



Volume 3 – Issue 2
Winter 2013

Langford & Ulting News



Flooding in Langford

Given the horrendous weather we've experienced over the last few months, it is perhaps timely to reflect that, whatever we believe, actually we have escaped (so far) relatively unscathed. The picture above was taken outside Mill Cottage, Langford, looking towards the river bridge. This was taken in 1975 when the water flooded the cowshed (now the village hall) and its surrounding green, including the tennis courts, and also flooded Mill Cottage. Fortunately, it wasn't as bad as the flooding in 2001 which reached the Witham Road junction and inundated the village hall to a depth of 11 inches putting it out of action for several months (and flooded Mill Cottage again), and certainly not as bad as in 1939. Then the old waterworks itself (now the Museum of Power) was flooded, and staff worked tirelessly throughout the night in highly dangerous and miserable conditions to ensure that the steam engines kept working. Fortunately these floods didn't last long, and were more inconvenient than anything else, but we should thank our lucky stars that we haven't had

to endure the problems of those living in the Somerset Levels. However, it should also be a reminder to all of us that Mother Nature is much stronger than we are, and water finds its own level, despite our efforts. Given the degree of flooding over the past few months perhaps it is time to look again at the way we insist on building on flood plains – the name rather gives it away really – and see if there isn't another way to deal with the lack of housing. There are certainly plenty of empty houses in the district which could be brought into use...!

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EDITOR'S NOTE



To begin this New Year we would like to pass on our grateful thanks to CML Microsystems Plc for sponsoring this and the next two issues of the Newsletter – this is very much appreciated.

We do hope that you were not adversely affected by the gales although we have certainly fared better than those in the West Country. There have been lots of reports of trees down and fields and gardens flooded, so the great New Year clear up has begun in earnest (or will if it ever stops raining long enough...). Don't forget that after all the rain we've had, you can report new potholes by using the 'View it, track it, report it' function at: www.essex.gov.uk/highways or by calling 0845 603 7631. 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. Also surface water flooding on roads should be reported to: flood.protection@essex.gov.uk

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Maldon District Pre-submission Local Development Plan 2014-2029 Public Consultation

This began on 22nd January and will end at noon on Friday 14th March. The consultation provides an opportunity to comment on the soundness and legal matters that will be considered by an Inspector conducting the Examination-in-Public of the plan. Go to www.maldon.gov.uk for representation forms and have your say. We would like to emphasise that the Local Development Plan will now have far greater weight when planning applications are decided by Maldon District Council, and this will increase up to the adoption of the Local Development Plan, hopefully towards the end of 2014. Your Parish Council is also working on the Neighbourhood Plan which will add further policies to allow development that people who live in our parishes are happy with.

Future meetings will be held on: Tuesday 4th March and Tuesday 1st April in Langford & Ulting Village Hall (the 1st April meeting will be preceded by the Langford Annual Parish Meeting), and on Tuesday 20th May (for the Annual Meeting and the Ulting Parish Meeting) in Crouchman's Barn, Ulting. All meetings are at 7.30 p.m. Councillors' details are:

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Rural Councils are Losing Out

Rural councils are calling for an end to the funding inequality between urban and rural areas. They feel Ministers need to recognise the true costs of delivering council services in rural areas. Rural councils have been short changed by the unfair way the government calculates its local authority grants, which currently favour urban areas over their rural counterparts. The government's grant formula for England was weighted more in favour of density of population and urban deprivation rather than sparsity. They had acknowledged the costs of sparsity in 2013, but then introduced a damping system which took away most of the additional grant that would have gone to rural areas, so the average Council Tax in rural areas is 15% higher than across England as a whole. Local Councils are calling on the government to honour its commitment to rural authorities. The grant system must fully reflect the cost of delivering services in rural areas so council tax payers in the countryside no longer pay a higher level of council tax than their urban counterparts for fewer services.

What is a Churchwarden?



The Churchwarden's dream....

A churchwarden is a volunteer lay official in a parish church or congregation of the Anglican Communion, and holders of these positions are ex officio members of the parochial church council.

Churchwardens have a duty to represent the laity and co-operate with the incumbent (the Vicar or Rector). They are expected to lead the parishioners by setting a good example and encouraging unity and peace – although sometimes this can be more difficult than it appears! They have a particular duty to maintain order and peace in the church and churchyard at all times, and especially during services, although this task tends to be devolved to sidesmen (see Vol. 3 issue 1) Autumn 2013. The duties and responsibilities of Churchwardens vary according to the customs of the parish or congregation, the edicts of the diocese to which the parish belongs and the desires of the priest (which can be a daunting prospect).

Many churchwardens are legally responsible for all the property and movable goods belonging to a parish church, and so have a duty under ecclesiastical law to keep an up to date inventory of the valuables, and to produce these lists for inspection when required. Incumbents tend to devolve day-to-day maintenance of church buildings and their contents to their churchwardens, who have to record any monies spent in this regard in a logbook which is inspected along with the inventory.

If an incumbency is vacant, the bishop (or Archdeacon) will usually appoint the churchwardens as sequestrators of the parish until the bishop appoints a new incumbent. They ensure that a minimum number of church services

continue to be held in the parish, and in particular that Holy Communion is celebrated where appropriate. They do this by enlisting the help of other clergy from their diocese or retired clergy living in or near the parish. Churchwardens are usually involved in the appointment of a new priest, although this is not always the case.

In England, churchwardens have specific powers to enable them to keep the peace in church or churchyards. As an example, the following are punishable with a £200 fine:

- riotous, violent, or indecent behaviour in any parish church or in any churchyard or burial ground (whether during a service or at any other time)
- molesting, disturbing, vexing, or troubling, or by any other unlawful means disquieting or misusing:
 - o any preacher duly authorized to preach, or
 - o any clergyman in holy orders ministering or celebrating any sacrament, or any divine service, rite, or office, in church, churchyard or burial ground.

The churchwarden of the parish or place where the offence was committed may apprehend a person committing such an offence, and take them before a magistrates' court. Until 2003, the offence was punishable by two months' imprisonment – oh that it still was...

Historically, there were two types of wardens: the people's warden, elected annually by the congregation as a whole at the Annual Vestry Meeting, and the rector's warden, appointed by the incumbent. However, this distinction has now largely been abolished in favour of both wardens being appointed jointly. Churchwardens are elected for three years, but in smaller parishes this can be extended. The only areas in which wardens have no authority is music and liturgy, which is the exclusive authority of the priest in charge of the parish. But churchwardens can officiate at Morning and Evening Prayer if the priest is not available.

Snowdrops - Harbingers of Spring



There have been many reports on the radio recently of early sightings of snowdrops, insects and even butterflies, all of which have been attributed to the very mild winter we have just enjoyed. Celebrated as a sign of spring, snowdrops can form impressive carpets of white in areas where they are native or have been naturalised. Country folk call them 'Fair Maids of February' as this is usually when they flower, but many come out in January.



Although it is often thought of as a British native wild flower, or to have been brought to the British Isles by the Romans, it was probably introduced around the early sixteenth century and is currently not a protected species in the UK. Nevertheless, some snowdrop species are threatened in their wild habitats, and in most countries it is now illegal to collect bulbs from the wild. Under CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the Washington Convention) regulations, international trade in any quantity of *Galanthus*, whether bulbs, live plants or even dead ones, is illegal without a CITES permit.

Great War, did you know...

Second Lieutenant Thomas Hugo French, the fourth son (and seventh child) of George Dennis and Alice French of Ulting Hall, died on 13th January 1917 while flying on active service over Ringhay Wood, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire. He was 21.



Thomas was born in September 1895, when his family was living at Tye Hall in Roxwell just outside Chelmsford, where his father was a farmer. In 1901 the family were living at Hall Farm, Ulting and George again was recorded as a 'Farmer'. In 1911 they moved to Ulting Hall and it was while they were there that the Great War broke out, and Thomas joined the Royal Flying Corps (later to become the Royal Air Force) and was on the General List.



The memorial tablet from the chapel in Tadcaster (shown above) states that his body lay there until it was taken for burial to Essex. He is now commemorated on a large Celtic cross in the south east corner of the churchyard of St. Michael the Archangel in Woodham Walter (the village in which his father

was born and lived as a boy). The winged emblem and the letters 'RFC' are in the middle of the Cross. His father, who died on 9th July 1928 (aged 80) and his mother, who died on 13th September 1945 (aged 85) are also remembered on the memorial.



Stammers Farm, Ulting



Stammers Farm, in Ulting Lane, dates from the 16th Century. Although enlarged extensively over the centuries, the building has lost none of its old world charm - the original core of the house being timber framed beneath a tiled roof. The interior displays the heavy timberwork typical of houses of the period, and boasts Inglenook fireplaces and a cellar. It was listed Grade II (as Tanhouse Farmhouse) on 10th January 1953. There are extensive outbuildings to this once thriving farm including a thatched barn (served by a separate access off Ulting Lane), a tractor and storage shed, a thatched coach house with boiler room and stables with tack room and storage; to the rear of the stables is a pony paddock. The 19th Century cartlodge to the north east of the farmhouse was listed Grade II on 14th November 1985. The more modern additions are a heated swimming pool, a tennis court, large lawned gardens and an annexe which can be self-contained or part of the main house as desired. Stammers Farm enjoys extensive views over the Chelmer Valley, and has additional land on the other side of Ulting Lane subdivided into paddocks. Borders of these paddocks are defined by well-matured hedgerows to the adjoining fields, and in all the grounds extend to about five acres. In the 1960s, the house was occupied by a lady with an enormous number of Jack Russell dogs, which used to rush out into the road at anything that passed. Local children used to ride down the lane on their bikes and pick up speed just before they came to Stammers, and lift their feet from the pedals to avoid getting their ankles nipped as they rode through!

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

Countryside Verges Plea

Following the recent very wet weather we are putting out a plea to all drivers to be extremely careful not to drive onto verges and areas of grassland (i.e. the green in Ulting Lane, or at Langford and Ulting Village Hall). As the ground is saturated, the weight of cars or other heavy items will form ruts which are very difficult to level out and cause problems for those who mow these areas.

This also applies to bicycles or heavy children's toys as these too can cause ruts in the grass. We are not trying to be killjoys, just ensuring the benefit of our green spaces to all residents.

Also, as it will take some time for the waters to recede, we are asking drivers to use common sense when driving through flooded areas. There have been many instances of drivers attempting to go through flood waters without being aware of the depth of the water. Not all areas that habitually flood have depth gauges nearby, and it will damage not only your car, but your reputation if you have to be pulled out of the water!

BUSINESS IN FOCUS

PJ DOWNS & SONS

(Boat Movers and Showmen)

Established in 1979, PJ Downs & Sons is a family run business, based in Langford, which prides itself on its quality of service. The firm only uses its own



drivers to ensure that boats – whether racing, leisure or working - are treated with the utmost care throughout their journey. Many film and racing stars entrust their craft to PJ Downs & Sons, who now move Princess Anne's launch when required.

They work with many local firms including the former Colvic Craft at Witham, Oysters, Gunfleet, Hardy Marina and, in Maldon, Downs Boatyard (no relation). They have also moved all the boats for the Clipper races, and bring masts – many over 126 feet - back from Holland, and they were involved in the mast work for the Cutty Sark. As well as UK deliveries, they offer competitive rates throughout Europe and have unbeatable prices when transporting loads to Sweden and Norway (although this often entails them being away from home for a week).

But this dynamic little business doesn't only deal with boats; it has transported props for Pinewood Studios for such films as Robin Hood, Exodus and The Man from Uncle. They are also closely involved with the Lord Mayor's Show.

Peter and Amanda Downs believe in hard work and are passionate about their business, building many of their trailers themselves. They also build made-to-measure boat cradles which are constructed to order and to the highest specifications to ensure that boats arrive at their destination in pristine condition. Interestingly, with the lack of Police escorts now for wide loads, the firm now offers a Pilot Car Service which escorts wide loads and they

liaise with the police to obtain the necessary permits and clearance to ensure a safe passage. Catamarans are normally moved at night to lessen the impact on traffic. Other heavy-duty work includes providing escort work for Does of Ulting when moving tractors, combine harvesters and other large pieces of agricultural machinery. Supermarkets too use their services - their latest job has been to transport cardboard compactors for Tesco, Aldi and Lidl, delivering them to local stores in the area.

Both Peter and Amanda come from a fairground tradition, although with current prohibitive regulations and insurance requirements, and with the increase in other work, they have significantly reduced their involvement in this field. However, they still have their fairground organ and many vintage machines (of which more in a future issue) which they are very happy to provide for local events when requested.



This is a little, local firm which believes in giving excellent service for a reasonable price, and are always willing to help if they can – whether on a personal or professional level. As Peter says: "Whatever your requirements we offer a made to measure, door to door service, ensuring that your pride and joy is delivered carefully and safely."

For more details contact them at:
5 Little Hills, Langford Road, Langford, Maldon,
Essex CM9 4SU
Tel: 01621 854388
Fax: 01621 854390
Mob: 07860 641174) or go to
www.pjdownsandsons.co.uk



Community Diary: February 2014 – May 2014,

Sunday 16th March – Science Sunday,
Museum of Power, Langford (Adult £5,
Concessions £4.50; Children [5-16] £2.50)

Sunday 30th March – Vintage & Antique Fair,
Museum of Power, Langford (Adult £2.50 (£3
between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m.); Concessions £2,
Children Free)

Thursday 3rd April – 7.30 p.m. Book Launch
– “Langford – ‘An Obscure Essex Village
Transformed’”, Langford & Ulting Village Hall

Sunday 6th April – Miniature Train Rides,
Museum of Power, Langford

Sunday 12th & 13th April – Langford &
Ulting Village Hall 10-5. Admission by
programme

Sunday 20th April – Easter Show, Museum of
Power, Langford (Adult £6.00, Concessions
£5.00, Children [5-16] £2.50, Children under 5
Free)

Sunday 4th May – Lilleshall Steam Day,
Museum of Power, Langford (Adults £5.00,
Concessions £4.50, Children [5-15] £2.50,
Children under 5 Free)

Saturday 10th May 10.00-12.00 Coffee
Morning and Plant Sale – St. Giles’ Church,
Langford – Free admission

Voluntary and Community Events

Are you planning a voluntary or community event?
These are an important

part of everyday life that strengthens communities
and encourage people to play a more active part
in society. The government is anxious to make it as
easy as possible to plan and hold an event, whether
it is to mark a one off anniversary or a series of such
events. They have therefore published a new ‘Can
do’ guide to provide a central resource for people
planning a range of community-led events.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cand-o-guide-for-organisers-of-voluntary-events/thecan-do-guide-to-organising-and-running-voluntaryand-community-events>

This guide was commissioned following a review
of voluntary and community events, which found
that existing guidance was unclear and
inconsistent, and often focused on what people
can’t do rather than on what they can. The aim of
“Can do” is to dispel the myths about what is
required and help people to plan and run
successful events with a minimum of red tape.

Where you are planning a particular event, it also
signposts you to relevant specialist advice, such as
guidance on organising street parties which has
just been updated.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/your-guide-to-organising-a-street-party>

But, in hopes that there will be a summer in Ulting
this year....

Ulting Midsummer Weekend!

Two fun events for Ulting over the midsummer weekend
Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd June 2014

<p>Quiz Night!</p> <p>Saturday 21st June 2014 7.00pm Church Cottages next door to Ulting Church by the river Teams of 6 Bring your own food £5 per head</p>	<p>Ploughmans Picnic Lunch</p> <p>Sunday 22nd June 2014 1.00pm with a celebration at Ulting Church at 3.00pm Fun & games for all the family £ tbc</p>
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Contact Rachel for tickets e: ultingmidsummer@gmail.com m: 07973 796576



Dig For Victory!

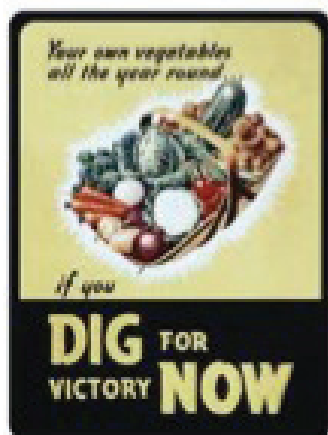


It seems a long time ago that, as a nation, we were urged to 'Dig for Victory.' Now with the escalating cost of living, and the constant pressure on land for ever more housing and upgrades to roads, it is perhaps time to re-visit this old

wartime slogan, and learn how to grow our own food again. The soil in our area is very good for growing vegetables, and perhaps some of us even have enough room in our gardens to keep a few chickens.

The original 'Dig for Victory' campaign was set up by the agricultural economist, Professor John Raeburn (1912-2006), and spearheaded by Lord Woolton, Minister for Food at the time. It fired public enthusiasm via radio broadcasts, and introduced the cartoon characters 'Dr. Carrot' and 'Potato Pete' to British consumers. The campaign displayed iconic posters, like the ones shown here, in stations, shops and offices; produced leaflets and recipes, and even lists of recommended 'food for free' in the countryside. Every Sunday an audience of 3.5 million tuned in to the Home Service to listen to Britain's first celebrity gardener, Cecil Henry Middleton, give his gardening tips.

Given the viewing figures for programmes like 'Gardeners' World' and 'Love your Garden', it is clear that we have a great interest in the little bit of back garden that we have. In this day and age when prices are rising faster than wages, it makes real economic sense to reappraise our gardens and see what we can produce.



There is nothing more satisfying than picking your own vegetables or flowers; and working in the fresh air does wonders for the waistline as well as the wallet. In this age of endless scares about what goes into our food, isn't it time we took charge of what we eat and grow our own? The taste of home-grown vegetables far outshines that of many that we buy in supermarkets. So let's get back to growing our own and not relying on imported, out of season goods from overseas.

Local Walks

If gardening is not your scene, don't forget that there are a lot of wonderful local walks in the area. The path from Ulting Hall Road across the fields to Langford is very picturesque and gives you a fine



view of our villages from a completely different angle. However, as with any other activity, do please use common sense when walking across farmland. It is essential that you stick to the signposted footpath and don't wander off onto unmarked areas. If the path is very muddy do take extra care as you can easily fall, and ditches are very unforgiving: it might not only be your clothes that will need attention later! Don't walk on the crops, and be aware that at certain times of the year shooting takes place, and it would be advisable to avoid areas that are engaged in this – farmers (for obvious reasons) do not take kindly to walkers when a shoot is underway. It is also requested that dogs are under control at all times. The countryside is here for you to explore and enjoy, but we do ask that you have consideration for the landowner and his livelihood.