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June 2022



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JUNE EDITORIAL



June brings tulips, lilies, roses
Fills the children's hands with posies.

June is here and the Platinum Jubilee celebrations have begun. There is the Parish Afternoon Tea arranged on the 2nd and also the Events Committee Jubilee Tea on the 3rd.

It's a long Bank Holiday Weekend for everyone to enjoy

I wonder who remembers the Queen's Coronation on 2nd June 1953. I watched it on a tiny TV with a small screen (I think it was 9"). Can you imagine that compared to today's large ones. I was in a hospital bed at the Maternity Ward at the old W.J.C. Hospital having had my first baby on 28th May. The beds were all wheeled round in a circle to watch and we were allowed an alcoholic drink!! We had to stay in bed for a week in those days after giving birth. I hope the weather is fine this year.

May seems to have flown by. It's nice to have the lighter evenings. We have the longest day in June.

The Events Committee May Event was a Fish and Chip Lunch on 20th, popular as always and in June it's the Jubilee Tea, see above, at the Cressing Community Church. Please book early.

Who can remember what happened the day before the Coronation in 1953? Answer next month, if you don't have it.



Enjoy your Summer.

Betty.



JUNE DIARY

- Thur.2nd Parish Afternoon Tea
- Fri.3rd Events Committee Jubilee Tea
- Tue.7th Art Group in St. Barnabas 10.00-1.00pm
- Sun.12th Holy Communion at All Saints Church 9.00 am
- Tue.14th Jubilee Coffee Morning at St. Barnabas 11.00-1.00pm
- Tue.21st Art Group at St. Barnabas 11.00-1.00pm
- Thur.23rd Knit and Natter at St. Barnabas 2.00-4.00pm
- Tue.28th Art Group at St. Barnabas 10.00-1.00pm

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CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL – Draft Minutes of the meeting of Cressing Parish Council held on 11th May 2022 at 8.25pm at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing

Present: Cllr John Lawton – Chairman
Cllr Colin Haines
Cllr Harvey Porrett
Cllr Alison Lapper

In attendance:

Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk/RFO and Proper Officer)
County Councillor Paul Thorogood
District Councillor James Abbott
Two members of the public

22/085 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT

The Chairman welcomed all attendees and had nothing to add to his report given at the preceding Annual Parish Assembly.

22/086 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk advised that apologies had been received from Cllrs Rowe and Watts. Apologies were accepted: **proposed Cllr Porrett, seconded Cllr Haines.**

22/087 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.

22/088 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

The Clerk confirmed no matters had been raised prior to the meeting.

22/089 REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Paul Thorogood had reported at the Annual Parish Assembly.

Cllr James Abbott reported:

- i. Local Plan – BDC have chased Inspectors for a decision.
- ii. Cllrs Abbott and Wright have written to the Planning Inspectorate about a planning appeal that will impact Cressing.
- iii. Still no date for application for 80 retirement dwellings to go to Planning Committee.
- iv. National Grid Pylons – District Cllrs will input views to BDC's response when this goes to Local Plan Committee for discussion.
- v. District Cllrs will continue to support all LHP requests currently submitted for Cressing.
- vi. Incinerator – the access via Woodhouse Lane has been approved. Development Consent Order to change planning consent will be going direct to government, by-passing BDC.
- vii. BDC progressing plans with local councils for re-wilding of BDC land in parishes. Very limited options for Cressing.

County Cllr Thorogood and District Cllr Abbott left the meeting.

22/090 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th were confirmed as a true record with no amendments required. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded Cllr Porrett.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

22/091 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

There were no specific actions to bring to the Parish Council Meeting.

22/092 FINANCE

- i. **Progress against budget:** The Clerk/RFO referred to the reports issued with the Agenda. There were no queries, and **it was resolved** to accept the reports. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded: Cllr Lawton, all in favour**
- ii. **A motion to approve bank reconciliation at 30th April 2022: It was resolved** that the bank reconciliation statement at 31st March be approved. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded: Cllr Lawton, all in favour**
- iii. **A motion to approve April 2022 Payments/Cheques:** The list of payments and cheques to be signed against April expenditure was presented. There were no queries, and **it was resolved** to approve the payments. **Proposed: Cllr Haines, seconded Cllr Lawton, all in favour.** Cllrs Lawton and Haines signed the cheques.

22/093 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:**
 - i. 22/01094/LBC | One and a half storey rear extension with single storey link | Tudor House Braintree Road Cressing Essex CM77 8JB
 - ii. 22/01093/HH | One and a half storey rear extension with single storey link | Tudor House Braintree Road Cressing Essex CM77 8JB
 - iii. 22/01061/SCR | Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 - Screening Request (Regulation 6) - Solar Farm | Land West Of Braintree Road Cressing Essex
 - iv. 22/01062/SCR | Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 - Screening Request (Regulation 6) - Solar Farm | Land To The West Of Lanhams Lanham Farm Road Cressing Essex
 - v. 22/00995/TPOCON | Notice of intent to carry out works to a tree in a Conservation Area - x 1 Cherry (C1) to the front of the property which has suffered storm damage with part of it resting on the property roof to be felled; remaining stump to be grinded below ground level, excess spoil to be cleared to leave level. Note: The homeowner is planning to plant a replacement cherry in the Winter | The Old Barn The Street Cressing Essex CM77 8DQ (braintree.gov.uk)

After discussion, Cllrs had no comments to make.

- D. **To discuss Applications received by Braintree District Council and consider if comments should be made** (Householder Application, General Permitted Development Order) – not applications advised.
- E. **Applications bordering parish for information** – none advised.

22/094 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The Clerk confirmed that a total of 148 guests have been included for the Afternoon Tea. All preparations are going according to plan and once all invoices have been settled and raffle prizes purchase, costs will be below budget.

22/095 PLAYING FIELD

There were no issues to be reported. The annual RoSPA inspection is imminent, and the report will be discussed at the next available meeting.

22/096 INFORMATION EXCHANGE

i. There was nothing to be recorded.

ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE JUNE AGENDA:

1. As previously identified.

22/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 8th June 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 31st May 2022.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm



CRESSING EVENTS VOLUNTEERS

We were at St. Barnabas Church Hall this month for that tried and tested favourite Fish & Chips, 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, this month, saw our highest number of guests this year, proving, the fact that the Fish and Chips lunch really is a favorite, despite the rain, **but there is still room for more if you decide to join us.**

The Cyprus Fish Bar delivered our order of 39 meals on time as always, the team then got to work serving, along with rolls and pickles to Guests and Helpers, while three of the meals were delivered.

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. Then on to our raffle, and may I add a big thank you for the donations to add to this, and future raffle's. **This month saw the last bottle of many donated by the Late Ron Flint, for our raffle, we asked the winner to drink a toast to Ron who was a good friend to us.**

NEXT EVENT

Our next event is a Jubilee Tea on Friday the June 3rd from 2.00pm till 4.00pm The cost is £3.00 for a homemade afternoon tea, hopefully in the Garden of Cressing Community Church, The street. Where you can wear your Red, White, & Blue. Our events are open to all, **so why not join us while there is room, why sit at home when you can have afternoon tea 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

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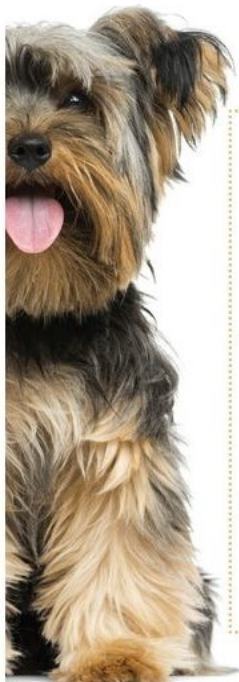
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News from All Saints Church & St Barnabas

We have held our Annual General Meeting (APCM) and it is pleasing that we the church Wardens have, along with the committee members agreed to stand again for another year.

I was very pleased and surprised to receive an email from Brian Spinks, some may remember him as a member of our church, I served with him at the alter back in the 1960s. He also made a surprise visit and was part of my wedding ceremony back in 1972. I had not heard from him since, how those 50 years have flown by. Brian is now a professor and lives in Connecticut in America. He is coming back to the UK on a visit in August, and has kindly offered to officiate at a service in our church, if we can get permission and it can be arranged.

To continue the research and remember those lads who gave their lives in the two World Wars.

(from our Archives)

Frank J Drory (Drury)

He was son of Joseph and Emma Drory, they lived in Lanham's Green Cressing. He enlisted as Driver 208729 in the 4th Field Squadron Royal Engineers. He died on 15th March 1919 aged 28. He is buried in Beirut War Cemetery, Lebanese Republic, Grave 269.

We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine

Our next service will be at
All Saints on Sunday 12th June at 09.00am.
All are welcome to attend

VICAR'S LETTER

It's June 2022 and time to congratulate and celebrate Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee. She has broken all records, surpassed predecessors and outlived most of her contemporaries. She is truly a great Queen, in every sense of the word, perhaps even the greatest of all time.

Shakespeare's assertion that "some are born great, some achieve greatness, and others have greatness thrust upon them" is in every way true of our monarch.

A grand-daughter of King George V she was born into greatness, but her destiny to be Queen only became evident when she was 10 years old when her father became king instead of her uncle. In that sense greatness was also thrust upon her. That she has also achieved true greatness in how she has fulfilled her role, is testimony to her strength of character, resilience and integrity.

Although she is perhaps the person with the greatest influence alive, her role prevents her from expressing or acting on her personal opinions, she has learnt to keep those private. Occasionally she is able to make implicit statements, such as the recent blue and yellow coloured bouquet at Windsor when welcoming a head of state, surely a sign of support of Ukraine.

And there are many glimpses that she deals with challenges with humour and good grace. When she was once pelted with eggs on a trip to New Zealand she simply quipped "New Zealand has long been renowned for its dairy produce, though I should say that I myself prefer my New Zealand eggs for breakfast." Or when she was not recognised by a group of tourists at Balmoral who asked her if she'd ever met the Queen, she pointed at the protection officer and said: "No, but this policeman has."

Over the years our Sovereign, who is also the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, and therefore strictly speaking my boss, has been quite explicit about her faith, especially during her Christmas messages.

In 2014 she said: "For me, the life of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, ..., is an inspiration and an anchor in my life. A role model of reconciliation and forgiveness, he stretched out his hands in love, acceptance and healing. Christ's example has taught me to seek to respect and value all people of whatever faith or none." And Jesus, her inspiration and anchor, said this about true greatness: "Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant."

And of course this is what the Queen promised that day, on the 6th February 1952, over 70 years ago: "that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service."

Thank you for making good on that promise and for showing us the true meaning of true greatness, Ma'am and congratulations from all of us.



CRESSING PARISH COUNCIL - Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 11th May 2022 at 8.10pm at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing.

Present: Cllr John Lawton – Chairman
Cllr Colin Haines
Cllr Harvey Porrett
Cllr Alison Lapper

In attendance:

Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk/RFO and Proper Officer)
County Councillor Paul Thorogood
District Councillor James Abbott
Two members of the public

22/066 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND REPORT

The Chairman welcomed all attendees and had nothing to add to his report given at the preceding Annual Parish Assembly.

22/067 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk advised that apologies had been received from Cllrs Rowe and Watts. Apologies were accepted: **proposed Cllr Porrett, seconded Cllr Haines.**

22/068 TO ELECT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR 2022-23

Nominations were requested. Cllr Lawton was **proposed by Cllr Porrett, seconded by Cllr Haines, all in favour.** Cllr Lawton was duly elected as Chairman of the Parish Council for the current year 2022-23. Cllr Lawton signed the Chairman's Declaration of Office and was witnessed by the Parish Clerk who signed as the Proper Officer of the Council.

22/069 TO ELECT A VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR 2022-23

Nominations were discussed, but it was agreed that it was not necessary to elect a Vice-Chairman for the Parish Council.

22/070 DECLARATIONS OF CONTINUED ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Councillors present signed continuing Declarations of Acceptance of Office and Declarations to Observe the Code of Conduct and were witnessed and signed by the Parish Clerk as the Proper Officer of the Council. Cllrs not present will be required to sign these declarations at the next meeting.

22/071 REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillors will review their Register of Members' Interests and will confirm their entries correct or provide an updated form to the Proper Officer.

22/072 CONSENT FORMS

All Members present signed the consent form to receive Council Summons, Agenda and other documents by e-mail and to utilise the @cressing-pc.gov.uk email account solely for business relating to the Parish Council. Cllrs not present will be required to sign these declarations at the next meeting.

22/073 BANK MANDATE

It was **AGREED** to continue with the Bank Mandate as currently in existence of any two signatories for all outgoing payments or instructions.

22/074 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW 2021/22

The RFO confirmed that completion of the year end accounts and Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021-22 had been completed and were currently with the Internal Auditor. These are due to be returned before the next meeting and will be presented prior

to and signed at the that meeting following completion of the internal audit:

22/075 SUB-COMMITTEES

It was agreed that at the current time no sub-committees were required and the annual appraisal of the Parish Clerk would be undertaken jointly by all Cllrs. **Proposed Cllr Lawton, seconded Cllr Lapper**

22/077 FOOTPATHS' OFFICER

It was agreed that this role would remain within the job description of the Handyman;

22/078 TREE WARDEN

It was proposed that Dr David Morgan should be invited to continue in this role. The Parish Clerk will contact him.

22/079 EMERGENCY PLANNING OFFICER

It was agreed to defer discussion to the next meeting.

22/080 REPRESENTATIVES

It was agreed that representatives to outside bodies would be agreed as and when circumstances required. However, it was understood that Cressing Sports & Social Club Constitution required that two representatives from the Parish Council should be available to attend meetings. When necessary, **it was agreed** that the Chairman and Parish clerk should fulfil this requirement.

22/081 DATES OF MEETINGS 2022/23

Dates for meetings for the remainder of the financial year were confirmed as:

JUNE 2022	8	7.00pm
JULY	13	7.00pm
AUGUST	10	7.00pm
SEPTEMBER	14	7.00pm
OCTOBER	12	7.00pm
NOVEMBER	9	7.00pm
DECEMBER	14	7.00pm
JANUARY 202	11	7.00pm
FEBRUARY	8	7.00pm
MARCH	8	7.00pm
APRIL	12	7.00pm

22/083 NEXT ANNUAL MEETING

The next Annual meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7.30pm (subject to Annual Parish Assembly being completed) at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing, CM77 8HG.

The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 6.30pm at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing, CM77 8HG. The Clerk will seek reports from local groups for presentation at that meeting.

Items for inclusion on the Agenda to be sent to the Parish Clerk to be received no later than 12 noon on Tuesday 2nd May 2023.

22/084 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business to be discussed, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

BACK TO NATURE

It is at this time of year that I firmly put my conservation hat back on. It is a time of seeing new life emerging around our field, and for my wildlife friends begin to reappear from their winter haunts.



Many years ago a Greylag goose landed amongst our flock of farmyard geese. She wandered around with them all summer, going for a solo flight every now and again, returning each night to settle down to feed with them and they were not bothered at all by her presence. Maybe it was because Greylags were the ancestors of the familiar white farmyard goose, and their cackles and “aang-ang-ang” honk in flight are similar to the sounds of the domestic bird. We expected her to migrate when the time came, but “Molly” as we called her stayed for a number of years, and it was a disappointing time when finally she flew off never to return.

Now maybe I'm being sentimental, but a few days ago a pair of Greylags arrived, and have settled quite comfy with our flock. I would like to think that when Molly left us she met a mate, and that these are her offspring, or that this is Molly—the lifespan of a Greylag goose is between 8 and 14 years, so it could be possible!

Sadly our two moorhen chicks on the garden pond this year did not survive. I am afraid their mother was perhaps too young to rear them. She was only a juvenile herself and was more happy galivanting off with her friends than protecting her babes from the horrors of the night.

However, my favourite species - the slowworm—are doing really well. They are such wonderful harmless creatures, and such beautiful shades from gold to bronze, and, very rarely, one that is the shade of pinkish pearl can be seen. They look very much like snakes, but are in fact legless lizards. It's identity is given away by the ability to shed its tail to fend off predators. The piece of tail continues to wiggle for a short while, allowing the slow worm to escape. Why they are called slow-worm I will never understand, they move off very quickly when disturbed.,

We have been kept amused by the two 'bee houses' we installed last year. The bees have been using them in great numbers again. They are used by the Mason bee which are tunnel-nesting, solitary bees, which means that unlike the social honeybee, every female is a “queen” who lays eggs and raises offspring on her own, without the support of a highly-organized, social colony. They are non-aggressive and rarely sting.

These bees lay their eggs inside existing tunnels, such as those left by wood-boring beetles or the hollow stems of pithy plants. Lucky for us, mason bees also like to nest in the man made bee houses.

Early spring mason bees emerge from hibernation when temperatures reach about 12°C (some types of mason bees emerge in late spring or summer under different conditions, but in general they are spring pollinators). After mating and finding an existing tunnel for her nest, the female bee gathers mud in her large jaws and uses it to build a wall at the back of the tunnel – thus the name “mason bee.” Next, she makes dozens of visits to garden flora to collect pollen and nectar, which she heaps into a golden nugget at the end of the tunnel. This nutritious pollen-nectar mass will be her egg’s first meal when it hatches. Finally, she backs into the tunnel and deposits an egg on top of the food source. Once the egg is laid, the female bee collects more mud and uses it to build a wall that seals off the egg inside its own chamber. She repeats this process until the tunnel is filled with well-provisioned eggs, each tucked inside its own cell partition. Then she closes the tunnel with a mud plug to protect her offspring from predators. So fascinating to watch.



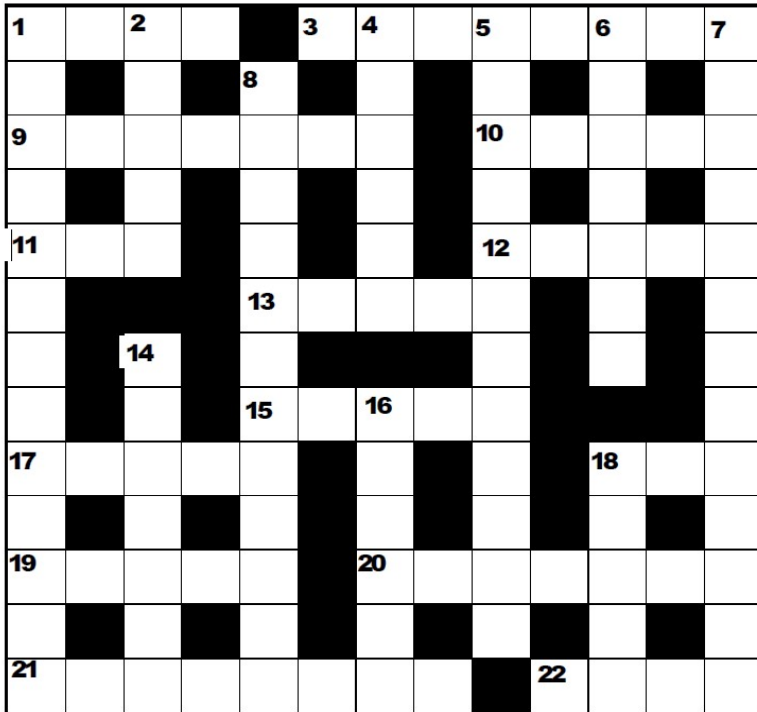
Lin Wenlock

Cressing Book Group

Our book this time was *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* by Anne Brontë. When Helen Graham, a reclusive artist, moves into dilapidated Wildfell Hall with her young son, her arrival gives rise to much curiosity in the nearby village. Gilbert Markham, a gentleman farmer, is attracted to her and grows closer though his friendship with her son but her mysterious and secretive connection to the local squire and the rumours that spread about this make him uneasy. Who is she and what is the past she is so desperate to escape?

Once we got accustomed to the wordiness of the writing style, we found that this was an enjoyable read. We felt that the book was particularly good as social history, taking us into the life and psychology of the 19th century and we had much discussion about the social constraints on Victorian women and how marriage robbed them of all personal autonomy. We managed to spot a few plot flaws (bluebells in July!). Nobody much liked Gilbert as a hero and some found Helen's piety somewhat irritating but we admired her determination to make a life for herself and her son. We felt that her independence of spirit together with Anne Brontë's frank treatment of issues such as alcoholism and domestic violence, controversial when the book was first published, mean that it still has much relevance for readers of today.

JUNE 2022 CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Material such as coal, gas or oil (4)
3. Related on or descended from father's side (8)
9. Equipment that adds air to water or soil (7)
10. Sharp ringing sound produced by plucking a string (5)
11. Item that unlocks a door (3)
12. Group of eight people (5)
13. Strip of leather or material used to fasten or secure (5)
15. Feeling or showing pleasure (5)
17. Large bird of prey (5)
18. Part of curve (3)
19. A feeling of boredom (5)
20. Enthusiastic and public praise (7)
21. Move from one place to another (8)
22. Unpleasant sensation caused by injury (4)

DOWN

1. A freehold estate (5,8)
2. Before the usual time (5)
4. To earn or get something valuable or respected (6)
5. A branch of astronomy dealing with physical properties of celestial objects (12)
6. Incapable or inappropriate (7)
7. His job is to guard a building at night (5,8)
8. Disturbances in the air caused by lightning or other phenomena (12)
14. A garden plant with brightly coloured flowers
16. Person who attacks and robs ships at sea (6)
18. A carriage used in Turkey (6)

ANSWERS TO MAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 POPE (4)
- 3 LIGAMENT (8)
- 9 BROODED (7)
- 10 ORATE (5)
- 11 CHINO (5)
- 12 OUTAGE (6)
- 14 PRAISE (6)
- 15 SEARED (6)
- 18 BICKER (6)
- 20 SATIN (5)
- 22 ERICA (5)
- 23 BREEDER (7)
- 25 PHYSIQUE (8)
- 26 PYRE (4)

DOWN

- 1 PUB (3)
- 2 PROFITABILITY (13)
- 4 INDOOR (6)
- 5 AFOOT (5)
- 6 EXAGGERATEDLY (13)
- 7 TEEM (4)
- 8 ODIOS (6)
- 11 COPE (4)
- 13 EDEN (4)
- 16 ENSUED (6)
- 17 IRNBRU (6)
- 19 KHAKI (5)
- 21 KEEP (4)
- 24 RYE (3)



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CRESSING ART GROUP

We meet on the 1st, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at St. Barnabas. 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 have a pastel workshop arranged for June. There will be a demonstration and then one to one tutoring. If you are interested, you will need to bring your own pastels and pastel paper. Please contact me if you have any queries.

Another new member will be visiting in May and hopefully will be joining us permanently. First session is free.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 7th at 10am.

If you have any queries please contact me on 07599182861.

Vi

Group Coordinator



What's on at Cressing Community Church

June 2022

Sunday 5th Cafe Church

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

Services Sundays at 10.30	Bible Study Wednesdays at 19.00	Prayer Meeting Saturdays at 09.00
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July Event

Saturday 9th 19.00 FAMILY QUIZ NIGHT with around the World theme that will also be reflected in the refreshments. £5 including refreshments

This is suitable for all ages. Don't be shy, give it a try, we will be in the hall behind the church.

Saturday 10th September

SCARECROW COMPETITION AND FESTIVAL

Make your own traditional scarecrow - age groups - 5 to 8, 9 to 11, 12 and upwards. Look out for more information next month

CRESSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

sharing God's love and truth where we are

Dear friends

As our nation prepares to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee, I thought that amidst the official events and local celebrations, it would be right to take stock of her commitments to her sense of duty. The Queen is the head of the Church of England and she has a deep and genuine personal faith that has grown more vocal as she advanced in years.

In 1947, during a radio broadcast, she spoke of dedicating her life to service and ended the broadcast with these words "God help me to make good my vow". That was the vow she made at her coronation service.

Moving on to 2014, the Queen explained her personal faith as "the anchor of my life". Around this time it was noted that the Queen was talking more about her faith, especially in her Christmas messages. Commentators have suggested this was the reason that in 2017 the BBC admitted that it had been promoting a secular version of Britain, especially in programmes such as Songs of Praise.

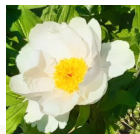
Some Royal watchers suggested it was the Queens deliberate choice to use the Millennium anniversary as an opportunity to speak more openly about her Christian faith. As a consequence, she received 25 times more letters from the public in response to her Christmas message.

I am also pleased that the Prince of Wales has become more public in confessing his faith, because many Christian leaders were concerned that when he is crowned King, he would take the opportunity not to be 'Defender of the faith' but 'Defender of faiths.' At a recent service for the persecuted Christian Syrian Church, he said "We must do all we can to support our fellow Christians." Hopefully he will continue to follow his mother's example in her commitment to the Christian faith.

As the Queen rightly shows a genuine interest of other faiths' and as she approaches the landmark Platinum Jubilee I'm sure the words of Jesus in Mark 10 verse 44 are always in her mind as she continues to serve this nation 'Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve 'and when history looks back at the life of Queen Elizabeth 2nd, it will highlight her serving heart and unfailing Christian faith.

Every blessing in His name

Dennis



CRESSING PARISH ASSEMBLY - Notes of and Reports to the meeting held on Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 7.00pm at St Barnabas, Claud Ince Avenue, Cressing

On behalf of the community, Cressing Parish Council arranged the Annual Parish Assembly to focus on particular issues raised by residents in Cressing Parish and to bring together reports from the various organisations within the village. The following is the report of that meeting, including reports received.

Attending: Parish Councillors: John Lawton, Colin Haines, Alison Lapper and Harvey Porrett; County Councillor Paul Thorogood, District Councillor James Abbott and 11 members of the community.

Chairman of the Meeting: Councillor John Lawton, who welcomed those present.

APA 22/01 Discussion of traffic issues in the Parish of Cressing

Cllr Paul Thorogood began by giving an update on the A120 where National highways are re-considering the previously proposed routes, although Essex Highways preferred option remains Route D. An announcement is expected in July. Work has started at Rivenhall incinerator, and the Information Centre will be formally opened by members of the Belgian Royal Family on 12th May, First stage consultation has been launched by National Grid into project "East Anglia Green Energy Enablement, proposals to reinforce the high-voltage electricity transmission between Norwich, Bramford and Tilbury. Whilst Cressing and the immediate surround area is not affected by the installation of additional pylons, the areas affected will include areas to the east of Silver End and White Notley. Detail can be found on the National Grid website: nationalgrid.com/east-anglia-green together with an interactive map to show more detail of the preferred corridor.

Bulford Mill Lane

Cllr Thorogood has met with a representative of the residents and the Clerk to discuss possible resolutions to the traffic issues along Bulford Mill Lane. The Clerk has submitted an application to the Local Highways Panel with the support of County Cllr Thorogood and District Cllrs Abbott and Wright. The comments of residents have been collated into a report, together with evidence of altercations between drivers, drivers experiencing difficulties (e.g. due to flooding) and damage to property and road surfaces. Cllr Thorogood has provided copies of this and photographs to the LHP Officer and Engineers are investigating the introduction of a further (lower) weight restriction – existing is 5 tonnes; a reduction in speed limit to 20mph – currently 60mph. It is unlikely that suggestions of closure, access only or blockages to prevent through traffic will be considered as this is a main route from Black Notley to Cressing Station.

Speed Surveys

Recent speed survey carried out in The Street and Church Road showed an average of 45mph in a 60mph area, that for The Street showed 33mph average in a 30mph area.

APA 22/02 LHP requests

Those submitted are currently going through the validation process, which can take

some time. It is not expected that all will be successful due to the very restricted budget available for road schemes in Essex.

APA 22/03 Parish Council Chairman's Report Planning

Throughout the year the Parish Council has discussed every planning application that has been submitted for the Parish of Cressing. To reach their opinion, Councillors have considered policies within the Cressing Neighbourhood Plan, impact of any development (large or small) on neighbouring properties, the limited facilities within Cressing, the potential for at least another two vehicles per new property erected and, mostly importantly, the effect on the roads through and education in Cressing.

Sadly, the Planning Authority, Braintree District Council, did not always agree the objections raised by both the Parish Council and residents who took the time to submit their own comments. When they did agree to reject the application for 250 dwellings between Braintree Road and Long Green, that decision was overturned by the Planning Inspector.

It should be noted that the Parish Council does not object to every application that comes through. Where they complement existing properties and environment, the Parish Council frequently has no comment to make.

Every month the Parish Council looks at any large development proposals that are seeking permission in neighbouring parishes. If the situation arises, the Parish Council will submit its comments in line with those proposed by the relevant council.

Development consultations and public meetings

The Parish Council is often approached by developers or planning agents to discuss potential developments. It is Parish Council policy that any such approach will be agreed only if it is a public meeting, to which all residents are invited. Two such events were held during the year. The potential development of 80 retirement properties off Mill Lane by Scott Properties was met with much comment at the public meeting and to date the application has not been submitted. More recently, a meeting was held to hear proposals for a "self-build" development on Ashes Road (opposite Lanham Green Road). As well as Councillors, four residents attended and there was a lot of discussion. Again, to date, we have heard nothing further on this one.

IWMF (Rivenhall Incinerator)

Each Parish Council meeting is briefed by District Councillors Abbott and Wright on progress with the incinerator. Whilst this is not located in the Parish of Cressing, we will be affected by vehicles travelling to/from the site during both the construction and operational phases. Indaver, the developers, have highlighted the changes to recycling practice which they consider makes the other processes of the Integrated Waste Management Facility unviable. With the closing of the site at Basildon, Essex County Council will be re-considering the proposals and we await the outcome.

Solar Farms

These seem to have become the popular route for potential use of land for maximum income. One off Links Road in Bradwell (that touches the borders of both Cressing and Silver End parishes) was approved very quickly when it went before the Planning Committee, although the final size approved was smaller than originally

requested. Shortly after that, a potential site in Rivenhall was refused. Now, we have two Environmental Screening applications being considered by the Planning Authority for a site off Lanham Green Road and one either side of the railway line in Cressing. We shall keep a watchful eye on this.

Planning Enforcement

Where it has been evidenced that planning conditions have not been adhered to or development/building work that requires planning approval has not been obtained, the Parish Council has been referring such cases to the Enforcement Team at Braintree District Council. BDC investigate and if appropriate take the necessary action. This can be a long process.

Open Day and consultation

An Open Day was held to gain public feedback on proposals for improvements to the changing rooms at the playing field. The rain and cold probably kept many residents inside, but those who did attend were able to view an exhibition provided by the Fire Service, Speedwatch, Royal British Legion, Essex Police, Community 360, and the community team of Braintree District Council.

It is proposed that an Annual Open Day will be held by the Parish Council. Feedback as the Open Day to the Parish Council's proposals for the changing rooms was very positive and resulted in a planning application being submitted for this and an external family garden to the rear of the Cressing Sports & Social Club. Unfortunately, the application for the family garden was not successful, but the Planning Authority did approve the plans for the changing rooms. We are now going through the process of preparing building specifications ready for a tendering process prior to applying for S.106 funding.

When this is complete later this year, Cressing Sports & Social Club, with the Parish Council, will be encouraging more use of the playing field for sporting activities.

Local Highways Panel

Like so many villages, Cressing has been subjected to increased traffic, parking issues, speeding and road defects that seem to take an age to resolve.

The Parish Council has discussed these issues and has submitted several applications to the Local Highways Panel for schemes to be implemented to improve things. These cover such things as improvements to Bulford Mill Lane to alleviate flooding, access to properties, damage to properties, etc. An application has been submitted to look at parking on greensward around the village and how this can be prevented; replacement of fallen, missing or damaged road signs; parking in Benton Close and Jeffrey's Road. These applications can take a very long time to be verified by Highways and then they must be considered at LHP meetings to decide whether they are viable and if they can be funded in terms of importance.

Highways and Footpaths

The Parish Clerk and Parish Handyman take note of issues as they go around the village and get alerted to faults that need attention. These are reported to Essex Highways, who then inspect and determine priority, whether it is something that needs immediate attention or can be included into their routine maintenance schedule. Any member of the public can report faults and are encouraged to do so.

Rainbow field

Some years ago, a small area of land accessed via Polecat Road and sitting behind The Street, was passed to the Parish Council. There have been numerous ideas for the use of this land (albeit restricted by its location and physical access), none of which were really feasible. However, this year the Parish Handyman has been in there, cleared the undergrowth and brambles and levelled for a footpath through it. The next stages will be to make it a peaceful haven for wildlife and for residents to sit and contemplate the many bird varieties that are already visiting the site. A seat will be installed as well as bird nesting boxes and suitable natural "homes" for small invertebrates and other species.

Seating

Another project for this financial year is to replace and increase the availability of public seating at the playing field and other locations around the village.

Planting and trees

On your travels around the village you will have noticed that in areas where the Parish Council is permitted to do so, some footpaths are being cleared of overhanging vegetation and two areas (triangles at top and bottom of Polecat Road) have been planted with spring bulbs, which this year flowered beautifully. Further planting will take place for summer and autumn colour at these locations. Planting is also planned elsewhere in the village for next spring.

Tommies

You will have seen the black figures erected on the village sign posts to commemorate those who lost their lives or whose lives were changed forever in conflicts around the world. To support the memorial at All Saints Church, the Parish Council purchased these Tommies and with the help of the Parish Handyman and a resident, these were installed. The Parish Council hopes that residents agree this was a very worthy gesture to those earlier residents of Cressing who gave so that we may continue to enjoy everything that Cressing has to offer.

Councillor resignation

During the year we had one Councillor resign from their post. An advert is out, and subject to any call for an election (an election to fill the vacancy will be held if ten local government electors for the electoral area so request – see advert on noticeboards and website) by 16th May. After that time the Parish Council will be able to advertise for potential Councillors to apply for co-option.

Other councils

On a quarterly basis, the Parish Council meets with those who are in the same BDC electoral ward, i.e. Silver End and Rivenhall. We discuss areas of mutual interest to see where we can support each other and look at any initiatives that can be shared.

APA 22/04 Playing Field/Pavilion

Unfortunately, no report had been received from Cressing Sports & Social Club at the time of the meeting.

APA 22/05 Community Speedwatch Report

The Community Speedwatch Co-ordinator submitted the following report: It has been a slow start to the year for one reason or another covid, holidays and

family engagements and I've tried where I can to get out as much as possible, I was a little perplexed at the negative response I had at suggested dates and times when I was available, it didn't seem that the original volunteers wanted to take part in the CSW.

Out of the original 14 volunteers 9 are now trained but only myself and 4 others are the only ones being active on the watch.

I got a rather stern message out to the volunteers and it seemed to work as I got a good response.

Mill lane has been very active with 6 speeders recorded (sorry don't know exact details as Tony sent the record off).

I can tell you that The Street has recorded 12 speeders the lowest speed was 36 and the max recorded was 41.

We have been using the speed sign on a regular basis and that helps a great deal.

On the speed note the police are only interested in speeds of over 35mph.

Now I have the time I'll get out and encourage as many of our volunteers to join me.

If any resident would like to be involved in Community Speedwatch, please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance.

APA 22/06 Cressing Action Group

The Cressing Action Group submitted the following report:

Cressing Action Group was set up in 2019 after individuals' opposition to the Bellway and Countryside Developments, which were outside the then development envelope of Tye Green, had no success. Braintree Planning Committee passed both projects for development. The Bellway project is now complete and Countryside's project is well underway. It opposed the large speculative development by Gladman on farmland to the east of the B1018 (ref. 19/01968/OUT) which remains outstanding. Also the proposal for 250 dwellings between the B1018 and Long Green by Begin Braintree Ltd (ref. 18/00549/OUT) which was initially rejected by Braintree Council but allowed on Appeal. That project has since been transferred to Persimmon for development but detailed layout plans have yet to be approved. Members of the Action Group entered objections to this high-density proposal which is clearly out of context with the remainder of Cressing Parish and we hope that the developers' proposal will not be approved as submitted.

The Action Group attended the meeting on 16 September 2021 at which the Parish Council had invited Mr Martin Scott of Scott Developments Ltd to give a presentation regarding his planning application for 80 bungalows to be built on land to the west of Mill Lane. The Action Group circulated details to members and there was a good turn out on the night with strong opposition being expressed in particular:

1. The development would destroy what had become an important wildlife asset.
2. Problems that increased traffic would cause in Mill Lane and Bulford Mill Lane neither of which is able to cope satisfactorily with the existing traffic volume.
3. It was evident from Mr Scott's responses that the development's proposed amenities would almost exclusively benefit only the residents in the proposed housing and would create no additional resources which would benefit the village as a whole.

This meeting showed that there remained an active membership of Cressing Action Group. The Group had been inactive and had been unable to hold an AGM for two years due to Covid 19 restrictions. An AGM was arranged on 21 October 2021. Several original committee members expressed a wish to stand down, but others came forward and the Group now has a small but functioning committee. The main Officer posts are filled but more committee members would be welcome. After the business of the AGM Cllrs Thorogood and Wright gave an update on current planning issues and answered questions from the members present. Since the AGM no meetings have been held as most of the proposed developments around Cressing and Tye Green have not been decided by the Braintree District Council other than the proposal by Rainier Developments Ltd for 35 new dwellings on farmland to the east of the B1018. This has been rejected by the Planning Department. The Action Group encouraged members to oppose this development and the rejection by BDC Planning was encouraging particularly so because of the support it gave to the Cressing Neighbourhood Plan.

The Group is anxious to know what progress has been made regarding:

1. Completion of the BDC local plan
2. The proposals for Millennium Way slip roads
3. Improvements to the Millennium Way and Galley's Corner roundabouts and access to the A120.
4. Improvements to the long outstanding issue of the Cressing Bends. It is accepted that some alleviation may result if the Begin Braintree/Persimmon development proceeds, but that may be a long time away and the problem meanwhile gets worse as the B1018 traffic volume continues to increase

So many of the developments approved or not yet decided appear to be contingent upon resolutions being reached on these four issues.

Where do we stand regarding the Gladman Proposal for 350 houses west of B1018? The Group has concern regarding the recent Screening Application for a large solar farm (ref. 22/01062/SCR on land off Lanhams Farm Road and to the West of Mill Lane and continuing over to the Railway Line and the A120. This is in addition to the Approved Links Solar Farm (21/01878/FUL) between Silver End and Cressing. The project would impact significantly on the visual amenity enjoyed by Cressing residents and on several footpaths in the open countryside buffer that separates Cressing from Braintree.

Close of meeting

There being no further reports to be heard, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

The next Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Wednesday 10th May 2023



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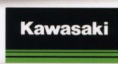
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GARDENING NOTES FOR JUNE

This month is when we see the splendour of summer bedding plants, the vibrant hot colours brighten many a patio and garden in general. Feeding is advisable, especially hanging baskets which can need watering twice daily in hot weather. A liquid feed once a week will keep annuals and tender plants in fine fettle until early autumn. Also, remember to dead head regularly.

My plant suggestion this month is Camassia; these tall elegant plants have a blue flower spike and I particularly like the variegated leaf type. Although at its best last month this plant makes a welcome addition to any border, I find a heavy mulch with home made compost is sufficient to maintain this spectacular, bulb growing perennial.

In the vegetable garden, plant out courgettes and marrows and tie in runner beans as necessary [there are always a few tendrils which refuse to cling to their canes without help]. If you grow outdoor tomatoes keep an eye on them for blight. I have mentioned this before, but those tomatoes and potatoes grown in proximity in a vegetable garden can lead to cross infection.

We should now be safe from night frosts, but it's a good idea to have some horticultural fleece standing by in case there is a particularly cold night forecast, as fleece draped over tender plants provides an amount of protection sufficient to avoid substantial damage.

Herbs can be a welcome addition to a garden and I would suggest the following as fairly easy 'starters'. Mint any variety, but do grow it in a container as it loves to spread if left to its own devices. Thyme, again there are a number in stock at most garden centres and Basil this can be grown in a pot on the kitchen window sill. Keep all three well-watered and you will have herbs to hand for several months of the year.

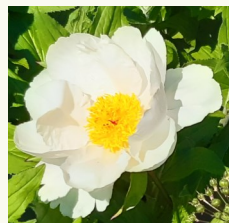
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Cressing Awareness
 Cressing Community Changes
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On A4 paper please, or by e-mail to; dandwtilbury@hotmail.co.uk (Note:-copy may be edited)

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