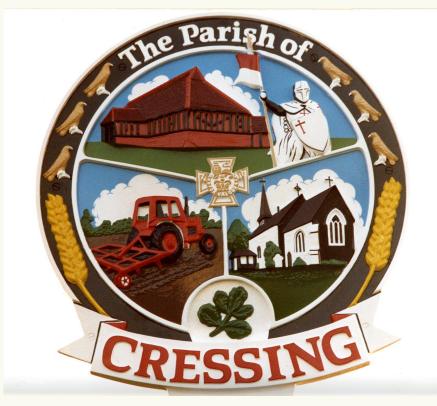
Vol. 30 No. 9

Cressing Community Magazine



November 2021



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November Editorial:

Well, its November again, and don't they come round quickly? As always, it is a time to remember those who have died for us and for their country. Our annual Remembrance Service will this year be on **Thursday 11th November** at All Saints Church, 10.30 in the Church and then 11.00 at the War Memorial when the Parish Wreath will be laid by a veteran. Everyone is welcome. If you do not wish to come into Church come straight to the war Memorial.

As you will see from the poster inside, the dustcart will be coming to various locations in the parish on Saturday 20th November. A chance to get rid of anything that can't be put in the bin.

I have been asked recently if there were any defibrillators in the parish. Yes, there are two, one is on the wall at the front of St. Barnabas and the other is located to the side, (visible from the road) at Cressing Community Church in The Street.

But the most important thing is to dial 999 before doing anything else. Stay with the patient and if you are instructed by the Ambulance Service to get the defibrillator, send someone else to fetch it. Each defibrillator cupboard has a code number to gain access and the Ambulance Service will tell you what it is. Once you open the machine, there are full instructions inside and the machine will speak to you and show you what to do. The Ambulance Service will also talk you through using the equipment until the ambulance arrives.

The Parish Council purchased the defibrillators several years ago and registered their location with the Ambulance Service. They are the property of the PC and they maintain them.

Things in the country are still very worrying with regard to the pandemic, so do keep safe by taking all the precautions you are advised to.

Betty

DIARY



Tues. 2nd, 16th and 23rd Art Group in St. Barnabas. 10.00-1.00pm.

Tues.9th Coffee Morning in St. Barnabas 11.00-1.00pm Cost £1

Wed.10th Events Committee Soup Lunch in Cressing Community Church in The

Street. 12.00-2.00pm Cost £2.

Thur.11th Remembrance Day Service at All Saints Church 10.30 for 11.00am

Sun.14th Communion Service in All Saints Church 9.00am

Sat.20th Dustcart at various locations (see poster inside)

Thur.25th Knit and Natter at St, Barnabas 2.00-4.00pm



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Cressing Book Group



Our latest book was *The Offing* by Benjamin Myers. When 16 year old Robert Appleby, son of a coal miner, leaves his Durham village just after WWII to spend a summer exploring the north of England, he stumbles upon an overgrown cottage overlooking Robin Hood's Bay. The owner Dulcie is outspoken, bohemian and three times his age but an unlikely friendship blossoms between them. She introduces him to good food, poetry and wider horizons and helps him discover his future potential while he in turn helps her to come to terms with her difficult past.

We liked this book. We enjoyed the entertaining dialogue between Dulcie and Robert which we felt really brought the book to life and we liked the way in which Robert is shown to change and mature as their relationship progresses. We enjoyed the lyrical language and the descriptions of nature and the countryside - though one reader did object to the many hyphenated adjectives used at times! Some of us were sceptical about the likelihood of a boy of just 16 and of Robert's background being able to embark on such a journey but in the end we decided that strict adherence to reality isn't important in this fable of hope, discovery and how the negatives in life can transform to positives.



CRESSING EVENTS VOLUNTEERS

This months CEV lunch event was Fish & Chips, a tried and tested favourite, held at St. Barnabas Church Hall. Our thanks as always for the use of the hall and equipment. This was the first time in 18 months that it has been possible to hold our Lunches, for us this Lunch held a mixture of emotions since we have lost a number of lovely friends during this period, so we were very unsure just what the response would be to our restart. I am so pleased to say it was like we had never been gone, but with a some what smaller number.

37 portions of fish & chips ordered, one needing to be delivered. It was important "Cyprus Fish Bar" delivered on time which they did. The team then made short work of serving along with rolls and pickles to Guests and Helpers.

After the meal it was time for tea or coffee along with biscuits, and sweets, then on to the music part of our quiz, before seeing which table had won our fun quiz. It was then soon time for our raffle and as always a big thank you for donations to add to this and future raffle's.

NEXT EVENT

Our next event is our Soup Lunch on Wednesday 10th November from 12.00 till 2.00 at Cressing Community Church Hall, The Street, The cost is just £2.00.

Our events are open to all, so **why sit at home** when you can have lunch without any washing up, meet other residents, and hopefully have a good time. **But please book your place**, by calling Pam or Jackie on 584170 or 327064.

Arthur- On behalf of the CEV Team



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More and more Moorhens!

It started with a sound of sharp bruuk notes coming from the thicket behind our garden pond, a noise that cut clean through the air causing me to peer as deep into the brambles as I could. It was a sound that I recognised but could not quite remember.



A few weeks later I had the answer, eight little bundles of soft powder puff black feathers were swimming around on the garden pond - the parent birds making the *bruuk bruuk* warning noise to keep them all in check and away from harm.

It has been fun to watch them growing up, the most prolonged view is a theatrical affair, as it seems that a moorhens body and those 'two sizes too big feet' are not always of one mind. A sighting that is the most common is a squat, thin headed shape pootling across the pond or dyke like a clockwork toy, and the forward jerk of the beak is timed precisely with the unseen scull of the toes and the backward flick of the tail, so that one might easily assume all three actions are part of some connected mechanism.

In the past we have always had a couple visiting the garden, but now the eight youngsters seem to have spread the word that this is a good 'restaurant' to others in the vicinity and it is now a daily occurrence for many others to gather with them foraging around the lawn.

They are normally very often shy and will run away when you are too close, appearing to have a rather skittish nervous behaviour, but these seem to have overcome this trait, and I find myself apologising to them when I disturb their feast!

I had read that moorhens were poor fliers as their wings are short and not every strong, but it does not seem the case with my own little brood, who are able to fly up into the bushes and even on to the shell of the old polytunnel roof without any problem.

They are such beautiful creatures and have been such a joy to watch.

Lin Wenlock

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Autumn Security Considerations

As darker nights roll in heralding the approach of winter here are a few things that you can consider and include in your general maintenance at this time of year that may make your home less attractive to thieves.

- Put that light on! 31/10/21 the clocks go back, check and reset the time of your timer plugs, lights, and other security devices. Remember to a thief a house in darkness is empty. Some of the things you do to create the illusion you are in when your home is unoccupied are: lights on in rooms that you would normally occupy, TV simulators, a doorbell that you can answer remotely on your smartphone.
- <u>External lighting and CCTV</u> Make sure that external lighting and CCTV is working and clean.
- Hedges, Trees and plants A consideration when gardening most thieves like to work unobserved. Have your plants or shrubs grown and are they now obstructing CCTV or lighting, does it now prevent neighbours and passer-by's from seeing your frontage? If so a spot of pruning would be advisable, to the front it is recommended to keep hedges and shrubs to about 4' (1.2m) and with trees prune lower branches where suitable to allow that visibility of your property.
- Sheds and gates keep them closed and locked when not in use, review and maintain the locks as required. Alarms on sheds and outbuildings are a good idea.
- <u>Property marking</u> tools and lawn mowers going away for the winter, if you have not
 done it already make a note of the model and serial numbers and consider a property
 marking product.
- Heating Oil with the value of fuel it is worth considering its security. In the more isolated parts of the countryside it is primarily domestic properties that have been targeted by the heating oil thieves, but we have also seen such thefts at farms and other businesses. There are several security devices available that will protect your fuel supplies details of which can be found via your fuel supplier or local plumber's merchant. One such system is Tank Commander www.commandersecurities.co.uk which has "Secured by Design" accreditation https://www.securedbydesign.com/. Products like this will detect a dramatic drop in fuel and notify you by phone and/or audible alarm. There are also other similar security products that can add onto an existing intruder alarm system, whilst others may protect the filler cap and there are of course the conventional locks. Another consideration would be concealing it with landscaping and spiky planting around the tank, restricting access to it with gates or fencing, and where possible locating the tank under lighting in view of lived in rooms within the house.

If you would like further advice regarding security please look at the Essex Police website www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/ and https://www.securedbydesign.com/.

Naturally we also ask you to report any unusual activity to police in an emergency on 999 or after the event on 101 or "Do it online" www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online/report-a-crime/ or to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

News from All Saints Church & St Barnabas

It continues to be a busy time as we catch up with all the maintenance of both churches. At All Saints we are having the belfry/spire checked for bird damage etc., prior to any repairs that are needed. We are also trying to make the grave yard more accessible and thanks to all who have worked hard to make this possible and we would very much appreciate any help anyone can give in the future to sustain this.

At St Barnabas it is very heart warming that we are back to lots of bookings from groups and clubs. We are continuing to decorate and modernise and make it more pleasant for users. We are also working on the storage unit to improve it with insulation and lighting.

Our thanks to Mr Tony Dunn who recently held an Organ Recital at All Saints. The music was varied from Aaron Copland to J S Bach and much in-between and it was a very enjoyable evening.

We are holding our Remembrance day service on Thursday 11th November, to celebrate those who gave their lives for us all in all wars. The service starts at 10.30 am followed by wreath laying at 11.00 am at the War Memorial, which is situated in the church yard at All Saints.

Don't forget we are holding regular services starting with the 2^{nd} Sunday of the month at All Saints.

Next Service 14th November at 9.00 am, all are welcome.

Hope to see some of you at Church in the near future, Peter and Sue, Church Wardens

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THE VICAR'S LETTER.

A season for remembering:

Whether we remember those who have died on All Souls Day, or Guy Fawkes' failed gunpowder plot to blow up parliament on the 5th of November 1605, or indeed the sacrifice made by our armed forces over the years on Remembrance Day, it is a season for remembering.

And we do well to honour and learn from those who went before, to continue their legacy and to pass on the stories which explain who we are as people, as communities and as a nation.

But it's not always good to remember - in fact sometimes it would be better if we could forget. I sometimes have trouble remembering where I put my keys or what I went upstairs for by the time I reach the top step, but when it comes to an unkind word or a thoughtless gesture, my memory works perfectly: "You'll never believe what he did" or "Let me tell you she said!"

But here is the thing - whatever we choose to remember and focus on will also determine how we feel and act in the future! It is difficult to be resentful about the past and to be optimistic about the future. We first have to let go of the past, of everything which holds us back, before we can live for today and look forward to tomorrow! Which is why we pray 'forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us'.

Or perhaps you prefer this 6-year-old's version, who was overheard reciting the Lord's Prayer at a church service: "And forgive us our trash passes, as we forgive those who passed trash against us."

Rev. Heike Prentice

WORSHIP SERVICES November 2021

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9.30am Holy Communion

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5.15pm 1st Sunday of the month: Choral Evensong

St Nicholas Chapel, Coggeshall

9am 4th Sunday of the month: Holy Communion or Matins

All Saints, Cressing

9am 2nd Sunday of the month: Holy Communion

All Saints, Stisted

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10.30am Service of the Word or Communion

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Do we belong to you?

Over the last two or so years we have had two regular garden visitors. A lovely black and white cat and an equally lovely ginger cat. We have learnt that the black and white cat frequents our neighbours garden in the morning, attempting and helping to keep the rabbit population down. They call the cat 'socks' as his/her two front feet look as though he/she is wearing some! He/she has green eyes and a black triangle of fur under the chin. Our garden tends to be visited in the afternoon (sat on our patio this morning for a change though) when he/she is usually to be found fast asleep somewhere in the sun. We regard each other with mutual respect and a 'hello' from us, which is greeted with complete indifference. Our every move is monitored but as long as we keep a healthy distance all is well and he/she does seem friendly! Other vantage points are used by the cat to check out potential edible morsels, but a nice long nap seems to take preference!

To our knowledge the ginger cat does not stay for any great length of time. Approaching up the drive from the front of the house he/she patrols the back garden with a steely look and a methodical and determined air and will then sit discreetly to watch the bird activity on our feeders near the house. This cat is quite skittish and usually makes a hasty exit if seen by us.

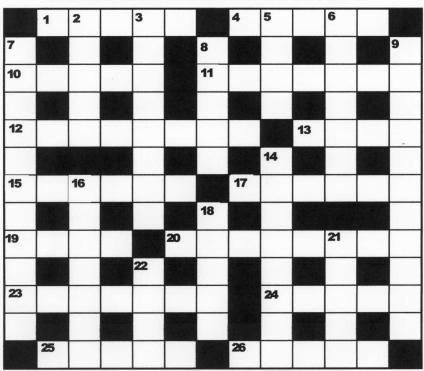
Obviously, if given the chance, both cats will do what comes naturally and bird feathers (pigeon mostly) are evidence of that.

We do not think they come from the same household, but may be wrong, and rarely see them both in the garden at the same time. We would love to know their names, so if you are the owner of either or both, please let us know, in person or through the magazine. We live in the old village and assume the cats do as well, but of course they could live further away. We also guess that they visit plenty of other gardens in the vicinity as well!

Julie and Michael Alen

Rook Hall.

NOVEMBER 2021 CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1. Head monk (5)
- 4. Play the coquette (5
- 10. The ones there (5)
- 11. Corrected (7)
- 12. Christmas (8)
- 13. Cupid (4)
- 15. Japan (6)
- 17. Logic (6)
- 19. Paddles (4)
- 20. Portray (8)
- 23. Warms up again (7)
- 24. Finished (5)
- 25. Perfect (5)
- 26. Academy Award (5)

DOWN

- 2. Grill (5)
- 3. Passed (8)
- 5. Limbs (4)
- 6. Comes back (7)
- 7. Remain at home (4,7)
- 8. Unrefined (5)
- 9. Various items (4,3,4)
- 14. Schoolmasters (8)
- 16. Very thirsty (7)
- 18. Brute (5)
- 21. Sub-continent (5)
- 22. Long narrative (4)

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ANSWERS TO OCTOBER CROSSWORD

ACROSS	DOWN
1 WALTZ (5)	2 ALIBI (5)
5 PACKET (6)	3 ZOO (3)
8 BOROUGH (7)	4 ZLOTY (5)
8 BOROUGH (7) 9 OATH (4)	5 PYGMY (5)
	5 PYGMY (5) 6 KNOWN (5)
	7 TITAN (5)
	9 RET (3)
21 UNITE (5)	
50 EKING (5)	
17 VACATED (7) 21 UNITE (5) 22 EXALT (5) 23 SPANIEL (7) 25 FIXTURE (7) 29 ZEALOUS (7) 32 HAZY (4) 33 QUIPPED (7) 35 EMERGE (6) 36 EKING (5)	8 BET (3) 11 TEPID (5) 12 EAVES (5) 14 AXE (3) 15 GIRTH (5) 16 QUIFF (5) 18 AWN (3) 19 DELTA (5) 20 BANJO (5) 24 PAR (3) 26 IMAGE (5) 27 THYME (5) 28 EXUDE (5) 29 ZIPPY (5) 30 LID (3) 31 UNION (5) 34 EVE (3)



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cressing Parish Council held on 13th October 2021 at 7.00pm at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing

Present: Cllrs: John Lawton – Chairman, Colin Haines, Ali Lapper, Susan Simpson and Steve Watts

In attendance: Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk/RFO), County Councillor Paul Thorogood, District Councillor James Abbott and one member of the public

21/139 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT

The Chairman welcomed attendees and reported as follows:

- The Chairman recorded his thanks to the Clerk and also the Secretary of the Cressing Sports & Social Club or their work in arranging the Open Day on 2nd October, which, despite the weather, was a success.
- The Clerk will be attending a virtual meeting with the S.106 Officer at BDC later this month regarding the proposals for the changing rooms at the Playing Field.
- iii. The Clerk attended a virtual presentation hosted by the Safer Essex Roads Partnership prior to this Parish Council meeting and will provide a report shortly.
- iv. The enforcement re change of use at The Willows currently rests with the Planning Committee.

21/140 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk advised that apologies had been received from Cllrs: Porrett (out of the country), Cllr Rowe (family hospital appointment) and District Cllr Wright. Cllrs agreed to accept these apologies.

21/141 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.

21/142 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The Clerk confirmed that no requests to speak had been received within the required notice period. However, an email had been received prior to the meeting seeking clarification on several issues and this will be responded to by the Clerk in due course. **Action: Clerk**

As Cllr Lapper had advised that she would need to leave the meeting by 8.15pm for work commitments, the Chairman pout forward a resolution that item 21/154 be brought forward on the Agenda. It was agreed to resolve accordingly. Proposed: Cllr Watts, seconded: Cllr Simpson.

21/154 HIGHWAYS

Referring to his report previously issued to Councillors, Cllr Haines re-iterated that the discussion with Andy Hilson of Essex Highways was not as beneficial as hoped. A report from the officer is awaited. Following input from County Cllr Thorogood and Cllr Lapper, **it was agreed** that a further letter should be sent to Essex Highways seeking a traffic audit, reducing the speed limit from 40 to 30mph on this section of road and reducing the marked lanes around the new roundabout to one only. **Action: Clerk**

21/143 REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Abbott reported on the following:

 Planning application for 94 houses in Silver End has been refused; main reasons building in the countryside, impact on listed buildings and poor pedestrian access. Reasons for other rejections being given are capacity of primary schools and early years' places. Currently no further planning applications outstanding for Silver End.

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- A letter has been sent to BDC Chief Executive seeking clarity on the discussions being held with NHS as there is £300,000 S.106 contributions set aside for expansion of medical provision in Silver End.
- iii. Cllr Abbott supports the need for Essex Highways to consult residents and particularly Parish Councils when responding to planning applications.
- iv. It is hoped the Local Plan will be adopted early 2022 which will make it more difficulty for large development applications being approved, but many will be expected to go to Appeal – the 5year housing target has been met.
- v. BDC are seeking more information on the potential Gladman application in Cressing (proposed 350 dwellings off Braintree Road, Tye Green).
- vi. The Planning Enforcement Group has concluded that more staff are needed and that will be the recommendation to Council. Another recommendation is for Planning to have a separate Monitoring Officer to check on planning approval conditions being met and adhered in avoidance of enforcement notices being served.
- vii. There is an initiative for developers, pre-planning team and parish councils to meet before applications are submitted.
- viii. Rivenhall Incinerator BDC have now submitted an objection to Condition 66 of the permission for Indaver who are trying to build a facility that is not detailed within the approval. PAIN (Parishes against INcineration) will be submitting objections, but additional planning applications from Indaver are expected.

County Councillor Thorogood reported:

- Recent Local Highways Applications submitted by the Clerk have been supported by him and passed to the appropriate officer for submission to the Panel.
- Cllr Thorogood advised of a complaint against him from a resident of Cressing. The Clerk was able to confirm that no communication had been received by the Parish Council in this respect.
- iii. Vehicle Advisory Signs a new scheme is being worked on whereby Parish Councils will be able to have these at a reduced cost. Details will follow in due course.

Cllr Lapper left the meeting.

21/144 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th September 2021 were confirmed as a true record. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded Cllr Lawton.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

21/145 CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILLOR

The Clerk confirmed that only one enquiry had been received so far. Closing date is midday on Tuesday 19th October.

21/146 THREE PARISHES MEETING

This has been confirmed for Tuesday 26th October at Rivenhall. Cllr Haines and the Clerk will attend.

21/147 THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE (2nd June 2022)

This will be discussed whether to undertake a joint event with Cressing Sports & Social Club, also whether anything is to be done collectively under the "Three Parishes" group; Rivenhall are holding a Fete and Silver End are planning an event. **Action: Clerk**

21/148 FINANCE

- Progress against budget: The Clerk/RFO referred to the reports issued with the Agenda. There
 were no queries, and the reports were accepted. Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded: Cllr Watts,
 all in favour
- ii. A motion to approve bank reconciliation at 30th September 2021: It was resolved that the bank reconciliation statement at 30th September be approved. Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded:

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Cllr Watt, all in favour

iii. A motion to approve August 2021 Payments/Cheques: The list of payments made and cheques to be signed against July expenditure was presented. There were no queries, and it was resolved to approve the payments. Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded Cllr Rowe, all in favour. Cllrs Lawton and Haines signed the cheques.

21/149 GRANT APPLICATION

A request had been received from the Herts & Essex Air Ambulance and after it was discussed Cllrs agreed to consider other organisations and the Clerk was requested to prepare a recommended list for consideration. **Action: Clerk**

21/150 "CALLING ALL POND LOVERS"

The letter received from FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group) was discussed and two locations were suggested: re-claim the pond on common land by the electricity sub-station on the B1018 and creation of a new pond on the common land corner of Lanham Green Road and Boars Tye Road. The Clerk will make further enquiries and print the details in the Community Magazine for residents to follow up if they have suggestions **Action: Clerk**

21/151 CRESSING ENVIRONMENT

- i. The Clerk referred to the report previously issued to Cllrs. Although the weather was not conducive to outside events, attendees enjoyed the Met Police dog display and the opportunity to look closely at a fire engine and speak to officers. Of those who attended and completed feedback forms, there was overwhelming support for the proposed re-build of shower/changing room facilities. Attendees also expressed their support for this type of event to be held annually when feedback and opinion could be expressed on Parish Council projects. It was agreed the Clerk should discuss with the Secretary of Cressing Sports & Social Club to hold an event earlier in 2022. The Chairman noted that the cost of the event came well below budget and was pleased that some of the information produced for the event could be re-used. Action: Clerk
- Additional suggestions had been received for locations to plant trees and install seating. These will be discussed with BDC in due course. Action: Clerk

21/152 EMERGENCY PLAN

It was agreed that the Clerk should discuss this outside of this meeting with Cllr Lapper. **Action:** Clerk

21/153 PLANNING

- A. Appeals determined by the Planning Inspectorate: None advised.
- B. Appeals submitted to the Planning Inspectorate: None advised.
- C. Applications determined by Braintree District Council: None advised.
- D. Applications received by Braintree District Council:
- 21/02780/FUL | Installation of new entrance gates, along with wall and covered enclosure. | Imola Lanham Green Cressing Essex CM77 8DT – no comments to make
- ii. 21/02749/TPOCON | Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area T1 Laurel Section fell to ground level and chemically treat stump to prevent re-growth and T2 Multi-stemmed Wild Cherry Plum Section fell to ground level and chemically treat stump to prevent re-growth Trees have outgrown the area and are poor specimens | All Saints Church Church Road Cressing Essex no comments to make
- iii. 21/02799/FUL | Erection of 2 x 3 bedroom two-storey dwellings with associated access, car parking and amenity space. | Land Rear Of Hawbush House Hawbush Green Cressing Essex this application is against the policies and principles of the Neighbourhood Plan and is located on a protected lane, objection to be submitted. Action: Clerk
- iv. 20/01100/VAR amendment to site layout and house types | Appletree Farm, Polecat Road,

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Cressing - no comments to make

- v. 20/01101/VAR variation of Conditions 6c, 9, 11, 17, 18 | Appletree Farm, Polecat Road, Cressing no comments to make
- E. Applications bordering parish for information none advised.

21/155 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

The next dust cart will be arranged for Saturday 20th November. Action: Clerk.

Items for inclusion on the November Agenda:

- 1. Co-option of Councillor/s
- 2. The Oueen's Platinum Jubilee
- 3. Grants
- 4. Report from 3 Parishes Meeting
- 5. Rainbow Field
- 6. Emergency Plan

21/156 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 10th November 2021 at **7.00pm at St Barnabas Hall, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing, CM77 8HG.** Social distancing may be implemented, and face masks worn if required under Covid regulations.

Any items for inclusion on the Agenda to be sent to the Parish Clerk to be received no later than 12 noon on Tuesday 2nd November 2021.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Dates of 2021 meetings

DECEMBER	8	7.00pm	
Dates of 2022 m	eetings		
JANUARY	12	7.00pm	
FEBRUARY	9	7.00pm	
MARCH	9	7.00pm	
APRIL	13	7.00pm	
MAY 11	7.00pm	Annual Parish Meeting	
	7.30pm	Parish Council Annual Meeting	
	8.00pm	Parish Council Meeting	

CRESSING ART GROUP

The art group meets three times a month at St. Barnabas where we paint and make cards. We are a mixed group with members who have not painted since school days and members who sell their paintings. We all help each other. It is a very friendly group and we chat as well as paint. We use all media and members paint their choice of photo or picture. If you are interested please contact me and I can discuss what you will need if you are a beginner or you may just come along to a meeting and say hello to everyone and see what we all do. You will be most welcome and can stay for refreshments to give you an opportunity to get to know members.

Vi Turner

07599182861 or 01376 344228.

CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL (CPC) AND CRESSING SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB (CSSC) - JOINT OPEN DAY, 2ND OCTOBER 2021

Even though the elements caused the bouncy castle and ice cream cart to be cancelled and the donkeys getting soaked, we had a good turnout of residents to the Open Day.

Councillors Lawton, Haines, Lapper, Rowe and Watts all found time during the afternoon to come along and speak with visitors, as did many of the CSSC Management Committee. Special thanks must go to Cllr Ali Lapper for being there and arranging the police dog display. Despite the appalling weather, there was a large crowd to see the officers put the dogs through their paces – and of course everyone loved the German Shepherd puppy, Sasha, and at just 9 weeks old she got lots of fuss and cuddles.

A big thank-you has been sent to the officers at Braintree Fire Station who came along in one of their fire engines which proved very popular with the children who were able to sit inside it. As they were all retained firemen, it was good of them to give up their time for us.

Other exhibitors included: Cressing Community Speedwatch, Essex Fire Service, Braintree District Council streetscene, Community 360, United in Kind, Royal British Legion, Essex Police and the Rural Engagement Team. These exhibitors spent time with residents and others who attended, explaining their services and finding out more about Cressing and its residents. These exhibitors all felt it was time well spent and are keen to come along to our next information event to see how they can help our residents.

All attendees were handed a pack with useful information about services available in the Parish – unfortunately not everyone took a pack, so if you didn't but would like a copy, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Feedback from the event has been analysed and the proposals for the Pavilion were overwhelming received (90% of visitors supported the proposal to replace the changing/shower rooms in the Pavilion). Visitors were also keen on adding some equipment and activities on the playing field that would appeal to older children/younger adults and this will form part of the Parish Council's discussions in 2022. What also came across very clearly were the wishes of residents for the hall to be used more for

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community activities, with a coffee shop type operation being mentioned many times. This would need discussion with the Social Club to see if anything could be set up there and again will be a discussion point going forward.

All the feedback forms were entered into a Prize Draw and our lucky winners were:

- Alice Moore won a Wilkins Christmas Hamper full of delicious Christmas related items
- Stephanie Tott won the Tea for Two voucher for a scrumptious afternoon tea at any of the Tiptree Tea Rooms

The Social Club was open throughout the event and the bar staff were certainly kept busy; they also had about 15 new members join, some of whom went back in the evening for the live singer. The singer, David, kept members entertained with a selection of well-known standards and more recent songs – he was so popular that he will definitely be invited back.

The Social Club also held a raffle with all proceeds going to Macmillan Cancer Support. This was won by Jimmy (one of the football team) who, as he rides a motorbike and could not carry it home, was incredibly generous and handed each item in the hamper to someone in the audience. The Social Club also held a "name the teddy" competition. The teddy's name was Candy, who stood taller than the winner, Willow, so dad had to carry it home!

It was clear from feedback that many people found the format to be interesting and informative and the Parish Council and Social Club will be discussing another event in early summer 2022 that can focus on the next stage of improvements to the playing field, in particular the provision of additional sports and equipment for older children/young adults. This could be held on the same day as celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend of 4th June 2022, but we will let you know when we have plans in place.

Playing field and improvements

The feedback from the Public Consultation for showed unanimous support for the proposals to replace the existing changing/shower room. The final plans now meet the Football Association requirements which are a higher specification than for many other sports and consequently provide the

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opportunity to seek alternative uses of the field or hall for activities such as netball, basketball, gymnastics, etc. The Parish Council has collated a list of suggested activities and will be sorting these into what can be done quickly and what will need investment.

Seats and trees

As part of the overall Essex Climate Change Strategy to improve biodiversity and green spaces, Cressing is supporting this by the planting of trees and bulbs to help protect the natural environment; with more trees to capture and store carbon, and with more plants that will encourage biodiversity and pollinators.

The tree planting will also contribute towards Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee through the Queen's Green Canopy project, 'Plant a tree for the Jubilee'.

A total of 16 locations for trees were suggested around the playing field, but five of these would be too close to the football pitch to be feasible. We had further locations identified throughout the parish and we will be discussing suggested locations with our Tree Warden.

Drawings were provided at the Open Day for residents to indicate where they felt seats could be provided around the parish. As well as the four units planned by the Parish Council, suggestions were received for another two at the playing field plus three around the parish, two of these being placed on PROW 20 and 10 where there is sufficient width not to hinder walkers. The two locations are areas where walkers have been seen to rest and 'picnic'. A further suggestion was made for a seat on the common land at the junction of Lanham Green Road and Boars Tye Road.

All of these will be considered, and the appropriate permissions sought from landowners and Essex Highways as necessary.

It was a busy day for all concerned and the Parish Council would like to thank CSSC and its bar staff. It would particularly like to record its thanks to the Club Secretary, Sally Griffiths, who worked alongside the Parish Clerk, Christine Marshall, to plan, organise and engage our visitors throughout the afternoon.

CRESSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

sharing God's love and truth where we are

Dear friends

From the First of November there are 54 days till Christmas. Traditionally, the Christmas Advent season starts from Sunday 29thNovember till the 24th of December, but the commercial side of Christmas starts around the end of August, it might be earlier! As far as I can remember, that was when I saw my first Christmas TV advert. Next, our politicians were making claims that they the government are working to protect or save our Christmas. Cynically, I take many of their statements with a pinch of salt.

It seems that every day there is an announcement concerning 'the festive season', shortages of turkeys, toys, Christmas trees, because there's not enough lorry drivers or workers to harvest the Christmas trees, toys stuck in the ports or global shortages due to Covid 19 pandemic. All this talking about Christmas shortages, yet for so many this is normal, those who are struggling to pay ever increasing bills, the reduction in the Furlow wages support, the ending of the extra financial support to already struggling families.

If politicians and those who celebrate Christmas really want to protect Christmas, they should protect the reason for the celebrations which is the birth of Jesus Christ, God's gift to a broken world. For those who want to remove Jesus Christ from Christmas, it will never happen. You can deny it, ignore it, ban it, campaign against it, persecute those who are Christians (as is happening in many countries of the world) but it changes nothing. Christmas does not exist or happen because of anything we can do or say; it exists because of what God has done through His Son Jesus Christ. The birth of Jesus is an established historical fact, and history cannot be changed.

Every blessing in His name.

Dennis

Ps. A close friend of mine who celebrates all the excesses of Christmas sends Xmas cards arguing that X means nothing. Wrong! In the Greek alphabet, X is the symbol for the letter 'Chi' (pronounced 'See') and the first letter in the Greek word for Christ, Xmas and Christmas are essentially the same thing: Christ and Mass which mean a 'celebration of Christ (Jesus) he might just have to send Christmas cards with a picture of Santa stuck up a chimney Ho, Ho, Ho!

The **DUST CART** will be in

Cressing on

Saturday 20th November 2021

Clark and Carter Restorations Ltd, (car park), Shardloes Workshops, Church Road 9.00 til 10.00am

Playing Field car park, Jeffrey's Road 10.15 til 11.30am

St Barnabas Hall, (car park), Claud Ince Avenue 11.45am til 1.00pm

Sorry, the following cannot be taken

*TRADE OR BUILDERS' RUBBLE

*Paint *Hardcore *Oil *Patio Doors *Tyres *Large Tubed Televisions *Refrigerators



Braintree District Council require that Covid recommendations or restrictions applicable at 20th November are observed at all times for the safety of operatives, helpers and residents. When busy, you may be asked to wait in your vehicle until the previous person has left the vehicle.

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

CRESSING COMMUNITY CHURCH DIARY

Our **regular Sunday services are held at 10.30** and all are welcome to attend. On the first Sunday each month we have Cafe Church, where we share breakfast together followed by an informal family service with the children joining the adults.

Children are catered for by our ARK club, where a variety of activities are undertaken in the hall.

If you have filled a shoebox for the Samaritan's Purse Christmas appeal, you can bring it to the church or arrange for it to be collected, ring Dennis as below.

On Saturday 20th November we will be holding a Men's Breakfast in our hall at **8.30** with Jim Sealey speaking. This is an informal gathering suitable for men of any age or background and Simon is an excellent speaker and worth listening to.

We have a special service taking place on Sunday 21st November at 6.30 pm. Howard Gardner with the Cantus Firmus choir are bringing us a Celtic Christianity style Advent service. Their conductor is Norman Eastbrook MBE and music by Sharon Tidbury and friends. '....still be my vision, O Ruler of all...' will last about an hour and refreshments will be served afterwards.

We are planning to hold a **Christmas Tea in December** to which all are invited, so look out for the details in the December magazine.

If you are interested in anything we are doing in the church, do come along, you will find a warm welcome. If you would like more information about the church or to speak to the Minister, ring **Rev. Dennis Ivey 07792895711**.

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Calling all Pond Lovers!

Ponds are a cherished part of the parish landscape; familiar features found at the heart of most village centres and in the wider countryside. Many ponds in Essex pre-date parliamentary enclosure and are a fascinating and often overlooked historical resource, with much to tell us about local land use over the years. From marl pits to hammer ponds, in times past they were essential to agriculture and other industries. Uses ranged from watering livestock, retting cloth, rearing fish and trapping ducks for the table, to sourcing manure (when cleaned out) to fertilise the land. Wagons were driven through them to help tighten wagon wheels (think Constable's 'The Hay Wain'). When steam power arrived, the same ponds that had watered thirsty teams of plough horses were used to fill the water tanks of traction engines.

These days ponds are still vital to the farmed environment - as resources for wildlife. A wide array of flora and fauna is associated with pond habitats, including amphibians, grass snakes, bats, numerous dragonflies and other insects, water voles, otters, and many species of farmland bird. Many of these species are under threat. Sadly, due to changes in land use and agricultural practices, the UK lost around 50% of ponds in the 20th Century.

Excitingly, funding is now available in certain parts of Essex for the restoration of existing ponds and the creation of new ponds, capable of supporting thriving populations of great crested newts. The funding is part of Natural England's District Level Licencing Scheme (DLL) for great crested newts, a new strategic approach to compensating the loss of newt habitats, which seeks to provide new ponds and bigger, better, more joined-up habitat for this orange-bellied amphibian at a landscape scale. The ponds restored and created under the scheme will not only provide high quality habitat for newts; they will benefit numerous other pond-associated species.

'Humans have created pond habitats for thousands of years, usually for purposes linked to agriculture' said Lucy Jenkins, Farm Environment Adviser at FWAG East. 'Over the past century however, humans have changed from being 'net creators' of clean water ponds to 'net destroyers' of pond habitats.

'In Essex the drivers for pond loss include the demand for intensive, high quality arable land brought by the second world war and the associated demise of mixed farming, which made many farmland ponds redundant. Development continues to put pressure on the precious pond habitats which remain in the county.'

'As farmland ecologists we know that digging and restoring ponds is one of the best things landowners can do to support nature on their land and so it is very exciting that funding is now available for great crested newt ponds in strategic areas. We would urge anyone with half an acre or more of land in Essex to contact us to find out if their pond project might qualify for funding.'

In Essex there is a high demand for such wildlife ponds through the DLL scheme. As such, FWAG East is calling on parish councils, farmers, smallholders, large garden owners and other landowners to come forward if they have a pond in mind for restoration or if they are interested in creating new wildlife ponds (or both!). If your project is in one of Natural England's strategic areas for great crested newts it could be fully funded. If it fails to meet project criteria, we can still give you advice on how to successfully and sensitively restore or create your pond habitat.

In Essex there is a high demand for such wildlife ponds through the DLL scheme. If you have a pond creation or restoration project in mind in your parish, please email lucy.jenkins@fwageast.org.uk or jilly.mcnaughton@fwageast.org.uk to receive further information or to arrange an informal chat.





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EASTER Friday, Saturday, Easter Sunday & Easter Monday
CHRISTMAS Eve to 1st January, OPEN As Usual 2nd January

CRESSING DIRECTORY

CRESSING COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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329288 Parish Office open on Wednesdays 09.00 to 15.00

Thursdays 09.00 to 15.00

DOG FOULING

Braintree District Council:

'Phone: 01376 551414 Ext. 2217

Text: 07797 803203 Twitter: @BraintreeDC

Facebook: Report a problem on

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EMERGENCY SERVICES

Braintree Police Station: 551312

0800 7838838 Electricity: 0800 111999 Gas:

Water: 0800 771881

CRESSING EVENTS GROUP

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CRESSING ACTION GROUP

Contact: www.cressingactiongroup.info

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329288

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ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

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Rev. Heike Prentice 561234

> HIRING OF ST. BARNABAS HALL-**Claude Ince Avenue**

sue.pulfrey@outlook.com or 'phone 583412

CRESSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Rev. Dennis Ivey: 07792895711

CRESSING PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head Teacher: 583397 Stuart Caplen

> GIRL GUIDING IN CRESSING Girlguidingessexne.org.uk

Secretary: Jackie Routledge 327064

CRESSING COMMUNITY HALL FUND

CRESSING SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Contact after 19.00 any day except Tuesday:

CRESSING TODDLER GROUP

Deanna: 07734910551 **CRESSING FACEBOOK SITES**

Cressing Awareness

Cressing Community Changes

A copy of this magazine may also be accessed at

cressingmag.co.uk

EASTLIGHT COMMUNITY HOMES (GREENFIELDS)

535400 All Departments:

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.

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