

VOL. 31 No.3

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Cressing Community Magazine



April 2022





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Editorial - April:

'April brings the primrose sweet, scatters daisies at our feet'. Does anyone else remember having to learn this poem off by heart at school? There is a verse for every month but I can't remember past July. We always had to learn poems to recite and of course times tables were always learned like that.

Well, the primroses and daisies have been in flower for a week or two now and there are lots of violets in flower as well. Thankfully, the last month has been a lot quieter and we have had some lovely spring days recently, which does cheer you up.

The rest of the news is not so good: what with the cost of energy going up at an alarming rate and then the dreadful news from the Ukraine. Our hearts must go out to those poor people suffering from that war.

The Events Committee held their Soup Lunch at the Cressing Community Church on Tuesday 22nd with the usual quiz and raffle. Everyone enjoyed a friendly relaxed meeting. In April the lunch is at St.Barnabas and will be Sausage and Chips on Friday 22nd. Don't forget to book.

As you will see in the Parish Council news, various events are being planned for the Jubilee Weekend in June. The Events Committee are organising a Jubilee Tea at the Community Church in The Street on Friday 2nd June, 2.00-4.00pm. More details later.

Well, Easter is nearly here so have a lovely weekend and don't eat too many hot cross buns or Easter eggs!!

Betty



APRIL DIARY

- Tues.5th Art Group at St. Barnabas 10.00-1.00pm
- Sat.9th Quiz Night at Cressing Community Church 7.00pm. Cost £5 including refreshments
- Sun.10th Holy Communion at All Saints Church 9.00am
- Tue.12th Cressing Connections Coffee Morning 11.00-1.00pm at St. Barnabas.
- Sun.10th Easter Day Service at All Saints Church 10.00am.
- Sat. 16th Easter Film 'Risen' at the Community Church at 7pm – Free event
- Tue.19th Art Group at St. Barnabas 10.00-1.00pm
- Fri..22nd Events Committee Lunch at St. Barnabas – 12 noon. Sausage and Chips, Cost £4.
- Tue.26th Art Group at St. Barnabas 10.00-1.00pm
- Thur.28th Knit and Natter at St. Barnabas 2.00-4.00pm

CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cressing Parish Council held on 9th March 2022 at 7.00pm at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing

Present: Cllrs John Lawton – Chairman, Colin Haines, Alison Lapper and Harvey Porrett

In attendance: Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk/RFO), District Councillor Bob Wright and one member of the public

22/032 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT

The Chairman welcomed attendees and reported as follows:

- The Chairman announced, with regret, that Cllr Simpson had resigned her position as a Parish Councillor. This resignation was accepted.
- The appeal against the Enforcement Notice for Il Salice (The Willows) had begun and the Parish Council has submitted its representation. It was understood a number of residents had also submitted their views.
- The Chairman wished to record formal thanks on behalf of the Parish Council to County Cllr Paul Thorogood and District Cllrs Abbott and Wright for grant funding towards a defibrillator at the playing field.

22/033 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk advised that apologies had been received from Cllrs: Rowe and Watts. These apologies were accepted. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded: Cllr Lapper.** Apologies had also been received from County Cllr Thorogood.

22/034 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the council are subject to the Local Authorities Code of Conduct Order 2007 (SI 2007/1159) (The Revised Code) with the additional, non-mandatory, section 12(2).

There were no pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in relation to items on the agenda to be recorded.

22/035 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

A member of the public had provided a list of items he wished to raise, including:

- i. *Minutes of the (last) meeting* – it was not appropriate for the items mentioned to be discussed (see Minute 22/036).
- ii. *Dog and litter bins* – a request for more, however the parish has 17 dog bins and 17 litter bins.
- iii. *Seats around the village what happened about the seat in Polecat* -
- iv. *Emergency plan* – not discussed
- v. *Bridge widening on the PROW from JR / ML* – not discussed
- vi. *Information board* – not discussed
- vii. *Fallen bushes / trees on pavements around the village* – not discussed. This remains within the responsibility of Essex Highways and any reports should be raised direct.
- viii. *Ask farmer to clear the ditch in Polecat Road* – this has already been reported to Essex Highways.
- ix. *Will you be publishing un audited yearly figures before AGM so residents can ask questions about finances* – financial reports will continue to be published quarterly and in accordance with the statutory Annual Governance and Accounting Report. It should be noted that no resident has raised queries concerning the financial reports.
- x. *This member also commented that he had previously asked if a committee of residents could be formed to raise funds for the Pavilion, but he had been told “no”.* This item was not discussed.

22/036 REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The Clerk advised that apologies had been received from County Cllr Thorogood.

Cllr Bob Wright reported:

- i. Local Plan – it is hoped that the Inspector's report will be received shortly. It is calculated that BDC has sufficient housing supply (developed and planned) for eight years, which should see an end to continuous speculative applications being approved.
- ii. Incinerator – Indaver, the developers, have been advised they must build the full complex in accordance with the planning permission by 2026, but they are appealing against developing facilities that will not be used. They only wish to proceed with the incinerator.
- iii. A "temporary" planning permission is sought to open vehicular access to the site from Kelvedon Road, although they have also stated that this may lead to a permanent application. This will force heavy vehicles to travel through Cressing, Silver End and Rivenhall.
- iv. BDC are advertising to recruit a Planning Enforcement Officer with responsibility to ensure all planning conditions are adhered to. It is hoped the position will be filled for the new financial year.
- v. From 2022/23 financial year, District Cllrs will be able to submit additional grant applications to support parish initiatives, as well as from their allowances (reduced 2022/23 to £1,250)
- vi. Solar Farm at Rivenhall – plans currently show traffic plan to use the A120 then through villages (as in 22/36 iii above).

Cllr Wright left the meeting

22/037 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th February 2022 were confirmed as a true record with no amendments required. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded Cllr Lawton.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

22/038 FINANCE

- i. **Progress against budget:** The Clerk/RFO referred to the reports issued with the Agenda. No queries had been raised by Councillors unable to attend this meeting and there were no queries by those Councillors present. **It was resolved** to accept the reports. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded: Cllr Lapper, all in favour**
- ii. **A motion to approve bank reconciliation at 28th February 2022: It was resolved** that the bank reconciliation statement at 28th February be approved. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded: Cllr Lapper, all in favour**
- iii. **A motion to approve February 2021 Payments/Cheques:** The list of payments and cheques to be signed against January expenditure was presented. There were no queries, and **it was resolved** to approve the payments. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded Cllr Lapper, all in favour.** Cllrs Lawton and Haines signed the cheques.

22/039 PARKING

Cllr Lapper raised the parking problems in Benton Close where a commercial van had been parked for some time without road tax and insurance. This was eventually removed, but it is not a problem restricted to this location. Cllrs discussed other locations and without removing greensward no immediate resolution was presented. The Clerk confirmed that an application to the Local Highways Panel had already been submitted in this respect.

22/040 PLANNING

A. **Appeals determined by the Planning Inspectorate:** None advised.

B. **Appeals submitted to the Planning Inspectorate:**

Planning Enforcement Appeal APP/Z1510/C/22/3290978 - Land at Il Salice (formerly known as) The Willows Inn, The Street, Cressing, Essex, CM77 8DQ (see minute 22/032 above)

- C. **Applications determined by Braintree District Council:** None advised.
- D. **Applications received by Braintree District Council:**
- a. 22/00334/DAC | Application for approval of details as reserved by condition 6 (ARCH) 12 (construction traffic management plan) and (part discharge)13b (residential travel packs) of approved application 21/01940/OUT | Land Adjacent Leyfield Braintree Road Crossing Essex -Councillors continue to have serious concerns regarding vehicle movements and traffic for this site. **No comment to be made.**
 - b. 22/00388/FUL | Installation of 2no. electric vehicle charging units | McDonalds Galleys Corner Braintree Road Crossing Essex CM77 8EZ. **No comment to be made.**
 - c. 22/00424/FUL | Alteration and refurbishment works including the provision of 2 Jumbrellas, feature archways, fences, paving, and installation of new and replacement lighting, together with various minor internal works. | Fowlers Farm Vintage Inn Braintree Road Crossing Essex CM77 8DJ. **No comment to be made.**
 - d. 22/00425/LBC | Alteration and refurbishment works including the provision of 2 Jumbrellas, feature archways, fences, paving, and installation of new and replacement lighting, together with various minor internal works. | Fowlers Farm Vintage Inn Braintree Road Crossing Essex CM77 8DJ. **No comment to be made.**
 - e. 22/00492/ADV | Signage to include: 1 x set of non-illuminated individual letters 1 x non-illuminated sign consisting of hand painted letters 2 x non-illuminated post signs 1 x externally illuminated post sign 1 x non-illuminated directional sign | Fowlers Farm Braintree Road Crossing Essex CM77 8DJ. **No comment to be made.**
 - f. 22/00454/DAC | Application for approval of details as reserved by Conditions 18,20 and 22 of approved application 16/02144/OUT | Land Adjacent To Braintree Road Crossing Essex. *The Chairman referred to additional comments made by residents concerning Condition 18 in particular (SuDS). Councillors also expressed their concerns and included reference to the safety of the water run-off ponds on this and the now occupied Avondale site. The Clerk to look into this.* **Action: Clerk**
- E. **To discuss Applications received by Braintree District Council and consider if comments should be made** (Householder Application, General Permitted Development Order)
- 22/0068/HH - Single storey rear extension – Waking Villa, The Street, Crossing, CM77 8DQ Crossing Essex CM77 8JB – **No comment to be made.**
- F. **Applications bordering parish for information** – none advised.

22/041 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The Clerk updated the meeting on discussions with CSSC and advised that their preferred date, due to other bookings for the hall, would be Sunday 5th June. Councillors were unanimous in their preference for this to be held on the Jubilee anniversary date of Thursday 2nd June. It is understood that the CSSC Management Committee would be meeting on 10th March and this would be raised with them. **Action: Cllr Lapper**

The Chairman stated that he would prefer that the Parish take part in the lighting of Jubilee Beacons, but it was acknowledged that there was no suitable site within the Parish for this to be safely undertaken. However, should Cllrs have suggestions for this and any other forms of commemoration they should be advised to the Clerk as soon as possible. **Action: All**

22/042 PLAYING FIELD

The Clerk advised that following discussion with the Planning Officer, it was anticipated a decision would be received by or about 23rd March. Immediately following this, and providing the application is approved, the specification of work will be prepared. The Clerk will keep Cllrs and CSSC updated. **Action: Clerk**

22/043 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The Clerk referred to the reviewed and revised policies issued with the Agenda. There were

no comments, but the Clerk drew Cllrs' attention in particular to the Communication & Media Policy. In view of recent "hacking" reports, it is essential that Cllrs comply with the rules for using .gov.uk email accounts: *"This email address must be used at all times for council business and must not be shared with any person outside the council. Nor should any person who is not a Councillor or officer of the Council have access to this mailbox or use this mailbox on behalf of a Councillor or officer of the Council."* The Chairman requested the policies be added to the Agenda for the April meeting when it is hoped all Cllrs will be present. **Action: Clerk**

22/044 THREE PARISHES MEETING

The next meeting is to be held at St Barnabas on 30th March. The chairman and Cllr Haines will be attending. Cllrs to advise the Clerk of Agenda items. **Action: All**

22/045 CRESSING ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Clerk asked for suggestions to encourage residents to attend the Annual Parish Assembly, which is not a Parish Council meeting, but is an opportunity for groups within the parish to report on their activities throughout the year. These have been poorly attended in the past and it is hoped that by inviting a guest speaker, more residents will attend. Some ideas were put forward and Cllr Lapper and the Clerk will investigate further. An item will appear in the next Community Magazine. **Action: Cllr Lapper/Clerk**

22/046 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Items for inclusion on the January Agenda:

1. *The Queen's Platinum Jubilee (Clerk)*
2. *Policies & procedures (Clerk)*

22/047 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 13th April 2022 at **7.00pm at St Barnabas Hall, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing, CM77 8HG**. Any Covid regulations in place will be closely followed: social distancing and face masks unless addressing the Council.

Any items for inclusion on the Agenda to be sent to the Parish Clerk to be received no later than 12 noon on Tuesday 8th April 2022.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Dates of 2022 meetings

MAY	11	7.00pm	Annual Parish Meeting
		7.30pm	Parish Council Annual Meeting
		8.00pm	Parish Council Meeting
JUNE	8	7.00pm	
JULY	13	7.00pm	
AUGUST	10	7.00pm	
SEPTEMBER	14	7.00pm	
OCTOBER	12	7.00pm	
NOVEMBER	9	7.00pm	
DECEMBER	14	7.00pm	

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Cressing celebrates HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

No-one can have escaped the news that 2022 marks the 70th year of HM Queen Elizabeth the 2nd's reign. The May Bank Holiday Weekend has been moved to Thursday 2 June with an additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3 June providing a four-day weekend to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee - the first time a British monarch has reached this momentous occasion.

There will be an extensive programme of events throughout the UK to commemorate this historic event and we are sure that many residents of Cressing will be attending those public events or indeed hosting or joining some private celebrations.

Cressing Parish Council hopes that residents will take the opportunity to decorate outside their house and any hedges or fences at the front of their property. We will also be holding a competition for children to paint/draw a Royal picture, maybe of the Queen, her corgis, or any other royal theme of their choice, send this to the PC with their name and address, then Councillors will judge the entries and pick three winners to receive a prize. The pictures will be displayed either at the Afternoon Tea (see below) or an open afternoon at St Barnabas for residents to view. There will be three groups, under 5s, 5 to 8 and 9 to 12.

On Thursday 2nd June, Cressing Parish Council and the Cressing Sports & Social Club are hosting:

- Afternoon Tea Thursday 2nd June between 2.00 and 4.00pm
- Jubilee Quiz from 4.30 to 6.30pm with questions reflecting events that have happened in each decade of the Queen's reign
- Live entertainment from 7.30pm

Afternoon tea will be professionally catered and **FREE** to residents on production of an invitation. To help us calculate the numbers for catering, please let us know if you would like to attend, with details of number and names, we will then provide you with official invitations. Please contact the Parish Clerk or the Secretary of CSSC using the details below, no later than Monday 9th May to guarantee your place for tea. You will be asked to provide your name and the first line of your address so the invitation/s can be posted to you. Each invitation will then be entered into a raffle to win a Jubilee commemorative parcel.

We hope you will join this event and show your support, not just for Her Majesty, but also the Parish Council and CSSC in paying tribute to Her Majesty's reign.

Please contact:

Christine Marshall by email: clerk@cressing-pc.gov.uk (preferred)

Telephone 01376 329288 (Wednesday and Thursday only) or 07933 306927

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GARDENING NOTES FOR APRIL



I trust your gardens have survived the storms we experienced in February and any seeds in propagators were not lost. Personally, I spent a whole day picking up rubbish that had blown into or around my 'patch'.

Any bulbs grown for the house can be planted outside once they have finished flowering, remember to plant same at least the depth of the bulb and not on the surface. Bulbs grown for indoor displays are often standing proud of the container when purchased.

Continue to use any mature home-made compost, spread around shrubs and climbers it will act as a mulch and soil improver.

My recommended plant of the month [which was at its best last month] Sweet Box [*Sarcococca confusa*], a hardy shrub that exudes a heady fragrance and is evergreen. A friend of mine has a small hedge of this glossy show stopper under the lounge window and the perfume enters the house even with a window open just a chink.

Lawns benefit from raking at this time of year removing as much of the compacted 'thatch' as possible and at the same time removing moss, if you feed your grass now is a good time but try and time the job with forecast rain to wash the stimulant down to the roots and avoid burning. This can happen if a granular weed and feed is left on the surface for too long.

Although we have had a wet winter, keep an eye on pots and containers near to a wall or building overhang as it is surprising how quickly they dry out, this will help empty your water butts!

Container shrubs can be planted now while the soil has plenty of moisture in it, make the hole half as wide again as the root ball so you can incorporate plenty of compost and soil along side and firm down with your heel avoiding air pockets.

Second early potatoes, broad beans, onion sets and shallots can be planted this month as can parsnip seed and early peas.

Enjoy your garden.....*The Arborist*

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9.00 til 10.15am**

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**St Barnabas Hall, (car park), Claud Ince Avenue
12 noon til 1.00pm**



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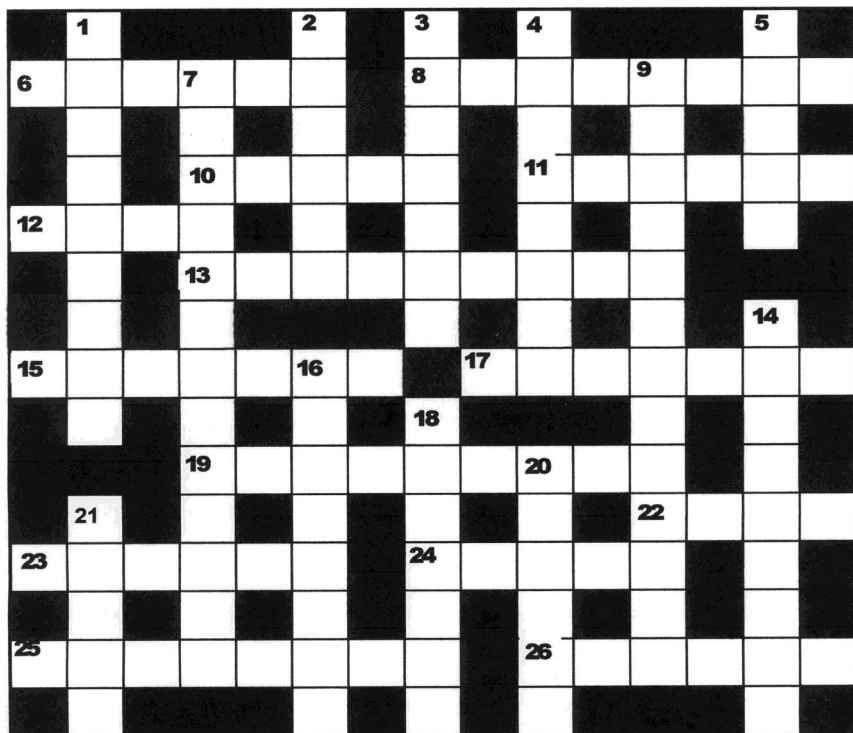
- *TRADE OR BUILDERS' RUBBLE
- *Paint *Hardcore *Oil *Patio Doors *Tyres
- *Large Tubed Televisions *Refrigerators

**Any Covid recommendations or restrictions applicable
at 28th May must be observed at all times for the
safety of operatives, helpers and residents.**

**The Parish Council is grateful to Clark and Carter Restorations
for their kind assistance and support in providing this facility
to residents.**

Cressing Parish Council

APRIL 2022 CROSSWORD



ACROSS

6. The point where something begin(6)
8. Make something suitable for a new use (8)
10. Small group of people with many advantages (5)
11. Orange coloured root vegetable (6)
12. Seaside resort part of the city of Brighton (4)
13. Calibre of a pistol or rifle (5,3)
15. Edible Asian plant of the goose-foot family (7)
17. Type of Herb with curly or flat leaves (7)
19. Do or be better than ever before (9)
22. To intensively dislike (4)
23. Write something in an untidy way (6)
24. Violent person (5)
25. Devoting time to gain knowledge (8)
26. Without another (6)

DOWN

1. First version of a vehicle (9)
2. Edible Mediterranean plant with bitter leaves (6)
3. Sovereign power (7)
4. Formal official name of Kolkata (8)
5. Vegetable with strong smell and flavour (5)
7. Card for special occasions (9,4)
9. Mottled yellow and brown shell of certain turtles (13)
14. Part of plant consumed by humans (9)
16. Early form of the Arabic alphabet (8)
18. Vegetable with thick, green or red leaves (7)
20. State of being squeezed (6)
21. Very serious or severe (5)

ANSWERS TO MARCH CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 KAPUT (5)
- 4 YEAST (5)
- 10 OPART (5)
- 11 AUSPICE (7)
- 12 THEBLUES (8)
- 13 CALL (4)
- 15 RUSTED (6)
- 17 GAZEBO (6)
- 19 EDAM (4)
- 20 POLANSKI (8)
- 23 SEASIDE (7)
- 24 SINAI (5)
- 25 NEVER (5)
- 26 CADET (5)

DOWN

- 2 ADAGE (5)
- 3 UNTILLED (8)
- 5 EASY (4)
- 6 SPINAGE (7)
- 7 POLTERGEIST (11)
- 8 HAZEL (5)
- 9 REALPOLITIK (11)
- 14 MALAYSIA (8)
- 16 SCALADE (7)
- 18 COMET (5)
- 21 SINGE (5)
- 22 PILE (4)ACROSS
- 1 KAPUT (5)
- 4 YEAST (5)
- 10 OPART (5)
- 11 AUSPICE (7)
- 12 THEBLUES (8)
- 13 CALL (4)
- 15 RUSTED (6)



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Annual Meeting of the Council v Annual Parish Meeting

There are two meetings that must be held in spring of each year, the Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting (or Annual Parish Assembly). These are two quite different meetings.

Firstly, there is the **Annual Parish Meeting** (or Annual Parish Assembly)

- This is, in legal terms, a quite separate body from the Parish Council, but it is invariably the Council that arranges it (although residents or organisations within the Parish could provide it if advertised and managed according to legislative requirements). Decisions at this meeting are not binding on the Council, although the Council will normally take heed of what is said at the meeting and action where appropriate.
- All groups and organisations within the Parish are encouraged to provide a report at this meeting, either verbally or printed and made available to attendees.
- The Annual Parish Meeting is open to all electors of the Parish, who have the right not only to attend but also to speak on any matter of local interest.
- The Annual Parish Meeting is a legacy from the Middle Ages, when Local Councils did not exist, and all local decision making was carried out by meetings of the whole community, usually taking place in the church vestry.

Secondly, like any other organisation or company, Cressing Parish Council needs to hold an **annual meeting** to carry out those things that only need doing once a year. These include:

- Electing a Chairman – the first item of business to enable the meeting to progress
- Electing a Vice-Chairman (if the council wants to have one)
- Appointing committees
- Appointing representatives to other bodies
- Agreeing to subscribe to such bodies as the National Association of Local Councils and the Essex Association of Local Councils
- Reviewing policy documents such as risk assessment, Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, etc. (For a full list of policies see the website)

Although residents may attend, they are not permitted to take part in the formal business of the meeting.

These two meetings are usually held on the same day, with the Annual Parish Meeting taking place first, then the Annual Parish Council Meeting followed by a general meeting of the Parish Council.

Agenda will be published on noticeboards and the Parish Council website, but input from the community is encouraged. So, if you are involved in any group activity in the parish that is available to residents, please provide a report that can be provided to attendees. You can either provide a written report or attend to give a verbal report and answer questions "from the floor". Please contact the Parish Clerk for further information.

This year, the Annual meetings will be held on Wednesday, 11th May 2022, commencing at 7.00pm.

Christine Marshall, Parish Clerk, clerk@cressing-pc.gov.uk

Protect your home from burglary

Last month National Neighbourhood Watch launched their Think WIDE(N) burglary prevention campaign (1st-31st March), highlighting the simple, evidence-based WIDE measures which can be taken in any home on a variety of budgets.

Police and Neighbourhood Watch, also believe neighbours keeping an eye out for each other is key to reducing burglary, so Neighbourhood Watch extended the WIDE acronym to WIDE(N):

- W: WINDOWS: Keep your windows locked
- I: INTERIOR: Put inside lights on a timer/smart bulb
- D: DOORS: Double or deadlock your doors
- E: EXTERIOR: Put outside lights on a sensor
- (N): NEIGHBOURS: Keep an eye out for your neighbours

To learn more about WIDE(N) and burglary prevention measures, visit:

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/thinkwiden> .

Some additional features that you can consider to keep your home secure are:

- If overlooked or the chance of being seen burglars will prefer to go elsewhere, so lighting on your house is a good deterrent. Dusk till dawn on the front, not only can you and others see who is at your door, but also when you come home you have a welcoming light. At the rear fit a motion activated lamp, but ensure you set and site it so that animals and plants don't keep turning it on as that only creates more alarm.
- Is there clear unobstructed access to the rear? Burglars will prefer to gain access out of sight at the rear. Where possible fence and gate access to rear gardens, top this with some trellis or spiky toppings (Max height without planning permission 2m or 1m next to a highway used by vehicles and the spiky topping requires a warning notice). How about some defensive planting, what's this you ask.....something like Berberus, Pyracantha or Hawthorn around perimeter fencing or anything else you wish to protect i.e., domestic fuel tank (some garden centres sell more established plants) the RHS can help with further guidance.
- Bins: - Secure bins and other objects away from buildings and walls so that they cannot be used as a climbing aid.
- Consider a doorbell that you can answer remotely on your smartphone. A lot of these you can add further CCTV cameras that you listen and speak through too.
- Create the illusion of occupancy: A radio on, a chair that looks like you have just got up, book or magazine open with a pair of spectacles and a mug next to it, a vacuum cleaner with the lead trailing out of sight (not plugged in), the usual signs of habitation and don't leave it too tidy.

Further crime prevention advice can be found on the NHW website above or the following websites:

<https://www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

<https://www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/crime-prevention-advice>

MESSAGE FROM THE VICAR

Normally, when something precious breaks, we do our best to mend it. A treasured toy, a favourite coat or treasured family ornament, with a bit of glue, thread or paint a lot can be restored. 'The Repair Shop', a popular BBC programme, specialises in such transformations. A team of restorers, with specialist skills in wood or metal work, porcelain and paint finishes, textiles and complex mechanisms lovingly take worn, unsightly, and faded objects and restore them to new life, reviving happy memories and restoring joy.

As good as new or even better than I remember it most owners say when they return to see the results. And even when looking closely it is difficult to spot the glue, the faint lines, the tell-tale signs of repair and restoration.

Would that we could do the same with human lives, with disappointments and with our shortcomings. But it's not easy to change habits, to forget an inner wound or to heal a broken heart. And so we do our best to conceal and cover up, to put a brave face on it and tell ourselves we have moved on.

But there is a different way, which does not hide our brokenness, but acknowledges and honours the wounds and scars we carry.

The Japanese art of Kintsugi demonstrates this perfectly. A broken item of crockery, most commonly a bowl is taken and reassembled. But not with the aim of disguising the damage as much as possible, but rather display the beauty of imperfection. Lacquer and glues are mixed with gold powder and the fault lines are emphasised in gold, the bowl reassembled and beautified not in spite of but because of the imperfections: they are what makes the bowl a unique piece of beauty and art.

This month we again remember the final week of Jesus' earthly life. His suffering, death and glorious resurrection. And when he appears to his followers, he still carries the scars of the crucifixion, they are not concealed or removed.

Jesus shows us that there is no pain, no sin, no wound, no fragility beyond his transforming love. He still heals and restores whenever we bring our brokenness to him and offers us new life. We need not hide or pretend; we can come just as we are. This is the good news of Easter, that life follows death, light overcomes darkness and evil is overcome by good.

To remind us of Jesus' triumph of life over death we have placed painted stones around Coggeshall and along footpaths. If you find one of them, please take it home as a reminder of what God has done, and the hope and joy he offers us.

Wishing you a blessed Holy Week and a very Happy Easter!



Wicko

CRESSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

sharing God's love and truth where we are

Dear friends

If any of these questions came up in a quiz, how well would you do?

1. What is Shrove Tuesday (Pancake day) and why do we have it?
2. What is Ash Wednesday?
3. What is the real reason for Good Friday?

And lastly, what is the real reason for Easter Sunday?

If you went to school between the nineteen thirties and the early nineteen eighties, you would probably know the answers because Religious Education was mainly taught around the Christian faith with a small percentage of other faiths. Now we live in a much more multi faith society and for some, the reason for public holidays are largely lost, it's just the holiday that counts. Recently I was speaking to a friend who complained about the dates of religious public holidays, he found it inconvenient to book extra time off from work to extend their Easter holidays. The timing of Easter is quite complicated, because it revolves around the vernal equinox, so Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the new moon. Because Western Churches use the Gregorian calendar and the Eastern churches use the Julian calendar it gets even more confusing, but in general, Easter falls on a Sunday between March 22nd and April 25th.

I thought that in worrying too much about the dates, we totally miss the point, as we should be concerned about why we have Easter holidays. The most important two celebratory days of Easter are Good Friday (used to be known as God's Friday) and Easter Sunday. Good Friday is the day that Jesus Christ was crucified on a cross and died to take that punishment for mankind's sins. In other words Jesus took the punishment that mankind deserved. Three days later, Easter Sunday Jesus rose from the dead and was seen by His disciples and many others for the next forty days. Then, Jesus ascended to heaven to be with His Father, witnessed by His closest friends. That's the true message of Easter.

On Easter Saturday we will be showing the film 'Risen' Witness the manhunt that changed the course of History. See below for more details.

At this terrible time in history, we see every day the atrocities committed by the Russian Military forces on the sovereign nation of Ukraine, and our hearts, prayers, and support go out to those brave Ukrainians. Mathew Chapter 5 verse 9 tells us 'Blessed are the peace makers', my prayer is that there will be peace makers that will persuade President Putin to cease the war he started and withdraw Russian military forces from Ukraine.

May this Easter be special for you, for you are special to Jesus.

Every blessing

Dennis



What's on at CRESSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

April 2022

Sunday 3rd Cafe Church

Breakfast is served from **09.30 until 10.15** followed at 10.30 by a short, lively, all age service.

Services

Sundays at 10.30

Bible Study

Wednesdays at 19.00

Prayer Meeting

Saturdays at 09.00

March Beetle Drive

This evening was well attended by children and adults of all ages. There was much laughter and spells of concentration all the evening, and enquiries were made about when the next one will take place!

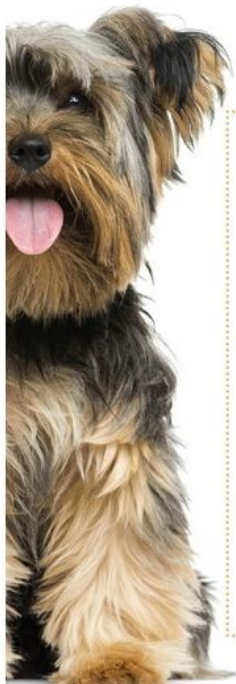
April Events

Saturday 9th 19.00 Family Quiz Night £5 including refreshments

Saturday 16th 19.00 Special film night 12 certificate

'Risen' is the epic Biblical story of the Resurrection, as told through the eyes of a Roman non-believer and his aide. They are tasked with solving the mystery of what happened to Jesus in the week following the crucifixion, in order to disprove the rumours of a risen Messiah and prevent an uprising in Jerusalem.

There is **no charge** for this event but there will still be popcorn and ice cream.



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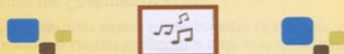
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CRESSING EVENTS VOLUNTEERS



Back at Cressing Community Church Hall for this month's Lunch.

I think I may have mentioned that the CCC has a Dish Washer and an operator, which is just great for us, but joking aside, the CCC always go out of their way to support our efforts, so thank you so much.

It would seem the weather likes to have a good laugh at us, last month saw gale winds when we had Pasty and chips, this month a warmest day for Soup.

The Soup Lunch always requires an early start, for it is surprising just how long that amount of soup takes to heat up, without burning the chicken soup, as we offer both Tomato and Chicken.

Once guests had finished their Soup and Roll, we decided we would test their knowledge of music from shows, to allow the soup to settle, before serving Tea and Coffee along with Biscuits and sweets. Then it was time to see which table had won the combined fun and music quiz, finally it was time for our raffle, which plays an important part in keeping our cost down, So our thanks to all who donate.

Our next event is a Sausage & Chip Lunch at St. Barnasbas Church Hall on Friday the 22nd of April from 12.00 till 2.00 Serving at 12.15pm, the cost is £4.00, so why not join us for a chat, a brain tease, and good company.

To book a place, or get a copy of our next quarter programme, please contact Pam or Jackie on 584170 or 327064.

Arthur on behalf of the C.E.V team



Cressing Book Group

Our latest book was *Into the Water* by Paula Hawkins, the follow up to her bestselling thriller *The Girl on a Train*. Jules Abbot returns to her childhood home in Beckford after her estranged sister Nel is found dead in the Drowning Pool, a feature of the river that runs through the small town and the site of many past watery deaths. The history of these was being researched by Nel for a book she was planning to write. Her 15 year old daughter, whose best friend had drowned in the pool only a few weeks before, is convinced that Nel's death was suicide but others are not so sure. Could it have been murder and if so, who could be responsible?

While some of us enjoyed this book, we also had a few criticisms of it. We all felt that it was a somewhat gloomy read with characters who all seemed to be burdened with various psychological problems. One reader said that she'd felt as if she'd been doing a course in psychiatry! Another difficulty was that there were so many characters, some sounding very similar, that it was tricky at times to sort out just who was who. Each chapter is told from a different viewpoint and this led to a discussion about the unreliability of memory and of individuals' interpretation of events. We also had some discussion about the ending which we felt was unclear. So we had a mixed response to *Into the Water*, an interesting but not entirely satisfying read.

In the driving seat

“Do you like driving”. A question that was asked of me recently.



I reflected on the question and how to answer it carefully. I have been driving regularly for over 50 years and driven many miles up, down and across the country on all classes of roads, and would have said at one time that I really enjoyed it. If the question had been asked a few years ago, I think I would immediately have responded with a ‘yes’. Nowadays I am not so sure, but how did things get this way? Should I really answer with a ‘No’.

How have I become a person who used to look for every excuse to get behind the wheel to a person who now drives very little. I have a lovely car that is comfortable to ride in, and has all the electronic controls that one needs to make it easy to drive.

Driving used to be fun, it gave me independence, I could be flexible, stop whenever I wanted, take any shortcut, move at my own speed and reach destinations on time without any hassle.

It is still fun, and it does give me independence to a degree. My husband gave up his car during the first lock down. We agreed there was no need for two cars, we had both retired so one car was sitting on the driveway most of the time. Great idea to save a lot of expense, but no longer can I just run out and jump in the car at whim . It all has to be strategically planned!

Being retired means that we now accompany each other a lot more on long journeys, and in recent months there have been quite a few . Moving at my own speed is no longer the norm, nor the non motorway country routes that I prefer. The motorways may appear to be the quickest routes, but the journeys are boring although statistically safer, or were before the introduction of the ‘Smart Motorways’. Possibly Ok if you breakdown by an emergency refuge point which are sited one and half miles apart. However breaking down in between them is possibly the most dangerous situation you could ever wish to be in. The ‘Smart’ person who designed these did not have the same ‘Smart’ answer for areas where there is no escape from a car on the carriageway.

So my answer to “Do you like Driving” needs rather a lot of qualifying. Yes, I do enjoy it. but I am alongside the 40% of drivers according to national surveys show that driving is good for mental health and the other 40% that are anxious of motorway driving. I am not sure what the studies show the other 20% think or do –perhaps they are the ones who get angry and shout! Hmm. Last month I got my first ever speeding ticket—so perhaps I could be included in the last 20%!

Lin Wenlock

Reference: www.theukrules.co.uk/rules/driving/highway-code/breakdowns/motorway-breakdowns.html

- Try to use an emergency refuge area (ERA) or motorway service area.
- Use the SOS phone in an emergency refuge area to contact the Regional Control Centre.
- Call the Regional Control Centre when you stop and once more before you leave the area.
- Use the next junction or attempt to get the vehicle off the carriageway when it is safe.
- Turn on your hazard lights if you have to stop in a traffic lane.
- Safely exit the vehicle on the left-hand passenger side if you are in the left lane and wait behind the barrier.
- If you cannot exit safely, or you are in another lane, remain inside the vehicle with your seatbelt fastened (call 999).



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On your own?

Are you alone, but want to join the celebrations for HM Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee? Cressing Parish Council and Cressing Sports & Social Club have just the event for you. Each table at the Afternoon Tea will be hosted by a Member of either the Parish Council or CSSC who will make you feel very welcome. You will be able to join in the chat, share your memories of Her Majesty; join in the fun and laughter. If that's not enough, you can stay for the Jubilee quiz afterwards.

Full details are given elsewhere in this magazine.



June 13th to 17th is Loneliness Awareness Week

Braintree District Council and Community360 will be hosting events around villages in the Braintree District throughout that week. They want to meet as many people as possible who may suffer from isolation or feel lonely in order to point them to agencies and clubs who can help them meet other people and socialise.

Plans are at an early stage and more information will be available in the next edition of the Community Magazine and on posters in the noticeboards.

News From All Saints & St Barnabas

With all that is going on in Ukraine, and as we pray continuously for peace and support for all the people there, I'm sure most people have found it difficult to deal with as have I. So I went down to our church for a bit of peace and time to think; I was surrounded by all the daffodils and primroses which are looking wonderful, also the spire is now looking free from the holes thanks to the steeple jack who has done a great job. It gave me a lift from all the gloom and hope for the future.

Please support Ukraine if you can, and pray for them.

We are holding a service on Easter Sunday at All Saints at 10.00am all are welcome

Stay safe, and hope to see you at Church in the near future,
Peter Sutton Church Warden

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sue.pulfrey@outlook.com or 'phone 583412

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Deanna: 07734910551

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Cressing Awareness
 Cressing Community Changes
 A copy of this magazine may also be accessed at
crestringmag.co.uk

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The last date for copy for the following month's edition of the magazine is the 15th of the month and should be sent to ; Cressing Community Magazine, c/o The Parish Office, St. Barnabas Church, Claude Ince Avenue, Tye Green, Cressing.

On A4 paper please, or by e-mail to: dandwtilbury@hotmail.co.uk (Note:-copy may be edited)

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