on Zoom from her kitchen dressed in her corset. Sometimes she gave three talks in a day.

Lindsey moved from the enormous WI to a smaller WI and is now the president of a third WI.

Copy for the June 2026 edition is required by 22nd May 2026 (A4 WORD or .PDF file please)
Sarah Smith—slsconsulting21@outlook.com
07774 116128
When advertising events please ensure there is a contact name with a landline number.
Please remember not everyone is on the Internet !!

The Alpheton Film night is on the 2nd Monday of each month.



Mon. 9th March. THE COLOUR ROOM. (Phoebe Dynevor, Matthew Goode)

Mon 13th April A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (Timothee Chalamet)

Mon 11th May LIVING (Bill Nighy)

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Admission price is £5 including tea/coffee & biscuits. The Bar will be open.

Have you tried it yet?



Take the number 45 bus to Bury St Edmunds (Monday to Saturday). Meet nice people as you travel through the villages.

Brighten up your day, even when it is overcast.
Give it a go this week, you will be amazed how much better you feel. No car park fees, no queuing for a space, no expensive fuel, leave it to the bus driver and see a different view of your surroundings.
Looking forward to seeing you very soon!

Timetables are available on the bus, in the village or
www.konectbuses.co.uk
www.suffolkonboard.com

HARTEST & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

2026 has started with a very wet and soggy January, so those of us with clay gardens are dealing with boggy ground and a rising water table. Mud has made gardening, or even stepping outside, practically impossible at times. However, spring is on its way, with snowdrops in bloom in the hedgerows and gardens, and other spring bulbs starting to peep out of the ground. We just need a little bit of blue sky and sunshine to tempt us outside to see which plants have survived the endless rain.

We started this year with a really interesting talk on Delphiniums from Greg Veness of The Front Gardeners Nursery, who are based at the Willow Tree Farm Shop. We learned how to care for these beautiful plants, the seed sowing process and how to take basal cuttings. Delphiniums are fully hardy and (with good drainage) can tolerate a cold winter. Even better, they can be grown from seed from January onwards!

Looking ahead we have some key dates for your diaries:
On Sunday 1 March, 2.30pm we welcome guest speaker Michael Marriott to the Hartest Institute for an expert talk on roses. Michael was the Head Rosarian at David Austin Roses for 35 years and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of all things related to roses. Whilst Michael's enthusiasm for roses is infectious, he is equally known for his garden designs, organic methods and common sense approach.

At the time of writing, there are still a small number of tickets left, priced at £15 for our 2026 club members and £18 for non-members. If you would like to attend, email hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com with the number of tickets you require.

Further ahead, other key dates for your diary are the:

- Annual Plant Sale Sunday 17th May at 2pm, Hartest Green where there will be lots of plants, veg and garden items for sale.

  We welcome donations of plants, perennials, annuals, saplings and veg seedlings (all labelled please). This year we also hope to offer gardening books, plant pots and any other garden-related equipment. If you are having a spring clear out and want to donate items, please do get in touch.

- Annual Show Sunday 6th September at 2.30pm, The Institute.
  More information about this nearer the date.

The club is going from strength to strength and has a great buzz about it with lots of new members and renewed energy from long-standing members. If you are interested in finding out about who we are and what we offer, do come along. We are very friendly and welcoming!

We hold monthly meetings at 7.30pm, on the first Monday of each month at the Hartest Institute. Membership is £15 per person or £25 for a couple. In the summer months our members enjoy access to exclusive garden visits. Members also enjoy a healthy 50% discount on seeds from our club supplier, Kings Seeds, who have a fantastic selection of veg, flower and herb seeds.

Find out more via our:
Website: https://hartestgardeningclub.onesuffolk.net/
Instagram: hartest_gardening_club
Facebook: Hartest & District Gardening Club
Email: hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com
Kit Morrison, on behalf of H&DGC hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com

Shimpling Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee meets every 8 weeks, to manage the hall and arrange events that residents can enjoy and generate income to keep the hall running & open.
We welcome interest from any resident who would like to get involved – please email Carol Squire: shimplingvh@gmail.com or phone, WhatsApp or text: 07855 762812
Meeting minutes and information on all activities are available to read on the Village website http://shimplingpc.onesuffolk.net/village-hall/
Events and activities timetable on the Your Hall website https://yourhall.co.uk/hall/shimpling-village-hall/

Village Hall Activities

Future Arts & Crafts Sessions in the village hall 2026 (see posters in this newsletter).



Spring Wreath Making Workshop -
Ever thought you would like to be able to make your own wreaths - why not start with a beautiful spring flower wreath using spring bulbs that can be re-potted and come again. The workshop will be in the village hall on the 21st of March 2026 at 10am. The session tutor will be expert florist Anne Brown - http://www.justanneflowers.co.uk/
Booking for places open now - see the poster in this month's newsletter.
All sessions have minimum attendance targets and will not take place if not reached.

Other Events
Schools' half term saw the hall made available for free to residents and families to use the table tennis set, the children's billiards table and other indoor games. Those who took advantage enjoyed the opportunity - *"We had a brilliant time and have all become experts at table tennis!"* We will do the same every half term in 2026

Also, if you are stuck for something to do with the family – don't forget you can book the hall to play a variety of games including Table Tennis and Billiards at other times





PANTOMIME - Due to the popularity of the live screening of the Christmas Pantomime last year, we linked up with the Wolsey Theatre Ipswich again this year on the Saturday 27th December and live streamed Beauty and the Beast.

The Regular Village Hall Activities
These continue as scheduled so check the village website, notice boards, Facebook and WhatsApp and join in.

- PILATES classes are on a Monday mornings and Wednesday evening and with occasional attendance from other villages boosting numbers, these have mainly been well attended but there is still room for a few more so don't be shy – come and join in. It's time to get summer holiday fit.
- ZUMBA GOLD continues term time Fridays – a great way to dance your way to fitness - no prior experience or skill needed - just dance for the fun of it.
- FILM NIGHTS have also continued the 3rd Tuesday evening of the month, showing some great films, but in Feb and March - the film will be shown in the afternoon. Attendance could improve to help make a profit on these sessions so come along and enjoy the films.
  Let us know what films you want to see. WhatsApp or Text Carol on 07855 762812 with your ideas

The **RURAL COFFEE CARAVAN** come to the village hall every **4th Thursday of the month** offering their excellent range of home-made coffee (or tea) cakes & savouries, coupled with advice, up to date information and signposting for help and information.

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL
PILATES CLASSES

THE BENEFITS OF PILATES

The focus is on core strength & spinal mobility to ensure optimum alignment of the body.

The breathing and mindful aspect of Pilates supports both physical and mental well-being.

It is intelligent exercise!



3 Sessions are held

Mondays at 9.30 – 10.30 and **11 – 12noon**

WEDNESDAYS 6.30 – 7.30pm

term time only

£7 per session - Equipment provided free

NO EXPERIENCE OR BOOKING NEEDED

Want to know more?

Contact Tutor- Louise Fuller 07875 370902



SPRING WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

10am SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL

£35 PER PERSON

Learn how to make a beautiful wreath with spring bulbs that can be replanted in a pot to come again!

Book your place by emailing
shimplingvh@gmail.com or

text Carol on 07855762812

Rural Coffee Caravan

Making a difference to rural communities throughout Suffolk

Come and share a pot of tea, our welcome is warm and our friendship free!

We'll be visiting:

Shimpling

Village Hall IP29 4HS

10am - 12pm

Thursdays:

22nd Jan / 26th Feb / 26th March

Come along for some company and a catch up with your neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and cake. We bring a great source of information along with the free refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you.

All Welcome!



www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk tel: 01379 855 338

Registered No: 1187423

Meet Up Mondays™

c-a-f-e coffee and friends events

More Than A Shop

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Alpheton and Shimpling Marmalade Competition



at the Spring Market (11th April)

Please bring 2 jars at 10am (one for the competition, one for the produce stall)

Judging will take place at 12 noon

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

During Half Terms we are pleased to offer **Shimpling Village Hall** for hire - **FREE** of charge

Play

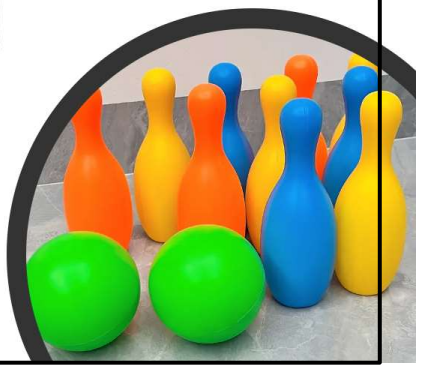
- TABLE TENNIS, BILLIARDS, or GAMES SESSIONS
- BRING YOUR OWN GAMES OR USE OURS!
- BOOK YOUR SESSION
- Email shimplingvh@gmail.com
- or text 07855762812











Barn Dance with 'Catch the Pigeon'

More details to follow !



alphetonandshimplingchurches.com

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL

SPRING 2026 FILM SESSIONS

3rd TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

March - Matinee - 1.45 for 2pm start

April & May 7.15pm for 7.30 start

COME AND WATCH NEW AND FAVOURITE FILMS ON THE BIG SCREEN



COMING NEXT

March 17th - Agatha and the Truth of Murder

A British alternative history drama about crime writer Agatha Christie becoming embroiled in a real-life murder case during her 11-day disappearance in 1926. Based on real people & events, it depicts Christie investigating the murder of Florence Nightingale's goddaughter, & how involvement in this case, influenced her later writing.

April 21st Hemingway and Gellhorn

This powerful drama recounts the relationship between literary giant Ernest Hemingway (Nick Owen) & War correspondent Martha Gellhorn (Nicole Kidman) - Hemingway's inspiration for "For Whom the Bell Tolls".

May 19th - The Choral

British historical drama written by Alan Bennett starring Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam, Mark Addy. Set in 1916, the film follows the members of the local choral society which recruits a group of teenagers for a performance of Edward Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*.

PUT THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY

REFRESHMENTS & FILM £4.50 PER PERSON
ICECREAM, SWEETS & POPCORN ALSO ON SALE.



Do you have a film you want to see? Just let us know

Friday 27th March 2026
From 5pm
The Swan Inn, Lawshall

Face the flames and crush the glass to help raise vital funds! After the incredible success of our first ever firewalk in 2024, Green Light Trust are bringing it back again this year with a twist – a glass walk too! Experience the thrill of walking bare foot across scorching flames and razor sharp glass, facing your fears in the Spring.

Our fundraising challenge offers the chance for team building, creating lasting memories and bonds. Not only will you be testing your limits, but you will raise valuable funds for Green Light Trust.

Located at the stunning Swan Inn pub, join us from 5pm to register and grab a delicious bite to eat. This event is hosted by Fundraising Firewalk Association, one of the UK's leading firewalk companies, who will provide training sessions on the night.

Your fundraising efforts and entry ticket will include an achievement certificate, photographs of the event, fundraising support and a limited edition Green Light Trust fire and glass walk t-shirt.

See our website events page for more details and how to sign up- greenlighttrust.org

GREEN LIGHT TRUST



ZUMBA® gold



Shimpling Village Hall

Friday's 1-1.45pm - term time only

£5 per session

No booking required, just come along

CONTACT YOUR LICENSED ZUMBA INSTRUCTOR :

Jo Brown

Call/text : 07851962112
Email : joanna-m-brown@hotmail.co.uk
find me on Facebook : Jo Brown

HARTEST FARMERS & CRAFT MARKET

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH
10:00-12:30

The Little Dip Company
Chicken and Bird feed
Bread & pastries, Sparling & Faiers
Sue's Savouries
Fuller's Honey
Dr Kat's Luxury Granola
Meadow and Woodland Livestock
B'Wrappy Eco Food Wraps
Hartest made Power-Grit Health food mix
Conical peg bags & Sewn items by Tamara Jones
Walking sticks & wooden items
Moonvine jewellery
Artist Janet Munro
Chocolate, Edible Creations by Rosey
Cambridge Artisan Cheese
Local eggs & curry kits
Fruit and veg, Cox Boxes
Coiled rope baskets by Debbie Regent
Soap, ljp balms and bath bombs by FB Designs
Tropic Skincare by Debra Graham
Artist Juliette Hudson
Crochet & jewellery by Pat

Cafe: Hot bacon, sausage rolls, tea, coffee & homemade cakes
Friends of Hartest School

HARTESTFARMERSMARKET@GMAIL.COM

Hartest Institute, Hartest, Bury Saint Edmunds IP29 4DH

Advertising in the Shimpling News

You could reach 200 households.....!
The fees for advertising in the Shimpling News for 2025 (of which this is for the 4 editions – one for each season) will be;

Full page £100, Half page £50 , Quarter page £25

With any residents of Shimpling able to have a 25% discount so making the cost Full page £75, Half page £37.50 and Quarter page £18.75. Individual adverts (ie for sale items) are £3 up to a £100 and £5 over £100 per issue
If you would like to advertise please email the Clerk shimplingpc@gmail.com



SAVE

(Shimpling AED Village Enterprise)

As most people are aware the village has an AED located in a locked cabinet outside The Bush. The device is registered with the East of England Ambulance Service, who have the access code details.
In the event of an emergency, the precise location of the AED would need to be given, to enable the Ambulance Service to give the code. The location is

The Bush, The Street, Shimpling **IP29 4HU**

Please make a note of these details, as it could save time in gaining access.
If you require any further details, please contact me Marian Peck Chair, SAVE 01284 828187

THOMAS & YOUNG

WEALTH MANAGEMENT LTD

- Investment Planning
- Retirement Planning
- Business Protection
- Income Protection
- Financial Education
- Later Life Planning
- Life Insurance
- Mortgage protection
- Inheritance tax planning

Find us at:
Risby Business Park,
Newmarket Road,
Risby, Bury Saint Edmunds
IP28 6RD

01284 334400

www.tywm.co.uk

CHARTERED FINANCIAL PLANNERS

Thomas and Young Wealth Management Limited is an Appointed Representative of and represents only St. James's Place Wealth Management plc (which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority) for the purpose of advising solely on the group's wealth management products and services, more details of which are set out on the group's website www.sjp.co.uk/products The 'St. James's Place Partnership' and the titles 'Partner' and 'Partner Practice' are marketing terms used to describe St. James's Place representatives.

Senior Partner Practice

St James's Place

SJP Approved 15/09/2025

RECYCLING Shimpling has a bottle bank, a Paper and Card Bank and a Clothing Bank. If they are full please call

BOTTLE BANK— 0344 880 7700

CLOTHING BANK—08000 902 321

Electronic Version of The Shimpling News

If you would prefer to receive an email informing you when the latest issue is available online, rather than have a printed copy delivered to your door please let me know slsconsulting21@outlook.com



Domestic, Commercial & Agricultural Electrical Work Undertaken



Including rewires, new builds, extensions, All Electric heating, new consumer units, testing and inspection for insurance purposes, smoke detectors, TV & phone points, outside lighting, low energy & LED lighting. NICEIC registered, Part P Certified, ECA member with Public Liability and guaranteed by the ECA

For competitive rates, a personal service and good quality workmanship contact:

Kevin Seggie Electrical Services

Beechwood Cottage, Bury Road, Lawshall, IP29 4PJ

01284 830786 / 07768 108157

R&Z Electrical

NICEIC APPROVED CONTRACTOR

All Aspects of Electrical Works Undertaken
Extra Sockets / Lights
Full / Part Rewires
Consumer Unit Upgrades
Fault Finding & Repairs
Testing & Inspection
All Works Carried Out to Current Regulations
All Works Certified and Guaranteed
Fully Insured
Free Estimates
24 Hour Call Outs

rz.electricalservices@gmail.com

ecs electrotechnical certification scheme

Anthony - 07801990584

City & Guilds Qualified



Useful Online Reporting Tools
Many issues can be reported online by residents at https;//www.babergh.gov.uk/report-online Including potholes, overgrown vegetation, littering and fly-tipping
Flooding can be reported at https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/report-a-flood-in-suffolk
Local road closure information can be found at one.network

LARK VALLEY WILLOW LTD.

Lark Valley Willow Ltd.
Rose Cottage
The Street
Shimpling
Suffolk
IP29 4HS

We are looking for casual (self employed) part time workers to join our friendly team weaving in-situ willow fences in Suffolk and Essex.
Training and support will be given. Enjoying working outside is a must. You will need to have transport and be practical and hard working.

Please email cmcooke@icloud.com with a brief CV

PEST PROBLEMS SOLVED BY LOCAL SPECIALIST

Anglia PEST MANAGEMENT

DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL • AGRICULTURAL

insects ✓ birds ✓ moles ✓ rabbits ✓ rats ✓

Based in Lawshall
Contact Tim Cox

- 24hr call out / 7 days a week
- Contract or individual treatments
- Traditional methods with modern technology
- Discreet service - unmarked vehicles
- RSPH and BCPA trained and qualified
- NPTA member
- £5million public liabilty



01284 831 042
07776 205 346

info@angliapestmanagement.co.uk ■ www.angliapestmanagement.co.uk

DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL CONTRACTING

C G WARNER Ltd

1 Cordell Cottages,
Little Chadacre, Shimpling,
Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk IP29 4HL

Tel 01284 828774 Mobile 07971 248320
Email: cgwarner@btinternet.com

- Hard & Soft Landscaping
- Patios & Driveways
- All types of Domestic, Agricultural & Commercial Fencing
- Seasonal Hedge / Garden Maintenance





- Ménage Construction
- Supply & Installation of Grass reinforcement matting
- Lawnmower servicing & repairs
- Grass Cutting
- Paddock Maintenance

- Stump removal
- Firewood
- NPTC qualified Tree Surgeons
- Woodland Management
- Tree / Hedge Planting



Fully Insured ***40 years + experience***

FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTES

USEFUL VILLAGE CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

County Cllr—Richard Kemp 01787 378149
Shimpling Village Hall—Carol Squire 07855 762812 or email shimplingvh@gmail.com
St George's Church—Rev'd Matthew Lawson 01787 310845
The Bush Public house 07961 947497 and email thebushpubshimpling@gmail.com
Shimpling Postal Collections:-
The Street Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am, Little Chadacre Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am, Aveley Lane Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am
Medical Services
NHS Helpline :- 111 (Non-emergency)
Glemsford Surgery:—01787 280484
Lavenham/Long Melford Surgery:—01787 378226
Samaritans:- 116 123
Domestic Abuse Helpline:- 0808 2000 247
Vet Surgeries:-
Swayne & Partners Long Melford—01787 370773
Bury St Edmunds - 01284 701444
Anglian Water Emergency :- 0800 771881
UK Power Networks Emergency:- 0800 31 63 105
Citizens Advice Bureau:- 01284 753675
Suffolk Libraries Library Van—Next visit Friday 13th March Hallifax Place 12:30-12:50, then April 10th and May 8th
Chambers Bus Service 45—Daily except Sunday depart Hallifax Place to Bury 07:39*/10:01 return arrival at Hallifax Place 16:56*/13:35 *Schooldays
Felix Taxis :- 01787 310574
Shimpling Park Farm for loose sheep and broken fences etc. Shepherd Emily Elnaugh on 07415 311252.

Shimpling News

Spring 2026 **Issue 145**



The Parish Council:

Mrs Liz Brunwin	01284 828122
Mr Gerry Shrimpton	01284 827219
Mr David Dunkley	07809 148630
Mr Mark Milhench	07770 668660
Ms Jen O'Reilly-Turner	07769 894806
Mr Laurence Rooke	07818 797081
Vacancy	

Contact details for the Clerk are:
4 Park Farm Cottages, Brettenham, Suffolk, IP7 7QP
(Correspondence and Appointment only)
Email: clerk@shimpling-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07940 223200

The Parish Council meet bi-monthly in January, March, May (AGM), July, September and November every year. Extra meetings may also be held throughout the year when required.

Annual Parish Assembly – Reports presented by the Council and local groups / charities / committees from within the parish. Members of the public can speak freely at this meeting in May, raise issues and ask questions relating to the reports.

Annual Meeting of the Council (AGM) – Each May, Election of officers of the council. Declarations of acceptance of office.

Parish Council Meetings – Council considers matters relating to finance, planning and the Parish. Additional extraordinary meetings are held when required.

Dates of meetings: Parish council meetings will be held at 7pm on the following dates;

- Monday 9th March 2026
- Monday 11th May 2026 (Annual Meeting of the Parish, Annual General Meeting followed by normal May PC meeting)

Please note that these meetings will be held at the Village Hall.

Parish Council Website and Social Media and Notice Boards

You can find council information on the notice board by the bus stop in The Street. This is also circulated via our Village Round Robin System and posted on the Shimpling Community Facebook page. Alternatively, the village web site is regularly updated as well as our Facebook page. Please like our Facebook page:
Facebook: Shimpling Parish Council
Website: https://shimpling-pc.gov.uk/

Could you volunteer to help your Village?

We need a new Parish Councillor to join our team. Parish Councillors do a worthwhile job ensuring that your voice is heard and overseeing work so that your village is kept looking good. If you would like to know more about becoming a Councillor then please get in touch with the Clerk or any of our wonderful Councillors.

Report from Chair, David Dunkley:

The Chair reported in the January meeting;
Let me offer my best wishes to everyone for 2026 and hope that you had a pleasant holiday period.

On that theme, the village green Christmas decorations again looked very festive and many thanks to all who made that possible, including the set-up, provision of the tree and the electricity for the lights.
A new supplier has been found to support the installation of the EV chargers and although we were hoping to hear from them before Christmas this did not happen. Hopefully 2026 will be more successful in completing this work.
The installation of InPost storage lockers at the village hall was halted following concerns from some villagers. Although the number was small, they represented those most likely to be affected by the installation. Going forward, obtaining acceptable answers to their genuine concerns will be necessary to enable the project to re-start.
The final draft of the Neighbourhood Plan was issued to the Parish Council at the November meeting and was accepted. The public consultation on the plan will begin on the 17th January kicked off by an open event at the village hall. The consultation continues for 6 weeks, following which the plan, with any changes, goes to Babergh DC for evaluation.
Information of the potential local government reorganisation is still being disseminated but, as yet, no decision has been announced.

Recycling

Please remember that the Parish Council receives money from the paper (although not cardboard) glass, clothing and shoes deposited in the recycling bins near the Bush Inn. Clothing and shoes should be bagged before depositing in the clothing/shoe bank. This income helps to run the council and therefore is a direct benefit to the village. **Please keep recycling.**

What the Parish Council have been up to …

Over the last couple of months, we have:

- Worked on fixing minor issues with the playground
- Prepared a budget for 2026/27

Do you have new neighbours?

For some time now, the Village Hall Committee have been sending welcome letters with local information to new residents. If you have new neighbours, can you please let the Village Hall Committee shimplingvh@gmail.com know so that they can organise a welcome letter.

Shimpling WhatsApp Support Group

This was set up at the start of COVID to support those in need but has developed into a good way of communicating with others in the village. Recently we were asked to relay an urgent message to a villager and were able to locate the person quickly using the WhatsApp Group. If you would like to join the group, please contact Katie Haselhurst kh.shimpling@gmail.com.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group are working hard! For more information on the process or what has been produced so far look on the website: https://shimpling-pc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan-2/

Speeding

There have been issues raised regarding speeding in the Village, this has been raised both to the PC and it was commented on frequently in the Neighbourhood Plan Surveys. The PC are looking at possibly setting up a community speed watch. However, we will need volunteers!

To set up a scheme

- You must have a minimum of 6 volunteers
- All the volunteers must be over 18 years old
- Each scheme must have a co-ordinator (who will be the point of contact for the team) and where possible a deputy
- The Parish (or local) Council support the scheme
- You will have to sign a CSW agreement and be vetted
- Equipment will be provided by the Constabulary
- Training will be provided on using the equipment and on Health and Safety issues
- Volunteers will be covered by the Constabulary's insurance
- Locations chosen will be assessed by the Constabulary

If you would like to volunteer, please do get in touch and let us know. We can only move this forward with enough volunteers.

Buses

Here is a link to the full timetable
https://passenger-line-assets.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/hedinghamandchambers/HEDO/45-timetable-20250831-5f294bdd.pdf

District Councillors

Our District Councillors usually attend each Parish Council meeting and can also be contacted as follows:

Michael Holt
Phone: 01787 281712, Mobile: 07801 766813
Email: michael.holt@babergh.gov.uk



Stephen Plumb
Phone: 01787 280890
Email: stephen.plumb@babergh.gov.uk



Planning

There have been a number of planning applications since our last newsletter. Others are updated below:

Application	Shimpling PC Comments	Planning Authority Decision
DC/25/05341- Lyndhurst Little Chadacre Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4HL- Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/25/02008 – Condition 5 (Cycle Storage and Refuse Bins)	Did not comment	Granted
DC/25/05339 - Stable Barn Thorne Court Shimpling Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP30 0JN - Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of Use of Buildings on Agricultural Units and former Agricultural Buildings to Dwellinghouses (Class C3), which may include extension of the building and/or building operations reasonably necessary for the conversion The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q - Conversion of Stable Barn to 1no. dwellinghouse	Did not comment	Granted

Shimpling Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you to everyone who attended the Consultation Session at the Village Hall on the 17th January; the time flew by with many interesting conversations.

By the time this newsletter comes out the opportunity to comment/support the Plan via the survey will have closed but thank you to all that did – we appreciate it was slightly time consuming!

The next stage will be for the Draft Plan to be amended, where necessary, to take on board comments received via the survey before submission to Babergh District Council. Following this consultation period the Plan will then be sent for Independent Examination.

The final stage will be for the formal Parish Referendum where everyone in the Parish has the opportunity to vote on the adoption of the Plan. If this is positive Babergh District Council will then be required to take the Plan into account on any decisions made.

We will keep you up to date with progress through the next stages.

Committee members: Mark Beaver, Claire Douglas-Hughes (Chair), David Dunkley, Mike Fahie-Wilson, Jane Wall.

THE HALLIFAX TRUST

A locally based charity providing grants to students under the age of 25 receiving further education at colleges or universities or undergoing formal training for a profession or vocation. These are non-means tested. To qualify students must simply have parents living in Shimpling or alternatively have in the past attended Lawshall School whilst their parents were living in Shimpling.

Funding is additionally available for other school and village projects. Applications from students for funding for the forthcoming academic year must be received by 30th September.

HELP US TO HELP OUR CHILDREN

We have recently received a small number of donations to the Charity for which we are extremely grateful. Please consider whether you could help with a donation or a legacy. These are tough times for students and the more funds we have the more we can help. For grants or donations contact:

hallifaxtrust@gmail.com

Claire Wilson 01284 830574 or Jenny Pine 01284 827073

Hallifax Educational Trust is a Registered Charity No.310396

Village Personalities ?

Would you like to have an article published in the form of a small piece written about youself and your life in Shimpling as an item of social interest?

It would not be more than a page. There are so many interesting people in our village ! If so, email me , Jayne Schofield, on jas.65@btinternet.com or call on 01284 828 322

Let there be light?

A visitor to the UK recently commented to a member of my family that there must be corruption at the highest level … because we are such a rich country and yet nothing seems to work! I suspect that I dismissed this comment too lightly, but have since been reminded about it following the recent revelations about Jeffrey Epstein and the behaviour of many powerful Western leaders in politics, business, science and the arts. I do not think I am alone at being appalled. I was particularly disgusted how Epstein advised people how to discredit those who had been abused when they sought justice in court.

I am conscious that these revelations have affected people within our parishes - probably not directly relating to Epstein, but with respect to other people abusing power. This has been weighing particularly heavily on my heart these recent weeks, and I have been praying for any in our villages who have been affected that you would not feel alone, and that you would have trusted people to share with and to support you.

It can feel that we are so weak against the powerful, and yet I have been reminded that God will not tolerate injustice forever. Yes of course I have faith that at the end of this age justice will be restored to all the earth. But I am also praying that God will shine his light on corruption right now - and that of course includes any corruption or abuse in the church. Psalm 94 starts like this:

1 The LORD is a God who avenges. O God who avenges, shine forth.
2 Rise up, Judge of the earth; pay back to the proud what they deserve.
3 How long, LORD, will the wicked, how long will the wicked be jubilant?

But the psalm ends like this:

21 The wicked band together against the righteous and condemn the innocent to death.
22 But the LORD has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge.
23 He will repay them for their sins and destroy them for their wickedness;
the Lord our God will destroy them.

So I pray, Lord, Let there be light! And let us pray that justice and mercy will be held in right balance.

(Late addendum - I am very concerned to have just heard news about an allegation leading to a Bishop being suspended - I am glad it is being taken seriously).

Reverand Matthew Lawson

Volunteer Opportunity for someone good with words

The Parochial Church Council are looking for a secretary to send out documents and take notes at our meetings. We only have 6 meetings a year but it would help us enormously if someone could help. Training and support (and plenty of laughter, tea, coffee, and biscuits) will be provided. Please contact Revd Lawson on 01787 310 845 or revmattis@gmail.com.



THE PARISH OF ALPHETON AND SHIMPLINGTHORNE

Church Services Include:

March			
Sun 1st	9.00am	Alpheton	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Family Communion
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 8th	4.00pm	Shimpling	Pub Social at The Bush Inn #
Sun 15th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Mothering Sunday Service
Sun 22nd	4.00pm	tbc	Wild Lent #
Sun 29th	10.30am	Melford	Traditional Passiontide Service
	4.00pm	Melford	Messy Easter at Holy Trinity #
	6.30pm	Lawshall	Evening Communion
April			
Thurs 2nd	7.00pm	Melford	Maundy Thursday Service
Fri 3rd	10.00am	Shimpling	Walk with the Cross, Bush to V. Hall
	2.00pm	Melford	Devotional Service
Sat 4th	8.30pm	Melford	Traditional Easter Vigil
Sun 5th	10.30am	Melford	Easter Celebration & Communion (family friendly)
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 19th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
Sun 26th	6.30pm	Lawshall	Communion
May			
Sun 3rd	9.00am	Alpheton	Communion
	10.30am	Melford	Family Communion
	4.00pm	Lawshall	'Sing Lawshall' Informal Service
Sun 10th	4.00pm	Melford Sch.	Messy Church #
Sun 17th	9.00am	Shimpling	Communion
Sun 31st	6.30pm	Lawshall	Evening Communion

… and Communion at Holy Trinity Long Melford **every Sunday at 10.30am** (Google 'Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook' for livestream).

for our 4 o'clock community with family friendly services socials and events almost every Sunday at 4.00pm, contact Nicky on 07938 681319 or chadbrooklightwave@gmail.com

... and Communion at Holy Trinity Long Melford every Sunday at 10.30am (Google 'Holy Trinity Long Melford Facebook' for livestream).

Children welcome at all 10.30am services there is a children's area at the back of Holy Trinity Please see www.longmelfordchurch.com for any updates. For further information on our toddler and youth groups, please contact Pam on 07890or melfordfamilyworker@gmail.com.

For more details or any questions, please contact Vicky on 07804 558160 or chadbrookoffice@gmail.com.

Rector:Rev'd Matthew Lawson 01787 310845
Churchwarden: Vacant
Church Contact : Charlotte Blyth 01284 828544
07939 194233

SHIMPLING MOBILE LIBRARY 2026

Do you like reading?

Each month on a Friday the mobile library comes to Shimpling and has many books on board, including children's options. Library membership is free and once you join it's very easy to order a vast range of books online, which can be collected from the mobile library.

You can borrow up to 20 books and 6 audio books at any one time, and if no-one has reserved them, they can be renewed up to 6 times. So, no excuses if you're a slow reader!

The library bus, route 13, calls at HALLIFAX PLACE between 1230 and 1250 on the following Fridays this year:

March 13, April 10, May 8

www.suffolkcommunitylibraries.co.uk

So let's use it, or we may lose it. Happy Reading!

From Greening Shimpling

At the beginning of January we had a great turnout for the planting of trees at the top of the footpath leading away from Gents Lane, in an area which will now be known as Hill Field Spinney. In under 2 hours we planted about 200 trees, all of which have been staked and protected with tree guards. We were very fortunate with the weather, considering how awful it's been!

It is hoped that we will be able to follow this up with the planting of wild flowers, the siting of bird boxes and the construction of a log pile to provide a habitat for insects and small mammals, hopefully when the weather improves and the ground dries out a little!

In a follow up meeting, we discussed how we might be able to work with the Parish Council to protect and further enhance the environment in and around our beautiful village and will be sending a representative to the next PC meeting.

If you would like further information regarding the Greening Shimpling group please contact Jane 07453 453 906 or email jane.wall@hotmail.co.uk and we will add you to our WhatsApp group.



GREENING SHIMPLING

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOU!

The Annual Village Clean Up Morning will take place on Sunday 22nd March at 11.30am from the Village Hall. We look forward to seeing you there.

We have some high vis vests and litter picking sticks but if you have your own high vis vest and gloves, please bring them along

Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult



Shimpling & Alpheton WI
Lindsey Barrell aka Cherry Bombe - Burlesque

Lindsey turned out to be quite a stand up comic, dressed in - well - not what you would expect from a typical WI member, let's say. She certainly knew how to tell her stories!
She has been doing burlesque for 14 years and comes from Lancashire and grew up in County Durham but has lived in Essex for 32 years. Subjects she talked about included the North/South divide, being a single Mum, crafts - especially sewing, the WI, shopping in Aldi, confidence building, salsa and the quest to find friends.

Films like Sweet Charity, Moulin Rouge etc include burlesque. At her first session she was told to wear keep fit clothes for burlesque classes. When she got there, all the other women were wearing burlesque style clothes. Leopard Lily, became the first character whom she portrayed in burlesque, wearing leopardskin from head to toe, choreographing her three and a half minute dance act herself. She did a routine to a Chris de Burgh song called Patricia the Stripper. (If you are intrigued you can see her with a group of ladies outdoors performing to this very song on YouTube, dressed as Cherry Bombe.)

Her success with this meant jealousies amongst the other women so she didn't really make friends there as she had hoped. In a continued quest to make friends, she joined a new WI in Chelmsford which attracted around 200 new women. She had thought it would be a bit like the Brownies for grown ups. She joined the

largest WI branch in the country with 350 members which was so large that they could only meet in Chelmsford Cathedral. Because of the size, subgroups were formed and Lindsey ran a Burlesque subgroup of about 20 members who met in a village hall in Great Baddow. By this stage Lindsey had portrayed the character of Cherry Bombe. They formed the first ever WI Burlesque troupe. The ladies all made friends and performed at Chelmsford Cathedral, removing clothes. ..this led to fundraising by her troupe called the Burlesque Bombshells via performances, raising thousands for charities.

Lindsey ended up forming another Burlesque group at Canvey Island called the Wild Island Burlesquers. The average age of the troupe was in the 70s with some ladies aged 80 odd. One lady wearing a corset for the first time put it on upside down! The Covid lockdown brought new challenges and Lindsey gave 400 talks on Zoom from her kitchen dressed in her corset. Sometimes she gave three talks in a day.

Lindsey moved from the enormous WI to a smaller WI and is now the president of a third WI.

Copy for the June 2026 edition is required by 22nd May 2026 (A4 WORD or .PDF file please)
Sarah Smith—slsconsulting21@outlook.com
07774 116128
When advertising events please ensure there is a contact name with a landline number.
Please remember not everyone is on the Internet !!

The Alpheton Film night is on the 2nd Monday of each month.



Mon. 9th March. THE COLOUR ROOM. (Phoebe Dynevor, Matthew Goode)

Mon 13th April A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (Timothee Chalamet)

Mon 11th May LIVING (Bill Nighy)

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Admission price is £5 including tea/coffee & biscuits. The Bar will be open.

Have you tried it yet?



Take the number 45 bus to Bury St Edmunds (Monday to Saturday). Meet nice people as you travel through the villages.

Brighten up your day, even when it is overcast.
Give it a go this week, you will be amazed how much better you feel. No car park fees, no queuing for a space, no expensive fuel, leave it to the bus driver and see a different view of your surroundings.
Looking forward to seeing you very soon!

Timetables are available on the bus, in the village or
www.konectbuses.co.uk
www.suffolkonboard.com

HARTEST & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

2026 has started with a very wet and soggy January, so those of us with clay gardens are dealing with boggy ground and a rising water table. Mud has made gardening, or even stepping outside, practically impossible at times. However, spring is on its way, with snowdrops in bloom in the hedgerows and gardens, and other spring bulbs starting to peep out of the ground. We just need a little bit of blue sky and sunshine to tempt us outside to see which plants have survived the endless rain.

We started this year with a really interesting talk on Delphiniums from Greg Veness of The Front Gardeners Nursery, who are based at the Willow Tree Farm Shop. We learned how to care for these beautiful plants, the seed sowing process and how to take basal cuttings. Delphiniums are fully hardy and (with good drainage) can tolerate a cold winter. Even better, they can be grown from seed from January onwards!

Looking ahead we have some key dates for your diaries:
On Sunday 1 March, 2.30pm we welcome guest speaker Michael Marriott to the Hartest Institute for an expert talk on roses. Michael was the Head Rosarian at David Austin Roses for 35 years and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of all things related to roses. Whilst Michael's enthusiasm for roses is infectious, he is equally known for his garden designs, organic methods and common sense approach.

At the time of writing, there are still a small number of tickets left, priced at £15 for our 2026 club members and £18 for non-members. If you would like to attend, email hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com with the number of tickets you require.

Further ahead, other key dates for your diary are the:

- Annual Plant Sale Sunday 17th May at 2pm, Hartest Green where there will be lots of plants, veg and garden items for sale.

  We welcome donations of plants, perennials, annuals, saplings and veg seedlings (all labelled please). This year we also hope to offer gardening books, plant pots and any other garden-related equipment. If you are having a spring clear out and want to donate items, please do get in touch.

- Annual Show Sunday 6th September at 2.30pm, The Institute.
  More information about this nearer the date.

The club is going from strength to strength and has a great buzz about it with lots of new members and renewed energy from long-standing members. If you are interested in finding out about who we are and what we offer, do come along. We are very friendly and welcoming!

We hold monthly meetings at 7.30pm, on the first Monday of each month at the Hartest Institute. Membership is £15 per person or £25 for a couple. In the summer months our members enjoy access to exclusive garden visits. Members also enjoy a healthy 50% discount on seeds from our club supplier, Kings Seeds, who have a fantastic selection of veg, flower and herb seeds.

Find out more via our:
Website: https://hartestgardeningclub.onesuffolk.net/
Instagram: hartest_gardening_club
Facebook: Hartest & District Gardening Club
Email: hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com
Kit Morrison, on behalf of H&DGC hartestgardeningclub@gmail.com

Shimpling Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee meets every 8 weeks, to manage the hall and arrange events that residents can enjoy and generate income to keep the hall running & open.
We welcome interest from any resident who would like to get involved – please email Carol Squire: shimplingvh@gmail.com or phone, WhatsApp or text: 07855 762812
Meeting minutes and information on all activities are available to read on the Village website http://shimplingpc.onesuffolk.net/village-hall/
Events and activities timetable on the Your Hall website https://yourhall.co.uk/hall/shimpling-village-hall/

Village Hall Activities

Future Arts & Crafts Sessions in the village hall 2026 (see posters in this newsletter).



Spring Wreath Making Workshop -
Ever thought you would like to be able to make your own wreaths - why not start with a beautiful spring flower wreath using spring bulbs that can be re-potted and come again. The workshop will be in the village hall on the 21st of March 2026 at 10am. The session tutor will be expert florist Anne Brown - http://www.justanneflowers.co.uk/
Booking for places open now - see the poster in this month's newsletter.
All sessions have minimum attendance targets and will not take place if not reached.

Other Events
Schools' half term saw the hall made available for free to residents and families to use the table tennis set, the children's billiards table and other indoor games. Those who took advantage enjoyed the opportunity - *"We had a brilliant time and have all become experts at table tennis!"* We will do the same every half term in 2026

Also, if you are stuck for something to do with the family – don't forget you can book the hall to play a variety of games including Table Tennis and Billiards at other times





PANTOMIME - Due to the popularity of the live screening of the Christmas Pantomime last year, we linked up with the Wolsey Theatre Ipswich again this year on the Saturday 27th December and live streamed Beauty and the Beast.

The Regular Village Hall Activities
These continue as scheduled so check the village website, notice boards, Facebook and WhatsApp and join in.

- PILATES classes are on a Monday mornings and Wednesday evening and with occasional attendance from other villages boosting numbers, these have mainly been well attended but there is still room for a few more so don't be shy – come and join in. It's time to get summer holiday fit.
- ZUMBA GOLD continues term time Fridays – a great way to dance your way to fitness - no prior experience or skill needed - just dance for the fun of it.
- FILM NIGHTS have also continued the 3rd Tuesday evening of the month, showing some great films, but in Feb and March - the film will be shown in the afternoon. Attendance could improve to help make a profit on these sessions so come along and enjoy the films.
  Let us know what films you want to see. WhatsApp or Text Carol on 07855 762812 with your ideas

The **RURAL COFFEE CARAVAN** come to the village hall every **4th Thursday of the month** offering their excellent range of home-made coffee (or tea) cakes & savouries, coupled with advice, up to date information and signposting for help and information.

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL
PILATES CLASSES

THE BENEFITS OF PILATES

The focus is on core strength & spinal mobility to ensure optimum alignment of the body.

The breathing and mindful aspect of Pilates supports both physical and mental well-being.

It is intelligent exercise!



3 Sessions are held

Mondays at 9.30 – 10.30 and **11 – 12noon**

WEDNESDAYS 6.30 – 7.30pm

term time only

£7 per session - Equipment provided free

NO EXPERIENCE OR BOOKING NEEDED

Want to know more?

Contact Tutor- Louise Fuller 07875 370902



SPRING WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

10am SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL

£35 PER PERSON

Learn how to make a beautiful wreath with spring bulbs that can be replanted in a pot to come again!

Book your place by emailing
shimplingvh@gmail.com or

text Carol on 07855762812

Rural Coffee Caravan

Making a difference to rural communities throughout Suffolk

Come and share a pot of tea, our welcome is warm and our friendship free!

We'll be visiting:

Shimpling

Village Hall IP29 4HS

10am - 12pm

Thursdays:

22nd Jan / 26th Feb / 26th March

Come along for some company and a catch up with your neighbours over a cup of tea or coffee with biscuits and cake. We bring a great source of information along with the free refreshments.

We look forward to seeing you.

All Welcome!



www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk tel: 01379 855 338

Registered No: 1187423

Meet Up Mondays™

c-a-f-e coffee and friends events

More Than A Shop

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Alpheton and Shimpling Marmalade Competition



at the Spring Market (11th April)

Please bring 2 jars at 10am (one for the competition, one for the produce stall)

Judging will take place at 12 noon

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

During Half Terms we are pleased to offer **Shimpling Village Hall** for hire - **FREE** of charge

Play

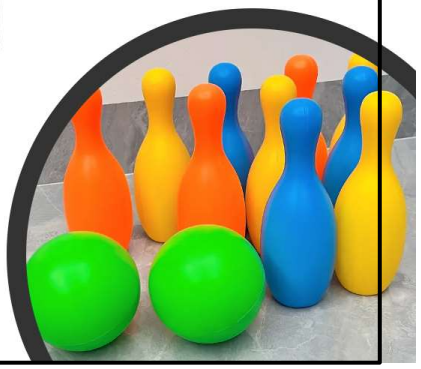
- TABLE TENNIS, BILLIARDS, or GAMES SESSIONS
- BRING YOUR OWN GAMES OR USE OURS!
- BOOK YOUR SESSION
- Email shimplingvh@gmail.com
- or text 07855762812











Barn Dance with 'Catch the Pigeon'

More details to follow !



alphetonandshimplingchurches.com

SHIMPLING VILLAGE HALL

SPRING 2026 FILM SESSIONS

3rd TUESDAY OF THE MONTH

March - Matinee - 1.45 for 2pm start

April & May 7.15pm for 7.30 start

COME AND WATCH NEW AND FAVOURITE FILMS ON THE BIG SCREEN



COMING NEXT

March 17th - Agatha and the Truth of Murder

A British alternative history drama about crime writer Agatha Christie becoming embroiled in a real-life murder case during her 11-day disappearance in 1926. Based on real people & events, it depicts Christie investigating the murder of Florence Nightingale's goddaughter, & how involvement in this case, influenced her later writing.

April 21st Hemingway and Gellhorn

This powerful drama recounts the relationship between literary giant Ernest Hemingway (Nick Owen) & War correspondent Martha Gellhorn (Nicole Kidman) - Hemingway's inspiration for "For Whom the Bell Tolls".

May 19th - The Choral

British historical drama written by Alan Bennett starring Ralph Fiennes, Roger Allam, Mark Addy. Set in 1916, the film follows the members of the local choral society which recruits a group of teenagers for a performance of Edward Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*.

PUT THE DATES IN YOUR DIARY

REFRESHMENTS & FILM £4.50 PER PERSON
ICECREAM, SWEETS & POPCORN ALSO ON SALE.



Do you have a film you want to see? Just let us know

Friday 27th March 2026
From 5pm
The Swan Inn, Lawshall

Face the flames and crush the glass to help raise vital funds! After the incredible success of our first ever firewalk in 2024, Green Light Trust are bringing it back again this year with a twist – a glass walk too! Experience the thrill of walking bare foot across scorching flames and razor sharp glass, facing your fears in the Spring.

Our fundraising challenge offers the chance for team building, creating lasting memories and bonds. Not only will you be testing your limits, but you will raise valuable funds for Green Light Trust.

Located at the stunning Swan Inn pub, join us from 5pm to register and grab a delicious bite to eat. This event is hosted by Fundraising Firewalk Association, one of the UK's leading firewalk companies, who will provide training sessions on the night.

Your fundraising efforts and entry ticket will include an achievement certificate, photographs of the event, fundraising support and a limited edition Green Light Trust fire and glass walk t-shirt.

See our website events page for more details and how to sign up- greenlighttrust.org

GREEN LIGHT TRUST



ZUMBA® gold



Shimpling Village Hall

Friday's 1-1.45pm - term time only

£5 per session

No booking required, just come along

CONTACT YOUR LICENSED ZUMBA INSTRUCTOR :

Jo Brown

Call/text : 07851962112
Email : joanna-m-brown@hotmail.co.uk
find me on Facebook : Jo Brown

HARTEST FARMERS & CRAFT MARKET

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH
10:00-12:30

The Little Dip Company
Chicken and Bird feed
Bread & pastries, Sparling & Faiers
Sue's Savouries
Fuller's Honey
Dr Kat's Luxury Granola
Meadow and Woodland Livestock
B'Wrappy Eco Food Wraps
Hartest made Power-Grit Health food mix
Conical peg bags & Sewn items by Tamara Jones
Walking sticks & wooden items
Moonvine jewellery
Artist Janet Munro
Chocolate, Edible Creations by Rosey
Cambridge Artisan Cheese
Local eggs & curry kits
Fruit and veg, Cox Boxes
Coiled rope baskets by Debbie Regent
Soap, ljp balms and bath bombs by FB Designs
Tropic Skincare by Debra Graham
Artist Juliette Hudson
Crochet & jewellery by Pat

Cafe: Hot bacon, sausage rolls, tea, coffee & homemade cakes
Friends of Hartest School

HARTESTFARMERSMARKET@GMAIL.COM

Hartest Institute, Hartest, Bury Saint Edmunds IP29 4DH

Advertising in the Shimpling News

You could reach 200 households.....!
The fees for advertising in the Shimpling News for 2025 (of which this is for the 4 editions – one for each season) will be;

Full page £100, Half page £50 , Quarter page £25

With any residents of Shimpling able to have a 25% discount so making the cost Full page £75, Half page £37.50 and Quarter page £18.75. Individual adverts (ie for sale items) are £3 up to a £100 and £5 over £100 per issue
If you would like to advertise please email the Clerk shimplingpc@gmail.com



SAVE

(Shimpling AED Village Enterprise)

As most people are aware the village has an AED located in a locked cabinet outside The Bush. The device is registered with the East of England Ambulance Service, who have the access code details.
In the event of an emergency, the precise location of the AED would need to be given, to enable the Ambulance Service to give the code. The location is

The Bush, The Street, Shimpling **IP29 4HU**

Please make a note of these details, as it could save time in gaining access.
If you require any further details, please contact me Marian Peck Chair, SAVE 01284 828187

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Senior Partner Practice

St James's Place

SJP Approved 15/09/2025

RECYCLING Shimpling has a bottle bank, a Paper and Card Bank and a Clothing Bank. If they are full please call

BOTTLE BANK— 0344 880 7700

CLOTHING BANK—08000 902 321

Electronic Version of The Shimpling News

If you would prefer to receive an email informing you when the latest issue is available online, rather than have a printed copy delivered to your door please let me know slsconsulting21@outlook.com



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Many issues can be reported online by residents at https;//www.babergh.gov.uk/report-online Including potholes, overgrown vegetation, littering and fly-tipping
Flooding can be reported at https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/flooding-and-drainage/report-a-flood-in-suffolk
Local road closure information can be found at one.network

LARK VALLEY WILLOW LTD.

Lark Valley Willow Ltd.
Rose Cottage
The Street
Shimpling
Suffolk
IP29 4HS

We are looking for casual (self employed) part time workers to join our friendly team weaving in-situ willow fences in Suffolk and Essex.
Training and support will be given. Enjoying working outside is a must. You will need to have transport and be practical and hard working.

Please email cmcooke@icloud.com with a brief CV

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Fully Insured ***40 years + experience***

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USEFUL VILLAGE CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

County Cllr—Richard Kemp 01787 378149
Shimpling Village Hall—Carol Squire 07855 762812 or email shimplingvh@gmail.com
St George's Church—Rev'd Matthew Lawson 01787 310845
The Bush Public house 07961 947497 and email thebushpubshimpling@gmail.com
Shimpling Postal Collections:-
The Street Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am, Little Chadacre Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am, Aveley Lane Mon-Fri 9am, Sat 7am
Medical Services
NHS Helpline :- 111 (Non-emergency)
Glemsford Surgery:—01787 280484
Lavenham/Long Melford Surgery:—01787 378226
Samaritans:- 116 123
Domestic Abuse Helpline:- 0808 2000 247
Vet Surgeries:-
Swayne & Partners Long Melford—01787 370773
Bury St Edmunds - 01284 701444
Anglian Water Emergency :- 0800 771881
UK Power Networks Emergency:- 0800 31 63 105
Citizens Advice Bureau:- 01284 753675
Suffolk Libraries Library Van—Next visit Friday 13th March Hallifax Place 12:30-12:50, then April 10th and May 8th
Chambers Bus Service 45—Daily except Sunday depart Hallifax Place to Bury 07:39*/10:01 return arrival at Hallifax Place 16:56*/13:35 *Schooldays
Felix Taxis :- 01787 310574
Shimpling Park Farm for loose sheep and broken fences etc. Shepherd Emily Elnaugh on 07415 311252.