

# NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER 2026

## News, Events and Progress with projects



### Dear Friends,

Happy New Year to you all and many thanks to you all for your continuing support.

### Completed Projects

Our last completed project of 2025 was the repair work to the Bellringer's Window. The window was dedicated to the Hillyard Family in 1993. It depicts a bell ringing 'method' (the musical score for bell ringers, if you will) framed by bell ropes and sallies.

Further information and images of this, and of all of our recent projects, can be found on the Friends' Website: - <https://foas-shillington.org.uk/current-projects/>

### Upcoming Projects

In 2026 we will be undertaking an ambitious programme of repairs and improvements. The first thing you may notice is **the renovation of the lantern above the stepped entrance** on the south side of the graveyard. The lantern itself is very badly corroded and the ironwork on the supporting arch is in a very poor decorative state.

Later this month, the light will be repositioned. This will ensure the steps remain illuminated when the lantern is removed. The lantern will be taken away and fully assessed for repairs. Whilst it is absent, we will rub down and repaint the arch.

We will also be undertaking: -

- Essential repairs to the leadwork on the roof
- Vital repairs and improvements to the bell chamber
- Repairs to the flaking plaster along the south aisle
- Redecoration of the South Porch

### Events

Here is our programme of events for 2026: -

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March** in the Village Hall. **the Shillington Gold Cup**, the return of the ever popular fun-packed horse racing evening.

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – The Friends' AGM**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July** in the Village Hall. **A Murder Mystery Evening!**

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September. A Sing-a-Long film night at All Saints**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September. Teddy Bear Hunt at All Saints'**

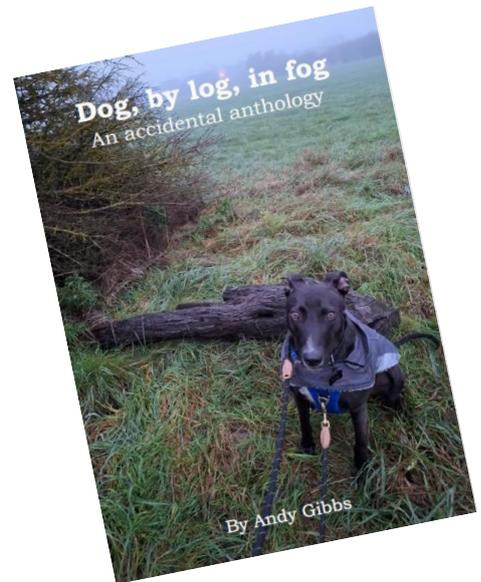
**Sunday Teas** each Sunday afternoon from May to the end of September, often enhanced by music and other activities.

## Other Fundraising

Some of you may know that I pen the occasional poem when walking around the village and surrounding countryside with our lovely dog, Finn. With great assistance from Di Butler, I have now published a selection of the poems.

The books are being sold for charity, with half of the money going to the Friends. If you would like a copy, please do get in touch.

They will also be on sale (just £10 each) at all Friends' events (including Sunday Teas) throughout 2026.



## Recruitment

As ever, we are always keen for more people to join our happy little band. If you would like to get involved, please do get in touch. We are on the lookout for: -

- New Committee members,
- People who could help at events and activities,
- 'Specialists' who could help out with specific projects, such as publicity, events management, fundraising or IT.

## Best wishes to you all for 2026

**Andy Gibbs**

**07922017051**

**bazwell2@gmail.com**