

East Hanningfield News

Summer 2021 No 174



Forty Years Ago

this month, the residents of the Ashley Green estate & their friends held a street party in Clinton Close to celebrate the royal wedding.

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 Saturday, 14th. August for publication on 1st. September 2021.

Earlier submission is welcome: later submission will be excluded! Please send electronic copy to 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 PHOTOGRAPH

Some of the fancy dress competition entrants at the street party.



How many bees can you find in this issue of EH News?

PARISH COUNCIL

I expect EH News readers are confused about the intermittent publications of late. Whilst the postman and other delivery services are allowed to go from door to door during lockdown, we are not supposed to send out volunteers to do the same, however willing they are. So, I am writing in the hope that the latest variants of concern are not going to cause another stoppage before we can get this issue printed and delivered. This News has been published later in June than is usual for the Summer issue, but the intention is to get back to the beginning of the month for the Autumn issue in September.

Our parish has been subject to an unprecedented amount of planning pressure in recent months with three separate planning applications for solar farms on land to the west of the village. PC has objected to all three and has also commented on the new Draft Chelmsford Solar Farm Supplementary Planning Document. Here are some points raised by PC:

- Agriculture and food production are recognised as the next climate emergency. A short term clean electricity gain may not be a good global trade off against a longer term food loss.
- Every acre of wheat production sequesters (captures) 8 tonne of carbon dioxide (USA Department of Agriculture). All power generation will be Carbon Neutral by 2035 (Dec 2020 Carbon Budget) primarily driven by offshore wind and nuclear without emphasis on large scale solar energy.
- A carbon neutral solar farm will be a penalty versus sequestering agriculture by this date. Solar farms will be delaying net zero.
- Britain is short of sun, land and food production, our sea and wind are plentiful. Our economic advantage is offshore wind not solar.
- Solar energy has unique benefits on the roofs of buildings and above car parks. This opportunity is being missed by an industry targeting the easy option of agricultural land.
- Some of the proposals are made by small companies or through special purpose vehicles. A financial bond guaranteeing funding of restoration is vital. Accumulation of funds during the project life is inadequate. There is a risk that the solar farms may be unviable in 15 years not 40. A fully funded bond or insurance policy is necessary.
- There should be an undertaking that the land will be fully restored to agricultural use within three years of the end of the planning approval or cessation of electricity

production. The risk is that a brownfield site will be created as has happened with chicken sheds or redundant glass houses.

PC is also concerned about what is going to happen to all the panels once they have reached end of life or are no longer wanted. EHPC has acted with West Hanningfield PC in order to present a united front against this barrage of applications.

If you would like to see the details of the proposed solar farms you can look them up on the City Council's planning pages on their website. www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/ . The reference numbers are 21/00394/FUL Land East And West Of A130, North And South Of Canon Barns Rd, 21/00502/FUL Land East Of A130 South Of Canon Barns Rd & 21/00555/FUL Land West Of Hill Farm Pan Lane. There are also a couple in neighbouring parishes. In Rettendon there is a screening exercise for a proposal [21/01038/EIASO EIA Screening Opinion request for proposed solar farm, Land North Of Frelins Farm Rectory Lane Battlesbridge] This is about half way between Willow Grove (the Woodham end of Creephedge Lane) and Rettendon village as the crow flies. Danbury's application is at a later stage and is located to the east of St. Clere's Pit adjacent to the main road [21/00081/FUL]. PC supported Danbury PC's objections to the application.

At the beginning of the year PC was criticised for not publicising the fact that there is an allotment site in the parish. The details can now be found on PC's website. Just click on ALLOTMENTS. You may put your name down on the waiting list by contacting me, but the long-term tenant has intimated that there is no intention of relinquishing the site in the near future. There is no public right of way through the site, so please don't enter without the tenant's invitation.

For some years PC has been monitoring the slow progress of a request to the Local Highways Panel for the footway beside the Vita Bella to be widened. Knowing that one of the problems with the path was the spread of earth from the hedge, PC decided to take matters into its own hands and install boards along the base of the hedge to keep the earth back. PC is limited as to the amount it can spend on such projects, so it is not something that could be repeated around the village. We still await a coherent proposal from the LHP.

Although now is not the time to be carrying out major hedge cutting, as it would disturb nesting birds, you can still cut back the odd bramble or other overgrowth, that is obstructing a path or sight line, with secateurs, if you are careful to avoid birds' nests.

In the last News, I said I would update you on the PC's budget decision in the following issue, expecting it to be published in March. As it is, you received your council tax bills some months ago, so you already know that the parish element rose by 2%. As mentioned previously, the tax base had gone down which meant to receive the same amount as the previous year PC would have to increase the Precept by 1.46%. The decision was made to increase the Precept by £189 on the previous year. If you would like to see how this was calculated, the budget is appended to the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th. December and can be found under Publications on PC's website.

Users of Hanna's Hoppet play area were upset to find pranksters had tangled up the swings in readiness for the half term holiday. This wasn't done by little children as it could only have been accomplished by someone of adult height. A challenge posted on Facebook for the perpetrators to demonstrate how clever they are by untangling them failed to get the desired response. I always find it very disappointing when equipment installed to our youngsters gets vandalised, and wonder what the motive was, hoping it wasn't spite towards the children.

Also at the play area, your might have noticed tags appearing on plants. These are on the plants recently set to fill in where the original shrubs have been lost. The new little shrubs have been chosen because they will not grow into trees, unlike the thorns and hazels already there. They are also thornless, which seems like a sensible choice for a children's recreation area, and spread the flowering season through the year to help pollinators. Some previous plantings have been destroyed by the phantom poison sprayer, so it is hoped that by marking all the new shrubs with labels they will be safe from the herbicide.

The pandemic has caused us difficulties with the *Play in the Park* Sessions. PC had to book full days instead of the usual mornings or afternoons. This means that we have only two dates this summer both Tuesdays: 3rd. & 10th. August, 10-30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30. Please note

later than usual start of the morning sessions. Sessions are free, but you need to book in advance. Googling “Play in the Park Chelmsford” will get you to the right web page. Please read the instructions carefully. As before, there are limited places. Please let the organisers know if your child is not going to attend a booked session so that it can be passed on to someone else. It was very disappointing last year to have low turn-outs at fully booked sessions.

Please note if your child is:

- under six, they must be supervised by an adult parent or guardian for the whole session. One adult can supervise a maximum of three children per session.
- under eight, they must be dropped off and picked up by an adult. The adult will need to set up a password with us on arrival and provide the same password when collecting the child.
- over eight, they can come and go without an adult, but they must provide any relevant medical information and emergency contact details when they register.

PC continued holding Meetings via Zoom up until the last opportunity. The regulations allowing councils to hold virtual meetings expired on 7th May, and PC brought forward the Annual Meeting which was scheduled for 27th May to 6th, so that it could be held safely.

The next Meeting will have to be attended in person, and needs to be held before the end of this month so that the report of the Independent Internal Auditor can be considered before the accounts have to go to the External Auditor at the beginning of July. This timetable is always tight, but has been made more tricky during the pandemic due to restrictions on meetings and tightening of the timelines. The accounts will be posted on PC’s website once they have come back from the Independent Internal Auditor. The report from the external auditor will be posted there on completion.

The Agenda for all Meetings are posted on PC’s website three clear days beforehand, and will include how to join virtual or hybrid meetings if we have to stop holding face to face meetings again.

Karen Plumridge,

Clerk to the Council ☎ 400628 ✉ karen.plumridge@btinternet.com

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

CITY COUNCILLOR

The main concern for residents is the three separate applications for solar farms in Pan Lane and straddling the old A130. Malcolm Thomas has prepared in depth objections to each proposal and these have been adapted for submission on behalf of the Parish Council. The Parish Council is working closely with West Hanningfield Parish Council in presenting joint representations to Chelmsford planning officers. If approved these applications or any of them could have a profound impact on the village for years to come.

As a member of the planning committee I have to be careful of what I say in advance of a meeting. Specifically, if I am pre-determined in my view I am prohibited from taking part in the debate or voting. These applications affecting East Hanningfield are the first such applications to be considered by the planning committee. The hearing date has not yet been announced but could be as early as the committee meeting on 6th July but I am hoping there will be a special meeting in August or later. There is also a similar application for another solar farm in Danbury which will probably be considered at the same time.

Residents can attend the meeting to express their views. By the time the meeting takes place we will have reverted to face to face meetings in the Council chamber. During lockdown, meetings have been virtual meetings. Comments from residents at planning meetings have been submitted prior to the meeting date and read out at the meeting. They have also been distributed in advance to committee members. This has worked well and seems to create a greater impression than when presented in person at the meeting under a two minute time pressure. A recent working group recommended that this procedure for advance statements to be sent to planning committee members and read out at the meeting should continue whilst not preventing residents attending in person should they wish.

Now that lockdown looks set to end I am able to visit residents in their homes. If you wish me to call then please email me or give me a ring.

Richard Poulter ☎01245 223743
✉ richard.poulter@chelmsford.gov.uk



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COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Hopefully we are now on the road to some sort of normality. At Essex CC we are focussing on helping getting the Essex economy moving again and the includes supporting training and skills programmes. It is quite clear the economy of the present is going to be very different to that going forward. We see this now with people working from home and all the vans delivering online shopping.

The Council recently held its Annual Council at the Melbourne Sports Stadium as a face to face meeting. It was a strange experience with everyone sitting two metres apart but with 30 new members following the recent election it was good to have the opportunity of meeting up. Much of the discussions were centred on ways of working and how we can work better with our partners - COVID has proved this can be done. Many of the properties we own around the county will be urgently reviewed and those no longer needed sold and the proceeds reinvested into our infrastructure - it is going to be an interesting 3/4 years!

The green agenda is going to be very important and to start this off will be the proposals from the Climate Change Commission due to report this summer. These will then be the responsibility of our newly appointed Climate Change Czar to ensure every area of ECCs work is tied in with reducing carbon. One big area that needs looking at is Waste Reduction and Recycling, we really must reduce landfill and that means working closely with the district councils.

You will be hearing a lot more on these developments over the months ahead and hopefully with everyone's support we can make our county an even better place to live and work.

Keep well and let's hope for a good summer.

Ian Grundy ☎ 01277 840737
✉ cllr.ian.grundy@essex.gov.uk



HANNA'S FIELD CHARITY- Village Hall & Playing Fields

Again, a challenging time for us all with another lockdown after Christmas and New Year, so everything was back on hold, with the exception of The Pre-School being able to continue as an essential service.

As a committee we have still had to make lots of decisions to ensure we are following the guidelines and interpreting them correctly, so we are very grateful to the Rural Community Council of Essex for their guidance. On 25th January the RCCE organised their Annual Conference (delayed from October) and Mike, Wendy and I attended, virtually for this 4-hour conference on Zoom. This was a joint event with Essex, Hertfordshire, Suffolk and some input with Cambridgeshire. We could individually opt into a variety of different workshop sessions learning and sharing experiences of running Village Halls and Community Centres. We were then able to report back to our full committee at our next Zoom meeting. What a boon technology has been for everyone to ensure things can keep on track!

Despite not being able to be open for hire, there is still work that has to be carried out regularly, fire alarms and extinguisher testing, electrics, PAT testing and security lighting, to name a few, along with the general work in the hall and maintenance of the car park, paths and the sports fields. We have recently had our annual ROSPA checks carried out on all the play area equipment and thankfully nothing major was found, unlike last year when we had to close this area because of excessive wear and tear problems on some of the equipment.

Our AGM is usually held in April, but for various reasons has been deferred until 30th June, look out for the posters. Again, I believe I say this every newsletter, we are always looking for new members to join our committee to bring 'new blood' and enthusiasm. The majority of us have been on the committee for many years and we are not getting any younger, taking on some of the challenges we have can be more daunting, when the mind says 'yes' but the body says 'NO'

We will be welcoming the E.H. Women's Institute into the Hall once a month, when they feel comfortable to re-start their meetings, after they had to make the decision to vacate and dispose of their current facility,

where they have been for over 100 years.

In the Winter edition, I wrote that we had been asked about providing some additional bench seats on the area around the hall, which we said we would put on our list of things to be done in the future, but understanding they can be expensive items to purchase. David Bell, then came up with the idea that perhaps we could look to make one and started sourcing materials. With the offer of some offcuts of wood, together with paving slabs, all very generously donated, he set to making a bench, not realising this would be one of many that have now been placed at various locations, together with a variety of inscriptions being put on them. There are now 8 in all, different shapes and sizes but I am sure and hope people agree these have all been very well received. During the time since all of the lockdowns people have definitely been out and about a lot more in the fresh air, and we have already observed just how much all these new additions have helped.

We are hoping to hold a Book Sale soon, which we are looking to combine with a Sale of Pre-loved Paintings. We already have a small number that have been donated. During lockdown, people have been de-cluttering and redecorating and may have changed their pictures too. Look out for the posters, in the near future, advertising when, and how you can donate to this fund-raising event.

We are also looking to organise our Annual Art Show in October, no firm date yet but we have written to the artists on our list, and have had a very positive reaction that they would like to exhibit. So again, look out for posters in the near future giving more details of this event.

We all hope that life can keep going in the right direction over the next few weeks/months and we can start welcoming back our regular users together with the clubs and groups who have used our facilities in the past, like badminton and carpet bowls etc. sadly, though some of our regular hirers have ceased - dog training for example, which has successfully run for many years now.

Jenny Mouser/Chair Person
Hall bookings via jessbell20@hotmail.com



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EAST HANNINGFIELD FETE COMMITTEE

It is with great disappointment that we find ourselves in much the same position as we did this time last year. In January the Committee discussed what might be the position with Covid this summer. There was a lot of optimism tinged with caution with regard to a variant coming along. With this in mind we held fire on getting anything organised and chose a wait and see position. With the latest Indian variant making the headlines it seems our caution was very prudent.

The vaccine rollout is exceptional in this country, which shows what can be achieved when everyone pulls in the same direction. If supplies of the vaccine continue to arrive, despite Europe's threat to interrupt our progress by blocking exports to the UK, then this should be the last time we have to cancel the Summer Fete due to Covid.

If the vaccination programme continues as planned, then I feel that the Committee should be able to consider organising a 'Quiet Firework Display' coupled with a Children's Halloween Party in the Village Hall. This would mean that the planned June 21st easing of all remaining restrictions would have to go ahead. Even if it were delayed by a few weeks due to this new Indian variant, we could still have time to organise an event.

I am one of many people who are concerned by the effect that the very loud bangs, which are now associated with fireworks, have on wildlife and peoples' pets. To me the clue is in the title, 'Firework Display'. This to me means something **visual**. The enjoyment is in the vibrant colours and the amazing patterns the manufacturers can produce. As the display would be at the village hall the people and their pets in the surrounding houses would be particularly affected.

The committee will keep their eye on the situation and if we can go ahead and we will give you as much advance notice as possible.

In the meantime keep safe and please, please get vaccinated.

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

EAST HANNINGFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Local Crime: We usually begin with a roundup of local crime but, despite time elapsed since the Winter 2020 News, there is surprisingly little to report-just more fly tipping in Pan Lane and very recently, vandalism of some of the village competition scare crows (distressing for those who made them). Police believe the reduction in burglaries over the lock-down is due to people mainly working from home etc so will there be a crime upsurge after June 21? We will let you know! Looking wider there are some ongoing crime trends to be aware of - car theft/ break-ins and car catalytic convertor theft continues.

Cyber Crime: One crime that has definitely not declined during lock-down is cyber crime! According to the latest ONS data, there were 3.7 million incidents of fraud between March 2019 and March 2020, making it the crime that UK adults are most likely to fall victim to! Action Fraud figures show £1.7 billion was lost to scams in the last year.

There has been an explosion of “phishing” scams with the “bait” arriving in phoney emails, text messages, or phone calls, and even links on social media to dodgy investment websites. These criminal set-ups can be so slick and professional that it’s very easy to be caught out so if in any doubt at all, ignore the message or if it’s a call, just hang up. Call the organisation later if you have a concern using a trusted number (wait long enough to ensure the caller isn’t still on the line). The latest scam seems to be purporting to be from delivery companies including Royal Mail, asking you to pay extra. The December News has a NhW page for contacts regarding Cyber Crime etc..

EH NhW Team/Meetings: Meeting were suspended but should re-start in July. Contact NhW address for more information.

NhW Email Alerts: Contact us if you would like to receive local crime alerts.

Community Speed Watch: Speed checks were suspended for the lock down (although Essex Police ran a spot check in Old Church Road, in May). CSW should restart soon but we need a couple of new volunteers - email address below for more information if interested.

Mike Plumridge, EH NhW Co-ordinator. ☎ 01245-400628

✉ NHWEastHanningfield@outlook.com.

EAST HANNINGFIELD VILLAGE DIARY

<http://e-voice.org.uk/easthanningfieldparishcouncil/village-diary-2012/>
JUNE

- Tue 1 **Black Bin, Green Box, Card Sack & Food Waste.**
- Sun 6 9am **COMMUNION** (BCP) All Saints' Church
10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Mon 7 **BACK TO SCHOOL EHPS & SANDON SCHOOL**
- Tue 8 **Brown Bin, Paper Sack, Plastics Sack & Food Waste**
- Thu 10 7.45pm **BIBLE STUDIES** at Bethel Church
- Sun 13 10am **MORNING WORSHIP WITH TEDDY BEARS** at All Saints' Church. Bring a favourite toy.
10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Tue 15 Black Bin, Green Box, Card Sack & Food Waste.
- Thu 17 7.45pm **BIBLE STUDIES** at Bethel Church
- Sun 20 10am **HOLY COMMUNION** at All Saints' Church
10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Tue 22 **Brown Bin, Paper Sack, Plastics Sack & Food Waste**
- Thu 24 7.45pm **BIBLE STUDIES** at Bethel Church
8pm **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**.in the 1st floor meeting room at the Village Hall (subject to Covid regulations).
- Sun 27 10 am **MORNING WORSHIP WITH HEALING** at All Saints' Church
10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Tue 30 **Black Bin, Green Box, Card Sack & Food Waste.**
7.30pm **HANNA'S FIELD CHARITY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** in the 1st floor meeting room at the Village Hall (subject to Covid regulations allowing)



EAST HANNINGFIELD VILLAGE DIARY

<http://e-voice.org.uk/easthanningfieldparishcouncil/village-diary-2012/>
JULY

- Thu 1 7.45pm **BIBLE STUDIES** at Bethel Church
- Sun 4 10 am **COMMUNION** (BCP) All Saints' Church
10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Tue 6 **Brown Bin, Paper Sack, Plastics Sack & Food Waste**
- Thu 8 7.45pm **BIBLE STUDIES** at Bethel Church
- Sun 11 10 am **SONGS OF PRAISE** at All Saints' Church. Outside at the front of church if waether OK. Let Christine or Suzy know your favourite hymn & bring a chair.
10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Tue 13 **Black Bin, Green Box, Card Sack & Food Waste.**
- Thu 15 7.45pm **BIBLE STUDIES** at Bethel Church
- Fri 16 **BREAK UP FOR SUMMER HOLIDAY EHPS & SANDON SCHOOL (1pm)**
- Sun 18 10 am **HOLY COMMUNION** assisted at All Saints' Church
10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Tue 20 **Brown Bin, Paper Sack, Plastics Sack & Food Waste**
- Thu 22 7.45pm **BIBLE STUDIES** at Bethel Church
8pm **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** in the 1st floor meeting room at the Village Hall (subject to Covid regulations allowing)
- Sun 25 10 am **MORNING WORSHIP WITH HEALING** at All Saints' Ch
10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Tue 27 **Black Bin, Green Box, Card Sack & Food Waste.**
- Thu 29 7.45pm **BIBLE STUDIES** at Bethel Church



EAST HANNINGFIELD VILLAGE DIARY

<http://e-voice.org.uk/easthanningfieldparishcouncil/village-diary-2012/>

AUGUST

- Sun 1 9am **COMMUNION** (BCP) at All Saints' Church
10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Tue 3 **Brown Bin, Paper Sack, Plastics & Cartons Sack & Food Waste**
10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30 PLAY IN THE PARK at Hanna's Field
- Thu 5 7.45pm **BIBLE STUDIES** at Bethel Church
- Sun 8 10 am **MORNING WORSHIP WITH BAPTISM** at All Saints' Ch
10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Tue 10 **Black Bin, Green Box, Card Sack & Food Waste.**
10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30 PLAY IN THE PARK at Hanna's Field
- Thu 12 7.45pm **BIBLE STUDIES** at Bethel Church
- Sun 15 10 am **COMMUNION** All Saints' Church.
10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Tue 17 **Brown Bin, Paper Sack, Plastics Sack & Food Waste**
- Thu 19 7.45pm **BIBLE STUDIES** at Bethel Church
- Sun 22 10 am **MORNING PRAYER WITH HEALING** at All Saints' Ch
10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Tue 24 **Black Bin, Green Box, Card Sack & Food Waste.**
- Thu 26 7.45pm **BIBLE STUDIES** at Bethel Church
8pm **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**
- Sun 29 10 am **MORNING WORSHIP WITH BAPTISM** at All Saints' Ch
10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church



EAST HANNINGFIELD VILLAGE DIARY

<http://e-voice.org.uk/easthanningfieldparishcouncil/village-diary-2012/>

SEPTEMBER

- Thu 2 **BACK TO SCHOOL EHPS
& SANDON SCHOOL 6th Form & Year 7**
7.45pm **BIBLE STUDIES** at Bethel Church
- Fri 3 **BACK TO SCHOOL SANDON all other years**
- Sun 5 9am **COMMUNION** (BCP) at All Saints' Church.
10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Tue 7 **Black Bin, Green Box, Card Sack & Food Waste.**
- Thu 9 7.45pm **BIBLE STUDIES** at Bethel Church
- Sun 12 10 am **MORNING WORSHIP (child centred)** at All Saints' Ch
10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Tue 14 **Brown Bin, Paper Sack, Plastics Sack & Food Waste**
- Thu 16 7.45pm **BIBLE STUDIES** at Bethel Church
- Sun 19 10 am **HOLY COMMUNION** at All Saints' Church
10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Wed 21 **Black Bin, Green Box, Card Sack & Food Waste.**
- Thu 23 7.45pm **BIBLE STUDIES** at Bethel Church
8pm **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** 1st floor meeting room
at the V. Hall
- Sun 26 10 am **SUNG MATINS** at All Saints' Church
10.45 am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Tue 28 **Brown Bin, Paper Sack, Plastics Sack & Food Waste**





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EAST HANNINGFIELD W.I

Unfortunately, we have no firm date yet as to when we shall be returning to our meetings. High hopes were dashed when we heard that the Indian Virus was attacking our shores. Once again, we are looking for relief to our lockdown as we continue to protect ourselves, however, the Committee have not been without work.



We have worked hard during lock-down to keep our 104 year old W.I alive and well. Our hall required substantial work to its roof which could not take place without a full inspection of its supports. (I know the feeling I am forced to use a walking stick at times when the weather is damp.) It was built in 1925 so many deep breaths, tuts and shaking of heads became the normal way to communicate. We felt the number one issue was keeping the W.I. alive as clearly the cost of work to the hall was well beyond our capability.

I am delighted to announce that the Village Hall Committee came to

our rescue and we are going to hold our meetings once a month in the village hall. Our grateful thanks to the Committee for their help and support making us most welcome in spirit rather than body.

As some of you are aware I am leaving the village after 35 years to be nearer to family in Norfolk. I complete on the 4th June. As long as we are unable to hold W.I. meetings due to our virus I remain the President. We have to have a full A.G.M in order to change the committee. We have members including myself who have underlying difficulties and need protecting. We are hoping for a final conclusion to our much loved old home soon. We are plagued by the working restrictions of those we have to deal with.

Our members are missed enormously, so phone calls, emails to those who have computers have almost become normal. However, I am confident we will see regular meetings return and I am in no doubt as well as discussing our difficulties we will be sharing much humour.



Take care, keep safe and we hope to see you all in our new home when we return. Since writing this my date of departure has been moved to the 9th June. I shall however, remain East Hanningfield's W.I President and will try and keep everyone informed of our situation and hopefully be able to resume our monthly meeting safely soon.

Flora Virgoe
President, EHWI



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Unit 16/17 East Hanningfield Industrial Estate,
East Hanningfield, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 8AB

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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this letter we will have had the village scarecrow competition so I hope you enjoyed it, either choosing a winner or taking part. We will also have had lock down reduced further in terms of eating in and meeting with more folk indoors. Will the much awaited June 21st 'back to normal,' come about? Difficult to say at this moment of writing.

There has been a lot to deal with, things are better for many of us, and some are now vaccinated. There were no vaccinations for pandemics years ago and there were plagues in the Bible. The most notable many of you may know about, were the plagues sent on Egypt to persuade the Pharaoh to let the Jews out of slavery and building his pyramids. He was reluctant to lose a free workforce and Moses had a hard time. 10 plagues were sent in all from plagues of frogs to the River Nile running red to locusts and boils.



Not much fun but they achieved their aim, and the Jews were allowed to leave even though the Pharaoh changed his mind, and they were chased by soldiers and only escaped because God drove back the Red Sea so they could cross, and the Egyptians could not.

God does not punish innocent people and children and today's pandemic is human instigated and not hell fire raining down on us because we are all bad. The Old Testament in the Bible does tell of a punishing as well as loving God, but Jesus brought human thought about God a stage further, by being God on earth and dying for our sins and telling us to love our neighbour. Today Jews thank God for their escape but pray for the Egyptians who died. We should see God working through us in doctors and scientists, as they try to deal with this pandemic and stop its worst effects.

Gospel means 'Good News,' and so it is. God is out there among us in all the good things that go on, trying to save us from ourselves and be the person doing the peace keeping, clearing the rubble of war or coping with the sick and injured. It is people who follow religious beliefs in a particular way that create barriers. We have free will to act and think as we wish, but that can bring problems.

We should always follow up "I can do as I wish," with 'as long as it does not hurt others.'

The great thing is that children born and educated today in this country do not see barriers or differences as some of us may do. The whole of education is to see equality and respect for each other. I listen to my grandchildren and can hear and see this in them, but along the way they will hear other things which



may affect them.

My good news is that is that we have an Associate priest with us at All Saints, East Hanningfield. She is a mature recently trained priest, who has completed her curacy and is now helping us. You will get to know her as we walk around the village and she attends different events. It is a great to have her with us, her name is Suzy Edmundson and she lives just up the road in Bicknacre.



So, lots of good news around and I am sure we will get to grips with the pandemic even though we may have to live with it for a while. I hope you manage to have a holiday in some way and that you stay healthy. You will see our list of services in the magazine, do try and come and see us – we do child friendly services on the second Sunday of the month and we have a Teddy bears service on Sunday June 13th and a Songs of Praise on Sunday 11th July, outside all being well at the front of the church. Let me know your favourite hymns and come along with a chair to sing them.



Take care all and God Bless.

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BETHEL CHURCH—A new normal

As we begin to see light at the end of the tunnel concerning life becoming 'normal' again, it is good to stop and ask the question, what does normal mean for us?

Over the last year or so, we have recorded our services and Bible studies and got these to all of our folk, we have met together on Zoom calls - but nothing can take the place of meeting together in person. We returned on 18 April, but with all the seats still socially distanced. The smell of hand sanitiser and wearing masks have become a necessary inconvenience. But the thing we have struggled with the most, is not being able to sing, rather just listening to worship music and songs. To say we are so looking forward to the restrictions being lifted, is an understatement.

However, what will the rest of 2021 be like? Will it look more like 2019 or 2020? Or something else altogether? I, for one, have no idea. But rather than mourn over the struggles we face today; I would encourage us to learn from what is taking place today. To prepare for whatever the future may hold - and to be the people that God intended us to be.

Pandemics, disease, natural disasters, wars and unrest are not new, they have blighted mankind as long as mankind has existed. They are the consequences of us turning away from God. The reality is that we are all broken people living in a broken world. If this whole situation has got us thinking about just how vulnerable we all are, don't despair, there is hope, there is good news.

"for the Son of Man (Jesus) has come to seek and to save that which was lost". Luke 19:10

So, my challenge to you is, that before returning to things as they were, how about discovering and finding meaning to the deeper things in life?

Whatever may come, we can rest assured that God is Sovereign. Nothing that has happened since the pandemic broke out has caught him off guard. And we can rest assured that he will continue to equip his people to accomplish his purpose on earth. One thing is sure. God is still in control.



Before going back to the old normal, how about discovering a **new normal**. Please come and join us on Sunday mornings at 10.45am, and our Bible studies on Thursday evenings at 7.45pm, we would love to see you.

Roydon Hearne

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News from East Hanningfield Pre-School



East Hanningfield
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As we start our summer term we are so happy that all of our children have now returned. We are enjoying watching the children play and learn together and listening to them interactive together once again. We are still following strict Covid-19 guidelines, with lots of handwashing for both children and staff, along with a daily cleaning regime. We are still not allowed any visitors, which does include new parents, who would usually be invited in to help settle in their children. We are really proud to see how well the new children have coped and settled in well. The staff also take regular lateral flow tests, following Government recommendations.

We have been spending lots of time outside this term, including walks around the field and trips to the park. You may have seen some of our Easter eggs hanging in the bushes! Our new outside storage shed is so useful for holding all of our fantastic outdoor equipment, which the children love playing with. We are very grateful to Hanna's Field Charity and the Parish Council for arranging and installing this.

Towards the end of last term, we held lots of different Easter activities including an Easter bonnet competition. We had some fantastic entries, well done to all the children!



The children are very excited that we are hatching some butterflies from caterpillars this term. They are watching them grow and change each day. We look forward to releasing them later in the weeks ahead. For the rest of the summer term our theme is the "Weather". We have lots of exciting activities and learning opportunities planned for the children to take part in linked to this theme.

We have several children leaving this summer to start various primary schools in the autumn. As we were unable to hold our much loved Christmas Song Day in 2020 our new supervisor, Diane, is planning on holding a Leavers Show in July instead. The children will be learning special songs and making decorations for this special event.

We still have some spaces for children 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, please take a look at our website or phone or email us.

Sue

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🌐 www.easthanningfieldpreschool.org.uk



HANNA'S TOTS

As most of you are aware we had to close our lovely village playgroup last year due to Covid. We are unsure when it will open again as we need 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

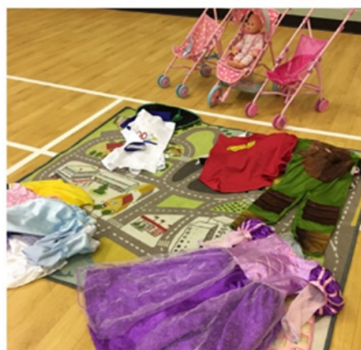
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Amanda Gilmour

&

Alex Ingram



EAST HANNINGFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Following the return to school, we have all been so busy. Many of the things we would normally do had been put on hold and it was time to start to get some long-awaited normality back.

In April we were delighted to reintroduce a School Council to allow the children to have a voice in the decisions that impact them. Following a thorough application process, we were blown away by the number of applications and decided to have 3 councils! An Indoor Council - dealing with all the decisions that influence the day-to-day organisation of the school, an Outdoor (Eco council) supporting our commitment to be greener and a Wellbeing Council to support our mental health. The children have taken on their roles with enthusiasm and commitment - we could not be more proud!



Some of our children have also been working alongside Hanna's Field and the Parish Council. Using the Parish Council's equipment, we have been litter picking close to the school and we were amazed at just how much rubbish we managed to collect. We are again working hard at establishing our place in the community and educating the children regarding the little steps they can take. These are certainly helping them take pride in their village.

As well as introducing some normality back we have also been able to have some fun competitions. In school the academic focus is on

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The Village Hall, East Hanningfield, Essex, CM3 8AE



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