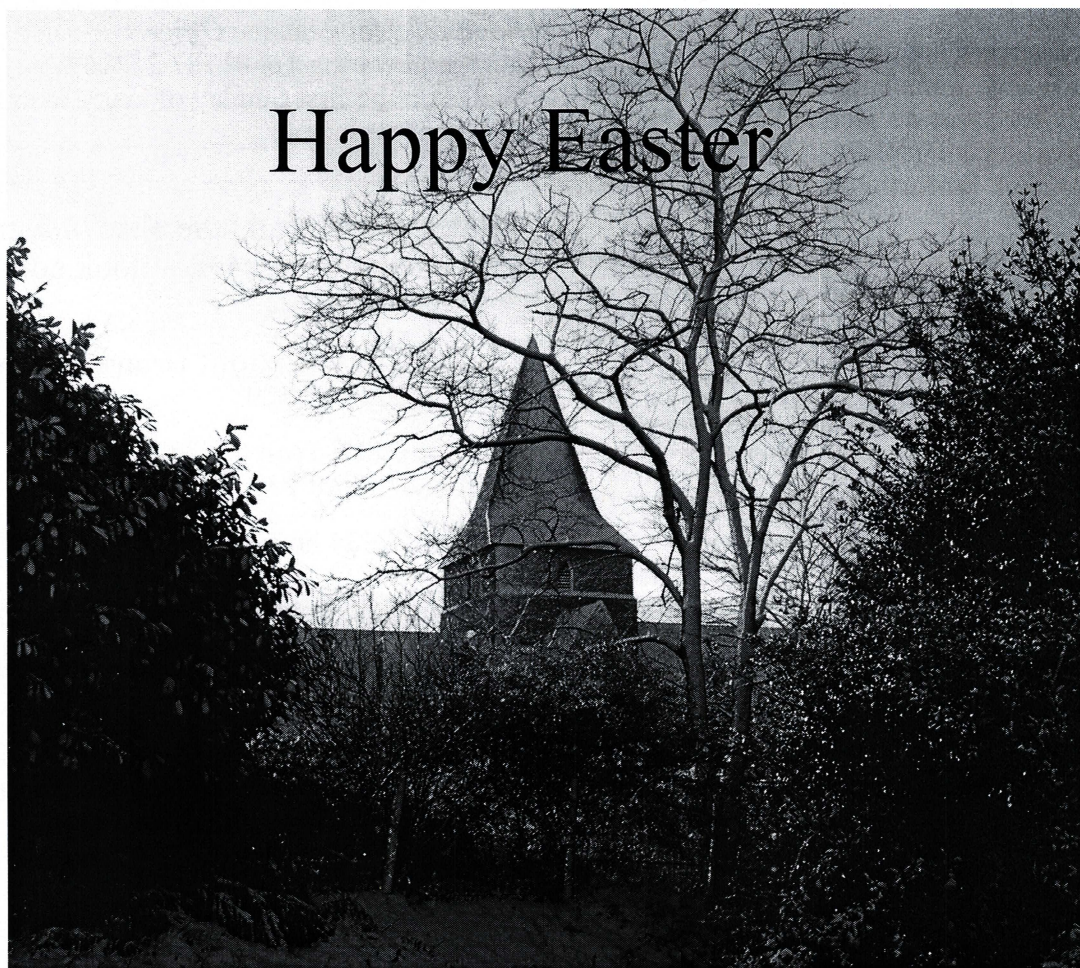


THE MOUNT

Mount Bures Parish News



Happy Easter

Church Services this Easter

All welcome!

Palm Sunday 10 April 9.15 am Community service

Every evening during Holy week Compline at 9 pm on zoom

Maundy Thursday 14 April 7 pm Holy Communion

Easter Sunday 17 April 5.30 am sunrise service

9.15am Community Service

WHO'S WHO

The Parish Council

Clerk: Grahame Walkingshaw, 01206 240 772
mountburespc@gmail.com
Chairman Cll. Ian Woodman 01787 227689
Cll. Hillary Bufton 01787 227218
Cll. Mark Graham 01787 229950
Cll. Michaela Harris
Michaela.c.harris@hotmail.com
Cll. Fiona Willett fionamacnab@btinternet.com
Bi-monthly meetings on second Wednesdays
7.30pm. Next meeting Wed. 13/04, 7.00pm. Please
contact the clerk for further details.

Neighbourhood Policing Team Tel 101, ext.
430136

PCSO Dave Jones /Hayley Howe
Mobile 07966 197134

Non Emergency number for Essex police: 101
Emergency phone number in Europe 112

Village Hall Management

Temp. Bookings: Pam Hailes 07974913139

Enquiries: Dick Gould 01787 227834

Dog Training Val Sayer 01206 240328

Royal British Legion Val Sayer -"-

Borough Councillor: Peter Chillingworth, Oak
Farm, Vernons Road, Wakes Colne CO6 2AH
Tel. 01206 240230

County Councillor Lewis Barber 07876237137
cllr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk

Doorstep Deliveries: Byham 01787 372526

RCCE Oil buying scheme: representative Juliette
Shields, 01787 228511

Bures "Footprints- carers and toddlers" 229052
Chappel School 01787 222296

Badger Hotline mob 07751572175

RSPCA enquiries line 0300 1234999

Silverline 0800 470 8090

Free 24 hour confidential helpline for older people
to combat loneliness and to give advice.

Mount Bures website: mountburespc.co.uk

Mount Bures Whatsapp group
ruthwoodman1@gmail.com

Citizens Advice Colchester 03444 770808

Braintree, Halstead & Witham

0344 499 4719

Sudbury 01787 321400 or 0300330151

Mt. Bures Footpath Society:



Chairman: Ian Woodman Linden House,
Mount Bures, CO8 5AJ 01787 227689
Email imwoodman@btinternet.com
Secretary: Lynn Baird Tel. 01787 228294
email lynnbaird999@gmail.com

Footpath Maintenance Officer:

Ian Andrewartha Tel 01787 227167

Walks on the first Sunday of every month,
Everyone welcome.

Pilates: Jane Read jane.elise78@gmail.com

- michelle.bass4@outlook.com
07904733122

Nature Conservation: George Millins 01787 374874
or mob 07534263629

Essex Wildlife Trust 01621 862960

Suffolk Wildlife Trust 01473 890089

Samaritans: 24 hour phone line 116123

En-form Colchester Environment Centre 15 Church
Walk, Tel.01206 367776, also find them on Facebook
and Twitter

Public Transport Traveline 08712002233

Hedingham/Chambers buses 03301 020801

Greater Anglia trains: 0845 600 7245

Nigel Taxis, Chappel 01206 240436

Sudbury Town Taxis 01787 377366

Bures Market on The Common

Every second Saturday of the month, 10am-1.00pm

01787 227781 Email fyshhousefarm@aol.com

Sudbury Farmers' Market Market Hill

Every last Friday of month 9.30am - 2.00pm

Colchester Farmers' Market, Mercury Theatre

First Friday of month 9.30am -1.00pm

Suffolk Market events 07704 627973

Many thanks to contributors of articles,
ideas and photographs, to the helpers and sponsors of
The Mount. Please send articles, e-mails etc. to
Hildegard Hill, Two Hoots, Hall Road, Mount Bures,
CO8 5AS, Tel 01787 228429 **by 15/05/22**
hildegardandbuster@gmail.com

The Village Hall still wants people to come forward and help with the running of the Hall

If interested please contact Pam 07974913139

Ongoing events: **Dog Training:** *Every Monday* starting at 7.00pm
For further details please phone Val 01206 240328



Yoga Tuesday 10.00 am– 11.30am Jan Mather 07944 314809

Pilates Wednesday 9.30am-10.30 am phone Michelle 07904733122
Michelle.bass4@outlook.com

NEW: Parent and child exercise group

Wednesdays 11am. Bring your baby/toddler along for a circuit style exercise class. All abilities welcome! I will provide some matting to put babies on but please feel free to bring any additional blankets/toys for them. Come try your first class for £5 and after that £8 per class. Any questions please contact Sara via email at mycompletetrainer@gmail.com

Mount Bures Connections

Thursdays 10.00am—noon

Mobile Library Parking near the phone box in
Craigs Lane: books, Cassettes, DVDs etc.
Tuesdays 14.30—15.00
Next visits: 19 April,
10 & 31 May, 21 June, 12 July, 02 August

A & B Fresh Fish
Van visiting Mount Bures every Tuesday approx.
8.00am, parking in a private drive next to the Level
Crossing in Hall Road.
Tel. 07739739074 aandbfreshfish@tiscali.co.uk

Play Pickleball

Pickleball is a rapidly growing sport in the UK and is great fun. Pickleball contains elements of tennis, table tennis and badminton and is played on a badminton-sized court.

You don't need to be super-fit to play. If you already play a court sport, you will find Pickleball easy, but don't worry if you have no experience as Pickleball is simple to learn and we would love to teach you. Our players range in age from teens to over 70 and what one may lack in speed can be made up for in craftiness; Pickleball has even been described as a chess match on court.

We have two Pickleball courts in Bures and we usually play five times a week. Times are flexible, whenever suits our players. We play throughout the year, weather permitting.

Why not join us? Leonardo DiCaprio, Melanie Gates, George Clooney, the Kardashians etc all play Pickleball so there is no telling with whom you may be partnered!

We will provide all the equipment and Pickleball is FREE to play in Bures. We look forward to welcoming you. For more information, please contact Sheila: sheiljb@yahoo.co.uk



Attended Saturday Refuse Freighter 2022

(Aka Bulky Household Items Drop-off Service)

The vehicle will visit the village , parking next to the phone box/ Craigs Lane on

16 April, 11 June, 6 August, 8.00 am - 9.15 am

Domestic properties only. For the disposal of bulky items not normally collected with household waste. Items will be dumped for landfill, apart from garden waste which will be composted if brought separately

PLEASE NOTE :

- NO Fridges, freezers, electrical/electronic goods – these can be collected by the Special Collection Service or taken to your local Tip for recycling/given to charities
- NO items which can be recycled through kerbside collection and bottle/can banks
- NO commercial refuse or hazardous waste such as asbestos, batteries, liquids or gas bottles
- NO large loads

For more information please telephone 01206 282700

Colchester Recycling Centre - Maldon Road,

Shrub End, CO3 4RN; T: 0345 603 7625;

Email: wastemanagement@essex.gov.uk

opening times: March—Oct 9am-5pm every day

Booking required for vans and similar

Possibly proof of Essex residency

Sandy Lane Sudbury Recycling Centre:

CO10 7HG, Tel.+44 345 606 6067

Email waste.management@suffolk.gov.uk

www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk

March-Oct opening 9am – 5pm each day

May-August open till 7pm

WEDNESDAY CLOSED

The Mini Recycling Centre

(behind the Village Hall)

3 containers for *clean glass bottles and jars*

no ceramics, no Pyrex please

2 containers for *clean food tins, drinks cans, aerosols and aluminium foil.*

Please flatten cans

no plastic bottles , no plastic bags please.

River Stour Trust

operates a fleet of boats for trips from Sudbury to Henny and back.

Contact Tim Smith 01787 280146 or email tim17smith@googlemail.com

Or David Kirkman 01787280146 email dgk.rstboats@gmail.com



Walks normally start from St John's Church, Mount Bures or another local meeting point and cover about 3 or 4 miles taking around 1 ½ to 2 hours with occasional longer walks. Walks are suitable for all age groups including children. Dogs are also very welcome.

Membership of the Society costs £1 for a full year (50p for children) which ensures that all walkers are covered by the Society's insurance. Walk details will be emailed to members and put on the Mount Bures Whatsapp group and the village noticeboards or can be obtained from Ian Woodman (01787 227689) or Lynn Baird (01787 228294).

We hope that the next walk on **Sunday 01 May** will be a Bluebell Walk - more info to follow.

Mount Bures Parish news

The Parish Council welcomed Dave Bolsdon, Chairman from the Essex and Suffolk Gliding Club to its Meeting on the 9th March 2022. Residents were given the opportunity to discuss issues and ask questions in relation to the Gliding Club. This was a very positive step forward in working together to resolve matters affecting residents from Mount Bures and it is anticipated that the Gliding Club and the Parish Council will continue to meet on a regular basis to maintain good relationships. If you have issues or concerns then send an email to the Parish Clerk on mountburespc@gmail.com.

The Parish Council agreed to have a local company cut back the Hornbeam Tree that is on the Village Green. The work reduced the crown by 2/3 metres and removed all branches and chipped wood from the site.

Plans for the Queen's Platinum Anniversary are well in hand at present. Cllr Fiona Willett & Cllr Michaela Harris have been working with the Church in planning a Big Lunch on the 5th June 2022 with the likely site being the Village Church. The Event would run in conjunction with the Flower Festival, the Big Lunch would be followed by a Church service. If you wanted to take part in making this event happen, then please send an email to the Parish Clerk at mountburespc@gmail.com.

Footpath 21 – a small section of this footpath – crossing over the railway line – will be closed from the 18th March 2022 until 31st August 2022. The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while work is carried out to repair the embankment to the railway crossing, which has resulted in dangerous underfoot conditions.

The present and future Borough Councillors were present. Peter Chillingworth gave his report and the new Councillor introduced himself as William Sunnucks who will carry on Peter's work. He encouraged residents to join the Digital Access Support. It delivers training to groups of 10 or more. They are aiming at 8 sessions for the Great Tey ward starting in June and there are still vacancies. If interested please call Caroline Sunnucks on 07983720716 or William Sunnucks on william@sunnucks.co.uk.

Essex and Suffolk Gliding Club

As most of you are aware the Essex and Suffolk gliding club is permitted to declare 4 power days per year.

The following days are those we will be using a tug aircraft to launch gliders:

1st & 2nd May (2 Days)

13th & 14th August (2 Days)

Welcome to the Village

We are Michael and Sara Adams. We've recently moved to Mount Bures (Catchlands) from Hertfordshire to be closer to family.

We have a 19 month old girl called Amaya and a 4 year old dog (lurcher cross) called Milly! Both are full of energy and keep us running around after them. We've enjoyed our first couple of months living here and especially love the sunrise and sunsets that are visible from Mount Bures. We're looking forward to getting to know more about the area and meeting more people!

Halstead and District Motocross Dates:

At Little Loveney Hall

10th April, 1st May, 17th July, 4th September

Additional dates for pedestrian visitors only, no car parking available:

5th June, 14th August, 2nd October

Refuse Freighter , aka Bulky Household Waste drop off service

Dates for Mount Bures: 16th April, 11th June and 6th August

Annual Parish Meeting

This will take place on Wednesday 13th April 2022 at 7.00 p.m. It is your opportunity as residents of the village to ask the Parish Council Chairman Ian Woodman any questions you like. It would be nice to see you all at this event.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be followed by the normal Parish Council Meeting, which you are welcome to join. Both meetings are at the Village Hall, Mount Bures.

Borough Council Up-date

After 17 years in post, Adrian Pritchard, the Council's Chief Executive is retiring at the end of March 2022 and a rigorous process to appoint his successor as Chief Executive is complete and Pamala Donnelly has been appointed. She is currently the Council's Strategic Director and has been with the Council since 2005.

With the arrival of the Omicron variant, the Council had to reassess how its meetings should be held to maintain social distancing. For example, a Full Council meeting on Wednesday 23rd February to approve the budget for 202/23 was held in Charter Hall and not the Town Hall where all 51 Councillors, attending Officers and public could be well spaced apart. Most other meetings are now hybrid, where voting members attend in person, but visiting Councillors and members of the public can attend virtually. All are now recorded and broadcast live via Youtube. Details can be found on the Council's website.

Local Plan. The Council is still awaiting final sign off from the Inspector and Part 2 of the Plan will now be adopted by the Council in the new municipal year, certainly not before June.

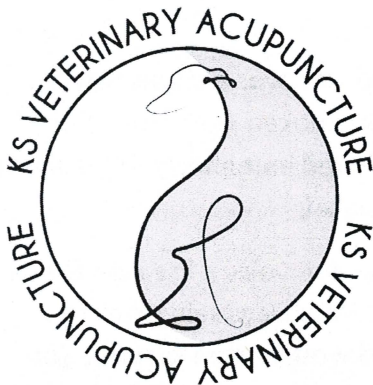
Flooding. As Ward Councillor, I have been working with both Chappel and Wakes Colne Parish Councils to find a way to protect the Shop/Post Office at the cross roads near the viaduct if the Colne were to flood in the future. I know that this facility is used by many residents in Mount Bures. A temporary sectional barrier has been purchased which will be stored by Chris Eaton and erected when necessary. It has been delivered and test erected. I have funding from my locality budget, the amount I am allowed to spend annually on suitable projects in the Ward.

Waste and recycling equipment. The Council has launched a click-and-collect method of distributing new and replacement equipment, including clear recycling sacks. Our nearest outlet is the Colchester Food Bank in the old Curry's store at Tollgate, which is open for collections every weekday from 10.30 to 13.30. Requests should be submitted online by going to Council's website, clicking on 'recycling and rubbish', scrolling down to 'recycling & waste containers' and completing a simple form. The Contact & Support team will provide assistance where needed, including those without digital devices. Designated Assisted Customers will continue to receive home deliveries.

Green Homes Grant. Phase 2 of the Local Authority Scheme is open for applications till the end of March 2022 (extension possible – *editor*). Ring 08081918255 for details. This will provide grants of up to £10k to home owners and tenants to improve their insulation and adopt greener ways of heating. It applied to those on household incomes of less than £30k p.a. or who are on a range of benefits, and who are on gas mains. Landlords are required to pay one third of the cost of the grant-aided scheme for tenanted property, with the remainder being paid for by the grant. Although this may not apply directly to residents without gas, it may to their relatives and friends living elsewhere.

Borough Elections. One third of Councillors are up for election on 5th May. After 20 years as your Councillor, I am not seeking re-election. It has been a privilege to represent you all and I send my very best wishes to my successor and everyone in Mount Bures.

Lovely Lurcher Pet Advice



After 25 years I have decided to leave general veterinary practice and concentrate on my main professional interest which is chronic pain management and acupuncture treatment. It became clear to me over many years that a 10-15 minute consultation is just not long enough to address this complex subject and I felt that there was so much more I could be doing for these patients.

So what are the main causes of chronic pain that we see in our pets? These are wide-ranging and include chronic musculoskeletal disorders such as osteoarthritis, as well as trauma, infection, nervous system disorders, dental problems, gastro-intestinal disease, and cancer.

Recognition of chronic pain is sometimes difficult and is generally under-recognised and under-treated in animals. Dogs and cats do not always cry out or limp and sometimes we need to rely on subtle changes in our pet's behaviour to recognise that they could be in pain. People often think that behavioural changes are just part of the 'normal' ageing process and it is easy to over-look them.

Behavioural changes which may indicate pain in dogs include:

- Decreased exercise tolerance – tiring more quickly on walks
- Less enthusiasm for play
- Less interaction with owner, or more clingy
- Less welcoming to owner when return home
- Increased noise sensitivity
- Less tolerant of other dogs/children
- Changes in appetite
- Jumping/starting behaviour
- Excessive licking at an area of the body
- Panting, lip licking, yawning
- Restlessness

Cats are particularly good at hiding signs of pain. Behavioural changes are often more subtle and include:

- Less likely to climb or jump onto high surfaces
- Staying in one spot
- Altered body position when resting or sleeping
- Changes in grooming habits
- Changes in toileting habits
- Changes in food or water intake
- More irritable
- Less playing or hunting
- Withdrawal from owners
- Jumping/starting/attacking areas of body

Once we can recognise chronic pain, we can start to think about ways we can deal with it. Depending on the severity of the problem, non-drug interventions (including acupuncture) may be sufficient. Other cases may need painkiller medication. Combining a number of interventions ('multi-modal management') is usually the most effective way of controlling pain and I will look at some of these methods in future articles.

I am also happy to continue to address any general vet/pet issues so please pass any questions on to Kate for the next edition of 'The Mount'!

David Fordham: 12.2.1938 – 22.2.2022

GRANDAD Eulogy by his granddaughter



My Grandad... he was a charismatic, stubborn, outspoken gentleman who everybody loved immensely. He truly was my happy place!

Grandad was the voice of reason for so many of us. He always said what he thought and would often surprise you with just how crucial and useful his advice was. He helped a number of people on to the property ladder and through life

changing events and didn't we all hear about it. He wasn't the most humble. But we loved him all the same.

Grandad has always admired the ladies. He could certainly provide good, well respected company and he was a true gentleman with his manners. He would hold the door open for you, stand to welcome a lady, and ensure the ladies in his company were comfortable. He'd even hold their dog so they could dance.. Grandad had many sayings, a lot he learnt from his old chum Ivan. Ivan's words of wisdom to Grandad before he married my Nanna, Hilary, was to always say "yes Dear" which I think Grandad learnt was a good way of keeping the peace. Then he'd do his own thing anyway.

Sarah was a good friend Grandad was often associated with. They had a great lifelong friendship, attending young farmers together, often helping each other on their farms and provided great companionship for one another.

Grandad was always clean shaven and well presented. He was a good looking chap and certainly received lots of attention, but deep down I believe his heart truly belonged to Nanna. He took Nan to all the best places. He even introduced her to Prince Philip. Their marriage may not have lasted, but their friendship never failed. They couldn't live with each other, but they couldn't live without each other either, which I think is fair to say. Nanna was there for Grandad right up until the end which is admirable. I'm so grateful for all she did to make his last moments the most comfortable they could be and for her support to Auntie Alison.

Grandad was born and raised in the same house as his mother and he was very proud that Auntie Alison was now living in that very house raising her own family Laura, Sam and Guy.

Grandad was from a non-farming; factory working family, so it's remarkable what he has accomplished. As a young boy he went to a shop with his father and a calf poked his head through an opening. Grandad said he stroked its nose and thought "one day I'm going to look after calves like you" and that's where his dream began. Just goes to show, if you want something enough, through sacrifice, hard work and determination, it's possible. Both Grandad and Dad were true advocates of this.

Grandad met his longest, most loyal friend Taff, when Taff relocated from Wales to find work and lodged with Grandad Phil back in his early teens. Taff has been a huge support, giving up farming himself a few years back for an easier life, and yet helped Grandad regularly up to and including today. We, as a

family, are so grateful for Taff's friendship to Grandad and for his endless support to us. And grateful to Shirly for putting up with their antics and always providing Grandad with a hot meal.

Grandad started farming as a farm hand at Hadleigh's dairy farm as soon as he left school. Having only worked there a couple of months he was left practically running the farm due to the farm owner having an accident. Grandad often boasted how he never had a day off sick. He managed to purchase his own farm in 1964 which is the farm we now all know. This was the heart of Grandad's world and he loved us all cold calling. He'd put us to work then invite us in for a cuppa. He lived to farm and farmed to live. He would say he has the perfect life and didn't need a holiday away from it. Which I appreciate is not for everyone, but Grandad meant it. He lived each day, he loved his life and never altered for anyone.

I heard Grandad often say how he never had any help. I think what he meant by that was he never paid for help, or hardly ever, as I know just how much most of you did for him and put up with a lot! If he wasn't telling you to climb a ladder to the top of the barn rafters; he'd be telling you to climb in with the cows and to use the hay bale as a buffer in case they butted you and to spread it out evenly along the back wall. Or was that just me,...when I was 8 months pregnant?!?

I also have a memory of having to baler twine a gate closed last year and us being like tweedled Dee and tweedled Dumb because neither of us could reach the bottom hinge as we couldn't bend. We both laughed so much as it was hilarious. We almost coin tossed to see who'd win the turn of getting down and trying to tie the knot. I often heard him holler "Don't you have a brain" because of course things had to be done just the way he liked and apparently that could alter on a daily basis. He liked to keep us on our toes.

Grandad loved his animals. I remember how sad he was when he had to give up the pigs, and how much his heart hurt when Jeffrey (The bull) had to go. But he was always very pragmatic and said it's the life he chose, and how that was what farming was about. He often would say how "new life was a miracle." He loved spring and would always get excited on valentine's day.. not because he was a romantic sort, but because that's when the geese would start to lay! I too loved the geese and found it funny how their guarding skills would terrify Dawn and my sister Charl from visiting. When he lost his last dog, Lucky, he couldn't bring himself to remove her crate from the kitchen as his whole life he'd had a dog. So, from then on the crate contained a plastic Jack Russell, kindly supplied by Val, living within to keep him company. When Grandad had a really bad fall, we all suggested moving the crate to prevent an encore of recent events. He was adamant the dog crate stayed! Stubborn that he was!!

If you couldn't find Grandad at the farm or Burnt House he would almost certainly be at the pub! He knew every local deal for every day of the calendar month! He'd tell me "X" pub on a Tuesday does 2 for 1, and on Wednesdays somewhere else had Pie and a pint night, Thursdays... I think you get my drift. He had lots of people he enjoyed socialising with but a firm favourite was Ruth up the Lamarsh Lion. His lifestyle always made me chuckle because my 70+ year old Grandad had a better social life than me! I remember many parties accompanying Grandad and having the best time, he was such good company. I'd feel like royalty as we walked in as everyone knew and respected him. Some of my best memories, and where I learnt to walk (a story Grandad liked to tell) are at the Thatches, so I'm thrilled we can raise a glass later for both Grandad and Dad, as I know Grandad was devastated not to be able to for Dad last year, so will be pleased we can today in loving memory of his son.

I must thank Johnny Colman for his longstanding friendship to Grandad and helping us raise a toast today providing a hog roast which Grandad would have loved.

Dad and Grandad had a special bond. They were best friends; and probably partners in crime. Dad and Jake often helped Grandad on the farm especially at hay making. Grandad loved having his son working

alongside him and was immensely proud of the successful, hardworking, well respected man Dad had become. He was proud of his beautiful intellectual Granddaughters Charlotte and Laura and the fine young men his Grandsons Jake, Sam and Guy were becoming. As for me, he said I was feral, but I think it was meant with love. He was exceptionally proud of his Great Grandchildren Noah and Poppy and would always talk about them both lovingly. I'm so thankful they got to meet him as he was special.

Perry was like a second son to Grandad. Colin, David and Perry grew up helping on the farm and worked harder than anyone often getting paid in sausages or eggs. As far back as my memory allows Perry is a part of the farm. I remember when I was little I'd always loved to help move the pigs, or grind the corn. I was one of the few that came to see the animals as well as Grandad. Perry would pass me a sheet of corrugated iron to protect me and we'd be set to work. I felt so important and loved that I was included and allowed to help. Grandad, Perry and I would work as a team relocating the animals. I was never shouted at, I was always made sure I was ok and usually rewarded with fish and chips from the Thatchers where Grandad, Perry, Alf and I would sit on straw bales, often joined by the late Robin Teasdale (another of Grandad's close friends) in the pig shed, and dig in with our fingers, much to my delight. Perry was always there checking Grandad was ok, fixing a machine, helping with hay turning, or just enjoying Grandad's company. Perry and Tracy have been remarkable! I simply can't begin to thank them enough for everything they gave Grandad. He loved them dearly.

Thanks must go to Jamie never being no more than a phone call away. Met for always being there for Grandad, being such a loyal friend, with his magic hands always fixing the seemingly unfixable. Michelle for feeding Grandad so well. Uncle Steve. Pete. Claire. Roy and Leanne for popping in and spending time with Grandad every Sunday morning. Bob Chamley for always helping and offering much appreciated and needed support to Aunty Alison these past weeks. Mark, Murdoc checking and making sure Grandad was ok. Grandad came to rely on these regular visits and I know this past year it would have meant an awful lot to Dad too knowing you did so much, so selflessly. So I feel it is only right to thank you personally for the love you showed.

Grandad's kitchen was iconic to all of us. I'll miss him sitting at the window looking out. A kitchen that I knew as a child to be kept immaculate, where I'd be told to get out with a gosling or piglet I had adopted for my visit. A kitchen that then stood still in time and was only added to and ordered in a way Grandad knew. Just ask him, he knew where it was. A pile of papers stacked high dating back to the 90's with references highlighted of key events. Grandad was surprisingly organised within his disorganised muddle.

Since Grandad becoming poorly he's had to rely on so many of his friends to keep the farm going. Brian and Cheryl have been incredible! Bill, and Diesel of course! David Osbourne; Tim and Andrew Buck; Taff; Val; Perry; Julian; you all enabled Grandad's last few weeks to be of peace and without worry for which we all are so thankful.

Grandad was told in hospital his health wasn't going to improve and at 84 he needed to feel proud that he was indeed still farming, but that he wouldn't be able to continue. When the consultant left, Grandad turned to Aunty Ali, who hadn't left Grandad's side and really does deserve a special mention for her courageous, faultless, loving care she showed her Dad, and he said "I don't like the sound of that" and I truly believe that Grandad decided to leave us. He'd have hated not being able to farm anymore, and by his own admission he had lived a full life just how he had chosen to live it. This in itself has to be a reminder that we must not mourn Grandad passing but indeed celebrate that he lived. He would want us sharing our memories and cherishing the moments we shared. He loved a story! And I for one will certainly miss his tales. But luckily for us, his daughter inherited his gassing skills, so I'm sure lots of his stories will live on. Put the kettle on! You might be a while..

Spring appears at Sergeants Orchard



As we write this, the first signs of spring are appearing at the reserve. There are a few primroses out (and many more along Balls Chase and the lanes leading to Sergeants). The first early plum blossom is also out, although whether it will set must remain doubtful. Some bees are about but not many and we can still get frosts.

Our big project at present is laying the hedge along the bridleway. The hedge we laid along the old airfield boundary was all planted at the same time and looks in good health following our work on it. The one on which we are currently working was more a matter of infill planting amongst existing trees, some of which are quite large. This is making the task more difficult but it looks attractive!

The finished job, which will take us a couple of seasons, should provide an improved habitat as the hedge will be thicker and provide more cover for birds and small mammals. The best time to do the work is in February, as the hedge comes into growth. This means it will recover more quickly. With earlier springs, we wonder if perhaps an earlier start would be better.

We have finished clearing bramble from the old orchard. The areas we have cleared we will endeavour to keep open through the summer. We have lost a few of the old trees, which are not that long lived compared to, say, oak. We will take advantage of the cleared areas to re-plant 2 or 3 trees next winter.

This winter, we have seen more fieldfares than some years, along with a few redwings. Both are winter visitors from Scandinavia and their numbers and time of arrival depends on conditions at home.

There are always a few of our smaller common birds in the old orchard most days. On a recent visit, we were lucky enough to see a pair of bullfinches, their striking plumage lit up by the winter sun. On the day I'm typing this, we saw three linnets atop the large ash in the bridleway. This birdsong reminds us that spring will soon be here and the summer migrants will start arriving, the chiffchaff usually the first.

Come and visit. Shirley and David Green Essex Wildlife Trust Wardens

Security Assured?

Nothing is completely burglar- or crime proof, but there are steps you can take to make your property secure and as burglar proof as possible.

A relatively easy way to find a tested security product is to look for the logos or webpages of Secured by Design www.securedbydesign.com or Sold Secure www.soldsecure.com accredited products which as part of the accreditation process have to have the relevant certification.

Personal recommendation of a family member, friend or colleague when choosing a trader provides some assurance or with services and traders Essex Trading Standards have a totally independent accreditation scheme called 'Buy with Confidence' <https://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk/find-a-business/>. There are also a number of trade bodies such as for: Locksmiths – The Master Locksmith Association <https://www.locksmiths.co.uk/> and intruder alarms and CCTV - NSI www.nsi.org.uk or SSAIB <https://ssaib.org/> their membership providing some confidence in products and services .

For further crime prevention advice see: <https://www.essex.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/> or <https://www.securedbydesign.com/guidance/crime-prevention-advice> .



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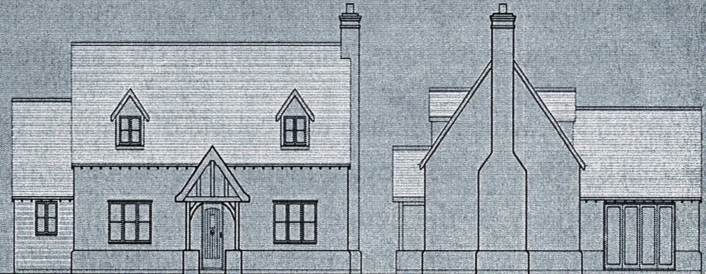


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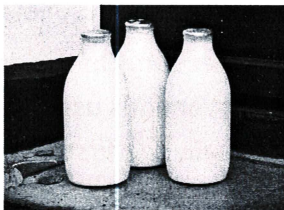
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