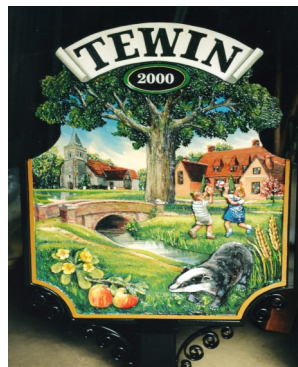




Tewin Magazine

January 2026



Price 90p



Happy New Year



**Dartford Warbler
Seen in Tewin**



Can you spot our vicar?



The Tewin Nativity



**Christmas Lunch at
Tewin Stores**

Welcome to the January 2026 edition of the Tewin Magazine and a very Happy New Year to all our readers. I hope you've enjoyed the Magazine over the last year. Can I just remind you that payment for 2026 is due in January. See page 15 for details.

Our beautiful picture of the rare Dartford Warbler was taken by Mike Ilett and details of the sighting can be found on page 24. The photo of some of the helpers at the Christmas Bazaar was sent to me by Deborah Hoare and the Nativity and Christmas Lunch photos were taken by Graham Spring.

I am always happy to receive photos for possible inclusion in the Magazine. Please send to tewinmagazine@gmail.com.

Events this month:

There will be a demonstration of the new dishwasher in the Memorial Hall on 5th (p33).

Tewin Stores are serving Fish Pie or Fish Fingers on 17th (p29), Screen on the Green is showing 'Dirty Dancing' on the 19th (p10) and the Technology Advice Sessions are on the 8th and 22nd (p30).

The age old question for January is 'when do the decorations come down'? Popular superstition states that to avoid bad luck you should take your decorations down on Twelfth Night (5th January) or, failing that, leave them up until Candlemas on 2nd February.

Other events can be found in Dates For Your Diary (p33).

Trussells Butcher's Van is outside the shop on Fridays from 1.30-2.45pm. Call 01438 812304 if you wish to order in advance.

A Mobile Fish Van is at Burnham Green on Wednesdays from 12-12.30pm. Call Kelvin on 07847 176847 for orders.

Please continue to send contributions for future editions of the magazine to tewinmagazine@gmail.com. The deadline is the **15th** of the month, but the earlier the better.—Jackie Murphy, Editor

Views expressed in the '*Tewin Magazine*' are not always those held by the Parish Council or by the Parochial Church Council

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Tewin Parish Council



TEWINBURY MUSIC FESTIVAL LICENCE APPLICATION - 25/1695/PL

A meeting for the village was held on 26th November 2025.

The Parish Council has put summary notes of the meeting on

the website.

On 19th December 2025 there will be a hearing of the new premises licence application at East Herts Council.

Please see the documents that are available to view on the Tewin Village website.

PRECEPT

At their meeting on 1st December 2025 the Parish Council reviewed the precept options for the Financial Year Ending 31.3.2027 and in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Council they unanimously agreed to increase the precept from £43,500 to £48,500 to accommodate ongoing annual parish tree works and to maintain reserves.

CHRISTMAS TREE

The Parish Council would like to thank Friends of Tewin who arranged the decorating of the Christmas tree on Lower Green.

EAST HERTS COUNCIL POSTAL VOTE

Does someone you know vote by post?

If you applied for a postal vote on or before 30 January 2023, you have to re-apply by 31 January 2026.

Could you help an elderly relative or neighbour to re-apply for theirs?

Re-apply for a postal vote at: **gov.uk/apply-postal-vote** Or call East Herts Council: 01279 655261

WINTER GRITTING

With winter approaching you can check when roads are being gritted by googling "HCC gritting".

SEEN A POTHOLE ?

Please help us keep on top of them by reporting them to the Hertfordshire Highways :

- Online and email <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/contact-us/contact-highways.aspx>
- Ring 0300 123 4047 from 8am until 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am until 4pm on Saturday.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - Monday 2nd February 2026.

All meetings start at 7.45pm and are held at Tewin Memorial Hall.

PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION

Website: www.tewinvillage.co.uk

Agenda: Please notify the Clerk at least one week before the meeting if you wish to suggest items for discussion. The agenda is published on the Notice Board outside Tewin Stores & website 3 working days before the meeting. *All Parishioners are welcome to attend and can make comments at the start of the meeting.*

Minutes: These are displayed at Tewin Stores, Tewin Memorial Hall and on the website. The minutes are not published until approved and signed at the subsequent meeting.

Meeting Dates and Newsletters: These are published on the website.

Queries :

Chairman, Keith St Pier Tel: 01438-717551

Clerk, Caroline McFarlane Tel: 01438-798969

E-mail - tewinparishclerk@btinternet.com

East Herts District Councillor - North & South Wards:

Cllr Bob Deering Tel: 07903 073234

Herts County Councillor:

Cllr Ken Crofton Tel: 01438 869650

Herts Highways Fault Line: 0300 1234047 or

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk - for fault reporting.

East Herts District Council: 01279-655261 or www.eastherts.gov.uk for reporting smoke & noise nuisance, flytipping, fly posting, dead animals on the road, stray dogs, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles, Environmental Health, Environmental Services, Pest Control, Tree Preservation Orders, Planning, Waste Services, Parking Warden for parking offences.

Police If you need to report a crime in progress please call 999, for all other please use 101.

Royal British Legion

2025 Poppy Appeal Report

This year, Tewin raised at least £1,823 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. There will be some more raised by cashless donations, but it takes a while for the figures to be published.

Tewin Stores, the Rose & Crown, the Plume of Feathers, the Honey Hill Tearooms, the White Horse, Tewin Cowper School, Tewinbury Farm Hotel, the Bowls Club and St Peter's Church all hosted collections.

Donations for wreaths to be laid on Remembrance Sunday were received from Tewin Rainbows, the Friends of Tewin, the Parish Council, and the Memorial Hall.

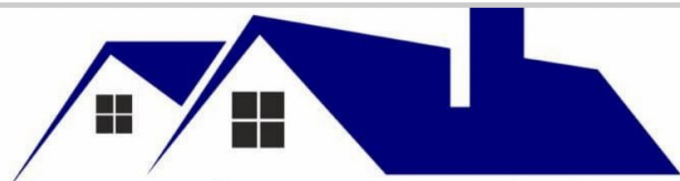
House to house collectors braved the dark evenings and changeable weather to cover Harwood Close, Godfries Close, Lower Green, Hertford Road, Upper Green Road, Sevenacres, East & West Riding, Bishops Road, and Desborough Drive.

Thank you to everybody who made a donation and a special thank you to the house to house collectors.

Well done.

Keith St Pier
Poppy Appeal Organiser
Supported by The Tewin Memorial Hall
Committee





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7 Lower Green, Tewin

tel: 07970 298521

adrian@adenassociates.co.uk



PAUL GRAY

Painter & Decorator

Home: 01707 892987

Mobile: 07833 517843

References on Request



Notes from an Apiary

Winter is one of our quiet times in the apiary with time to sit back and reflect on our changing world. How we have got to where we are. It seems to me that human development progresses organically, slowly over a long time, then you get a sudden quantum change. For example, the industrial revolution and the internet. Changes that transformed the way we live our lives. There is a similar quantum change in Beekeeping that transformed honeybee husbandry.

Man has been interacting with bees and collecting honey for as long as we have been hunter gatherers. The first cave paintings depicting hunting for honey are in Spain, from about 8,000 years ago.



The first artistic records showing beekeeping are from Ancient Egypt. Dating to around 4,500 years ago, they show beekeeping methods using simple hives and smoke.



One could argue that beekeeping hardly changes since this Egyptian depiction. Beekeepers were providing bees with spaces to live, basic barrels or woven “Skeps”. But the bees did what they do making management almost impossible and cropping honey a messy business.



Then in the 1850's things changed dramatically. Along came Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth, born in Philadelphia on Christmas Day in 1810, graduate of Yale College and a pastor of Massachusetts. The Reverend Langstroth is regarded as the father of American Beekeeping, indeed the revolutionary genius behind modern beekeeping.

Much more of The Reverend L. L. Langstroth, his discoveries and how he changed beekeeping next time.

Fun fact. The ancient Egyptians paid taxes in honey. The Greeks and Romans regarded honey as a symbol of love, beauty and fertility. What a lovely gift.

Phil

Friends of Tewin



As I write this article, the weather is unseasonably mild for the middle of December so I don't think there is much chance of us gathering around the Christmas Tree on Lower Green for our festive Carols with snow falling upon us, BUT, by the time this magazine drops through your door, you will know whether we were lucky or not. However, whatever the weather, I do hope that those of you who came along, enjoyed a happy festive evening with friends and neighbours. It's a lovely way to round off the Friends of Tewin's year of events.

Our first event of the New Year will be the **SENIORS' LUNCH on TUESDAY 17th FEBRUARY 2026** in the Memorial Hall which we are already planning. This is open to anyone who lives in Tewin and is 60 years or over. We will be serving a two course meal and an invitation, which includes the meal choices, will be delivered to every home in Tewin by mid-January. If you are eligible, and would like to be with us, please ensure you return the reply slip, as detailed, by 31st January. The lunch is very popular so don't delay!

Should you misplace your invitation, copies will be available from Tewin Stores.

Our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will be held in the Parish Room, Memorial Hall at **6pm on TUESDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2026** and you are all welcome. The agenda will be on display in Tewin Stores 21 days prior to the meeting.

Our biggest event of the year is, of course, the Tewin Classic Car and Craft Show so please put this year's date in your diary - **Sunday, 16th August 2026** and we can only hope that this year's event will be as successful as last year. Applications for a donation from the profits made at our last show will have closed on 31st December so if you have applied for a donation of behalf of your club, group etc we will be getting together in the New Year to look at all the requests and we will advise all applicants of the outcome as soon as possible thereafter.

Before signing off, please don't forget the 'dishwasher demonstration' at the Memorial Hall on Monday, **5th January at 7pm.**

On behalf of the Friends of Tewin Committee, may I wish you a very Healthy and Happy New Year.

Shirley, Chair, Friends of Tewin

Screen On The Green

We start the New Year on Monday 19th January with
“**Dirty Dancing**” (1987), a romantic/drama/dance movie starring starring
Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey.

Set in the 1960s, it follows teenager Frances (known as “Baby”) as she takes a summer holiday with her family at an up-market resort in the Catskill Mountains where she falls in love with Johnny, one of the dance instructors. The film highlights tensions between the wealthy guests and the working class staff. The climax comes with the iconic dance routine to the song “*The Time of My Life*” which won an Academy Award for Best Original Song.

Dirty Dancing was a box office hit earning \$214 million from a \$4.5 million budget and inspired many other productions including stage adaptations, competition shows and enduring pop culture references.

The ticket price of Film Club has remained the same since it began in 2012. But times move on and from this month the price will be £5, which still represents great value for money and will make things a lot easier for the ticket seller.

Wishing you a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Future Dates for the Diary:

16 th February	The Ballad of Wallis Island (2025)
16 th March	The Death of Stalin (2017)
20 th April	To be confirmed
18 th May	“
15 th June	“

MONDAY 19 JANUARY

Doors open 7pm for 7.45pm start at Tewin Memorial Hall.

Complimentary tea or coffee. Ice cream on sale.

Tickets from Tewin Stores or on the door, priced £5.

Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Marie St Pier



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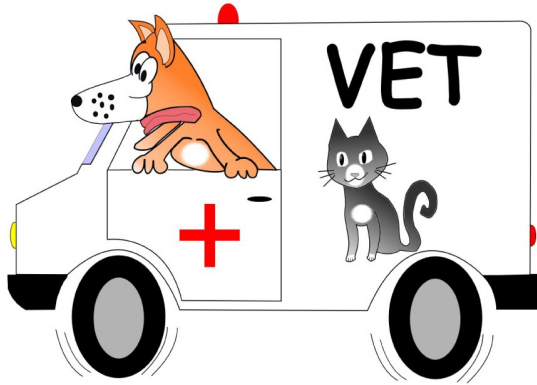
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Local Government Reorganisation

On Friday 28 November the 11 councils in Hertfordshire submitted a joint proposal to the Government on the future of local government in the county.

In a joint statement, the leaders of Broxbourne Borough Council, Dacorum Borough Council, East Herts District Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Hertsmere Borough Council, North Herts District Council, St Albans City and District Council, Stevenage Borough Council, Three Rivers District Council, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, and the Mayor of Watford Borough Council said:

“It is fifty years since local government was last reorganised in Hertfordshire and we are conscious that the decisions we are making now will have an impact for generations to come. We are proud to have worked collaboratively as a county and with the Police and Crime Commissioner to consider the evidence and the options for the future.

Through public engagement meetings and a survey, we invited local people to share their views and we genuinely appreciate the participation of many residents, strategic stakeholders and local organisations. It was important for us to hear the views of our diverse communities to help shape the proposals and this has guided our decisions throughout this process.

The submission has a shared evidence-based approach and includes three different unitary model options for the Government to consider.

The next stage will be a formal public consultation by the Government in spring 2026, before a final decision in the summer of 2026.

Whatever decision is made by the Government, we will continue to work closely and collaboratively to ensure the success of this once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape the future of local government in Hertfordshire”.

Find out more about the Local Government Reorganisation process and read each of the three proposals at:

<https://www.hertfordshire-lgr.co.uk/proposed-options>



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A Reminder Tewin Magazine Subscriptions 2026

The Tewin Magazine annual subscription of £10 for 12 issues is due in January 2026. Please have your money ready for the volunteer distributors who deliver in all kinds of weather. Some have delivered for many years.

Cash or cheque payable to “St Peter’s Church Tewin PCC”, please. Regretfully our distributors do not have cash machines.

A big thank you to all the valued distributors and everyone involved, especially Jackie Murphy for producing such an interesting Magazine.

If you don’t currently subscribe and would like a monthly delivery then please contact me, Sue Whitbourn, on 01438 798221. Otherwise purchase can be made in Tewin Stores or St Peter’s Church at 90p per copy.

Please continue to save used postage stamps, especially Christmas and Foreign, for charity (box in the shop).

With very best wishes for 2026,
Sue Whitbourn

Christmas Charity Wreaths

Just wanted to let everyone know that the merry gang of wreath makers have raised £1,800 this year which is being given to the dementia cafes in the area! Some of the money is being spent on their Christmas parties and the rest for activities during the coming year! Thank you so much to all in Tewin that purchased a Christmas wreath from us and also some kind people that donated to me without even wanting a Christmas wreath!

Thank you to all who helped make the wreaths, Ann, Harriet, Louise, Marion, Gaye and David, the collector of the foliage and tea maker! What a great team and a few laughs along the way, hopefully we will be available for more wreath making in 2026.

Deirdre Hatt

January: Wolf Moon

The first full Moon of 2026 is the Wolf Moon, which will rise from the northeast horizon on 3 January at around 2pm, depending on your location. It is named after the howling of hungry wolves lamenting the scarcity of food in midwinter. Other names for this month's full moon include old moon and ice moon.

By the time the sky is dark, around 6pm, the Wolf Moon will be in the east, and will continue to rise.

To the left of the Moon, you may be able to notice the beautiful Pleiades star cluster close by, one of the best objects to see with the naked eye.

The Pleiades is a collection of bright blue stars that can be seen with the naked eye, but which looks like a mini 'Big Dipper' when explored through binoculars or a telescope.

That bright full Moon will make the Pleiades harder to see, but you should be able to make out the star cluster.

There will also be a chance to see the Moon pass in front of the Pleiades in the early hours of 4 January, before sunrise, in an event known as a lunar occultation.

Iain Todd, BBC Sky at Night Magazine

Team Vicar's Letter

Susannah to ChatGPT: Write me a vicar's letter for a village magazine. Give it humour. Admit it's written by AI because the vicar is having a Christmas break.

ChatGPT:

Dear friends,

A very happy New Year to you all!

Before we begin, I must start with a confession—an unusual one for a vicar's letter. **This message has been written by an AI.** Yes, while your much-loved vicar is taking a well-earned Christmas break (somewhere peaceful, one hopes, and ideally far away from last-minute Nativity emergencies), I've been asked to step in. Think of me as the digital equivalent of a supply vicar—just without the cassock, the tea-drinking habits, or the ability to find hymn numbers at speed.

If you're wondering whether an AI can capture the spirit of a New Year message, I'll do my best—though my knowledge of festive traditions is based mainly on analysing millions of mince pie reviews.

As we look back over the year just gone, we may recall joy, challenge, busyness, stillness, and everything in between. But whatever the year held, one thing remains constant: **the love of Jesus**, who walks with us into every new season. Whether we enter 2026 with excitement, hesitation, or simply hoping someone else will volunteer for the church cleaning rota, Jesus meets us where we are, with grace that never runs out (unlike the batteries in the Christmas fairy lights).

New Year is a time of resolutions—some noble, some optimistic, and some doomed before the first week is out. But perhaps the best resolution any of us can hold onto is simply this: to follow Jesus a little more closely, love our neighbours a little more generously, and laugh a little more readily at the small absurdities of life (like why the purple Quality Streets still disappear first).

So, as your vicar returns refreshed—or at least less frazzled—may this new year bring you blessing, peace, and renewed hope in Christ. And if you find yourself wondering how on earth an AI ended up writing the vicar's letter, take it as a gentle reminder that God can use all sorts of unexpected things... even me.

Wishing you a joyful and Jesus-filled New Year,

Your friendly, temporary AI assistant

(Standing in for the vicar, who will be back next month—promise.)

ST PETER'S CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	DAY	SERVICE	TIME	MINISTER	1 ST READING	2 ND READING	GOSPEL
JANUARY 4th	EPIPHANY	HOLY COMMUNION	9.30am	WILL ELLIS	ISAIAH 60: 1-6	EPHESIANS 3: 1-12	MAT- THEW 2: 1-12
11th	BAPTISM OF CHRIST	HOLY COMMUNION	9.30am	SUSANNAH UNDERWOOD CATHERINE JUPP	ISAIAH 42: 1-9	ACTS 10:34-43	MAT- THEW 3: 13—End
18th	2nd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	MORNING PRAYER	9.30am	COLIN HULL	ISAIAH 49: 1-7	1 CORIN- THIANS 1: 1-9	JOHN 1: 29-42
		MESSY CHURCH	3pm	SUSANNAH UNDERWOOD			
25th	3rd SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	HOLY COMMUNION	9.30am	SUSANNAH UNDERWOOD	ISAIAH 9: 1-4	1 CORIN- THIANS 1: 10-18	MAT- THEW 4: 12-23

Service of Said Evening Prayer is held every Monday at 5pm

ROTAS					
SERVER	READER	SIDESMEN	COFFEE	FLOWERS	CLEANER
JANUARY 4th	SPIKE NICHOLSON	CLARE RAWLINS ELAINE FOWLER	SUZANNE CARDALE	CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	LINDA CRAWFORD
11th	PAULINE BROWN	DI BRADLEY SABINE STANLEY	LINDA GILLEY	-DITTO-	ANGELA WILLIAMS
18th	NICK WHITING	ROZ HOLDEN	GLORIA KERSEY	-DITTO-	DI BRADLEY
25th	ELAINE FOWLER	ANNE LAND PAULINE SPRING	DI BRADLEY	-DITTO-	SABINE STANLEY

St Peter's Church was floodlit on New Year's Eve, in memory of Kit and Bert Fernee, and absent members of the Haggar family.

St Peter's News

A church at the heart of the village, with space for all

We are celebrating **Advent** in the church as I write this, a time for new beginnings and for preparing for the coming of Christ. In the church we light a candle each week of Advent to symbolise the coming of the light. Many of you will remember the *Blue Peter* team making an Advent wreath and lighting a candle each week in the run up to Christmas. At St Mary's, Welwyn the Welwyn Team held a candlelit evening service at which the team clergy and members of each of the churches in the team took part. The choir sang magnificently and led the worship for a full church.

The beginning of Christmas for St Peter's was the **Christmas Bazaar** held on the last Saturday in November. Thank you to everyone who supported this, whether by donating goods for sale, helping before or at the event, or by coming to meet old friends and neighbours and spending some money. Many, many thanks – the result was an astonishing £5,000 plus for church funds, which is much needed to keep our church and churchyard in good order. It was a very successful event thanks to Deborah Hoare, the principle organiser for the last two years, who is stepping down now, so we shall be looking for someone to run next year's Bazaar. Could that be you?

Today the weather is so mild – it hardly feels like December. In past years we have had to cancel the **Tewin Nativity** because of heavy snow. This year we were only worried about the possibility of rain. This year it took place in the churchyard all around the church itself, with a tableau of the scene in the stable at the end of the story inside the West Door. As usual we served Christmas food and drink and it was a time for the village to come together. Thank you to all who took part in the play this year and to those who helped with the refreshments.

Other Christmas services included the Nine Lessons and Carols at ***Carols by Candlelight*** on Sunday 21st December, the **Crib Service** on Christmas Eve afternoon, followed by **Midnight Mass**, and an **All**

Age Communion service on Christmas morning. I hope, if you wanted to, you were able to attend one of these events. For several years, when I was a young parent, I didn't go to a service at Christmas and I really missed singing carols and hearing the story of the birth of baby Jesus, with its message of peace and joy, imagining the shepherds visiting the stable on that Christmas night, and the Magi later. I am pleased to be able to celebrate it in our beautiful old church, which looks so wonderful decorated with Christmas flowers and lit by candlelight. Thank you to our flower arrangers for their efforts, and to Ivor Williams for once again providing the tree for the porch.

Looking forward to 2026, the church will once again be organising **Open Gardens** for the village on the weekend of **30th and 31st May**. Some garden owners have already agreed to open their gardens. It should still be a time of spring flowers and shrubs. Please let me know if you would like to open your garden. People who do so, find it is a most enjoyable experience, as those who visit are very appreciative of a stroll around a lovely garden. There will be teas and much cake as is usual at such events.

In January, we shall celebrate Epiphany and the Baptism of Christ, and continue to celebrate the Christmas story until the first Sunday in February, when we will have Candlemas, the time when the baby Jesus was taken to be presented in the Temple.

The dark days of winter should feel over in January, but it is often a time when people are low in spirits. If you are depressed or have lost loved ones at this time and need support, please remember the Welwyn team are there for you.

Contact : The Rev'd Susannah Underwood
team.vicar@welwyn.org.uk 07446 133496

All good wishes for the New Year.
Linda Gilley Churchwarden
alannio@btinternet.com 01438 717385 / 07803 248423



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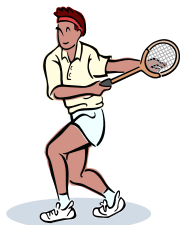
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Tewin Tennis Club

Happy New Year! Our best wishes from the Tewin Tennis Club for the forthcoming year and we hope you had a festive and enjoyable Christmas.

Your committee has plenty of plans for 2026. Last year was a great success, with our new Chairman, Mike Purser, taking over seamlessly from David Room to keep a tight ship and to help develop new ideas. Our junior coaching sessions in the school holidays were one such and we hope to build on these and other ideas over the next 12 months. Don't forget that this is your club so if you've come across some good concepts elsewhere, don't be afraid to put them forward.

One was our use in 2025 of Tie Break Tens, which I saw when I was grazing tennis TV in an idle moment. As they say: *"No games. No sets. Just 10 point tie break matches"* The first-to-ten format makes for fast, exciting tennis and we used this for a summer doubles tournament with great success. Google it to see the (brief) final at Indian Wells and I think you will be convinced.

You may have noticed a black bin on the courts. This is a depository for used tennis balls and we are pleased to say that after a failed dalliance with a company that was actually going to pay money for old balls (there's a joke there somewhere) we now donate them to Mimram Kennels.

Finally, don't overlook the fact that our very fine Tiger Turf courts are playable year round and are far less affected by frost than the old Tarmac. So get online and book yourself a court for some bracing exercise. Saturday mornings are still mix-in. Ladies from 9.30, men from 11am. Just drop in.

Peter Burgess

Rare Bird Sighting in Tewin

Birders and wildlife photographers have been treated to sightings of a bird rarely seen in Hertfordshire – the Dartford Warbler.

The bird, which has come back from the brink of extinction in the 1960s, is a UK resident but is usually found in the South and South West of the country. Early in November, an unusual first sighting of the bird in Hertfordshire was reported close to the village of Tewin, in the Mimram Valley, and a second bird at Gorhambury, near St Albans

In both cases, the birds have been spotted in hedgerow and scrubby habitat, where nature has been allowed to flourish. Scrub is often described as a ‘successional habitat’, meaning that it is temporary and in transition between one habitat such as farmland and woodland. It can be a few scattered hawthorn bushes, a patch of nettles and bramble, a dense thicket next to a woodland or some young birch trees and gorse bushes growing on heathland. Depending on its features it will attract different wildlife but in all cases scrub provides shelter for breeding and nesting, a place for wildlife to feed on seeds and berries, an important wildlife corridor to support wild creatures as they travel, and it can also support pollinating insects.

Tim Hill, Conservation Manager at Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust **says**, “Scrub is a much-maligned habitat but is of high value to nature.

Accordingly, it has been recognised as a priority within the Hertfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy, notably as a habitat which is essential if we are to bring back the now extinct Nightingale. Working across the River Mimram catchment, Heidi Mansell, the Trust’s Chalk Rivers and Farm Advisory Officer is providing advice to farmers and landholders to help them contribute further to nature’s recovery. Hedgerows and scrub are a key part of the landscape, providing valuable habitat to resident species such as Yellowhammers and Harvest Mice as well as rarer visitors such as the Dartford Warbler. Working to maximise diversity of habitats in our landscapes means that nature has a better chance of coping with the effects of climate change”.

Dartford Warblers are long-tailed birds, with a grey-brown head, body and wings, a distinctive red eye-ring and a russet breast. The British Trust for Ornithology report that there are 2,200 breeding pairs in the UK (2017). They are most regularly found in heathland and scrubby habitats.

To find out more about the conservation work of Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust to protect local habitats, visit hertswildlifetrust.org.uk.



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Shire Park (Tewin) Bowls Club

The lights are up and the Christmas decorations look better than ever – thanks to all those who helped put them up. As we are now in the middle of the closed season there is not much to say about bowls but we are all getting ready for the NY Eve bash. There are still a few tickets left at the time of writing (12th December) available from Brenda in the shop and at the bar at the club. On the social side the club facilities – bar, kitchen, dance floor, which can cater for up to 100 people comfortably, is available for outside event hire - if you are interested please give me a call. As you look to the New Year and what resolutions to make, why not think of Summer exercise and join the bowls club? We continue to thank our sponsors/supporters, especially Tewin Mill (Paul Ugo) and The Friends of Tewin. If anyone else would like to support the club please give me a shout! Thanks and a Happy New Year to all! Ian 07850 759651.

January Events in History

- 1st January 1999** the Euro currency came into existence as 11 countries adopted the single currency.
- 1st January 2022** the hottest New Year's Day in the UK with 16.3C being recorded in St. James' Park, London.
- 6th January 1066** Harold II, the last Anglo-Saxon King of England, is crowned. He reigned for a matter of months before his death at the Battle of Hastings. After this the Normans ruled England for the next 300 years.
- 15th January 1559** Heralded as one of England's greatest monarchs, Elizabeth I, who oversaw the defeat of the Spanish Armada, was crowned.

New Year Traditions

New Year traditions worldwide involve loud noises to scare spirits (Denmark smashing plates, Philippines fireworks), eating lucky foods (Spain's 12 grapes, Italy's lentils), wearing specific colours (white in Brazil for peace, red for luck), and symbolic actions for fortune (Scotland's first-footing, Colombia's empty suitcase for travel, Japan's 108 temple bells). Many cultures focus on renewal, cleansing, and bringing prosperity for the year ahead through rituals like water splashing (Thailand) or burning effigies (Panama, Ecuador).

Food & Drink

Spain/Latin America: Eat 12 grapes at midnight for luck.

Italy/Brazil: Eat lentils for wealth/prosperity (look like coins).

Japan: Eat [*toshi koshi soba*](#) noodles for long life.

Philippines: Display/eat round fruits and coins for prosperity.

France: Feast on rich foods like foie gras, oysters.

Actions & Rituals

Noise: Bang pots (Ireland, Greece), smash plates (Denmark, Greece), fire guns/crackers (Thailand, China) to drive out evil.

Water: Splash water (Thailand) or jump into frozen lakes (Siberia) for cleansing.

Cleansing: Throw old furniture out windows (South Africa) or burn effigies (Panama, Ecuador).

Fortune-Telling: Cast molten tin (Finland) or cut apples (Czech Republic).

Clothing & Symbolism

Colour: Wear white for peace (Brazil) or red for luck (China).

Underwear: Red for love/fertility (Italy, Romania), yellow for money (Mexico, Spain).

Scotland: First-footing – first person to cross threshold carries coal, short-bread, whisky.

Other Unique Traditions

Japan: [*Joya no Kane*](#) – ring temple bells 108 times to cleanse sins.

Chile: Sleep in cemeteries with deceased loved ones.

Romania: Dress as bears to ward off evil spirits.

Russia: Burn wishes on paper, put ashes in champagne, drink before midnight.

Tewin Stores and Cafe

Time for thinking about New Year resolutions and I wonder if you could include the village shop in your thoughts. The shop committee and Bev, our manager, have constantly over the past year tried to include all that you have been asking your shop to provide. Certainly, we have added more products, more displays to make it easier to see what you want, kept our prices as low as possible and upgraded the café menu. We are grateful for the volunteers who continue to give their time to keep the shop open and for the good will of the folk who come in regularly to spend a few pounds.

We continue to look for more volunteers who are willing to come in at short notice; and still hope someone could offer their time to clean the shop on occasions. My hope this year was to get our 100 club more members following the closure of the Hall's support club but we still haven't managed to get there to make the first prize £50.

But as 2025 moves into 2026 we do thank you ALL for supporting our special offers, and those who have bought raffle tickets and attended the Saturday lunches. Which allows me to mention that the first lunch in January will be Saturday 17th when we will serve Fish Pie or Fish Fingers, at the same cost of £6.50. Everyone is welcome; you do not need to book but if you are coming for the first time it would be good to know. 12.15 till 1.30pm.

The committee and Bev wish you ALL a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

The 100 club winners for December are :

1st Prize	Sybil Button	£47.50
2nd Prize	Lynn Hall	£23.75
3rd Prize	Geoff Parkinson	£14.25

Twixmas Shop Times:

Mon 29th - Wed 31st December normal hours

1st January 2026 closed all day

Normal Opening Hours:

Monday - Friday 8.30am - 4pm

Saturday 8.30am - 12 Noon

Sunday 9.00am - 12 Noon

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NEXT FREE DROP-IN SESSIONS

8th January

22nd January

5th February

19th February

2.00 to 3.30pm, Kimberley Room, Tewin Memorial Hall

Interested?

Contact Kristina Lawson:

01438 717256

www.tewinvillage.co.uk/di



Tewin Community Bus SATURDAY shopping trips



Saturday service, operated by R BUS

Saturday minibus for passengers from Tewin Parish to Morrisons Welwyn GC - £4 return
9.30am from the Rose & Crown, other pickups on request - wheelchair access and assistance
Call Ann Kevis to book: 01438 717256

Tewin Over 50s Tewin Parish Council, Friends of Tewin



Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Hertfordshire's first Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has been published marking a landmark step in our commitment to restoring and enhancing nature across Hertfordshire and playing our part in the restoration of nature across England. A 'nature summit' will be held in January to formally launch the strategy and share plans for the delivery for the strategy.

Priorities include improving habitats for species like swift and water vole to increase biodiversity and create a more resilient natural environment for future generations. It will guide projects that benefit both people and wildlife, while supporting efforts to tackle climate change.

Developed over two years by the Hertfordshire Nature Recovery Partnership (HNRP), chaired by Hertfordshire County Council, the strategy sets out a shared vision and identifies priority areas for investment and action, including protecting our ancient chalk streams. The partnership brings together organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors, working closely with land managers, citizen scientists and local communities.

Everyone can play a part in supporting nature's recovery whether they manage acres of land or a small garden, so public engagement has been at the heart of this process. Hertfordshire had over 70 sites put forward by local landowners for inclusion in the LNRS and achieved the highest number of LNRS consultation survey responses nationally with 751 survey responses from residents, organisations and community groups.

The UK is facing significant species decline and is now one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. In Hertfordshire, over 1,430 species are currently facing extinction.

Over the last 50 years, at least 76 species have become extinct – that's more than [3 species every 2 years](#).

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) shows where nature is doing well, where it needs help, and what actions we can take to help nature recover. It can help us create more spaces for nature.

Every area in England is making its own LNRS. Together, these plans will help nature recover across the whole of England.

[Read the full LNRS here.](https://tinyurl.com/Herts-LNRS) <https://tinyurl.com/Herts-LNRS>



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Tues	Tewin School	7-9 pm	Table Tennis
Wed	Memorial Hall	9.30– 11am	Parent and Toddler Group
Wed	Burnham Green	12-12.30pm	Mobile Fish Van
Wed	Memorial Hall	7.30-9pm	Tewin Ukelele Group (TUG)
Thurs	Lower Green	9.25am & 10am	Footpath walks of Tewin
Thurs	Memorial Hall	1.30-4.30pm	50+ Club
Fri	Tewin Stores	1.30-2.45pm	Trussells Butcher's Van
Thurs 8th & 22nd	Bowls Club	2-5pm	Bridge
Thurs 8th & 22nd	Memorial Hall	2-3.30pm	Technology Advice
Mon 5th	Memorial Hall	7pm	Demonstration of new dishwasher
Sat 17th	Tewin Store	12.15-1.30pm	Lunch 'Fish Pie or Fish Fingers'
Mon 19th	Memorial Hall	7 for 7.45pm	Screen on the Green 'Dirty Dancing'

Team Vicar: Rev'd Susannah Underwood, The Rectory,
Brookbridge Lane, Datchworth, SG3 6SU tel: 01438 817183
e-mail: team.vicar@welwyn.org.uk

Team Rector: Rev'd Dr David Munchin, 1 Ottway Walk,
Welwyn, AL6 9AS tel: 01438 714150

Parish Office: Mon,Tues 9-1pm, Fri 9-Noon tel: 01438 840964

Clergy Surgery: Saturdays at St Mary's 10.00—11.00 am

Churchwarden: Mrs Linda Gilley, 30 Godfries Close, Tewin, AL6
0LQ tel: 01438 717385

Parochial Church Council:

Hon Secretary: Ms Deborah Hoare, 35 Lower Green, Tewin,AL6
0LA tel: 01438 587408

Treasurer: Mrs Diana Bradley, 25 Firs Walk, Tewin,AL6 0NY,
tel: 01438 798478

Stewardship Officer: Mr Graham Spring, 2b Hertford Road,
Tewin, AL6 0JY tel: 01438 416071

Bell Tower Capt.: Mr David Hall, tel: 01707 884274

Useful Phone Numbers

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Lea Wharf Medical, Hertford	01992 550541
Watton Place Clinic, Watton-at-Stone	01920 830033
Moors Walk Surgery, Panshanger, WGC	01707 335151
Tewin Vets	01438 840028
Tewin Stores & Post Office	01438 717929
Tewin Memorial Hall	01438 717581
Tewin Pavilion	01438 718069
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