

VOL. 31 No.1

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Cressing Community Magazine



February 2022



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Editorial-February



Welcome to our first edition of 2022. As the old rhyme says, February brings the rain, thaws the frozen lake again. Well, I don't think we need any more rain for a while do we. If you are getting on a bit like me and have stiff joints, the wet weather certainly makes them worse. Getting old is not so good when your brain is still OK but your body won't do what it used to!

Last week I wrote and signed a birthday card to a lady who, although rather frail is still very much alert and she was 100. She also received a card from the Queen. It was Betty Parris who many of you know, a lady who has led a very interesting life. Many congratulations and much love from us all Betty.

If you can't get out and about as much as you would like, why not have a good read. Don't forget the Mobile Library calls every three weeks in Jeffreys Road (by the Pavilion) or there is a good supply of second hand books in St. Barnabas at 30p each. St. Barnabas is often open for activities and also Wednesday and Thursday when the Parish Office is open.

Hopefully most of our usual events will take place in February, see Diary below. The Coffee Morning on Tuesday 8th at St. Barnabas will be a MacMillan Coffee Morning so why not come along for a cup of tea/ coffee and a piece of cake.

Once again, keep safe and well,
Betty



DIARY for FEBRUARY

- Tues.1st Art Group -10.00am in St Barnabas
- Sun. 13th Holy Communion in All Saints Church 9.00am
- Tues.8th MacMillan Coffee Morning in St. Barnabas 11.00am onwards.
- Mon.11th Mobile Library in Jeffreys Road. 10.00-10.40am.
- Tues.15th Art Group
- Fri.18th Events Committee Lunch- Pasty and Chips 12noon at St. Barnabas- Booking essential
- Tue.22nd Art Group
- Thur.24th Knit and Natter Group in St. Barnabas 2.00-4.00pm

CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cressing Parish Council held on 8th December 2021 at 7.00pm at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing

Present: Cllrs: John Lawton – Chairman, Colin Haines and Susan Simpson

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

21/173 CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME AND REPORT

The Chairman welcomed attendees and reported as follows:

- It was unfortunate that only three Councillors had attended the meeting due to other commitments, but the Chairman stated his hope that Councillors will endeavour to attend all meetings during 2022, subject to Covid restrictions of course.
- Councillors have been provided with copies of the Combined S2 Post Hearing Maps following the Inspector’s report on the Braintree District Local Plan. Cllr Abbott will be speaking about these during the meeting.
- Dog fouling – this is becoming a major issue in all areas, including Cressing unfortunately, and the Clerk will be speaking with BDC and looking at some suitable signage and the potential for additional bins. There was an article in the latest Community Magazine on this topic.
- Christmas lights – there will be no tree at St Barnabas but lights will be placed on the tree outside and at the Polecat Road/Church Road junction.

21/174 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - The Clerk advised that apologies had been received from Cllrs: Watts, Porrett, Griffiths and Lapper, and District Cllr Wright. Cllrs agreed to accept these apologies. **Proposed: Cllr Haines seconded: Cllr Simpson.**

21/175 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.

21/176 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**

21/177 CYCLE PATHS Resident, Mr. David Morgan, attended the meeting to discuss the potential for cycle paths to be identified in the Parish. The Braintree District Cycle strategy was referred to, but this is focused on the town rather than the outlying parishes. Discussion showed that there are a number of routes that could provide safe links to Silver End, White Notley, Witham and other neighbouring areas. It was suggested that some PROWs within the parish could be sufficiently wide enough to accommodate dedicated cycle paths. Cllr Abbott advised that BDC/ECC would be going ahead with cycle paths along the A12 corridor, Witham to Braintree railway stations which will link through Rivenhall and Cressing. Local Highways Panels are now looking at funding for cycle paths and Planning Officers will be looking at how funding could be included within developers’ contributions. **It was agreed by Cllrs** that Mr. Morgan should liaise with Cllr Abbott to investigate how this could be progressed.

21/178 TREE PLANTING - The Clerk confirmed that the trees provided by BDC had been collected. These contain native species tree whips, appropriate stakes and tree guards. Due to the small sizes, these are more appropriate to complete gaps in hedging. Mr. Morgan had provided a list of suggestions and Cllrs will be asked to confirm these and other locations where hedging needs infill. **Action: Clerk/Cllrs**
Rainbow Field was raised and it was agreed that Cllr Simpson will meet the Handyman at the site to finalise plans for agreement at the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Simpson**

21/179 COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH - Unfortunately the Co-ordinator did not attend the meeting, but a volunteer was able to confirm that another member had been trained and when the equipment was used earlier in the week two incidents were reported: speeding at 38mph in a 30mph limit and a driver using a mobile telephone.

21/180 REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Abbot reported on the following:

- i. Braintree Local Plan modifications issued for further consultation between 6th December and 5pm on 24th January 2022. It is hoped the Plan will be adopted in early 2022 and before any further large speculative development applications are submitted.
- ii. BDC housing supply has been amended following a challenge of the figures. This now equates to 5.2 years and Cllr Abbott will provide details of the calculations and analysis.
- iii. Planning Committee – two major solar farm applications go before the Committee on 14th December: App. No. 17 00679 OUT – Land North of London Road, Kelvedon and App. No. 21 01878 FUL – Land East of Periwinkle Hall, Links Road, Perry Green, Bradwell. Both are unallocated sites.
- iv. IWMF – still chasing ECC for decision on Condition 66.
- v. BDC Full Council meeting on 13th December includes two Motions put forward by the Green & Independent Coalition; Supporting the Environment Bill commitment to better Air Quality in Braintree District Motion and Improving Primary Care in the Braintree District
- vi. A12 development order will be published in 2022.

County Councillor Thorogood reported on the following:

- i. ECC Full Council meeting on 13th December will have restricted attendance, but will be available to other members on-line.
 - ii. The December meeting of the Development and Regulation Committee that considers planning applications in respect of minerals and waste, County Council development and Village Green status, has been cancelled. An application from Indaver to vary Condition 66 of the approval for the IWMF was due to be considered. However, there is a Rivenhall Liaison Meeting w/c 13th December following which Cllr Thorogood hopes to have more news.
 - iii. Proposed re-routing of A120 - National Highways have approached land owners across the old routes ABC proposed for the A120 have received letters seeking permission to go onto their land to carry out ecological surveys. Current information from National Highways is that they are looking afresh at all routes and that Route D, Essex Highways preference, may not be their preferred option that will be submitted to the Department of Transport.
 - iv. Applications to the Local Highways Panel will be chased.
- Cllrs Thorogood and Abbott left the meeting.

21/181 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th November 2021 were confirmed as a true record. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded Cllr Lawton.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

21/182 EMERGENCY PLAN - To be carried over to the next meeting. **Action: Cllr. Griffiths/Clerk**

21/183 FINANCE

- i. **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 Simpson, seconded: Cllr Haines, all in favour**
- ii. **A motion to approve bank reconciliation at 30th November 2021: It was resolved** that the bank reconciliation statement at 30th November be approved. **Proposed: Cllr Simpson, seconded: Cllr Haines, all in favour**
- iii. **A motion to approve November 2021 Payments/Cheques:** The list of payments made and cheques to be signed against November expenditure was presented. There were no queries, and it was resolved to approve the payments. **Proposed: Cllr Simpson, seconded Cllr Haines, all in**

favour. Cllrs Lawton and Haines signed the cheques.

21/184 GRANT APPLICATIONS - The list of charitable donations included within the finance reports, having been agreed previously, were confirmed. Letters will be prepared to accompany the cheques. **Action: Clerk**

21/185 BUDGET 2022/23 - The draft budget proposals had been provided to Cllrs before the meeting and no amendment, queries or additions had been received by the RFO. The RFO was confident that, subject to notification from BDC of the tax base to be applied, there would be no necessity to raise the precept from the 2021/22 level.

21/186 CRESSING ENVIRONMENT

- i. **Playing field** – the Clerk provided a report prior to the meeting, there were no queries.
- ii. **Drainage to the playing field** – Cllr had previously received the full report provided by the engineer. A number of option stages for remedial work to be undertaken had been provided to avoid duplication of work during the improvement to facilities in the Pavilion. Cllr Simpson queried whether the proposed work (using existing gullies in corner of car park, terminating old soak away and re-diverting into the field approximately 12m of trench to create a French drain using 20ml shingle and perforated saw pipe) was appropriate. Cllrs agreed to hold this in abeyance for a full discussion of the Parish Council could take place at the net meeting. In the meantime, the Clerk will request a plan showing where the proposed French drain would be situated. **Action: Clerk**

21/187 PLANNING

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

B. Appeals submitted to the Planning Inspectorate: 20/02127/OUT | Outline application, with all matters reserved except access, for the demolition of existing farm outbuildings and the erection of up to 90 dwellings (including 40% affordable housing) with community park and public open space, landscaping and sustainable drainage system (SuDS) and a vehicular access point from Brain Valley Avenue. | Land Off Brain Valley Avenue Black Notley Essex. **It was agreed** that no further comments would be submitted.

C. Applications determined by Braintree District Council: None advised.

D. Applications received by Braintree District Council:

- i. 21/03214/REM | Application for the approval of reserved matters (in respect of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping) pursuant to outline planning permission 18/00549/OUT granted 14.12.2020 (Allowed on appeal) for 250 dwellings, open space and associated ancillary works | Land Opposite Sandiacres Long Green Cressing Essex – Cllr Simpson will draft reply and forward to Cllrs for approval and submission by the Clerk prior to the deadline for comments of 15th December. **Action: Cllr Simpson/Clerk**
- ii. 21/03481/DAC | Application for approval of details as reserved by conditions 7 & 10 of approved application 21/01940/OUT. | Land Adjacent Leyfield Braintree Road Cressing Essex. It was noted that BDC had already provided their decision to grant the application.

A Motion was put to Cllrs to agree to discuss planning applications that had been received after the Agenda. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded: Cllr Simpson, all in favour.**

- iii. 21/03514/S106A | Application made under Section 106a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Modification and Discharge of Planning Obligations) Regulations 1992 (as amended) - Application to modify Schedule 4 of S106 Legal Agreement relating to 18/00549/OUT (allowed under appeal 20/00056/REF). | Land Opposite Sandiacres Long Green Cressing Essex – Open Space Plan and Landscape Management and Maintenance Plans had been submitted, but Cllrs felt they could not comment without clarification of the S.4 of the S.106 Agreement would be modified or affected. **Action: Clerk**
- iv. 21/03411/REM | Application for the approval of reserved matters in respect of scale and

appearance of 2 x self build and/or custom build bungalows, pursuant to outline planning permission 21/01940/OUT granted 20.08.2021 for Hybrid planning application encompassing: (i) Outline Planning Application for 2 x self-build and/or custom build bungalows with details of Access, Layout and Landscaping to be determined (Scale and Appearance to be Reserved Matters); (ii) Full Planning Application for 4 x 3 bed and 2 x 4 bed residential dwellinghouses with associated roads, car parking and landscaping. | Land Adjacent Leyfield Braintree Road Cressing Essex – no comments to make.

- v. 21/03519/ELD | Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing use/development - Siting of caravan for use as additional accommodation ancillary to existing dwelling. | 13 Mill Lane Cressing Essex CM77 8HN – Cllrs will respond that if this application is granted, it must not be used for any planning applications in the future to develop on this land. **Action: Clerk**
- vi. 21/02904/HH | Retrospective application for the retention of a single-storey detached | Single-storey rear extension | Little Gables The Street Cressing Essex CM77 8DQ – no comments to make.
- vii. 21/03380/HH | Part single, part two-storey rear extension and single-storey front extension. | 42 Mill Lane Cressing Essex CM77 8HP – no comments to make.

E. Applications bordering parish for information – none advised.

21/188 OFFICE OPENING - It was noted that the Clerk will be on leave w/c 20th December. It was agreed that the office will be closed 22nd, 23rd, 29th and 30th, however the Clerk working from home on 29/30th December. Emails will be checked throughout these two weeks and any emergencies actioned.

The proposed Scheme of Delegation included within the Report of 12th December was discussed and agreed for implementation. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded: Cllr Simpson, all in favour.****Action: Clerk**

21/089 INFORMATION EXCHANGE - Items for inclusion on the January Agenda:

1. *Precept 2022/23*
2. *The Queen's Platinum Jubilee*
3. *Rainbow Field – finalisation and agreement of plans*
4. *Emergency Plan update*

21/190 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 12th January 2022 at 7.00pm at **St Barnabas Hall, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing, CM77 8HG**. Covid regulations 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 4th January 2022.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.





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Cressing Book Group



Our latest book was *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell, a novel inspired by the death of Shakespeare's son at just 11 years old. Despite the title, it's Hamnet's mother who is the main character and it's her relationship with her husband and her sorrow at Hamnet's death that take centre stage. Almost nothing is known of the real Anne Hathaway and the author, who calls her Agnes in the book, chooses to imagine her as a skilled herbalist with an uncanny ability to foresee the future.

We had much praise for Maggie O'Farrell's vivid writing style and we felt she was especially good at describing grief. We thought that the supernatural elements were effective, particularly when it came to Agnes's poignant glimpses of the future lives of her children. One chapter which describes the journey of the bubonic plague from a single flea in Algeria all the way to rural Warwickshire seemed to have particular relevance for today! Perhaps some of us were more enthusiastic than others - one reader thought that dates as chapter headings would have made the shifts back and forward in time easier to follow and another that her interest flagged at times - but in general we felt that this was an enjoyable book that we might have missed out on if it hadn't been a book club choice.

CRESSING EVENTS VOLUNTEERS



Our first event of the year was a Fish & Chips Lunch, a tried and tested favourite held at St. Barnabas Church Hall, our thanks as always for the use of the hall and equipment.

While we are not yet back to the high numbers we have had in the past, it is winter so it comes as no great surprise that not all guests wish to come out in the cold, but it has given us a chance to get back into the swing.

The Cyprus Fish Bar delivered our order on time as always, the team then got to work 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, which required guests to decide which of two dates a record was released, before seeing which table had won our fun quiz. It was then soon time for our raffle, and may I add a big thank you for the donations to add to this, and future raffles.

NEXT EVENT

Our next event is a **Pastie & Chip Lunch on Friday the 18th February from 12.00 till 2.00pm at St. Barnabas Church Hall. The cost is still just £4.00.**

Our events are open to all, so **why not join us while there is room, 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

**What's on! at CRESSING COMMUNITY CHURCH
February 2022**



Thursday 3rd	19.00	Bible Study
Saturday 5th	09.00	Prayer meeting
Sunday 6th	Cafe Church	
Breakfast is served from 09.30 until 10.15 followed at 10.30 by a short, lively, all-age service then refreshments. If you don't fancy breakfast, just come for the service.		
Thursday 10th	19.00	Bible Study
Saturday 12th	09.00	Prayer Meeting
	19.00	Film night £5 including popcorn and ice cream
Sunday 13th	10.30	Morning Worship ARK Club for children
Thursday 17th	19.00	Bible Study
Saturday 19th	08.30	Men's Breakfast with guest speaker
Sunday 20th	10.30	Morning Worship ARK Club for children
Thursday 24th	19.00	Bible Study
Saturday 26th	09.00	Prayer Meeting
Sunday 27th	10.30	Morning Worship ARK Club for children

Future Events

March

Saturday 12th 19.00 Beetle Drive £5 including refreshments

Saturday 19th 08.30 Men's Breakfast with guest speaker

April

Saturday 9th 19.00 Family Quiz Night
£5 including refreshments

Crossing Community Church

sharing God's love and truth where are

I'm writing this letter on the 23rd of January and that means there are only 336 days to Christmas! Some of you may have already started your Christmas shopping, grabbing bargains in the January sales and putting them away till Christmas.

All those good intentions and New Year's Resolution now broken, and life is back to normal, well as normal as it can be with Covid continuing.

For me and the billions of Christians around the world, Christmas is every day, not just on the 25th of December. Even the Dog Trust charity has recognized this and has hijacked Christmas for their slogan "A dog is for life not just for Christmas" (penned by their Chief Executive Clarissa Baldwin in 1978) and rightly so. Many Christian and non-Christian Charities use Christmas to raise awareness of their work, for example The Salvation Army and Centre Point highlighting their important and worthwhile work with those who are homeless, hungry, marginalised.

During the Christmas lockdown in 2020, the effect of Covid on business caused so much financial hardship for owners and their staff. we regularly see on the news programs or read in the newspapers that Business organisations are telling us that a low spending Christmas can mean many thousands will lose their jobs and they desperately need Government support to survive. For them, like the Dog Trust slogan, a successful Christmas is also life for them!

I sometimes wonder, with all this commercial need for Christmas, why is the Christian faith becoming more and more marginalized in this country? Christian freedoms around the world being crushed, governments banning Christianity. Despite all their efforts, the Christian faith continues to spread! Christmas means a celebration of Christ (Jesus). For Christians, Christmas should be celebrated every day and that celebration should be seen in our everyday life. Around the world Christians are serving and sharing Gods love i.e. In hospitals, schools, in aid programmes. Poverty relief, welfare, working in war troubled countries, feeding the hungry, and in so many charitable organizations, for them their work is a celebration of Jesus Christ. Surely the Christian message of peace and goodwill will stay with us in our highs and lows throughout the year.

Every blessing in His name

Dennis

I love Christmas cracker jokes 'What is the best Christmas present in the world? Answer: A broken drum, you can't beat it!



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Look after that new stuff from Christmas

Over Christmas you may have been lucky enough to have received some new IT and other gifts, but have you helped protect them yet?

Where applicable have you registered your purchase with the relevant company it may help with future possible updates and the serial number will be assigned to you with the company. Depending on the item and value have you considered adding it to your home or other insurance?

Have you thought about **recording the serial numbers or property marking** it? Be it a cycle, electrical goods, tools, garden equipment or mobile phone it may have a serial number. There are a number of secure asset recording companies such as www.immobilise.com , www.bikeregister.com. Property can also be marked in a number of different ways depending on the item of property such as engraving, marking with indelible or UV pens, and there are marking products such as: SelectaDNA, SmartWater, CRE mark by CRE products to name but a few (always check the suitability of the method of marking for the property item).

With jewellery and antiques don't forget to **take photographs** of it, include an "Object ID card" or ruler in a photograph to give it a scale. Some of these property marking products may also be suitable for these and you can now upload photographs of your property to Immobilise too.

Many TV's, personal music devices, computers and other electronics come pre-loaded with security and/or tracking software, make sure that it is activated. **If you are storing valuable college work or other on a laptop or mobile device don't forget to back up your work elsewhere just in case you lose it or it is stolen.**

Smart phones/mobile devices: Don't forget to make a note of the **IMEI number** of a mobile phone, to find it key in *#06#, with this if it's stolen you can block it. You can **download an "App" on mobile phones** to find your phone and more importantly wipe that data stored on it, check your "App store" or mobile phone provider. A little reminder -When texting or talking on phones or listening to music **remain "in touch" with your surroundings**, a number of road accidents, thefts and assaults occur when we fail to note what's going on around us, don't forget to pass this advice on to children.

For further crime prevention advice see www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/ or www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/crime-prevention-advice and for suitable security products see www.securedbydesign.com/ or www.soldsecure.com/ .



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Have you got them ?



It was not until I was thinking about the habit of twisting a lock of hair round her finger that my elderly Aunt of 95 has had for as long as I can remember that I began to think more on the subject. Recalling the habits of numerous friends and relatives, and realising that I too have many habits, both good and bad that it is time for me to drop a few.

A friend of mine is almost continually sweeping and flicking away stands of hair that drop over her eyes, covering her face, this can be very annoying when relating something of great interest. A juicy piece of gossip quickly loses its momentum. "Really" away goes the hair from one side "They do" And a flick from the other side, finishing with a banish of the tendrils from both sides "Didn't you know?" It really makes me want to scream and brings me back to my senses that one shouldn't listen to gossip anyway!

My dad was very energy conscious, what else could it be? He would switch off every light when leaving the room to go to bed. There could be someone left in the room, sewing or reading, but he determined it was time for bed. My ex-husband had a similar habit, not turning the light off, but if he thought evening visitors had stayed too long he would start turning armchairs upside down on the pretence that he didn't want our dogs to sleep on the chairs overnight. He didn't push visitors out of the chairs! He just waited until they got up to do something and their chair was turned over!

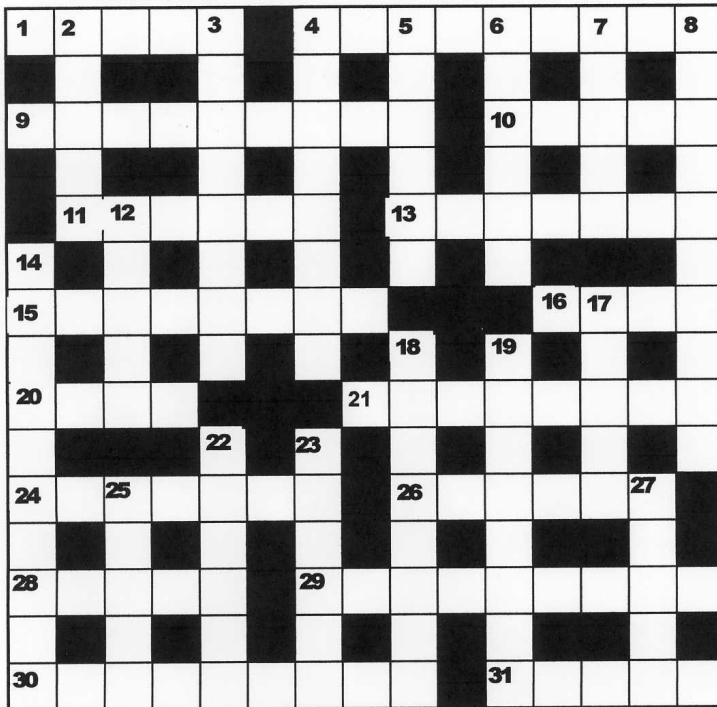
In the early morning rush my daughter would drink half a cup of tea, dash up and down stairs to take another sip, grab her coat to take a last sip of what must be by now a luke warm stew. My son in law has a tea habit too. He will make himself a cup, leave it to do something else, then try the tea again, to find it cold, he will make another cup and repeat the procedure a few times.

I have now been doing a little research on my own habits. I can name at least four of mine. I constantly count things, clothes pegs, socks in drawers, things in cupboards. I am sure I could make an inventory of numbers of everything in the house! Before opening post I struggle to decipher the handwriting and postmarks when it would really be much quicker to just open the envelope! List making is another one. Each day before I get out of bed I make a list of the things I must do that day. There are always far too many to achieve but still I do it! Lastly, to my dismay I find myself interrupting conversations, it is my worst habit, and one I must control.

Above all I must make sure I don't become a habitual complainer about other people's habits !

Lin Wenlock

FEBRUARY CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1. Capital of Ghana (5)
- 5. Blue precious gems (9)
- 9. Warm knitted hat covering neck and head but not the face (9)
- 10. Thick first digit of the hand (5)
- 11. & 13. To spend as little money as possible (6, 3,7)
- 15. Accompany and look after (8)
- 16. Violent uncontrollable anger (4)
- 20. Pantomime Comic (4)
- 21. A follower of the Pope (8)
- 24. Butchers cleaver (4,3)
- 26. Long fixed vacant looks (6)
- 28. Papal court at the Vatican (5)
- 29. Medical procedure making shallow incisions in the skin (9)
- 30. Subordinate officer of an extensive estate (9)
- 31. Someone who puts money away for later (5)

DOWN

- 2. Blows of the palm of a hand (5)
- 3. Collection of historical document(8)
- 4. Item of cutlery (8)
- 5. Surname of 40th President of USA (6)
- 6. Messy and disorganised (6)
- 7. Genus of Eurasian daisy like flower with yellow petals (5)
- 8. Profit from crops one has sown (10)
- 12. Formally request or demand (5)
- 14. Belonging to an academy (10)
- 17. Blazing or burning (5)
- 18. Harmless constricting snake (8)
- 19. Unexpected events or changes that cannot be controlled (8)
- 22. Market in Middle Eastern country(6)
- 23. Person who holds the lease of a property (6)
- 25. Protective garment (5)
- 27. Leather with napped surface (5)

ANSWERS TO CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 STACKED (7)
- 5 JOKES (5)
- 9 TREEORNAMENTS (13)
- 10 NECKWEAR (8)
- 11 GLEE (4)
- 12 FICTIONAL (9)
- 16 DIET (4)
- 17 TEAPARTY (8)
- 19 FAMILYREUNION (13)
- 21 JEWEL (5)
- 22 SKITTER (7)

DOWN

- 2 TURKEY (6)
- 3 CHECKLIST (9)
- 4 EYRIE (5)
- 6 OWE (3)
- 7 ENTREE (6)
- 8 HAIRDO (6)
- 11 GOAGAINST (9)
- 13 TETHYS (6)
- 14 MIRAGE (6)
- 15 ATHOME (6)
- 18 AWEK (5)
- 20 ICE (3)



"Look, Andy, mommy and I appreciate you thinking that on Valentine's Day we might want some romantic background music, but..."

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When Santa came to town



In December 2021, the residents of Tye Green were pleased to receive a visit from Santa Claus, courtesy of the Braintree Lions and local volunteers. Special thanks once again to Homecot Countryside Services who towed the sleigh, safely navigating Santa and his reindeer through the village.

Whilst covid restrictions prevented any door knocking to announce Santa's arrival, nevertheless many residents were alerted by a blast of Christmas music and ventured outside to greet him. Donations to the sum of £227.17 were received on the evening, for the benefit of Cressing Primary School.



CRESSING ART GROUP

We held our meeting on Tuesday the 18th January 2022. There were 8 members all using their choice of medium. We are a lively, friendly group and help each other. If you would like to start painting or return to painting after a break, or you sketch please come along and give us a try. Please bring your own paints and canvas etc. We would also welcome people who enjoy adult colouring which is also a form of relaxation and can help with mindfulness. We do occasionally have demonstrators which helps to improve our painting.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 25th January from 10am to 1.00pm. The cost is £4 which includes refreshments.

In February we will meet on Tuesday, 1st February at 10am, Tuesday 15th February at 10am and Tuesday, 22nd February at 10am. I look forward to seeing you. If you have any queries please contact me on 07599182861.

Vi

Group Coordinator

News from All Saints Church & St Barnabas

With Christmas now behind us, we are in the new year and hope it will be a better year. Hoping that we can get back to some normality following all that co-vid threw at us.

We continue to try to carry out maintenance on our churches, At St Barnabas we are nearing the finishing touches to the Storage unit, and the last of the repainting. At All Saints we are meeting with the architect to decide our next step forward to carry out the repairs needed.

To continue the research and remember those lads who gave there lives in the two world wars.

(From our Archives)

John Clayton (aka Jack);

We don't know where he lived but is registered as a resident of Cressing.

He served as Private 250509 in the 5th Battalion, Essex Regiment. Records tell he died on 18th December 1917.

He is buried in Baghdad (North Gate) War Cemetery in Iraq.

If anyone has any more information on these men, we would love to hear from you. What surprises me most that these young men from a small village of Cressing found themselves all around the world, I can't imagine how they must have felt.

We are working towards having more services at both churches in the near future, and we will keep you informed.

Our next Service is at All Saints on Sunday 13th February at 09.00am

Look Forward to seeing you there, all are welcome



Peter/Sue Church Wardens

VICARS MESSAGE

Albert Einstein is quoted as saying 'If people only talked about what they understood, earth would be a quiet place. He may be right, but I am sure we would soon get bored of the quiet too. It's good to talk, about important and unimportant things, because language is what we use to communicate, it's how we express our appreciation, gratitude and love for each other.

Yes, talking and listening to one another is a blessing. It gets a bit trickier when we stray from talking to each other to talking about each other. Sometimes motivated by care and concern we easily stray into hearsay, gossip or worse, slander. And we all know how destructive and unfair this is – the other person is not around and cannot defend themselves or set the record straight.

And every now and then we all become aware or hear about what someone else has said about us. And that hurts. It leaves us disempowered and frustrated, because shadow boxing is pointless. But over the years I have learnt that others will talk about me – both good and bad, and not just because I am the vicar, it's just a fact of life.

Then I call the wise words of Ecclesiastes 7.21-22 to mind: "Do not give heed to everything that people say, or you may hear your servant cursing you; your heart knows that many times you have yourself cursed others."

Rather than 'cursing' let's say 'speaking badly', and not giving heed literally translated means not to take what we've heard said to our hearts, because if we do, then that's where the damage happens. Instead let it pass through: in one ear and out through the other. Through traffic rather than end of the line.

And there is a simple remedy. We can choose to talk kindly and well too each other and about each other – and while gossip tears down, speaking well about the other builds everyone up. I wonder if as people, as a church, as a community of people we could imagine and commit to finding good to talk about each other – every day, every time?

It's infectious and praising others is good for own soul. I think we are all too aware of our own shortcomings and those of others, no need to rehearse those, instead let's focus on all that is good and noble and believe in the best in others.

Because that's how God sees us – at least that's the impression you get from reading the bible. People with blatant flaws and shortcomings are praised for their faith and trust in God, and He thinks well of them – and if we allow ourselves to believe it – he also thinks well of us. And ultimately what He says matters most! Isn't that good?

With love and blessings,

Wesley



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of a virtual Administrative Meeting of Cressing Parish Councillors held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 12th January 2022

Taking part in the call: Cllrs: John Lawton (Chairman), Colin Haines, Alison Lapper, Harvey Porrett, Victoria Rowe, Susan Simpson, Steve Watts and Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer). One member of the public was in attendance

22/001 WELCOME – The Chairman explained the purpose of the call was to discuss any amendments needed to the draft budget previously provided by the RFO.

22/002 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – No apologies had been received.

22/003 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), adopted in May 2015. There were no pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests to be recorded in respect of the proposed budget.

22/004 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – No queries had been raised prior to the call.

22/005 FINANCIAL MATTERS - The financial statements to 31st December 2021 were presented and there were no queries.

22/006 BUDGET 2022/23 - The RFO presented the budget, and the following amendments were agreed:

- i. The RFO explained that the heading of Grants/donations/S.137 included the three items individually listed and all were subject to compliant grant applications being received. The RFO was requested to increase Small Grants Fund by £500 and all Cllrs agreed.
- ii. Rainbow Field – The RFO confirmed that work to be carried out at Rainbow Field would fall under the current budget for 2021/22.

22/007 CLOSE OF MEETING - There being no further business related to the Budget to be discussed, the Chairman closed the meeting and confirmed the Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 7.00pm at St Barnabas Hall when the Budget will be put to Councillors for formal acceptance and the RFO instructed to submit the Precept request to BDC.

The discussion closed at 7.50pm

CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Cressing Parish Council held on 19th January 2022 at 7.00pm at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing

Present: Cllrs John Lawton – Chairman, Colin Haines, Sally Griffiths, Harvey Porrett, Susan Simpson and Steve Watts

In attendance: Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk/RFO) and one member of the public

22/008 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT

The Chairman welcomed attendees and reported as follows:

- The pothole in Polecat Road has had a temporary repair pending full repair work being undertaken
- Mud and debris deposited on Polecat Road from the Appletree development is providing a hazard. It is only cleared at the end of each working day, but as there are no wheel washing facilities the road is quickly covered the next day. This has been raised with BDC enforcement and will be followed up.

22/009 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk advised that apologies had been received from Cllrs: Lapper and Rowe. Cllrs agreed to accept these apologies. **Proposed: Cllr Haines seconded: Cllr Porrett.**

22/010 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.

22/011 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The Clerk confirmed that no requests to speak had been received within the required notice period.

22/012 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th December 2021 were confirmed as a true record. The notes from the Administrative Meeting held on 12th January 2022 were also confirmed.

Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded Cllr Porrett. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

22/013 FINANCE

- Progress against budget:** The Clerk/RFO referred to the recent reports issued with the Agenda. There were no queries, and the reports were accepted. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded: Cllr Haines, all in favour**
- A motion to approve bank reconciliation at 13th January 2022:** It was resolved that the bank reconciliation statement at 13th January be approved. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded: Cllr Haines, all in favour**
- A motion to approve December 2021 Payments/Cheques:** The list of payments made and cheques to be signed against November expenditure was presented. There were no queries, and it was resolved to approve the payments. **Proposed: Cllr Lawton, seconded Cllr Haines, all in favour.** Cllrs Lawton and Haines signed the cheques.

22/014 BUDGET 2022/23

- The RFO presented the final budget, amended in line with comments from the meeting on 10th January. **It was resolved** to accept and publish the budget and to confirm the Precept at the same level of £43,000 as received for previous year. **Proposed: Cllr Porrett, seconded: Cllr Simpson. Action: RFO**
- It was resolved** to instruct the Clerk/RFO to submit 2022/23 Precept Request form to BDC in the sum of £43,000. **Action: RFO**

22/015 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:**

- i. 21/03586/NMA - 25 Mill Lane Cressing Essex CM77 8HN - Non-Material Amendment to permission 21/00367/HH
- ii. 21/03481/DAC - Land Adjacent Leyfield Braintree Road Cressing Essex
- i. 21/03246/HH - Derrygowna Braintree Road Cressing Essex CM77 8JB
- ii. 21/03183/HH – Tudor House Braintree Road Cressing Essex CM77 8JB

D. **Applications received by Braintree District Council:**

- i. 22/00017/VAR | Variation of condition 2 'Approved Plans' and 4 'Materials' of permission 17/02201/FUL granted on 19/11/2018 for: Erection of 2no. chalet bungalows with separate vehicular access for both bungalows. Variation would allow: - Different style window with no top hung openers, - Replacement of juliet balcony to the rear elevation with two windows, - Change to door and window header details, - Alteration to landscaping in terms of boundary treatment between dwellings and material used on the driveway, and - Introduction of weatherboarding to the gable end of the bay window and to the dormer window at first floor. | Queenswood Tye Green Braintree Road Cressing Essex CM77 8HU – Councilors had no comments to make.

E. **Applications bordering parish for information** – none advised.

22/016 BRAINTREE LOCAL PLAN

Cllr Simpson referred to the draft response previously forwarded to Cllrs. Cllrs agreed that it was important to submit this response highlighting the unsuitability of Cressing Tye Green being reclassified as a Second Tier Village following nil responses to previous representations. **It was agreed** that Cllr Simpson will provide copies of documentation referred to in order that the Clerk may submit the response before the close of consultation on 24th January 2022. **Action: Cllr Simpson/Clerk**

22/017 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Items for inclusion on the January Agenda:

1. *The Queen's Platinum Jubilee*
2. *Rainbow Field – finalisation and agreement of plans*

22/018 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 9th February 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 1st February 2022.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

QUICK STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING

This is a quick and easy version of a favourite dessert.

You will need:

For the pudding - 1 shop bought rectangular Ginger cake

For the sauce:

50g/2oz. butter 110g/4oz. brown sugar

110g/4oz. golden syrup a few drops vanilla extract

150ml/5fl.oz double cream.



Put all the sauce ingredients except vanilla and cream in a heavy based saucepan. Heat slowly until sugar has dissolved then turn up heat and let mixture bubble for 5 minutes, no longer. Add vanilla and pour in the cream. Give a good stir and set aside to cool slightly.

Cut the cake into 8 slices and arrange in a small baking dish and pour over the sauce. Put in a pre-heated oven at 190c for 15 minutes or for 4 minutes in a microwave. Serve with cream or ice cream.

CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL – COMMUNITY SAFETY

On the afternoon of Thursday 21st January, the Parish Clerk played host to Roy Evans, Community Safety Officer of Essex County Fire and Rescue service. Two Parish Councillors, Susan Simpson and Colin Haines, were there to represent the Parish Council. The audience was small, but engaged and enthusiastic. Roy's delivery of some unexpected and shocking consequences and potential fire hazards certainly surprised quite a few people, and made us think about the every day hazards we have in the home that we just take for granted. I have to admit to being guilty of a few of them! A list of fire safety tips is included elsewhere in this edition of the magazine. We apologise the quality is not perfect of the image, but we will clean this up for the next edition together with some more tips.

We were delighted to welcome this year's Braintree District Council Chairman, Cllr Sue Wilson. Cllr Wilson is the ward member for Witham Central, and was elected as Chairman for Braintree District Council for the civic year 2021/22. Her goal during this year as Chairman has been to support and focus on communities and businesses. Cllr Wilson has been a councillor since 2010.

Cllr Wilson stayed for the whole talk and chatted with everyone (she even offered to help make the tea). She really was engaged with the audience and topic and congratulated the Parish Council on arranging this type of event

The Parish Council would like to host more public service type events in the future, so if there is a topic you would like to know more about and you think would be of benefit or interest to the community, let us know and we'll do what we can to get the experts to come to Cressing.

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

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service



Community Safety

Please also follow our fire safety tips below:

Smoke Alarms

- One on each floor of your property.
- Test and Hoover regularly.

Kitchen Safety

- Never leave your cooking unattended. Remember, fires start when your attention stops.
- Do not hang tea towels or cloths on or over the cooker.
- Keep the oven, hob and grill clean. A build-up of fat and bits of food can start a fire.
- Do not put anything metallic inside the microwave.
- Check the toaster is clean and well away from curtains.
- Do not cook if you're affected by alcohol or prescription drugs. If you've consumed alcohol, do not be tempted to cook with a chip pan.
- Turn saucepan handles so they don't stick out where they can be accidentally knocked, and aren't over another hot ring.

Electrical Safety

- Do not overload sockets; one plug per socket is the rule, especially if the appliance takes a lot of power (like a kettle), switch off and unplug whenever you can.
- An extension lead or adaptor will have a limit to how many amps it can take, so be careful not to overload them to reduce the risk of a fire.
- Do not leave appliances such as washing machines or dishwashers on at night.

Smoking Safety

- Never smoke in bed
- Use a proper ashtray, and ensure it cannot tip or burn.
- Do not smoke when tired, taking prescription drugs, or alcohol.
- Do not smoke whilst on Oxygen – follow the correct procedures.
- Electric cigarettes are to be treated as normal cigarettes but ensure you buy EU approved ones.

Candle Safety

- Ensure the candle is in a proper holder, away from materials which may catch fire.
- Ensure candles are extinguished, using a spoon or snuffer.
- Never leave burning candles unattended.

Bedtime Routine

- Turn off and unplug unessential electrical appliances.
- Do not leave washing machines / tumble driers / dishwashers on.
- Do not leave devices on charge overnight.
- Ensure candles / cigarettes are out properly.
- Close all internal doors and ensure your fire exits are clear.
- Make sure you know where your door and window keys are.

Ensure all occupants know what to do in the event of a fire

If you have concerns about your smoke alarms or would like a Home Safety Visit

Telephone 0300 3030088

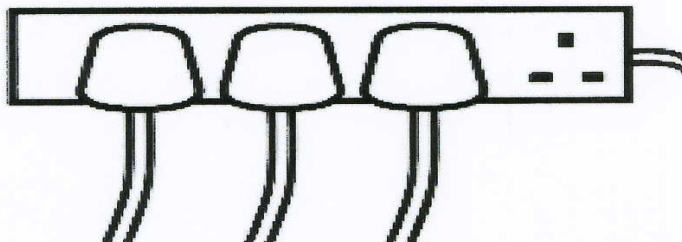
- Amps are the amount of electricity used.
- Watts are the rate of consumption.
- Appliances that use up to 700 watts use a 3amp fuse.
- Appliances that use over 700 watts and up to 3000 watts use a 13amp fuse.
- 3000 watts is the maximum rating for wall sockets.
- Some older appliances use a 5 amp fuse but modern appliances are either 3amp or 13 amp.

Appliance	Amps Used	Watts Used
Laptop	0.5	65 -100
Mobile Phone Charger	0.5	10
Kettle	13	3000
Satellite TV Box	0.5	30
Printer	0.5	50
Radio	0.5	40
Radiator (Plug In)	8.5	2000
DVD Player	0.5	25
Telephone	0.5	10
Computer Screen	0.5	100
Desktop Computer	3	700
TV	0.5	150
Games Console	1	200
Washing Machine	10	2200
Toaster	9	2000
Tumble Dryer	11	2500
Dishwasher	10	2200
Iron	12.5	2800
Microwave	4.5	1000
Vacuum Cleaner	9	2000
Hairdryer	10	2200
Hair Straighteners	1	250

The appliances in green use a 3 amp plug and the ones in red use a 13 amp plug in modern appliances.

Know the limit!

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GARDENING NOTES FOR FEBRUARY

Here we are once more at the start of another gardening year, with some exceptionally mild temperatures and wet weather during early January.

If you feed the wild birds, remember to ensure fresh water is available. Try and keep food off the ground to lessen the chance of vermin.

Seed potatoes are on sale, also if you like broad beans these can be sown in pots in a cold greenhouse ready for planting out in late March or directly in the ground if you garden on light, free draining soil.

Apple and pear trees can be pruned this month removing the dead, diseased and damaged wood. Prune to let the light and air in amongst the branches cutting out any crossing growth. Remember, this is not the time to prune stone fruit the old saying goes, 'stone fruit prune in June'

Check stored dahlia tubers and dust with a little Sulphur powder if there are signs of mould. The same treatment can be used on gladiolus corms.

Bulbs are now coming into their own with snowdrop, aconite and crocus giving an early show of colour, February Gold Daffodils will also give an early 'splash' of yellow, especially effective against dark leaf evergreen shrubs.

For my plant of the month look out for Hamamelis mollis [witch hazel] this small tree/large shrub has fantastic fragrant yellow flowers, at this time of year on bare branches and it is a sight to behold. Most garden centres should hold stocks.

Keep an eye on potted hardy shrubs and bulbs in containers. Water logging can be a problem if the vessel holding the plants is not up on chocks or feet. The latter allows air circulation and drainage.

Remove excess ivy from shed roofs and around windows, as apart from harbouring pests, ivy can create dampness on a building.

Lastly, plants for free!! Take some hard wood cuttings, deciduous shrubs and most evergreens can be propagated by this method. Look for pliable, healthy stems without a flower and cut below the node [leaf joint] about 20cm, dip the cut end in hormone rooting powder and pot in sharp sand or fine grit compost mix. Place in a sheltered location or in a cold frame, water sparingly and if taken correctly the cuttings should have roots by mid-summer. Pot on into a loam-based compost.

Take care everyone.....The Arborist



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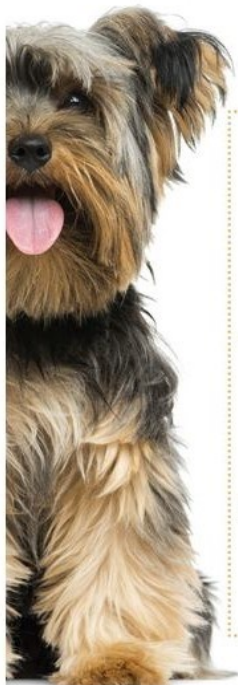
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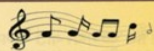




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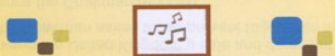
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Contact: www.cressingactiongroup.info
 Email: creasingactiongroup@aol.com

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