

All Saints Church, Ulting



The little church of All Saints, Ulting, has been a part of the community since it was built. The earliest records of a church on this site are in 1299 when the Lord of the Manor of Ulting gave the church to Beeleigh Abbey, but physical evidence suggests that the origins of the church are at least mid-12th Century. The octagonal font is probably early 13th Century with a Purbeck marble bowl supported on central and angle columns. The unusual position of the piscine (a shallow basin) in the north wall of the nave under an inserted 14th Century window, part of the sill of which was cut away, possibly as a sedilia (a stone seat normally found on the liturgical south side of an altar) suggests that the nave may have been used as a parochial church and the chancel used by monks.

In this issue

Editor's column	2
The Village Picnic	2
Home Fire Safety	2
Our MP visits Langford	2
Parish Council members	2
The Parochial Church Council	3
Places of Worship	3
Orchard Cottage – an 'in-line' medieval hall house	3
A little stocking filler	3
Heavenly Supplies Community shop	3
Business in Focus Ulting Cattery	4
Don't forget wildlife this winter	4
Community Diary Oct 2013-Jan 2014	5
Local Book Imminent Launch	5
Seasonal notes – Mistletoe	6
Did you know? Vicar of Ulting, Rev. Garnons	6
Winter Walks – Langford Halt to Museum of Power	7

In the early 1870s the Patron of the living at All Saints was Sidney-Sussex College, Cambridge. The church had major restoration and extension works in 1873 by Frederick Chancellor, the famous English architect who was active in Essex (especially in Chelmsford) and in London, from the mid-19th century until his death in 1918. The north porch, south vestry, choir stalls, pulpit and carved and moulded altar rails are all 19th Century, as are the pews carved with poppy heads.

As the River Chelmer runs alongside the church it is a focus for walkers, swimmers and, sometimes intrusively, picnickers, who come to breathe in the solitude of this beautiful place. All Saints' was once a place of pilgrimage ranking with Walsingham and other famous shrines [See Newsletter Vol. 1. Issue 2, Spring 2012].

The church was listed Grade II* on 30th December 1959.

Ernest Doe is pleased to sponsor this issue
of the Langford & Ulting Newsletter

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EDITOR'S NOTE

After our last newsletter where we appealed for help to keep the publication going, Does of Ulting stepped up to offer to sponsor this issue, and we are now in the happy position of having CML Microsystems again supporting us for the 2014 issues. We are very grateful to our sponsors for keeping this little newsletter alive.

Don't forget that this is a vehicle for your news and interests as well, so do get in touch if you would like something featured – I now have a new email address: irenea@lepra.org.uk – much easier than the last one!

Village picnic

The village picnic this year was well supported and the weather stayed fine for us.

The use of the hard standing outside the village hall ensured that people clustered around the tables and chairs, and enabled a lively conversation between groups, but others, in true picnic style, preferred to laze on the grass. A wonderful mix of adults, children, extended families and dogs made this a very enjoyable afternoon, and we hope more of you will come and join us next year.

Home Fire Safety

We all know that smoke alarms are proven life savers; they give vital early warning at the first sign of fire giving everyone time to get out to safety before calling the fire service. Essex County Fire and Rescue Service is looking to expand the number of home fire safety visits it carries out across the county, and if you don't have a smoke alarm, their trained technicians will fit one for you, and will also carry out a full home fire safety inspection. There is no cost whatsoever for these visits and you will be left safer in your home and secure in the knowledge that you are as safe as possible from the risks posed by fire. Should you be interested, please contact Andre Turner. He can be contacted on 01376 376226 or email andre.turner@essex-fire.gov.uk

Heavenly Supplies Community Shop

I know we keep banging on about it, but don't forget that you have a wonderful little shop in St. Giles' Church that is there only to serve you, the community. It is a non-profit making venture run by volunteers and open from 10 a.m. to midday every day. We always have local vegetables, free range eggs and honey, greetings cards and much, much more including seasonal items. It is there for you, so if there is anything you would like us to stock, then we will be happy to do so.



Our MP visits Langford

On Tuesday 1st October 2013, our MP, Priti Patel, came to an Extraordinary meeting of the Langford and Ulting Parish Council in the Village Hall in Langford. After the main business of the meeting, Priti spoke of upcoming legislation in Parliament, and her hopes and aspirations for her constituency and the wider region of the south-east, including her wish for better rail transportation and rights for victims of crime. Members of the village were able to ask her questions about their concerns which she answered freely and candidly. Langford's oldest resident, Albert Chaplin, said that it was the first time in our history that a local MP had visited the village. Always one with an eye for the ladies, Albert is pictured above holding hands with Priti. The members of your Parish Council are also pictured with her. We are very pleased that Priti is taking such an active interest in our village and its concerns.

Please remember that Parish Council meetings (except rare specifically closed sessions) are open to everyone in the village, and we would be delighted to welcome you. Come and see what your Parish Council is doing on your behalf. Minutes of all meetings from 2009 are freely available on our website, given below, as are the Annual Reports and earlier copies of the Newsletter. So, come along and see how you could help in the smooth running of your village. Do you have ideas that would make life easier? Do let us know.

Parish Council

www.essexinfo.net/langford-ulting/

Chairman – Andrew Tween (Tel: 01245 381598)
andrewtween@btinternet.com

Vice-Chairman – Irene Allen (Tel: 01621 855447)
IreneA@leprahealthinaction.org

Councillors:

Vicky Anfilogoff (Tel: 01621 840532) anfilogoff@gmail.com

Kathy Palmer (Tel: 01245 382417) Katherinepalmer@live.co.uk

Richard Perry (Tel: 01621 841518) Millhousehotel@uk2.net

Clerk – Jenny Clemo (Tel: 01245 380852) Ultingcattery@gmail.com

The Parochial Church Council



Have you ever wondered what a Parochial Church Council (PCC) does? PCCs were set up by the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1921 Act as a successor to the old Vestry Meetings. In times past the Vestry Meetings exercised considerable power over parishes under the auspices of the Church of England. However, most of their civil functions were removed during the 19th Century in numerous Acts, concluding in 1894 with the establishment of civil parishes. The subsequent 1956 and 1969 Acts now govern the establishment and function of PCCs.

A PCC, which must meet at least four times a year, consists of the clergy and churchwardens of the parish, together with a number of representatives of the laity (i.e. members who are not part of the clergy). These members are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting by means of being nominated and seconded, and also being listed on the parish [Electoral] roll for at least six months. The incumbent (the Vicar or Rector) is the chairman of the PCC and a lay member is appointed vice-chairman. It is also the means by which information and resolutions are passed from the Diocesan and Deanery Synods to the congregation and, just as importantly, from the congregation to these wider groups.

The PCC is responsible for the financial affairs of the church and the care and maintenance of the church fabric and its contents, including demanding chancel repair liability (something of a hot topic in many parts of the country at the moment) from local inhabitants. These latter responsibilities are carried out by churchwardens or other volunteers. It also has a voice in the forms of service used by the church and may make representations to the bishop and deanery synod on matters affecting the welfare and pastoral care of the parish.

All PCCs are registered as a charity. Since 2008 under the Charity Commission's 'The Excepted

Church Charity,' only PCCs with a gross income of over £100,000 are required to register with the Charity Commission. This, sadly, is not something that concerns St. Giles, Langford, or All Saints, Ulting! The members of all PCCs, whether registered or not, are trustees with responsibilities commensurate with that role.

At its Annual Meeting, the PCC also appoints other essential post-holders to help with the general and smooth running of the church and its services:

- Sidesman – often now referred to as a 'Sidesperson' in our politically correct world - acts as an usher, responsible for greeting members of the congregation, seeing that they have everything they need for the service (hymn books, psalters etc.)
- Child Protection Officers - ensure that young people in the church are kept safe
- Treasurer – keeps an eye on the finances, makes reports to the PCC and is responsible for claiming back Gift Aid (where appropriate) from donations made
- PCC Secretary – is the 'administrator' and takes the minutes of meetings
- Electoral Roll Officer – keeps the list of those who regularly attend the church and are considered 'members'
- Churchwardens - ex-officio members of the PCC and its standing committee.

Places of Worship

St. Giles' Church, Langford

Rev. Peter Low – 01621 841274

Email: revbikes@btinternet.com

www.stgileslangford.org.uk

Services at 9 a.m. every week

1st Sunday – Holy Communion

2nd Sunday – Matins

3rd, 4th, 5th Sunday – Holy Communion

All Saints Church, Ulting

Rev. Stephen Northfield – 01245 380958

Email: SRNorthfield@aol.com

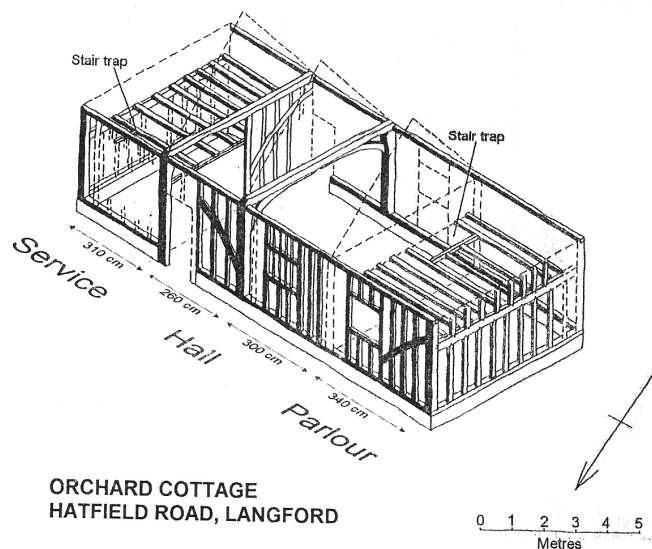
Services of Holy Communion at 9 a.m. on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month

Orchard cottage, Langford – an ‘in-line’ medieval hall house



Although not easily seen, the beautiful Orchard Cottage, Langford, is perhaps one of the most interesting buildings in the village. During an internal inspection of the cottage in April 2012 it was revealed that, instead of dating from the 17th or 18th Century as the list description of the house suggested, it was, in fact, first built as a small ‘in-line’ house in the late medieval period. Houses like this were once very common in Essex although very few survive without a lot of alteration (one of the best preserved examples is Walter Hall in Little Baddow).

At Orchard Cottage the south (front) wall has been completely rebuilt in brick and the original roof has been replaced, but the north (rear) timber framed wall survives substantially intact. Tim Howson of the Essex Historic Buildings Group noted “We can identify the open hall because the first floor is clearly a later insertion and the central tie beam has long mortices for arch braces that would originally have formed a gothic arch.



The ‘upper’ bay of the hall is identifiable, firstly, because it is slightly longer than the ‘lower’ bay and, secondly, because this is the bay in which one of the tall, unglazed hall windows survives which would have provided lighting to the high table. The room beyond the high end of the hall is in the parlour, where the original floor joists are chamfered, marking its status subtly above that of the service room beyond the low end of the hall where the joists are un-chamfered.

“If it was only the low end of this building that had survived, it could easily have been misinterpreted as the high end, merely on the basis that it only has one ground floor room. This is because in small, late medieval open hall houses in Essex and elsewhere we expect to find a central partition dividing the ground floor of the service end into two rooms, invariably interpreted as the buttery (for beer) and the pantry (for bread), accessed through separate doors from the hall. This arrangement is almost perfectly preserved at Walter Hall. But Orchard Cottage is a reminder that although there are usually two service rooms sometimes there is just one.”

Orchard Cottage was made a Grade II listed building on 14th November 1985.

A Little Stocking Filler ‘Clerical Humour’

For those of you wanting something to fill stockings this Christmas (or indeed as a silly little gift any time of year), why not buy a copy of ‘Clerical Humour’? This A5 booklet produced by one of the Churchwardens at St. Giles’ Church, Langford, is a light-hearted compendium of religious jokes and thoughts from emails, and a perfect little gift for those of either sex who have a sense of humour. The booklet is priced £1.50 (all proceeds go towards the provision of a toilet in the church – which seems quite appropriate as this is probably where most of them will end up!) Copies of ‘Clerical Humour’ can be obtained from St. Giles’ Church every day between 10 a.m. and midday, or from Irene Allen on 01621 855447 (irenea@lepra.org.uk).



Business in Focus

Ulting Cattery – John & Jenny Clemo



We have been running the cattery for over 25 years, starting almost from scratch as the previous owner had decided to stop trading. With the support of the local community, we have doubled in size and our licence allows us to have up to fifty cats boarding at one time. We run a year round service but in the summer months we do get full to capacity. Tip for cat owners: it is always worthwhile booking ahead.

The cats stay in individual raised chalets with attached covered runs. The units also vary in size to accommodate different numbers of cats. In the winter months all units are equipped with heated pads to ensure the boarders are kept warm and comfortable.

The cattery has a superb setting in the heart of our beautiful countryside and forms the major part of our smallholding where we have goats, a poultry flock, the popular India Runner ducks who are a noisy feature, and about quarter of an acre under cultivation. This is largely a kitchen garden, but we do have a number of Christmas trees and fruit trees. We do have some success with pumpkin growing and often win the Challenge cup for the Horticultural society annual biggest pumpkin competition.

With the growth of the internet and the proximity to major transport networks (i.e.: the A12, should it be behaving itself!), our customer base seems to have spread out from the local area to London E4, Hertfordshire, and even beyond Colchester. This new business produces extra work as there are an increasing number of cats needing daily medical care such as twice daily insulin injections for diabetic cats, special diets for all manner of problems and administering medication. This all seems to have multiplied as veterinary diagnostic techniques have improved.

Over the years we have employed students (minimum age 14), as assistants during the school holidays and at weekends. It has been a thrill to discover that some have made a lasting career in animal care.

We do not have any charitable status and are unable to help with the rescue of unwanted cats beyond referring to the local rescue groups: Cats Protection League, Colchester Cat Rescue or the RSPCA. Details of our boarding terms and conditions can be found on our website: www.ultingcattery.co.uk We only accept vaccinated cats and vaccination certificates are mandatory.

For a bit of extra fun we signed up to Facebook and it's surprising how many people "like" us across the world. For ourselves, we like looking after cats, and living and working in the village, observing the weather through the seasons and the local wildlife. Unusual sightings include two young kestrels being fed by the parents and because we fed them some extra carrion, this attracted a visit from a red kite which is rarely seen in this area.

This year we had a good year for swallows, with eight active nests in the barn, the majority raising a second brood. In the middle of September as the migration began, we counted around 100 birds on the power lines, but by the 26th September the roosts were all empty. It's amazing that these lovely visitors rear their young next to such a large number of restricted predators, (the cats in the cattery), and our own two feral cats that aren't restricted.



Don't forget wildlife this winter

Please don't forget that with ever increasing incursion on open spaces, our wildlife need us more than ever, especially in the winter. 'Houses' for hedgehogs, bats, bees and other insects are most welcome as, of course, is food. Please don't forget the birds. Our gardens are often the only sanctuary and source of food they have in these overcrowded times. They will reward you with their beauty and their acrobatics.

Community Diary: October 2013 - January 2014

Sunday 27th October – Bonfire Party, LUVH, gates open at 6 pm, bonfire lit at 6.30 and fireworks at 7 pm. Adults £4, Children £2, under 5's free.

Sunday 27th October – British Summer Time ends – clocks go back.

Sunday 27th October – Vintage and Antiques Fair, Museum of Power, 9 am - 5 pm. Adult £2.50; (£3.00 between 9 am and 10 am.) Concessions; £2.00; Children free.

Sunday 10th November – Remembrance Sunday 9 am service at St. Giles' Church & War Memorial after.

Saturday 16th November – Christmas Fayre, St. Giles' Church, Langford, 10 am - 2 pm. Free entry.

Tuesday 3rd December – Parish Council Meeting, LUVH 7.30 pm.

Sunday 8th December – Santa Special, Museum of Power, 10 am – 5 pm. Adult or child £8 each (which includes gift and refreshments). Not able to carry children under one year of age. Entry to museum for non-ticket holders £2.50 includes a cup of tea and cake.

Sunday 8th December – Candlelit Christmas Extraordinaire, St. Giles' Church, Langford, 6.30 pm. Tickets £8.00 (includes seasonal refreshments).

Sunday 22nd December – Carol Service, St. Giles' Church, Langford, 3 pm + refreshments.

Monday 1st January – New Year's Day Crank Up, Museum of Power, Langford. Adults £5.00; Concessions £4.00, Children under 15 £2.00.

Local Book Launch imminent

Langford

An Obscure Essex Village Transformed



By Irene Allen and Patrick Chaplin
With a Foreword by Lord Byron

After six years' research and hard work, the history of the village of Langford by Irene Allen and Patrick Chaplin is about to go to print. Lord Byron, who spent a lot of his childhood in Langford, has kindly agreed to write a foreword to the book, and once this is to hand we can get it printed. If you would like to reserve a copy of this book, please email either irenea@lepra.org.uk, or Patrick.chaplin@btinternet.com Final details of price etc. will be available shortly, and the authors would like to thank everyone who gave anecdotes or pictures.

We have been asked if we will be doing a companion volume on Ulting, and certainly if we can obtain enough information we would be delighted to do this. If you have access to such

information or old photographs of either Langford or Ulting in your possession we would be grateful to hear from you. Also, if you know of anyone with a great knowledge of the village, do put them in touch.

We have such a wonderful history in our two villages and we feel that their story should be told before the knowledge is lost.

Potholes

We all know how annoying (and damaging) potholes can be, so you can now report potholes by using the "View it, track it, report it" function at www.essex.gov.uk/highways or by calling 0845 6037631. A new section on the Essex County Council website features video content detailing the fixing process and useful information on the criteria for repairs. See: www.essexhighways.org/potholes.aspx

Free Dog Chipping

The Dogs Trust have just started a huge chipping campaign to run with the new government announcement that from 6th April 2016 all dogs will have to be microchipped. The Dogs Trust have new roaming chipping teams offering free microchipping across the whole of the country. Events will be advertised in the local papers when they are in the area, but if you are interested in taking part please let us know and we can arrange for the team to come specifically to Langford and Ulting. Remember, this service is free so come and take advantage of it.

Seasonal Notes - Mistletoe

As we move into the Christmas period – I know, it can't be that time again! – you might be interested in a little piece of seasonal folklore...

Mistletoe conjures up a romantic picture of young couples kissing, but it has a much darker past. In Norse mythology Baldr, son of the god Odin and



the goddess Frigga, had troubling dreams of his imminent death. His mother made all living things and inanimate objects swear not to hurt him, but was unable to get an oath from the mistletoe tree because 'it seemed too young' for her to demand such an oath from it. The evil Loki, jealous of Frigga's love for her son, tricked the blind god Höðr into shooting his brother Baldr with an arrow made of mistletoe which killed him. Frigga was so broken hearted over the death of her son that she wept tears onto the arrow and these turned into the white berries that we see today. For its (albeit unwitting) part in Baldr's death, mistletoe was condemned to an existence as a parasite, living on other trees.

In cultures across pre-Christian Europe, mistletoe was seen as a representation of divine male essence (although holly is also attributed with this). According to Pliny the Elder, the Celts considered mistletoe a remedy for barrenness in animals and an antidote to poison (but we would not recommend that you try this at home!) Mistletoe was used by Druid priests and played an important part in their winter rituals 200 years before the birth of Christ. The Arch Druid was supposed to have cut the mistletoe with a golden sickle around November each year. It was caught as it fell from the tree by virgins holding out a white cloth, then after prayers and the sacrifice of white oxen, the mistletoe was divided up amongst the people, who took it home to hang over their doors as it was believed to work miracles of healing, protect against witchcraft, and bring fertility to the land and people of the household.

Kissing under the mistletoe seems to have been a custom peculiar to Britain - the earliest

documented case dates from 16th Century England; a custom that was apparently very popular at the time (and of course still is today).

Did you know...

The Vicar of Ulting, from 1846-1863, the Rev. William Lewes Pugh Garnons, MA, BD, was a much-respected botanist and entomologist?

William was born on 23rd September 1792, and was christened on 1st January the following year. He was educated (1814-1824) at Sidney College, Cambridge, receiving his BA in 1814, his MA in 1817, and his BD in 1824. The Census for 1841 records him as a Fellow at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, aged 45, and single.



William was very interested in botany and entomology and he collected insects. He wrote the scientific descriptions for a book entitled *Madeira Flowers, Fruit and Ferns* which was published in 1845, with drawings by Jane Wallas Penfold. (A

copy of this book, pictured left, sold at Christies in November 1998 for £4,025).

He left Sidney Sussex College on 29th October 1845 and took up a post as Curate at Ulting. White's Directory for Ulting of 1848 records him still a Curate. He married Mary Sheffield on 4th December 1848 in Berechurch, Essex, and by the 1851 Census he was Vicar of Ulting and living in the Vicarage with two servants (Tamar Everett (19), Cook; and Sarah Bradley (20), Housemaid). The Census states that he was married and aged 59, but there was no mention of his wife. Perhaps she was in some form of hospital at the time as she died on 25th March 1853.

William remarried on 18th January 1859 at Holy Trinity Church, Twickenham. His bride was Sophia Gwatkin and in the 1861 Census they are both recorded as living at Ulting Vicarage. Sadly William died on 5th March 1863 aged 71 at Ulting, and was buried in the churchyard at All Saints a week later. Sophia lived until 1904 and died in New Hampton, Middlesex.

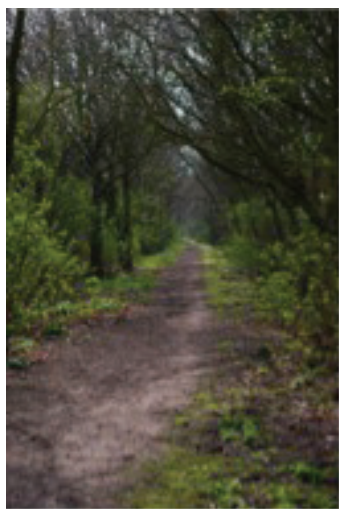
Winter Walks

Now that we are approaching the party season many of us will be looking to lose a few pounds in weight to fit snugly into that new suit or slinky dress, so why not get into shape by walking more of our wonderful footpaths? In the last issue we featured the walk from Beeleigh to Ulting Church, and in this one we follow the old railway line from Langford Halt to Maldon and back along the canal. This is a lovely circuitous route and is not in the least taxing.



Walking towards the old railway bridge, take the footpath that runs parallel to the road to the old railway halt. This is much less dangerous than the old days

when you had to walk on the road to the brow of the bridge and down a flight of stairs to the station, taking your life in your hands as you went. Once you reach the old railway platform, keep on along the bed of the track towards Maldon. Behind you, the old railway bridge has now been filled in and it is no longer possible to walk the full track to Witham anymore. There was talk at one time of reinstating the old railway line as either a cycle route or as a relief road, but neither of these has come to anything, and a lot of the land formerly under the tracks has been sold off and is now in private hands, or has been absorbed into local farms.



The path can become very muddy in inclement weather, so do be sure to wear either boots or very sensible shoes! The route takes you past the garden of Langford Place and on to where the old line branched off for Maldon East station. Keep on until you pass the Tesco supermarket on your left. Keeping the canal to your right, walk on

and you will come to the Golf course on your left, so do be aware that people may be playing. If you are nearby when someone is playing it is courteous to stop until they have played the shot and then move on. You will pass Beeleigh Willows on the other side of the canal as you travel on and then

you will reach the very interesting junction at Beeleigh Falls. You can either go straight on or continue up to Hoe Mill as we described in the previous issue, or you can go over the brick bridge and down the footpath on the raised bank to the Museum of Power and onto the main B1019 through Langford.

Before you make that decision, however, take a look to your right and there, somewhat overgrown at the moment unfortunately, is the remains of 'Mr. Wescomb's Cut.' This little waterway was dug, at great expense, in 1793 by Samuel Wright, Millwright of Ipswich, as a navigable link between Langford Mill and Beeleigh Lock where the boats could be lowered into the River Chelmer. The Cut generally followed the course of what was then the River Blackwater which met the Chelmer at Beeleigh and then on to Maldon and the sea. (The port of Maldon, less than two miles away by water, was the chief outlet for corn on its way to London.)



When the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation Canal (which you have been walking along) was dug the 'Cut' crossed the path of their projected canal, and a compromise had to be reached. Today the upper part of the cut (on which a disused lime kiln stood within living memory) still has a trickle of water in it, but is now no longer used, although there are hopes of reinstating it. The lower end although now filled in, can still be seen and forms a hazard on the golf course!

Bird Lore

In some parts of Britain a Song Thrush is known as a 'Mavis' or 'Throstle', a Corn Bunting is a 'Horselark' and a Green Woodpecker is a 'Rainbird' or 'Yaffle'. The Chaffinch is sometimes called a 'Pinker' or 'Twink', whilst the Wren is known as 'Jenny'. A House Sparrow is 'Philip', a Hedge Sparrow is a 'Dunnock' and a Lark is a 'Laverock'. A Kestrel is a 'Wind Hover' and a Shrike is a 'Butcherbird'.