

# East Hanningfield News

Winter 2020 No 173



## EDITORIAL NOTE

East Hanningfield News is published by East Hanningfield Parish Council and delivered, by volunteers, to all homes and many of the businesses in the Parish. Inclusion of articles or advertisements does not signify endorsement by the Parish Council.

**Copy date for the next edition is Friday, 12th. February for publication on 1st. March 2020.**

Earlier submission is welcome: later submission will be excluded! Please send electronic copy to [karen.plumridge@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.plumridge@btinternet.com) or hard copy to 2 Clinton Close.

This and every back copy, from Summer 1974, and the current advertising rates can be found at <https://e-voice.org.uk/easthanningfieldparishcouncil/east-hanningfield-news/>

## COVER COMPETITION

Well, done to all the entrants to this year's Competition. Class 3 produced an outstanding 14 entries and Classes 1 & 2 came joint second with 13 entries each.

Congratulations to winner Ollie Gilmour for the colourful picture of a snowman. The judges called it The Disco Snowman!

Thank you to the judges for taking on such a difficult task. Thank you to parents & carers for getting the entries back. I know there's always a lot to remember when children return after half term. Finally, thank you to our Primary School for taking part again this year, when there are so many other things needing to be managed due to the virus.

As many of the entries as possible have been included in the following pages & all will appear in an album on PC's Facebook page. All children's names appear with parental consent, so if a picture has no name attached it is because the parent or guardian chose that option.



# PARISH COUNCIL

There has been interest taken, on Facebook, in the future of the telephone box on the Tye. At the moment, BT has no plan to remove it or take it out of use, and, as it is a listed building, there would have to be a consultation should BT wish to change its use. In order to be fore-armed should such a consultation arise, PC has two questions for you. Firstly, what is the level of use? If you have used the telephone recently or can foresee that you might need to use it, please let me know. Secondly, if the kiosk was left as an empty shell, what use could be made of it?

Another matter concerning the Tye, is the evidence in the form of hoof prints that horses have been ridden on the grass. Please, don't ride on the grass. It damages the turf and it is against the byelaws. Byelaw 4 says "A person shall not except in pursuance of a lawful agreement with the Council, or otherwise in the exercise of any lawful right or privilege bring or cause to be brought on to the ground any beast of draught or burden or any cattle, sheep, goats, or pigs or any horse, donkey or pony other than an unshod pony on a leading rein." The complete set of byelaws relating to the village green can be found at <https://e-voice.org.uk/easthanningfieldparishcouncil/publications/byelaws/byelaws-the-tye/>

You cannot have failed to notice the problems with one of the weeping willows standing on the Tye. First, a large branch was brought down by Storm Ciara on 2nd. September. PC was in the process of getting authorisation from the City planning department to carry out pruning works on both trees, which they need from time to time anyway, when another branch came down, in early October. It became apparent that the structure of the tree was not strong enough for the abundant growth that had occurred this year. Another application has been made to the City Council for a more extensive pruning of both trees to cut back to strong, stable branches which should be able to hold up the weight of expected growth. PC had originally wanted to pollard both trees, which would have cut back to main branches but a tree officer at the City Council advised that this would not be acceptable. We now wait to see if the City planners have been



persuaded that PC's safety concerns over-ride their planning considerations. Should PC be successful, the trees will look close-cut for a while.

Still on the subject of plant growth, here is still time to trim your hedge. In fact, now is the time to do it. Along with speeding & dog poo, this is one of the subjects that PC gets contacted about most. If you have a hedge with a pavement on the other side, please go out there and walk along the path. Could you walk hand in hand with a child along the path? Could you ride a wheel chair or buggy along the path? If hedge growth now necessitates stepping into the road, it will be even worse when growth starts in spring. Please cut it back to your boundary to a height which allows people to walk past without ducking or diving.

Also, there will be leaf litter at the base of the hedge, spreading across the path. Most of this will have dropped from your hedge, so please clear it away so that we retain the full width of the pavement. Hedges are valuable habitats for wildlife, and add greatly to the rural aspect of the village so we wouldn't want to lose them, but, unfortunately, they



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*Lilly Ann Tricker*



*Sam Fleming*



*Rosie*

don't manage themselves and need regular care.

Having held face-to-face meetings in the small hall in July and August, because the meeting room was too small for social distancing, PC was set to continue, but In September Preschool was given sole use of the small hall, so that they could have control over its cleanliness. PC then decided to hold meetings in the sports hall, which meant changing the meeting day to Wednesdays, as Thursdays were regularly booked. As it got closer to the date of the September meeting it became apparent that the sports hall would be unsuitable, what with the acoustics etc. and the thought of going into the winter having meetings with the windows open! Meetings were therefore moved on to Zoom. There were many teething problems, but we seem to have ironed those out and are now able to hold virtual meetings without much problem. Information about how members of the public can attend these meetings is included on the Agenda which appear on the noticeboards and website.

With the new lockdown starting on 5th. November, owners of play-grounds were given the option, by the government, to leave them open or close them. The East Hanningfield play areas have remained open, and the responsibility is with carers to ensure that children stay safe when using the equipment. Social distancing still applies, and applies to the carers as well as the children! There have been reports of huddles of adults at the Hanna's Field play area, so everyone is reminded that even though you are outside you should be standing 2m apart unless you are with a member of your own household.

What is permitted during various levels of Covid restrictions and lockdowns has been very confusing. Information to help residents keep abreast of these changes is regularly being posted on PC's Facebook page. So, for example, during the first lockdown Essex country parks and recycling centres were closed, during the second lockdown they were not, and this information was posted as soon as it was conveyed to PC.

Also, regularly appearing on the Facebook page are the Fraud Alerts from Essex Police. The ingenuity of fraudsters seems endless, and the Alerts always have something new to warn us about.

At the end of August and through most of September, my broadband was disconnected due to a fault at the exchange in Church Road. Using a phone to keep connected wasn't quite as smooth as might be expected, so PC communications were rather clunky during those weeks. There must have been other residents who were also deprived of connection during that time and they have my sympathy!

The December Meeting, when the budget is agreed and Precept set, will take place on Wednesday 16th. PC has been informed by the City Council's finance department that the tax base for 2021-2 is expected to be 488.97 which is lower than this year's figure of 496.09. This means that to maintain the same level of income from the Precept, the parish council tax to individual properties would have to increase. I shall let you know how PC manages this situation in the next News.



*Harry Cutts*



*Darcie Reeve*



*Fern Ward*

It is expected that in 2021 Meetings will return to the fourth Thursday of the month, and for at least the earlier months will continue “virtually” via Zoom. The regulations allowing such meetings will run out on 7th. May, if not extended, so there is the option to continue for the rest of the council year.

The Agenda for all Meetings are posted on PC’s website three clear days beforehand, and these include how to join the virtual meetings.

Karen Plumridge,  
Clerk to the Council

☎ 400628

✉ karen.plumridge@btinternet.com

🌐 <https://e-voice.org.uk/easthanningfieldparishcouncil/>



*Sophie Pleasant*

## **Baddow Plumbing Services Ltd**

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**Unit 32, East Hanningfield Industrial Estate, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 8AB**



## CITY COUNCILLOR

The coronavirus continues and anything I write here will be out of date by the time it is read. I just express the hope that all residents and their families are safe and well and that all of us will be able to meet our loved ones and families over Christmas.

December 3<sup>rd</sup> is the date when the City Council will be considering the masterplan for the proposed development of housing north of South Woodham Ferrers. The developers are seeking to increase the number of housing from 1000 to about 1500. This will be highly controversial particularly with the inevitable increase in traffic. I shall oppose it.

Residents will also be aware of two separate proposals for solar farms. The smaller of the two is to provide electricity to Essex and Suffolk's water plant at the reservoir. This is a 12 hectare site on land between the old and new A130 at Canon Barns Lane. It is a 10 MW facility. A planning application is likely early in 2021. It will have an estimated lifetime of 30 years. I do not know of the plan for reinstatement after that time.

The other proposal is for a much larger site of 100 hectares on land on both sides of the new A130 and will be in part on green belt land. This is for a 50 MW facility by a company known as Low Carbon and will connect to the National Grid. No overhead power lines will be constructed in either application. This application is for a 40 year term and the developers promise to reinstate the land at the end of the term to agricultural land. To ensure this they will offer a financial bond which they will top up from time to time. This application will not be ready for a planning application for about 12 months.

I would welcome residents views on both these applications. I can see both advantages and disadvantages with both proposals.

The virus at the moment prevents me meeting with residents but I am available to respond by email and phone. My wife and I wish all residents and their families a very healthy Christmas and 2021.

Richard Poulter

 01245 223743  [richard.poulter@chelmsford.gov.uk](mailto:richard.poulter@chelmsford.gov.uk)

# COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The virus continues to dominate all our lives and at the time of writing this article it does seem that the number of cases in Essex has levelled off. Like everyone I hope by December the 2nd we will be able to move back to Tier 1 and although the rule of 6 will apply it will enable a degree of normality to return.

As a Council we have been administering the Government's financial packages and linking them into our schemes. These include the Job Retention Scheme, Business Rate Relief, Loan Schemes and various grants. The recovery of our economy in the months ahead is a top priority of the council and we are working closely with partners to do all we can to support business.

Our Children's Team did a fantastic job over the recent half term organising over 30 Activity Camps across Essex enabling over 3,500 children to partake in physical activities and a free lunch. So successful has the scheme been that going forward we will be building on this and continuing the programme in future school holidays - we will also help and support associated organisations to tackle holiday hunger! Innovation is to be welcomed and I have to say the Laptop scheme, again being run by our Children's Services has been and is a great success. We have distributed some 160 reconditioned laptops to colleges across the county with a further 200 in the pipeline. With more tuition being done online this will help those disadvantaged children who lack the technology at home. Because of COVID we are unable to accept unwanted laptops from the public and business but we are hoping to launch a campaign in December - watch this space everyone,

I wish you all a safe and Happy Christmas and the hope we can celebrate with our families.

Ian Grundy ☎ 07920286384

✉ [Cllr.ian.Grundy@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.ian.Grundy@essex.gov.uk)



# HANNA'S FIELD CHARITY

Looking back at my report for this time last year, this year's Winter report is going to be very different!

Since the Autumn News I am pleased to report though that we have now completed the new lighting system in the Main Sports Hall and hope that this has proved to be a great improvement to those that have been able to play badminton or undertake other activities in that Hall within the restrictions up until the current lockdown. I know this will be greatly appreciated once everything can start again properly next year.

We had hoped to hold our postponed AGM from April 2020 in the Autumn, but again with the lockdown restrictions our plans were thwarted, but on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November we were able to have a very short Zoom meeting to carry out all the official legal requirements for presenting our approved accounts to The Charity Commission.

We also completed most of the refurbishments to the Play Area and were able to open this again with parents having to ensure the health and safety of their children using all the equipment. Unfortunately, the two replacement swings have yet to be received to complete the refurbishment, they are apparently still awaiting shipment from France! Since the start of lockdown back in March it has been obvious however that the Sports and Playing Fields have been a great asset to many people in the Village, playing sports for the children, walking and groups meeting up on the field for picnics and parties in the safety of the open air when the restrictions were lifted in July. A couple of ideas have been mooted by a number of residents, one to provide additional bench seating on the fields, (which could have a commemorative plaque added), and for picnic tables to be provided. These items do not come cheap – a bench seat bought and installed would be approx. £1,000 each. These would need to be made from recyclable materials rather than wood as this would just be a target for damage. We will add these to our list of improvements to the Village Hall and Field facilities for the future.

The HFC Committee would like to acknowledge the commitment and enthusiasm of Serene Brown as the Supervisor of East Hanningfield Preschool over the last 10 years. Serene was the Trustee representative for Preschool & attended our regular meetings. We worked together

er to help make improvements & also to ensure that all requirements for Ofsted were adhered to within the timescales set. We will certainly miss her knowledge & enthusiasm & wish her well for the future.

The latest information about which activities can take place and the rules concerning them can be found at <https://e-voice.org.uk/easthanningfieldparishcouncil/villagehall/> .

Wishing you All a Good Christmas and New Year.  
Stay safe and well everyone!

Jenny Mouser, Chairperson 400411



## Hanna's Tots

As most of you are aware we had to close our lovely village playgroup in March due to Covid. We are unsure when it will open again, but do hope it will at some point next year. When we are allowed to reopen we will be looking for new volunteers to help run the group as Alex and I

now have other commitments. It is such a wonderful group for the local community where we, and many other families, have made very good friends and watched our children play and grow up together over the years. We do hope it will continue in the future.

If you feel that you may be interested in running the group or joining a rota to help, please contact the Pre-School ( see pages 27-28).

Amanda Gilmour & Alex Ingram



## **EAST HANNINGFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

**Local Crime Update:** The NhW article usually begins with a roundup of local crime (since the last News), not perhaps because we hope someone out there has some new information now but because crime is always around and it's a reminder to be vigilant. Having said that, it has been fairly quiet - the only things NhW are aware of over this period are a break-in overnight Sunday 27th September (an outbuilding at the back of a house in Old Church Road with lawnmowers and power tools stolen) and a Ford transit van SJ65URG stolen from Industrial Estate in Old Church Road sometime on Monday 19th October. The outbuilding break-in seems to be part of a trend of night time theft from sheds and garages in rural areas so it may pay readers to consider adding PIR operated lights, an alarm and more secure locks? EHNW has a property marking kit which you can borrow.

During November residents reported suspicious cold callers in village (someone asking if a vehicle on their drive was for sale or in one case, a boat). Be wary of any one cold calling and making an unsolicited offer. If threatening behaviour is used take caller's description & car reg. and report to police. If you have information about any crimes contact Essex Police or Crimestoppers, contact details on Page15.

**Scams and Fraud:** People have been scammed out of £1.4 billion since the start of the first Covid 19 lockdown (The Times, 14.11.20) as fraudsters have taken advantage of situation with phoney emails, text messages and phone calls claiming to be HMRC, Banks, NHS Test & Trace, BT, Microsoft etc, many exploiting fears about COVID-19 and especially preying on older and vulnerable people. Hacking and extortion attempts rose from 132 in March to 1058 in April according to Action Fraud. At present fraud in one form or another accounts for more than a third of all crime and the reality is that if you are unfortunate enough to fall a victim to fraud the likelihood is that you won't be able to recover the loss unless you can show your bank was negligent, so it pays to be doubly careful.

NhW continue to send alerts to residents about latest scams and frauds to watch out for. Some examples of scam emails purporting to be from organisations in this period include following emails: BT ("your server has a sync error – click on link to recover lost emails"); Microsoft ("your email account is about to be closed – click on link"); Royal Mail

("we tried to deliver a parcel today, click on link to reschedule delivery"). All look at first glance genuine and are designed to get you to provide personal or financial data or to insert a virus on your machine. The golden rule is never click on the links or attachments in any emails without first verifying it's from a bona-fide person or organisation. It is always safer to go to the website independently if you need to give personal information.

If someone has been targeted by a scam it can be reported to Action Fraud (see opposite). For advice and information on how to check if something might be a scam, visit: [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam/). The "NhW contacts" page opposite has other useful contacts - keep it handy.

**Winter Evenings:** Nothing tells a burglar a house is empty better than there are no lights on! Help protect yourself by leaving lights on (with timers or daylight sensors to come on when it gets dark if you like).

**NhW Team/Meetings:** Our next NhW team meeting is Wed 9<sup>th</sup> December by Zoom - don't let that put you off though. We are still looking for a point-of-contact for Coude Dennis estate and Abbey Fields. Contact NhW email address below if you would like more information. Involvement just means receiving/passing local crime alerts (mainly email), and a quarterly meeting.

**NhW Alerts:** About 130 residents continue to receive our local emailed local crime alerts - contact NhW email address below if you would like to receive these. It's a two-way process and you can provide feedback or suggestions.

**Community Speed Watch (CSW** volunteers operate under the EH NhW umbrella) At the Covid 19 lock-down in March all county-wide CSW teams were stood down. Although some had just restarted when the new lock down was announced they have now stopped again. We do need a couple of new recruits for when we restart so contact under-signed if interested in joining.

Mike Plumridge, EH NhW Co-ordinator.  
Email: [NHWEastHanningfield@outlook.com](mailto:NHWEastHanningfield@outlook.com).  
Phone: 01245-400628



# East Hanningfield NhW “Points of Contact”

## To contact ESSEX POLICE:

☎ 999 (if you see something suspicious or a crime in progress).

☎ 101 (for non-urgent incidents) OR report it on line:

🌐 [www.essex.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/](http://www.essex.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/)

☎ 0800 555 111 (for Crimestoppers anonymous)

For Crime Prevention Advisors E-mail:

✉: [CrimePreventionTacticalAdvisors@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:CrimePreventionTacticalAdvisors@essex.pnn.police.uk)

**Nearest Police Station:** Chelmsford (New Street). Hours 9am to 5pm, 7 days a week). Note that opening times are subject to change at short notice.

## To report FRAUD, SCAM EMAILS and CYBER CRIME:

ActionFraud is the UK’s national fraud and cyber-crime reporting centre:

☎ 0300 123 2040 & press 9

🌐 [www.actionfraudalert.co.uk/Contact](http://www.actionfraudalert.co.uk/Contact)

For information on how to stay safe and secure online visit:

🌐 [www.cyberaware.gov.uk](http://www.cyberaware.gov.uk)

## To contact EAST HANNINGFIELD NhW TEAM:

✉: [NHWEastHanningfield@outlook.com](mailto:NHWEastHanningfield@outlook.com)

☎ Ch 400628 & leave a message

NhW WebSite is on Parish Council website:

🌐 [www.essexinfo.net/easthanningfieldparishcouncil/](http://www.essexinfo.net/easthanningfieldparishcouncil/)

## To report FLYTIPPING:

If you witness fly-tipping in progress call police on 999.

If it has already happened call Chelmsford Council on 606606 and ask for "Public Health"

To report it on line with details of the incident and type/amount of waste:

🌐 [www.chelmsford.gov.uk/environment/report-a-street-problem/report-fly-tipping/](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/environment/report-a-street-problem/report-fly-tipping/)

## Car littering

If you have witnessed someone littering from a vehicle report it to ECC who will take action:

🌐 [www.consultations.essex.gov.uk/waste-environment/car-littering-complaint-form/](http://www.consultations.essex.gov.uk/waste-environment/car-littering-complaint-form/)

## To look for a Trading Standards APPROVED TRADER or get advice:

🌐 [www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk](http://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk)

☎ 03454 040506

Citizens Advice “consumer helpline” contact:

☎ 0808 223 1133 Or use website:

🌐 [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/get-more-help/if-you-need-more-help-about-a-consumer-issue/#Chat](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/get-more-help/if-you-need-more-help-about-a-consumer-issue/#Chat)

## POLICE FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER (PFCC) oversees Essex Police and Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

To contact the PPFC go to website:












🌐: [www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/make-a-difference/](http://www.essex.pfcc.police.uk/make-a-difference/) Or Phone:

☎ 01245 291600

# EAST HANNINGFIELD DIARY







<https://e-voice.org.uk/easthanningfieldparishcouncil/village-diary-2011/>

## DECEMBER

- Tue 1 **Black Bin Green Box, Card Sack, Food Waste collections**
- Sun 6 9am **BCP COMMUNION** assisted by Rev Terry Brown at All Saints'   
10.45am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church 
- Tue 8 **Brown Bin, Paper Sack, Plastics & Cartons, Food Waste**
- Sun 13 10am **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE** for the Children's Society at All Saints' Church.   
10.45am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church 
- Tue 15 **Black Bin Green Box, Card Sack, Food Waste collections**
- Wed 16 8pm **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** by Zoom. Please email the Clerk for joining instructions by 12noon on the day of the Meeting.
- Fri 18 **LAST DAY OF TERM - EAST HANNINGFIELD SCHOOL**  
**LAST DAY OF TERM - SANDON SCHOOL**
- Sun 20 10.45am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church   
4pm **CAROL SERVICE** at All Saints' Church. 
- Tue 22 **Brown Bin, Paper Sack, Plastics & Cartons, Food Waste**
- Thu 24 4-4.30 & 5.-5.30pm **CAROLS & CRIB SERVICE** at All Saints' Ch   
11.30pm **MIDNIGHT COMMUNION** at St. Andrew's Sandon. Please let Christine know if you require a lift. 
- Fri 25 10-10.45am **CHRISTMAS MORNING** at All Saints' Church. 
- Sun 27 10am **MORNING WORSHIP** bringing in the New Year at All Saints' 
- Sun 27 10.45am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church 
- Wed 30 **Black Bin Green Box, Card Sack, Food Waste collections**

↓ Pull out & pin up.

## JANUARY 2021

- Sun 3 9am **BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER COMMUNION** assisted by Rev. Terry Brown at All Saints' Church.   
10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church 
- Mon 4 **BACK TO SCHOOL EHPS & SANDON SCHOOL**
- Thu 7 **Brown Bin, Paper Sack, Plastics & Cartons Sack & Food Waste**
- Sun 10 10 am **MORNING WORSHIP FOR ALL – Child Friendly** at All Saints'   
10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church 
- Wed 13 **Black Bin, Green Box, Card Sack & Food Waste.**
- Sun 17 10am **HOLY COMMUNION** at All Saints' Church.   
10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church 
- Tue 19 **Brown Bin, Paper Sack, Plastics & Cartons Sack & Food Waste**  
2.35-55pm **MOBILE LIBRARY** at the Village Hall car park. Subject to government Covid-19 restrictions allowing



- Sun 24 10am **MORNING WORSHIP WITH HEALING** at All Saints' Church. 🏠  
 10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church 🏠
- Tue 26 **Black Bin, Green Box, Card Sack & Food Waste.**
- Thu 28 8pm **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.** Venue to be advised.
- Sun 31 10am **MORNING WORSHIP FOR CANDLEMAS** at All Saints' Ch 🏠

**FEBRUARY**

- Tue 2 **Brown Bin, Paper Sack, Plastics & Cartons Sack & Food Waste**
- Sun 7 9am **BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER COMMUNION** assisted by Rev Terry Brown at All Saints' Church. Subject to govt Covid-19 restrictions  
 10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Tue 9 **Black Bin, Green Box, Card Sack & Food Waste.**  
 12.25-55pm **MOBILE LIBRARY** at the Village Hall car park. Subject to government Covid-19 restrictions allowing.
- Thu 11 **BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM SANDON SCHOOL**
- Fri 12 **BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM EHPS**
- Sun 14 10 am **MORNING WORSHIP FOR ST. VALENTINE** at All Saints'  
 10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church 🏠
- Tue 16 **Brown Bin, Paper Sack, Plastics & Cartons Sack & Food Waste**
- Sun 21 10am **HOLY COMMUNION** at All Saints' Church. 🏠  
 10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church 🏠
- Mon 22 **BACK TO SCHOOL EHPS & SANDON SCHOOL**
- Tue 23 **Black Bin, Green Box, Card Sack & Food Waste.**
- Thu 25 8pm **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.** Venue to be advised
- Sun 28 10am **MORNING WORSHIP WITH HEALING** at All Saints' Church. 🏠  
 10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church 🏠



**Church Services are included on the assumption that lock-down will have ended. Please wear a mask, unless you have a health reason or are a child of 11 years or under, and observe social distancing.**



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Dear Friends,

I hope you are coping in the current times and I do feel for you in the varying circumstances you are all in. It is not easy. We have continued services as best we can and I think we have had some good times and innovative approaches, particularly at Harvest and All Souls, (when we think of those who have passed on). For the next few weeks we shall be doing services by Zoom at 10am, with hymns and music, readings and prayers. Do contact me if you would like to join us from your home. After that who knows, though I have included in this magazine our hopes for Christmas Services, I am not sure what will happen. Despite lockdown, if you should want to come into church for a moment of quiet prayer or to light a candle for someone, do let me or Gil Gordon know, and this can be arranged and is allowed.

We have had two weddings with reduced numbers and they have been very lovely and intimate, and at the time of writing we have one for December 19<sup>th</sup> amidst the Christmas decorations. There are some good and happy things going on.

I am sure that we can still enjoy Christmas with reduced family numbers in perhaps a different way, and I hope we will be looking around for anyone alone this Christmas, that we might be able to help. Christmas is a message of hope for us all, the love of God sent to us amidst the pain and difficulty of the days, then and now. There are lots of stories apart from the Nativity, that remind us of Love coming to us at this time of year.

'The Star Money,' is the ultimate tale of generosity, collected by the Grimm Brothers. An orphaned, poor little girl who has nothing in the world but a crust of bread and the tattered clothes she is wearing goes walking through the country. Although her life is hard, she still strives to be kind. She encounters others who are in as great a need as herself, and gives each of them something of hers. First the bread, then pieces of her clothing, until she is left naked and cold in the forest. Then she looks at the sky, and the stars fall down upon her and clothe her in fine



linen and turn into coins which she collects. Her selflessness was rewarded, and she ends up in a much better situation than at the beginning of the story! Christmas is a time of giving, and it's always the thought which counts. There are lots of lovely stories and folk tales and perhaps this Christmas you should research and read some to yourself and others – to your children as something of a change. Some also remind us, like this one, that there are others having hard times too, have faith and hope and know that you will get through it.

Something we have planned on the horizon is a Scarecrow competition for the New Year. Together with the school and community we intend to launch the idea of making scarecrows and putting them out in front of the house during the week of half term (week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> February), where people can go and look at them and decide their favourites which will win a prize. It is the time of the year for planting and seeding when we want scarecrows to scare away the birds, to stop them eating the new seed in the fields. You can start thinking about how many you want to make yours. There will be an entry fee, but it will not be huge. Watch this space!

We have much to look forward to. This Christmas is like all others, in that it is a time of hope and love and good will, shown by the Christmas lights. Think of the baby Jesus who came into a world not so different from ours (there were plagues and pandemics then), and the angels and the shepherds, light and love and simplicity and poverty. Think of the gifts of the wise men, gold, frankincense and myrrh. Riches cannot just solve the pandemic overnight, it requires a little holiness, God's love working through us to find a cure, and ointment to heal our troubled souls. It is a Christian festival which we can celebrate no matter where we are or who we are with.

Have a happy and blessed Christmas and remember the message of light and hope.

Canon Christine  
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([christine.aseh@btinternet.com](mailto:christine.aseh@btinternet.com))  
[www.easthanningfield.btck.co.uk](http://www.easthanningfield.btck.co.uk)



*Alexandria Cobb*

## **EAST HANNINGFIELD WOMENS' INSTITUTE**

It has been so long since I have had to contribute towards our magazine. Our W.I. has been in lock-down since the middle of February. We were hoping to open again in the New Year, but as many of us have underlying difficulties it looks as if that will be much further into next year. With no funds coming in and no change in the outgoings this is a very challenging time for many organisations such as ours. We are after all 103 years old so the hall also have underlying issues. When speaking to members of the internet, zooming etc it is extremely challenging for most of us and non-existent speech for others. I have constant tuition from my young family who I think draw lots when I inform them I have a little computer difficulty. "It is absolutely doing nothing." "Have you checked the plug?" "It's always in." I answer. "Just try it." "Well I don't know how that has eased out of the socket, but I'm firing on all cylinders now thank you."

A chance for a good spring clean and sorting out wardrobes and drawers. It makes one feel so good, however I now have plenty of exercise hunting for things that are in a far more convenient place. You may recall that we collected clothing for the Medaille Trust who find and look after trafficked people. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project: we had a lot of really good response. However, this pesky bug we are dealing with interrupted our good intentions. Our donations remained within the Hall. The Bethel Church came to our rescue. The clothes have now been transported to Birmingham and then to Lebanon where they are needed by the refugees after that dreadful explosion destroying hundreds of homes and killing many. Out grateful thanks to Peter, Pam & Bethel Church for introducing us to this seriously worthy cause & many thanks to you who helped us achieve this.

Oh my goodness what it is to have real fresh fruit and vegetables. Our ladies who have many underlying difficulties and like me have been locked away since February have been looked after by J.M. Swift Fruit and Vegetables. Lisa and company we are extremely grateful you are an essential. You really would not believe the difference between supermarket produce and a wholesaler. It has such long life. Seriously our elder ladies and I have been extremely grateful for their help and support. I have to tell you. They supply French Onions. These are the size of a medium football. (I do not jest). Some of my ladies and I have an abundance of onion soup in our freezers. Good practice for when



we have our Souper Lunch again. Your company is absolutely essential to the welfare of our ladies. Thank you.

I need to thank the band of dedicated persons who have volunteered to fetch medicines, transport members to hospital or doctors' appointments when appointments turn up. You are invaluable. Panic can quickly overtake you when you need or require medical treatment but have a ball and chain attached to your leg and a disease waiting beyond the front door. I will mention no names but we know who you are and are very grateful always for your help and support. Thank you.

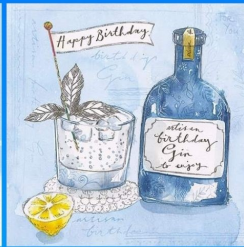
If, of course, you see any of us taking a morning or afternoon stroll just to stay in touch with real life, do say hello and give them a warm smile, but please keep your distance we will not be offended. These times are difficult for everyone, young and old, but it is really nice to be in a village that cares. Thank you from me and my ladies. Stay safe and take care. Protect each other and we will soon be celebrating with events and meeting as we used to do.

Wishing a Happy Christmas to you all.

Flora Virgoe, President.



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1st - Closed

2nd Saturday open as usual



You can donate non perishable food and essentials (baby food, baby wipes, nappies, toilet rolls, washing powder etc) to the food bank through the village store. It gets collected weekly.

# EAST HANNINGFIELD FETE

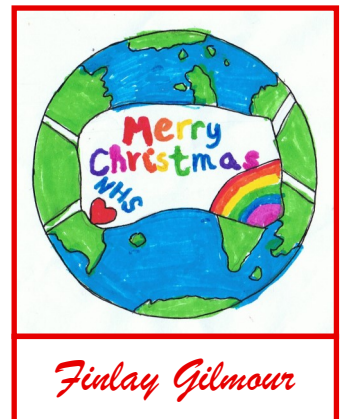
What a strange year!! The events we are enduring bring home to me just how fragile life is on this planet and how we should cherish our every day. Hopefully 2021 will be better, indeed your village fete committee is hopeful that we will be able to arrange the event for some time in July next year. We plan to start our meetings in January to set the framework for the fete.

As I have said in previous village newsletters we had a new committee raring to go, determined to maintain the high standard set by the previous organisers. We had hoped to introduce one or two different ideas, or events that have fallen by the wayside over the years. One such event that we want to resurrect is the Tug of War. I know that Gard Timber Merchants had a team ready to go so I would be delighted if I could find some competition for them. If anyone out there would like to organise a team please let us know.

Many local companies have in the past very generously supported the fete with either monetary donations or raffle prizes. I am sure that all the committee members appreciate what a difficult year it has been for them, so we will value their support more than ever. We know that not everyone will be able to offer the same level of sponsorship so please do not feel embarrassed to say so when we come knocking on your door next year.

The two charities that benefit from the fete profit are All Saints Church and Hanna's Field Charity. The latter looks after and runs the village hall and the playing field. Having been on Tolleshunt Knights village hall management committee for seventeen years, mostly as vice chairman or chairman I know that there is far more work involved than might first meet the eye, so I take my hat off to them. All Saints Church is always there for anyone in need of spiritual support and guidance. In these troubled times I suspect their help has been invaluable. Keep safe

Brian C Olley (Chairman)  
✉ brian.olley@icloud.com





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# **BETHEL CHURCH**

## **You never know what you have until it's gone.**

The year 2020 is one we all won't forget in a hurry. Many of the things we've taken for granted for so long have been taken from us. Not being able to see family and friends is, and has been, painful. Even having to think twice before popping to the local shops!

After eleven weeks of lockdown and not being able to meet as a church, we began gathering together again in July, albeit with many constraints. We set the chairs out two metres apart, closed off the kitchen, placed hand sanitiser at the entrance...and ensured everyone wore masks.

But the hardest thing, other than not being able to greet each other in our usual way, was not being able to sing. This restriction has been debilitating for all of us. To sing praises to God is the most natural thing for the Christian to do....singing is the overflow of our thanksgiving and joy to our Lord and Saviour.

As the Psalmist declares, "Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise." Psalm 47:6-7

We had to settle for listening to worship songs whilst sitting on our hands. Even so, there is no better place than being together as church. So, to now go into a second lockdown has been a bitter pill to swallow.

However, these unprecedented times give us a chance to recalibrate and reconsider the things in life that are really important. That old saying, 'you don't know what you've got until it's gone' has never been truer. We all long for a return to normality, but maybe now is the time to evaluate eternal things.

Many people are now living in fear about getting this dreaded virus. Afraid to leave the house or get close to another person, people are in fear of their lives. Yet, the apostle Paul, who himself was afflicted with pain, was able to say, "*for me to live is Christ and to die is gain*". What a glorious hope the Christian has of knowing that this earthly existence is a blink of an eye when compared with eternity.



Charles Spurgeon, the famous preacher of the 1800s, once said: *“Fear to die? Thank God, I do not. The cholera may come again next summer – pray it may not. But if it does, it matters not to me. I will toil and visit the sick by night and by day until I drop. And if it takes me, sudden death is sudden glory.”*

We, like Spurgeon did, pray that this current pandemic ends soon. But if this disease has left you wondering and questioning your own mortality, please get in touch as we love to talk with you. You can leave a message on our website: [bethel-eh.com](http://bethel-eh.com) or call Peter or Emma Cockrell on 01245 400665.

With all the uncertainty around the lifting of the lockdown and other restrictions, we will not be having our evening carol service on December 20th. But please visit our website for any changes that may happen.

We wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas. And may 2021 be a year full of health and happiness.

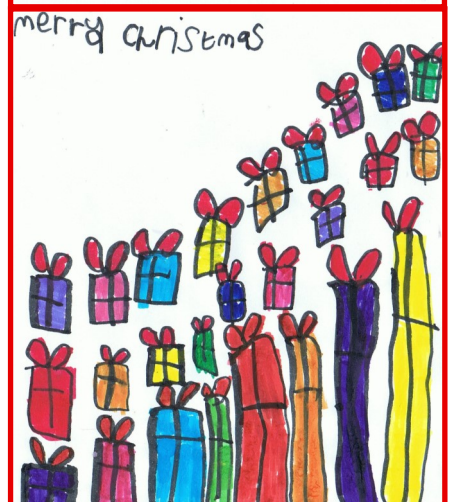
From all your friends at Bethel Church.

Roydon Hearne

☎ 400665 🏠 [bethel-eh.com](http://bethel-eh.com)

✉ [petercockrell@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:petercockrell@tiscali.co.uk)

[roydon.w.hearne@gmail.com](mailto:roydon.w.hearne@gmail.com)



## PRESCHOOL

Since September Preschool has been open again for five days a week and our whole preschool is now classed as one bubble. We follow the government guidelines on how to do everything in these challenging times, which has inevitably led to quite a few changes. No playing with playdough, sand or water, no dressing up clothes, no cushions or mats, no parents allowed to come into the setting and of course, strict hygiene measures. As Early Years workers we are not required to wear PPE all the time, only in special circumstances. However the children seem to cope well and just take all the changes in their stride and we have several new families join us this term and all the children are settled and happy.

Covid-19 has also led to a few staff changes and we were sad to say goodbye to some valued members of the pre-school team.

The biggest is Serene Brown, our Supervisor for the past 10 years. She is taking early retirement as she is unable to return due to health conditions. She has been working tirelessly at home from the first lockdown until the end of October. She has been at our helm for the past 10 years and over the years has worked so hard for the preschool, joining committees, attending meetings, keeping all our paperwork and staff in order.

It was due to her determination that we achieved a permanent outside area, along with a canopy and more recently, a shed for all our outside equipment. On behalf of staff and all the children, past and present, we would like to say a very big thank you and we wish you a happy retirement.

Sara ,our Senco Supervisor, also left at the end of the summer term and Sue, too decided to step down from her role as Deputy Supervisor but she is staying on as Administrator.

So, we now have a new Supervisor, Diane Batt, who many of you in the village will probably know as she has been working in the pre-



school for 11 years. We have also replaced Sara with two members of staff sharing the Senco Supervisor role. In addition, we have taken on a Business Administrator and three other new members of staff. We wish everyone well as they take up their new roles.

This term we are concentrating on all the different celebrations during November and December, culminating of course with Christmas. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restrictions, we are not able to put on a show for parents but we will try to hold a party at the end of term for all the children.

We still have some vacancies for next term. We are an approved provider of 2-year old funding, along with 3-4 year funding and we also can take those eligible for 30 hour funding. If you would like to find out more about the Pre-school take a look at our website or contact us by phone or email.

☎ 07732951613 ✉ [ehps1@live.co.uk](mailto:ehps1@live.co.uk) 🌐 [www.easthanningfieldpreschool.org.uk](http://www.easthanningfieldpreschool.org.uk)

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## Do you live with hearing loss, or know someone who does?

Hearing Help Essex is a Chelmsford based not-for-profit charity, we are pleased to announce that our Hearing Aid Support Service continues to run.

We have worked hard to resume our services in a safe and socially distanced environment to support the many people across Essex who have acquired hearing loss and wear NHS Hearing aids.

Hearing aids need cleaning regularly and retubing every 4-6 months, we have a friendly team on hand who are able to assist with essential retubing, cleaning and general hearing aid maintenance. If your hearing aids are due maintenance, if the tubing is brittle, cracked, blocked, or damaged please get in touch to book an appointment. If you unable to come to see us in person, it is possible for someone else to bring the hearing aids to the appointment on your behalf. If you are housebound, shielding, or immobile, please ask about our doorstep service. We are running clinics at the following locations across Essex. Due to social distancing measures, all appointments must be booked in advance and we cannot accept walk in's.

- Hearing Help Essex Resource Centre, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford (all Mid, West, and South Essex NHS Patients)
- St Michael's Hospital, Braintree (Mid-Essex Patients)
- Plantation Hall, Heybridge (Mid-Essex Patients)

We also provide an Information, Advice, and Guidance Service to people across Essex living with hearing loss, and this service is currently being delivered from their Resource Centre in central Chelmsford, in person, or by phone, video call, text message, or email.

As usual our service remains completely free of charge, but as a small charity working hard to support Essex residents living with hearing loss, all donations are appreciated.

 01245 496347 : [info@hearinghelpessex.org.uk](mailto:info@hearinghelpessex.org.uk)

Text: 07950 406173



# PRIMARY SCHOOL

This term we have been pleased to welcome back all of our pupils together for the first time since March! It has been a very different start to the school year with many of the things that we take for granted such as performances and celebration assemblies unable to be witnessed by parents. Looking for unexpected positives in the situation has highlighted the brilliance of our children and made us as proud as ever. From the moment they returned to school they have adapted to the changes and adjustments and have done so with energy and enthusiasm – lifting all the adults around them.

Whilst adjustments have needed to be made, it has been important to us as a school to use these challenging times as an opportunity to really let our ethos shine through. The Harvest assembly in school saw an enormous amount of donations being made for the Chelmsford Foodbank and the school was proud to continue to have representatives at the village Remembrance Service.



This term has also seen the first 'Break the Rules' day in school which saw the children being 'fined' for wearing nail varnish, colouring their hair or not wearing their school ties. A lot of fun was had by all of the children and the Friends Association who organised this raised a wonderful amount



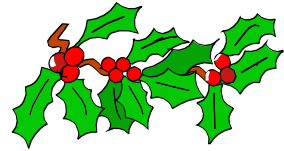
of money for the school fund – thank you Friends.

As I am writing this we are planning for alternative arrangements for Christmas. Performances will go ahead although these will be, however I have no doubt that by the time you are reading this the children will have performed, danced and learnt all the classic Christmas hymns making it once again into a wonderful Christmas at school and spreading positivity into the village in such difficult times.



Have a fantastic Christmas with best wishes from all at East Hanningfield CE Primary.

Mrs. Waters, ☎ 400772  
🌐 [www.easthanningfield.essex.sch.uk](http://www.easthanningfield.essex.sch.uk)



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