



*The Braxted*

*Bulletin*

*December 2024*

## **VILLAGE INFORMATION**

### **Clerks to the Parish Councils:**

Great Braxted                      Lynda Townend    Tel 07307 891134

Little Braxted                     Gordon Musset    Tel 01376 520103

### **Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator:**

Great and Little Braxted        Mandy Chapman

Email: thebraxtedsneighbourhoodwatch@yahoo.com

### **Non-urgent contact for Police: 101**

Online: <https://www.essexpolice.uk/.../af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

### **Non-urgent contact for medical concerns: 111**

**Water:** 0345 7820 999 **Electricity:** 0800 029 4285

### **Responsibility for Essex Highways:**

Essex County Council    0845 6037 631

### **Library Information: Wickham Bishops Library**

Wickham Bishops Library Opening hours:

Monday 2-5:30pm; Weds 2—5:30pm; Sat 9am—5pm

Contact 0345 6037 628

The library is a collection point for Maldon District Council recycling sacks

## **Braxted Facebook Groups:**

For local updates and issues please feel free to join the following Facebook groups:

Search 'Great Braxted Residents' or use the link

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1637978482902828>

Search 'Little Braxted' or request to join via Facebook message to Ali Aldis

## **Parish information**

The below referenced website is updated by our parish clerk and includes local information, including planned road closures, as well as news from Maldon District Council, such as campaigns, new and bulletins

<https://e-voice.org.uk/greatbraxtedparishcouncil/>

## **Bulletin details**

Advertising prices (per monthly edition)

Full page £30; Half page £15; Quarter page £10.

Enquiries: [braxtedbulletin@yahoo.com](mailto:braxtedbulletin@yahoo.com) (Editor: Michelle Davis)

All copy to be submitted by approx. 20th of the month for inclusion in the next month's Bulletin.

*NB. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editor, nor can the editor guarantee the credentials or performance of any of the advertisers within.*

## *St Nicholas' Church, Little Braxted*

*In the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wickham Bishops with Little Braxted*

Rector / Priest-in-charge: Vacant

Parish contact phone 07544 973705

Churchwardens: Vacant

Deputy Churchwarden Graham Wingrove

WEBSITE: [churchinwickhambishops.org.uk](http://churchinwickhambishops.org.uk)

**St Nicholas'** is normally open daily, if closed borrow the key from the Estate Office.

For Group guided tour contact: [stnicholas@churchinwickhambishops.org.uk](mailto:stnicholas@churchinwickhambishops.org.uk)

### **IN AND FROM OUR PARISH: SERVICES FOR DECEMBER**

**At St Bartholomew's except at St Nicholas' or elsewhere, shown in red.**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>**

8.00 am

10.30 am

**Advent 1**

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>**

8.00 am

10.30 am

**Advent 2**

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>**

4.00pm

**Advent/St Nicholas' Patronal/Carols**

**Carols/Readings at St Nicholas' seasonal refreshments**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>**

9.00 am

10.30 am

**Advent 3**

**Holy Communion BCP at St Nicholas'**

Sunday Praise Service

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

8.00 am

10.30 am

**Advent 4**

Holy Communion (BCP)

Holy Communion

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup>**

5.00 pm

11.30 pm

11.30 pm

**Christmas Eve**

Children's Crib Service

Candlelit **Midnight Mass at St Nicholas'**

Midnight Mass at St Bartholomew's

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>**

10.00 am

**Christmas Day**

Family Communion

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>**

8.00 am

10.30 am

**Christmas 1**

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

- + Discussions for replacement for our incumbent for St Bartholomew's and St Nicholas' are still ongoing-watch this space!
- + The Bishop of Colchester will preside at Midnight Mass at St B and his wife Rev Sally will be at St Nicholas'
- + **Happy Christmas and a Peaceful new Year from the Parish Team.**



Head Teacher: Miss Sarah Vass

Great Totham Primary School  
Walden House Road,  
Great Totham,  
CM9 8PN

01621 891091

admin@greattotham.essex.sch.uk

Would you like to give back to your local community?

Are you interested in the education of Great Totham's children?

Our Governing Body has vacancies for a Partnership and a Co-opted Governor<sup>1</sup>. We are seeking interested people who have the skills and time to join the Governing Body and help lead our school for at least the next four years.

#### The Role of the Governing Body at Great Totham

As a Foundation School the Governing Body is the employer of all staff, the admission authority for children and has responsibility for the school's land and buildings. Its four main duties in ensuring high standards of achievement for all children are:

- With the Headteacher, setting the school's vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Holding the Headteacher and senior leaders to account for educational performance
- Overseeing financial performance and making sure the school's money is well spent
- Helping to shape the culture, working and learning environments of the school

Being a Governor is a responsible role and we are looking for people who will commit to both attend and contribute to meetings of which there are two a term (both in person and via Zoom). Further information is available on the school website <https://www.greattotham.essex.sch.uk/ourschool>

If you are interested and would like to discuss this voluntary position please contact us to arrange a meeting.

Andy Johnson  
Chair of Governors

Sarah Vass  
Headteacher

<sup>1</sup> Both partnership and co-opted governors are appointed by the governing body. A partnership governor cannot be a parent or have parental responsibility for a child at the school. A co-opted governor may, but does not have to, have such relationships

#### Y4 - Visit to Colchester Zoo

*On the 15th of October, Year 4 went to Colchester Zoo. We all really enjoyed the school trip! We saw lots of animals and learnt lots of facts, my favourites were that elephants can feel vibrations up to 10km away and ostriches can run up to 43km per hour. The animals that we saw were really fascinating and some were hard to find, but we found them in the end. After lunch we had a talk about endangered animals. We learnt that people use rhino horns for medicine and that you can get up to £60,000 for a kg of it. Thank you to the parent helpers for coming. We all enjoyed it and hope you did as well. **Written by Florence B***



#### Y5 - Visit to Daws Hall



*Earlier this term, Y5 went to Daws Hall Nature Reserve. When we arrived after a tiring hour on the coach, a lovely lady called Leslie brought us inside; she told us about the rules of safety and stated to us some extra facts about the River Stour.*

*Once Leslie (our instructor) had finished talking to us about safety, she spilt us up into little groups and we went off to do some orienteering to locate and name twelve different trees. It was really fun although my group only got three trees correct out of twelve!*

*Later on, we took the measurements of the river. We checked the pollution level which was low. We also checked the temperature which was 16.5°C and the speed which was 0.5m per second. Then it started raining heavily so we went inside for lunch.*

*After lunch we went river dipping and my group found some really interesting creatures: freshwater shrimps, dragonfly nymphs and leeches. **Written by Eydie***

#### Y2—Visit to Call of The Wild Zoo

Year 2 visited Call of the Wild Zoo. Everybody had a brilliant day. The children learnt a lot about the lifecycles of butterflies, frogs and humans. They had the opportunity to see a variety of animals up close and even touched a snake!



Before the children went home, they had the chance to watch an animal demonstration show where we saw a barn owl, armadillo, serval cat and a red kite who were all up to mischief. They learnt lots of information and were amazed by some of the tricks the animals could do! It was a lovely day.

## Year 5/6 Football Finals



Following on from the previous football tournament, we were excited to play in the finals on Tuesday 22nd October. This was, once again held at Shrub End Sports Ground in Colchester and we were blessed with a beautifully sunny autumn day.

There were 8 teams competing for the reward of going through to the County finals.

We played 7 games, each of 14 minutes, we hardly had time to fit in our snacks and lunch!

Our stats were as follows: won 4 games, drew 2 and lost 1, only conceding 3 goals in the tournament.

The winners were Kelvedon, who we had drawn 0-0 against during the tournament. We came joint 2nd and although a bit disappointed, we could not be prouder of how we played!

Rachel Harwood commented, "An amazing performance by all players, who you would never know were from two year groups as the camaraderie and how they supported each other was lovely to witness. Great sportsmanship across both tournaments!"

Thank you to the very supportive parents – we appreciate you!

## Year 5/6 Tag Rugby

On Tuesday 15th October we were invited by Mersea Rugby Club to attend a friendly tournament.

We enjoyed the tournament and enjoyed the opportunity to practise our skills against other schools.



## Year 5/6 Dodgeball



We took a squad of children to a dodgeball tournament held at Wentworth Primary School. The squad was split into two strong teams and placed into two mini leagues.

One of the teams placed third in their league after narrowly losing their first game to All Saints. The other team topped their group and played All Saints in a final.



Unfortunately, after a closely contested match, they ended up finishing second. All of the children should be proud of how they represented the school and for the effort that they put in at training.



November 2024

**Essex & Herts Air Ambulance's Spectacular Fundraiser, Strictly Air Ambulance,  
Returns for its 13<sup>th</sup> Year in 2025**

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance (EHAAT) is delighted to announce the return of its highly anticipated annual fundraiser, *Strictly Air Ambulance*, on Saturday, 15th March 2025, at the Brentwood Centre in Essex. Now in its thirteenth year, this dazzling evening of dance, entertainment, and community spirit will once again raise vital funds for EHAAT's life-saving work, bringing advanced pre-hospital care directly to patients in their time of greatest need.

Following the resounding success of the 2024 event, *Strictly Air Ambulance 2025* promises to be a night to remember, filled with glitz, glamour, and show-stopping performances. Guests will enjoy celebrity appearances, a thrilling dance competition, and the opportunity to support local contestants as they vie for the coveted Glitterball Trophy - all while helping to sustain EHAAT's essential services across Essex, Hertfordshire and surrounding areas.

This year's judging panel features an impressive roster of dance and local talent:

- Former *Strictly Come Dancing* professionals Ian Waite and Erin Boag
- Renowned Latin dancer Ben Milan-Vega
- EHAAT CEO Jane Gurney
- Head judge and Chelmsford Dance Centre director Phil Meacham

Taking the stage are eight dazzling dance pairs, who will showcase their moves in a friendly yet fierce competition:

1. Andrew Alton-Reed (Chelmsford) & Jody De-Ath
2. Joga Shoka (St Albans) & Lindsey Collyer
3. Dave Dorrington (Wickford) & Amanda Dahmani
4. Theo Michaels (Harpenden) & Terri Bodell
5. Vicky Dixon (Manningtree) & Hayden Wise
6. Lou Sayer (Maldon) & Martin Adkins
7. Leah Burke (Brentwood) & Andrew Lingard
8. Vanessa Santomauro (Braintree) & Caleb Arslan





With their professional dance partners, the contestants will bring their best moves to the dance floor, dazzling the audience with their ballroom and Latin routines in the hope of securing the top prize.

Jane Gurney, CEO at EHAAT, says: "Strictly Air Ambulance has become one of EHAAT's flagship fundraising events, thanks to the incredible generosity and enthusiasm of our supporters. From contestants and sponsors to ticket holders and prize donors, every single person plays a vital role in keeping our helicopters in the air and our expert medical teams ready to respond. We're thrilled to bring the event back in 2025 and can't wait to welcome everyone for a night of fun, fundraising, and unforgettable entertainment. Together, we can continue to deliver advanced, life-saving care when it's needed most."

**Date:** Saturday 15th September 2025

**Time:** Starts 7:00pm

**Venue:** Brentwood Centre, Essex

Tickets are on sale now, with an early bird discount of 10% available until the end of November using the code 'NOV10'. Book today at [www.ehaat.org/strictly](http://www.ehaat.org/strictly)

The funds raised from *Strictly Air Ambulance* directly support EHAAT's critical pre-hospital emergency care services. The charity is calling on local businesses willing to support the event with raffle and auction prizes to contact 0345 2417 690 or email [contactus@ehaat.org](mailto:contactus@ehaat.org)

To learn more about EHAAT's mission, explore upcoming events, or make a donation, visit [www.ehaat.org](http://www.ehaat.org).



# MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL

## SOS Bus To Offer Winter Wellbeing Mobile Trial

Maldon District Council has been given the opportunity by Open Road to use the Colchester SOS and Community bus as part of a trial to provide a mobile Winter Wellbeing hub within the District.

On Thursday 12th December, our Climate Action Team, Energy Champion Coordinator, Health and Communities Team, and other partner agencies will be in Heybridge, and Maldon, providing a safe space for residents to access support during the winter months.

Residents will be able to access a range of services including health and wellbeing, and community support, as well as the opportunity to speak to our energy champions about energy saving advice, home energy grants, and other available support.

Councillor Richard Siddall, Leader of Maldon District Council, said: "I am delighted that the Council has been able to use this opportunity to provide a mobile Winter Wellbeing hub to our residents. This trial demonstrates our commitment to tackling the challenges our communities face during the winter season.

"This trial is a great way to promote health and wellbeing services within the District, as well as providing residents with access to vital energy saving advice and support."

The bus will be at the following locations during the day:

- Butt Lane Car Park in Maldon from 9:15am to 11:15am.
- Plantation Hall in Heybridge from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

The Council are working with partners to make the most of this trial, including planning for activities in the south of the District including Tollesbury, Burnham-on-Crouch and Southminster.



# Volunteers Wanted Hedge & Tree Planting



## Village Hedge Planting Initiative

Working in partnership with Essex County Council's Forestry and Woodland Team, Great Braxted Parish Council will be planting hedging and tree saplings around the field on Thursday the 19th December 2024 from 10am to 3pm.

**19th  
Dec  
2024  
10am  
to  
3pm**

No experience necessary

Planting equipment will be provided

Please wear suitable clothing and footwear

Join in for as long or little as you can

Encourage others to join in the fun

Refreshments will be provided

## Location

Great  
Braxted  
Cricket  
Field

**For More Information**

[parishclerk@greatbraxtedpc.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@greatbraxtedpc.org.uk)

# All Saints Church, Great Braxted

## Church News November & December 2024

We are not currently holding regular Sunday services due to very small attendance figures. This will be reviewed in the spring.



We will still be here for you for booking weddings, baptisms and funerals. If you would like to arrange to visit when there is not a service, please do contact us.

### Christmas Services 2024:

Carol Service, Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 11.15 am. We hope you can join us for our traditional service of carols and readings.

Midnight Communion, on Christmas Eve, 24<sup>th</sup> December at 10 pm. Everyone is invited to join us as we prepare for Christmas Day.



### Contact us:

Team Rector: Revd Anne-Marie Renshaw  
01621 815260 [amlrenshaw@btinternet.com](mailto:amlrenshaw@btinternet.com)

Team Administrator, Christine Hall                      07421 078981

Hours of work: 11 am to 1.30 pm on Tuesdays & 10 am to 12.30 pm on Thursdays in St Luke's Church Office - 01621 819557. On Wednesdays on the mobile 10 am to 12.30 pm: 07421 078981 [thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com)

See our webpage, on our team website, for more information:  
[thurstablewinstreechurches.org/all-saints-great-braxted](http://thurstablewinstreechurches.org/all-saints-great-braxted)

# Getting married?

- Have you considered a wedding in one of our Church of England parish churches?
- All Saints, Great Braxted is on the Braxted Park Estate
- St Luke's, Tiptree CO5 0SU (is 7 minutes away from Braxted Park)
- If you live in the parish or have a qualifying connection to the church, we can help you to arrange a wedding.



**No connection? No problem**  
You will need to come to church on Sundays for a minimum of 6 months, or we can help you arrange a Blessing following a Civil Marriage Ceremony.

**Please email us at:**  
**[thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:thurstableteamadmin@btinternet.com)**  
**or phone: 01621 815260**



*Our thanks to Elise & Alex and Ellie & Chris for permission to use photographs of their weddings at All Saints'. Photos by Alistair Veryard @alistair\_veryard\_photography and Chris Woodman of Boutique Wedding Films*



Do you have bookkeeping experience?

Would you be willing to give some time to support a local charity?

The Beacon Hill Sports Association is a Charitable Trust which provides facilities to the local community for sports and recreation. This includes the sports fields, hosting Beacon Hill Rovers and Wickham Bishops Tennis Club and the hall spaces at Snows Corner which are much used by many - from the youngest to retirees of the area. A huge range of activities take place in the hall from Toddler and Nursery groups to Drama, Dance, Jazz and u3a groups. The Charity is run by volunteers and we are currently looking for help with bookkeeping to help us maintain the high standard of service which we provide. The role would require a commitment of no more than 2 days per quarter.

If you can help please contact our Chair, Elizabeth, on [ejcoeshall@aol.com](mailto:ejcoeshall@aol.com)

# Update from Maldon District Council

**December 24**

In the lead up to Christmas there will be free car parking in the town centre car parks, from 2pm on Thursdays in December, and all day on Christmas Eve.

Jade did apply for parking restrictions on the layby on Walden House Road, and unfortunately the Essex Parking Partnership refused the application. Jade and I are happy to apply again next year, however we need a gap of time before we apply again.

I have raised the dangerous condition of Braxted Park Road, with ECC, the cabinet member and our MP Priti Patel. The road has deteriorated dramatically over the past year and is back to the condition it was a few years ago. I am also working with Heybridge Councillors to get the speed reduced on Broad Street Green.

We have recently unveiled the new play equipment on the Promenade park and in other areas of the district. We are also investing in our skate parks.

The council is support Hertfordshire and Mid Essex Talking Therapies 'Talk for your Health: Emotional Support for Long Term Conditions (LTC)' mental health campaign. It is common to feel anxious, stressed, and low in mood when living with an LTC. Support from NHS Talking Therapies can help you manage your conditions, get you back to things you enjoy and rebuild your life.

<https://www.facebook.com/HPFTTalkingTherapies>

We are hosting a series of winter talks in December and January, details of these can be found at: [https://www.maldon.gov.uk/info/20049/heritage\\_and\\_conservation/9670/heritage\\_winter\\_talks\\_202425](https://www.maldon.gov.uk/info/20049/heritage_and_conservation/9670/heritage_winter_talks_202425)

Jade and I are always keen to help with any ward issues, or if you have any problems or questions about the council's services.

Jade and I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and we look forward to supporting you through 2025.

Best wishes Richard.

## VILLAGE ACTIVITIES IN BRAXTED PAVILION & GROUNDS

**Lettings Officer & Key Holder: Sarah Mann, 892821, email sarahm66@btinternet.com**

**NOTE:** The pavilion itself is subject to regular checks for such things as maintenance, cleaning and decorating, etc.

The pavilion can be booked by Braxted residents for private hire.

The cost is £20

<b>Monday</b>	<b>U3A Bridge Group 9:30am—12:30pm (Ken Hornett 01621 891424)</b> <b>Metafit [keep fit] - 6-7pm (Lisa Brand, 01621 893720)</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Pilates Class—1:30-2:30pm</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Home Schooling—All Day—Fortnightly</b> <b>Band Rehearsal 7pm</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Braxted Barkers Dog Club Thursday 11:30am—1:30pm</b> <b>Diane Sawford, 07840 778042</b> <b>Band Rehearsal 2pm</b> <b>PC Meeting Bi-monthly</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Braxted Art Club from 11:00am. David Joyce, 01621 891241</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Summer Cricket matches May to September 1pm</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Braxted Barkers Dog Club, first Sunday each month.</b> <b>Diane Sawford, 07840 778042</b>

### **Braxted Pavilion Committee Announcement**

After over 12 years, the Pavilion Management Committee have had to decide to increase the hire fees. This is due to inflation and maintenance costs.

They still remain very competitive.

Village clubs and societies    £10

Other village hires                £20

Outside GB and LB hires        £50

Sarah Mann                        Secretary

Ken Hornett                        Chairman





# WORD SCRAMBLE!

SKOICOE \_\_\_\_\_

ASTAN ULCSA \_\_\_\_\_

OTH COOLTHACE \_\_\_\_\_

GLIHES SELBL \_\_\_\_\_

LOCARS \_\_\_\_\_

LIMSOTTEE \_\_\_\_\_

BIGGEEDARRN \_\_\_\_\_

SHLITG \_\_\_\_\_

EONGGG \_\_\_\_\_

VAINTYIT \_\_\_\_\_

PURHOLD \_\_\_\_\_

YADNC NECA \_\_\_\_\_

MOWNANS \_\_\_\_\_

BEEEDRCM \_\_\_\_\_

GLANE \_\_\_\_\_

TINCKGOS \_\_\_\_\_

# SUPPORT AVAILABLE FOR THE COMMUNITY

**Little Braxted Community and Educational Fund**



This fund benefits people living in Little Braxted, neighbouring villages and the surrounding rural areas. It also supports educational opportunities in Wickham Bishops and Little Braxted.

**To apply for a grant please call the friendly Essex Community Foundation team on 01245 355947 or visit: [essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk](https://essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk)**



  
Essex  
Community  
Foundation

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1052061