



July / August 2024

Edition 200



USEFUL NUMBERS

Braintree District Council	01376 552525
Colchester Hospital	01206 744491
Doctors Car Service	07845 596092
Freshwell Health Centre	01371 810328
Hedingham Medical Centre:	
Castle Hedingham	01787 461465
Sible Hedingham	01787 460612
Kaaren Berry, Parish Clerk	07341 264219
Little Chestnuts Preschool	079018 80914
Pumphouse Brewery	07801 042545
Church Warden Brian Moody	01787 237974
St Margaret's School	01787 237354
The Green Man Public House	01787 237418
Toppesfield Community Shop	07895 510767
Toppesfield Village Hall Bookings	
Frances Winter	07809 237789
Vets - Ardmore, Gt Yeldham	01787 238255

TOPPESFIELD COMMUNITY SHOP

Church Lane, Toppesfield. Tel: 07895 510767

Fresh Fruit & Vegetables, Milk, Newspapers, Confectionery, Pet Food, Dairy Products, Meat & Poultry, Coal and Kindling, Cards, Stationery and lots more!

Monday—Friday

8.30 am— 4.00 pm

Saturday—10.00 am—12.30pm

TOPPESFIELD POST OFFICE

Church Lane, Toppesfield

Wednesday - 10.00 am—1pm

Services include: Special Delivery, Mobile Top Up, Insurance Services, Household payments, Travel Money, Moneygrams, Savings Accounts plus more!

Toppesfield Parish Council

Your Councillors are - Amanda Smith, Kitty Bourlet, Frances Winter, Jeremy Graves, Paula Edwards-Holmes and Jane Daines. There is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council—if you are interested in being co-opted on please advise the parish clerk.

Parish Clerk — Kaaren Berry

Parish Council Meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of every month in the village hall. You are welcome to attend the Open Session which starts at 7.30pm.

Toppesfield & Gainsford End Parish Newsletter — Published by Toppesfield Parish Council

Editor: clerk.toppesfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com

Please submit your articles for the next newsletter by 19th August 2024

Please see our online resources to find out what is happening

Facebook Pages :-

Toppesfield & Gainsford End Community

Toppesfield Village Hall

Toppesfield Village Stores

The Green Man, Toppesfield

Pumphouse Community Brewery

Toppesfield and Gainsford End Neighbourhood and Development Plan

Twitter & Instagram— Toppesfield & Gainsford End Community

Website—<https://e-voice.org.uk/toppesfield-parish-council/>



From the Parish Council



Welcome to the 200th edition of our newsletter.

We wanted to take this opportunity to say a big heartfelt thank you to Alan Collard who has now stepped down from the Parish Council after a 5 year tenure (and many previous tenures before that)! Alan is hugely modest, and yet brings such a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Village - understanding inside and out how Council's work, funding opportunities we may have, and how we can develop as a Village that has a strong sense of community and many community owned projects. All the work Alan does is of course voluntary, and he has given countless time over the years to support the Village. Sometimes, I think it is easy to become complacent of how much people like Alan are integral to our continued development as a Village, and I know we will still rely on your knowledge moving forwards! (Please :)) Thank you from all of us Alan, for guiding us so well over these past years.

As we are on our 200th edition, we thought we should remind ourselves of where it all began! On pages 15—18 is the first edition, produced by Sidney Read in the Autumn of 1982. He typed the newsletter on a typewriter and it was then reproduced by Braintree District Council before it was distributed. The newsletter was produced 4 times a year. With the progression of technology the process has become easier of the years at least! If only we could find an automated way of delivering the newsletters! (We are hugely grateful to those who help deliver the newsletters, as without you we would not be able to still publish the newsletter).

This last quarter also saw James Cleverly (Home Secretary and our local MP) visiting Toppesfield and talking to Parishioners. He was talking about the importance of local community, and recognised the wonderful spirit we have here.

Other highlights for this edition include some memories from Little Chestnuts wonderful 50th celebration, information about the upcoming Village Show—for those new to the Village—we hope to see you enter something in one or more of the categories! The Village show is a wonderful tradition here, but only remains if we partake!!

I also wanted to highlight two particularly important links that have been shared in the Parish Council update, one on flooding, and grants available to private residences to help with defences and also a cost of living website that details lots of support that is available.

As always, please continue to give us feedback on the newsletter, and provide us with articles and information you think should be shared.

Enjoy the summer—that seems to finally have arrived!

Many thanks

Kitty

Parish Council Information

A summary of Parish Council goings-on at the March and April Meetings:

In May District Councillor Richard van Dulken reported that:

- The last meeting at Braintree District Council was their AGM.
- He will be visiting the Wethersfield site next week. Numbers of asylum seekers have been capped at 800.
- Councillors Community Grant is open again this year for applications. £1250 is available for the year.
- Braintree District Councils Fit for the Future programme is looking at challenges in the future which include financial pressures and how people work, i.e. working from home.
- His annual report was sent to the parish council and is available on the Toppesfield Parish Council website and forms part of the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting.

Other parish council business included: Cllr Alan Collard resigned from the Parish Council, Cllr Kitty Bourlet was elected as Chair and Paula Edwards-Holmes was elected a vice chair for this year. Quotes for play equipment in the Toppesfield playing field are being sought, Park Lane car park was discussed and alternative uses for it. Response from Essex County Council was received and discussed regarding the Church Lane road surface. Dog poop bags and dispensers were purchased and will be placed around the Parish for use.

In June County Councillor Peter Schwier reported that:

- Due to the upcoming general election meetings at County and Braintree District Council (BDC) may be changed.
- Highways Highlights publication was circulated today and includes information about Essex Highways 2024 road resurfacing programme. There will be a lot of diversions so drivers will need to be aware of possible delays.
- National grid Norwich – Tilbury Consultation. Residents and businesses across Essex are being urged to share their views on the widespread impact expected from proposals to install pylons, cabling and substations throughout the county. Consultation has been extended to Friday 26 July. Residents and businesses can take part in the consultation via the [National Grid website](#).
- 60 new bleed control kits are being set up across Essex as part of the county council's community safety efforts.
- Community Safety Survey asks Essex residents to voice priorities in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. Residents can take part in this year's Community Safety Survey until 30 June 2024 at <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/equalities-and-partnership/community-safety-survey-2024>

Parish Council Information continued.

- More than 4,000 residents have their say on Replacement Essex Minerals Local Plan. These comments will be reviewed and the amended plan will be published alongside a draft list of Preferred Site allocations. The amended plan will be subject to further consultation in the Autumn/Winter this year.

District Councillor Richard van Dulken reported:

- There has been a cabinet meeting at BDC and Braintree town is having a Public Spaces Protection Order being brought into effect.
- That he has visited the Wethersfield site and there was a pretty calm atmosphere. There are currently 580 residents. BDC have withdrawn their appeal against the Special Development Order (SDO).
- Flooding – Grants are available, up to £8500 for residents to improve their flood defences. More information can be found at [Essex Flood and Water Management](http://flood.essex.gov.uk) (flood.essex.gov.uk).
- There is a Cost of Living director which is full of advice available on the BDC website at: <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/costofliving>

Other business included: funding for improvements to the playing fields will be sought, meeting with the cricket club will be arranged regarding the playing field and the annual return was completed and signed, this is available on the parish council website.

Full minutes of each meeting can be found on the parish website.

If you have any issues you would like to raise with the Council please do get in touch or attend the open session at a Parish Council meeting.

St. Margaret's Church, Toppesfield



Our next Messy Church will be:

Wednesday, 31st July

10.30 – around 12.15

Our theme: Jesus the Good



We will be enjoying a morning with lots of fun, crafts and activities based around the theme: Jesus the Good Shepherd.

Refreshments will be available.

We look forward to welcoming you and having a great time together. All are welcome.

For further information, please contact:

Tia Stickland: tiastickland@hotmail.com

To ensure we comply with the latest Safeguarding rules and are still able to run activities, unfortunately, we are not able to allow any child to be left unless accompanied and supervised by a parent or carer. Our main priority is to ensure your child is safe, while enjoying time with us.

We appreciate you supporting our activities, and we really hope that you understand the need for us to be transparent and ensure the safety of all.

Toppesfield and Gainsford End Village Show 2024

Saturday 14th September

Toppesfield Village Hall 2.00pm

THE DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Yes it is that time of year again. You will find a schedule for the show inside this newsletter so you can be thinking about and planning your entries. We have a few new classes this year and I hope something for everyone. Just think if everyone entered just one class what a show it would make.

Time line

- **Now** have a look at the schedule and decide what you wish to enter and fill in the **entry slip**. Please note for the children's classes the age must be written on the entry slip.
- **Thursday 12th Sept** Bring your completed entry slips to the village hall between **7.00pm and 8.00pm** and collect your exhibitor's cards. If this not convenient you can leave your slips at Toppesfield Shop by Thursday 12th Sept and I will sort your exhibitor's cards for you.
- **Saturday 16th Sept** Bring your entries to the village hall between **8.30 am and 10.00 am**
- **Saturday 16th September 2.00pm** Come and check on your winnings and awards and enjoy the show.

Come and enjoy the show.

- Check out the competitive entries and admire what amazing talent we have in our community.
- There will be stalls, games, a fantastic raffle and delicious strawberries and cream teas.
- Sit in the garden and have a chat with friends.

A great afternoon for all the family.

So many villages have lost their shows.

Show everyone that Toppesfield is the greatest!

Further information Ann Read 01787 237464



St Margaret's Church Services for May - June 2024

All the below services are at 11.00am

July 7th Trinity 6 Morning Prayer 11.00am

July 14 Trinity 7 Holy Communion CW 11.00am

July 21 Trinity 8 Morning Prayer 11.00am

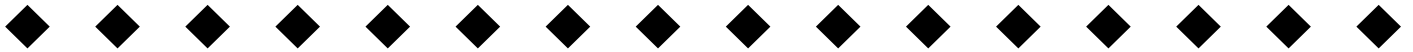
July 28 Trinity 9 Holy Communion BCP 11.00am

Aug 4 Trinity 10 Morning Prayer 11.00am

Aug 11 Trinity 11 Holy Communion CW 11.00am

Aug 18 Trinity 12 Morning Prayer 11.00am

Aug 25 Trinity 13 Holy Communion BCP 11.00am



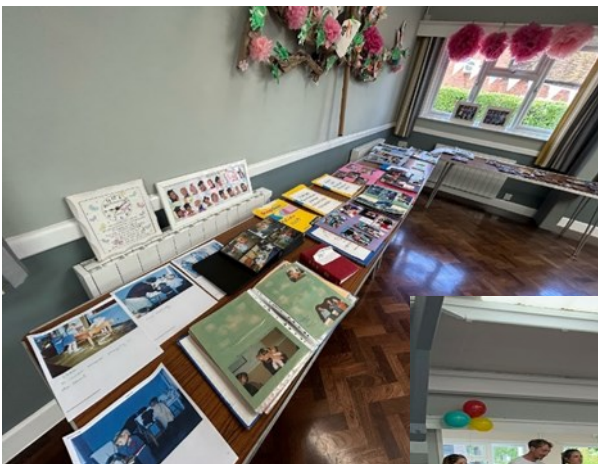
All welcome

Weekly net practice is held at the playing field
every Thursday from 6.30pm.





We would like to say thank you to everyone who came and supported our **50th celebration**, it was wonderful to see so many faces and chat about our fab Pre-school.





St. Margaret's C of E Primary School

As always, we have been busy in school and are delighted to share some of our news with you.

Firstly, we must offer huge thanks for the support of FOSMs throughout the year. They do so much for the school and the children and their hard work must be commended. They have organised two beautify the school days where volunteers have come in to help the school in some cleaning, sorting and organising. They have had a particular focus on the key stage 1 classroom and outdoor area and these areas are now looking much improved. They also arranged a visit to Boydell's farm for Seed class and funded the bus and arranged for the whole school to have an amazing visit from Spirit of the Wild where the children got to meet and find out about lots of different animals including Golden Eagles, owls, snakes, spiders and a husky!

We have also held sports day this term, which was well attended by our parents, and where again FOSMS had a pivotal role in providing refreshments! Great fun was had by all. Continuing with the theme of sport, we took part in a cricket event organised for the Colne Valley Consortium of schools, which we are part of, where some of the children had the opportunity to play cricket against other schools.

I must also commend our year 6 pupils on the immense resilience and positivity they showed during SATs week. The papers were some of the hardest seen, and yet they all approached them with determination and did their best. They are a remarkable group of young people who enjoyed their reward of a park visit!

At the time of writing this, there may only be four weeks of term left, but we still have a lot to pack in, including a visit to Colchester for Sapling class, a production, transition days, our second community coffee afternoon, a residential trip, district sports and a water fight! I think we'll all need the summer break when it gets here!



St. Margaret's C of E Primary School continued

We would also like to remind you that our hall is now available for lettings. If you have a need for a letting for a one-off event or a regular booking and are struggling to find a suitable space, why not contact the school office by emailing admin@st-margaretscofe.essex.sch.uk or calling 01787 237354 to find out more.

Do remember to follow us on social media and like and share our posts far and wide!

Facebook: [St. Margaret's CofE Primary School, Toppesfield](#)

X (formerly twitter): @StMargaretsTopp

Instagram: stmargaretstopp



**The Next Village Markets will be held at
Toppesfield Village Hall on:
Saturday 6th July — 10.30 am —12.30 pm
Saturday 3rd August — 10.30 am —12.30 pm
Saturday 7th September—10.30am—12.30pm**

Please pop along to see what is on offer from fresh meat, jams, pastries, and cakes to handmade crafts, cards, jewellery and more.

Or pop in for a tasty bacon roll and a cuppa with friends.

News from the Footpaths



As some of you will be aware from the splendid Toppesfield Forum Site, on Facebook, I have been leading walks around the parish on the labyrinth of footpaths within the parish.

Rather than just respond to issues with footpaths from third parties, it makes it easy to keep on top of any maintenance issues first hand and get some active exercise whilst having a walk, we have an active core of walkers, that meet at the Pump every Thursday 10 AM we have completed Nine walks Eleven walks so far since inception with No injuries and only 'One 'wrong turn !!!

Please feel free to join us for a walk and a chat and a coffee at the cafe after.

There is only one issue brought to my attention by a regular walker on the fields parallel to Yeldham Road and that is that the farm field paths are not kept clear.

I am not sure who is responsible at present but I will be making strides to get the issue resolved. Walkers are trampling over the crops if they cannot follow a pathway.

Thanks go to the Mortlock's for keeping the pathways clear.



TOPPEFIELD ALLOTMENTS with NASLAG

July has arrived and we now have a picnic area at the beginning of the Allotments with a bench. Just in time for the summer holidays. A free venue to walk to and enjoy the countryside and wildlife.

Jobs

Keep hoeing and turning over the soil with a hand trowel to rid smaller crops of weeds emerging and to freshen up the soil that can become cracked and hard. Keep adding organic matter, like well-rotted manure or compost.

Greenhouses should be checked for pests and kept well ventilated. Shading may be needed if it is a hot July.

With regular summer crops being harvested, it should hopefully free up some space for autumn planting but if you are lacking in room, there are many crops that can be grown in containers.

Keep mulching where necessary to help retain the moisture and suppress the weeds.

If you're on top with plot jobs this month, it is a good opportunity to get other jobs; that sometimes get pushed back, done on a sunny day like painting or treating the shed, tidying up pathways and edges, mending fencing and more.

Don't forget the hat and sun cream!

If it is a dry July, there will be plenty of watering to be done; especially thirsty plants like beans and young, vulnerable plants. If it is a particularly warm month, it is best to do your watering early in the morning so that the sun does not scorch the plant's foliage. The evenings are cooler but the wet and warm conditions will be an open invitation to the slugs and snails.

Pests and diseases need to be kept under control. Watch out for tomato blight if it is damp and pinch out the tomato plants.

Fruit trees that are laden with forming fruits may require thinning out or some supporting stakes to help the branches from breaking. Prune apple trees this month. Strawberry runners can be potted or plugged directly in the ground to provide new crops.

Snap off spearheads forming on onions.

Thanks to Linda for the BBQ and Prize raffle and Clare for the Wild Flower Garden with seat (somewhere to visit and read a book in peace).

Paul Thompson
Chair

PUMPHOUSE

BREWERY

*'Oh, for a draught of vintage that hath been
Cooled a long age in the deep-delvèd earth'*

It's not, perhaps, the same when it's cooled in the brewery's cold room but over the past few days having access to a cold beer or two has been just the ticket.



That was especially the case on 22 June when Pumphouse provided the beer at the Shalford Summer Fête. Despite early morning concerns that it would rain during the event, it turned out to be a fine, sunny and hot afternoon.

The barrels of Allied Amber and St Margaret's together with a small selection of bottles were so popular with the thirsty attendees that they were all finished within 3 hours. We received lots of very positive feedback and encouragement to bring more beer next year!

This followed the Toppesfield Music Festival on 8 June when we opened up our Pallet Bar for those who wanted to try our full selection of ales.



All set up and ready to go

The weather was fine and a good-sized crowd enjoyed the music in the Green Man Garden, as well as some acoustic music in the Pallet Bar itself. It showed again that the Pallet Bar is a good venue for events like this and how well it complements the Green Man.



We are now in the midst of the Beer Festival season. We have already presented our beers at the Haverhill and Braintree festivals (our beer was the first to go at the latter) and at festivals hosted by the Bell in Great Bardfield and the Three Horseshoes in Duton Hill. Next month we have been asked to supply 4 ales to the large festival in Chelmsford from 16 to 20 July.

So, all in all things are busy for the brewery but looking bright.

Early in June we had a visit from James Cleverly our Constituency MP and the current Home Secretary. He was in the village canvassing for the forthcoming election and spent some time with the shop as well as in the brewery.

By the time this Newsletter is published the election will be over but at least he knows where to come for a celebratory drink!

Or perhaps to drown his sorrows.



No. 1

TOPPESFIELD AND GAINSFORD END NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1982

The Parish Council is ever-mindful of the need to promote a lively interest by the Parishoners in the affairs of the community. It has been suggested that in common with the adjacent Parishes, an endeavour should be made to circulate to everyone in the Parish, a newsletter representative of all the organisations which make up the community. This then is the start, and if the move is successful, every endeavour will be made to circulate a newsletter each quarter. The Parish organizations have been invited to submit material for inclusion, and the views expressed therein are those of the organizations themselves and not those of the Council. In other words this is your newsletter and not some official publication.

Parish Church Services

1st. Sunday in the month	9 o'clock Communion
2nd. Sunday in the month	11 o'clock Matins
3rd. Sunday in the month	11 o'clock Matins/Holy Communion
4th. Sunday in the month	6.30 p.m. Evensong
5th. Sunday (if applicable)	6.30 p.m. Evensong

All are welcome to join in our Harvest Festival Services on October 10th.
11 o'clock Matins
6.30 p.m. Evensong

Both Services will be conducted by Rev. Wilcox from Coggeshall.

Congregational Church

The Congregational Church is still alive in the Village in spite of the appearance of the main Church building. We are very conscious of this, but in common with so many villages, the Churches especially the non-conformist ones, find it very difficult to make ends come anywhere near meeting. We have a cheerful room at the rear of the Church where we hold our Services. This is the original Meeting House used before the present Church was built and although large enough for our present needs, we would love to restore our Church and use it fully. Talks and surveys are going on but rough estimates so far are frightening, and it could mean an eventual decision being made to demolish. In the meantime the Rev. and Mrs. Potts are very happy to help anyone and welcome any who care to join in our Services and fortnightly Thursday Fellowship meetings.

Doctor's Free Car Service

All residents of Toppesfield and Gainsford End who are unable to reach the Doctor's surgeries are able to ring the Halstead office of Braintree District Council (Halstead 472503) and ask to speak to the lady who organises the Toppesfield Car Service. You should ring before 1 p.m. and be able to tell her what time your appointment is and at which surgery. She will then ring you back to let you know who is going to take you. We also welcome any new volunteer car drivers and enquiries should be made to Mrs. P. Cole, Great Yeldham 237239. A mileage allowance of 17.1p per mile is paid by the Parish Council.

Sick Room Equipment.

Last year the Parish Council purchased several items of sick room equipment which is available to all residents of the Parish for use at home immediately it is required. With the remaining balance from the Royal Wedding celebrations we were also able to buy a Wheel chair. If you should ever need anything, from a feeding cup to a commode, please contact Mrs. Ann Clark, Park Cottage, Park Lane, telephone Gt. Yeldham 237801 who will arrange delivery any time of day or night. If she happens to be out please contact Mrs. Val Shannon at the Stores.

A New Service for the Village

Thursday, 2nd. September, heralded the beginning of a new service for the village. Under the guidance of Mrs. Copping, the Braintree WRVS organiser, a Meals-on-Wheels delivery for the village has been arranged. Eight teams each consisting of a driver and a helper, are to take it in turns to deliver meals which are cooked in Yeldham school kitchen and brought with our children's dinners to our school for collection in a special insulated hot-lock. On the first day, five excited ladies, Mesdames Turner, Nicks, Phillips, Mawhood and Willson set off to blaze the trail, to start what will be a useful village service.

Toppesfield United Football Club

As many of you will have already heard, we had to withdraw our Reserve team from competition this season, due to a shortage of available players. This decision was taken after much discussion, but regrettably we were really left with no alternative. We are playing this year in the Premier Division of the Halstead League, competing in the League, Hempstead, and Hondon Coronation Cup Competitions. A friendly match was played with Clare Town on September 1st, which was drawn 2-2 after our being 2-0 down early in the second half. If the spirit and enthusiasm shown in that match is maintained, we should be able to offer some very entertaining football this season. For those of you who would like to follow the fortunes of the team, future lists will be displayed at the Stores, Green Man, and Chestnuts. We look forward to seeing lots of support in the coming weeks for your team and we hope that those of you who do turn out to support and cheer us on enjoy the matches as much as the players. Should you require any further information about the Club, please contact the Secretary, Mr. W. Allen, 28 Stambourne Road, Tel. 237539.

The Garden Society

Several people have asked "What has happened to the Garden Society?" The enthusiasm that launched the Society and kept it so buoyant for two years seems to have waned, and in the last year we have suffered from "too many chiefs and not enough indians" in reverse! We have lots of members, and a bank balance so healthily in the black that we can afford to subsidise outings so that the cost to members is ridiculously cheap, but NOBODY seems willing to take on the not very arduous job of Social Secretary. Unfortunately, our Chairman has found that his new job and moving house has left him no time, and the membership secretary resigned earlier in the year. Those who came to the Flower Show this year and enjoyed themselves perhaps do not realise that a smooth running Show is the result of nine months hard work by a very loyal Flower Show committee, so it would be unfair to ask any of them to take on the administration of the Garden Society as well, otherwise a pleasurable task becomes an irksome one. Our A.G.M. will be held in October (watch for Notices of the date) so I am appealing to all our members as well as anyone interested in becoming a member to show your support by coming along so that we can discuss our plans for the next year. We need lots of volunteers to help run the Society and arrange meetings, competitions and outings. This is YOUR Society, but without your active support it cannot function.

1st. Toppesfield Brownies

Over the Summer holidays certain changes have occurred at the Brownies - we have a new assistant leader and will be meeting on a different day. The Brownies will now meet on TUESDAYS after school in the Village Hall from 3.45 - 5 p.m. when Mrs. Jan Walton from Birdbrook will be helping Mrs. Margaret Davison, as Wendy is now in her first term at College. As many of you know, we are only a small Pack (seven in all at the moment) but we manage to join in all the local and County activities, ranging from safety and first aid competitions to the swimming Gala and "Brownie Revels". Finance, as usual, is our biggest problem and we hope to organise some fund raising event very shortly, details of which will be decided at our next meeting. We are only a small Pack, but we do enjoy ourselves, so if you have a girl of between 7 and 10 years who would like to join us please bring her along.

Toppesfield Playgroup

The Playgroup meets twice weekly on Wednesday and Friday mornings, 9.15 to 12 noon in the Village Hall. We have an average of 20 children who attend each session. This is very encouraging as in recent years the numbers have been as low as 10. We have planned several fund raising events in the next term which we hope will be well supported. We will also hold a Christmas Party at the end of term.

19th. October - Clothes and Toy party at 11 The Causeway, 8 p.m.

10th. November - Playgroup Open Morning, 9.30 - 12. Soft toy stall, refreshments.

22nd. November - Toy Party at Highfields, Dyers End, Stambourne, 8 p.m.

The Christmas raffle will be drawn during the evening.

We would be pleased to see you at any of these functions.

W.I.

Toppesfield and Gainsford End W.I. is a very active group of ladies who meet once a month on a Tuesday evening, when usually a visiting Speaker gives us an insight into a specialist subject with perhaps slides or a demonstration. During the last year we have learned about the kind of plants to grow in our gardens, antique lace, the tricks of preserving, the art of canvas work as well as more serious topics such as alcoholism. We also enjoy various social events and recently have dined at the Railway Kitchen, visited Herbs in Stock and toured mysteriously. Fund raising consists of bi-monthly coffee mornings (watch for posters) and an annual Jumble Sale. Some of our members exhibited at the Essex Show and were also very successful at our own Flower Show. We have knitted for the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council and collected goods for Poland. Unfortunately in recent years our membership has somewhat dwindled but now that we are approaching the start of a new W.I. year with our Annual Meeting on October 5th. when a new President and Committee is elected, how about coming along for a very entertaining evening once a month? We shall be very happy to welcome past members and new faces to a Fashion Show on November 2nd. On October 16th. at the Village Hall, a Dinner and Entertainment will be held. Tickets for this are £5.50 including Sherry and will be available by the beginning of October. On November 10th. the Wolsey Theatre presents "Rattle of a Simple Man" in the Village Hall. Those who have attended this Theatre in the past will know what a treat is in store. Watch for posters of this event. For any further information regarding W.I. please contact Mrs. Ann Clark.

Watch the Parish Council Notice Boards outside the Stores and by the Telephone box at Gainsford End for Posters of forthcoming events.

Sick Room Equipment.

Last year the Parish Council purchased several items of sick room equipment which is available to all residents of the Parish for use at home immediately it is required. With the remaining balance from the Royal Wedding celebrations we were also able to buy a Wheel chair. If you should ever need anything, from a feeding cup to a commode, please contact Mrs. Ann Clark, Park Cottage, Park Lane, telephone Gt. Yeldham 237801 who will arrange delivery any time of day or night. If she happens to be out please contact Mrs. Val Shannon at the Stores.

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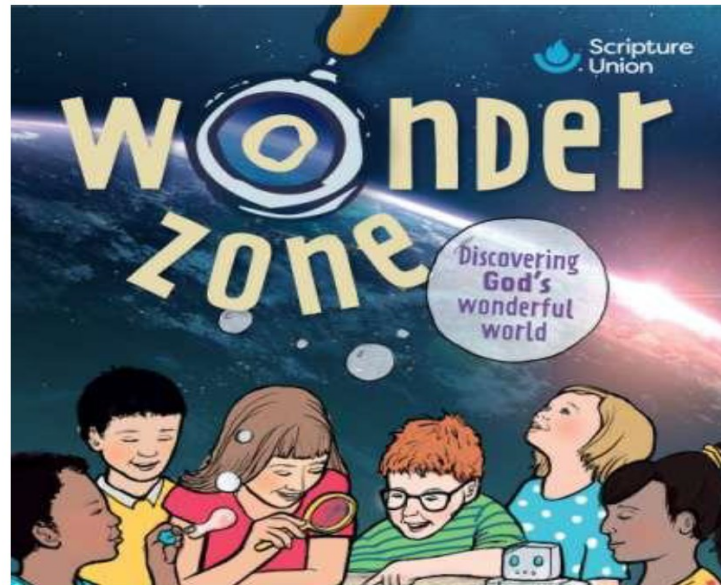
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As many of you will have already heard, we had to withdraw our Reserve team from competition this season, due to a shortage of available players. This decision was taken after much discussion, but regrettably we were really left with no alternative. We are playing this year in the Premier Division of the Halstead League, competing in the League, Hempstead, and Hundon Coronation Cup Competitions. A friendly match was played with Clare Town on September 1st, which was drawn 2-2 after our being 2-0 down early in the second half. If the spirit and enthusiasm shown in that match is maintained, we should be able to offer some very entertaining football this season. For those of you who would like to follow the fortunes of the team, future lists will be displayed at the Stores, Green Man, and Chestnuts. We look forward to seeing lots of support in the coming weeks for your team and we hope that those of you who do turn out to support and cheer us on enjoy the matches as much as the players. Should you require any further information about the Club, please contact the Secretary, Mr. W. Allen, 28 Stambourne Road, Tel. 237539.

The Garden Society

Several people have asked "What has happened to the Garden Society?" The enthusiasm that launched the Society and kept it so buoyant for two years seems to have waned, and in the last year we have suffered from "too many chiefs and not enough indians" in reverse! We have lots of members, and a bank balance so healthily in the black that we can afford to subsidise outings so that the cost to members is ridiculously cheap, but NOBODY seems willing to take on the not very arduous job of Social Secretary. Unfortunately, our Chairman has found that his new job and moving house has left him no time, and the membership secretary resigned earlier in the year. Those who came to the Flower Show this year and enjoyed themselves perhaps do not realise that a smooth running Show is the result of nine months hard work by a very loyal Flower Show committee, so it would be unfair to ask any of them to take on the administration of the Garden Society as well, otherwise a pleasurable task becomes an irksome one. Our A.G.M. will be held in October (watch for Notices of the date) so I am appealing to all our members as well as anyone interested in becoming a member to show your support by coming along so that we can discuss our plans for the next year. We need lots of volunteers to help run the Society and arrange meetings, competitions and outings. This is YOUR Society, but without your active support it cannot function.

Ridgewell Chapel **'Holiday Club'**



July 30th, 31st & Aug. 1st

10-1pm daily!

@ Ridgewell Village Hall

(BBQ on last day 12-2pm)

Come and join the fun exploring science!

For more details and to book, please contact:

ridgewellchapel@gmail.com or Jill Holmes on 07883423528



RIDGEWELL CHAPEL
Living Water flowing into the Community

OPEN
DAY '24

SUNDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER

11am - 3pm

DANAHER ANIMAL HOME

Wethersfield, CM7 4EP

DOG SHOWS • STALLS • BBQ • REFRESHMENTS
+ MORE!



visit www.DanaherAnimalHome.org.uk/open-day For More Information!

Eddie is a gentle soul, four years young and eager for a patient, understanding heart to unlock his affections. He's had a bit of a tough start in life which has left him a tad sensitive, but Eddie's personality shines through when he feels safe and understood.



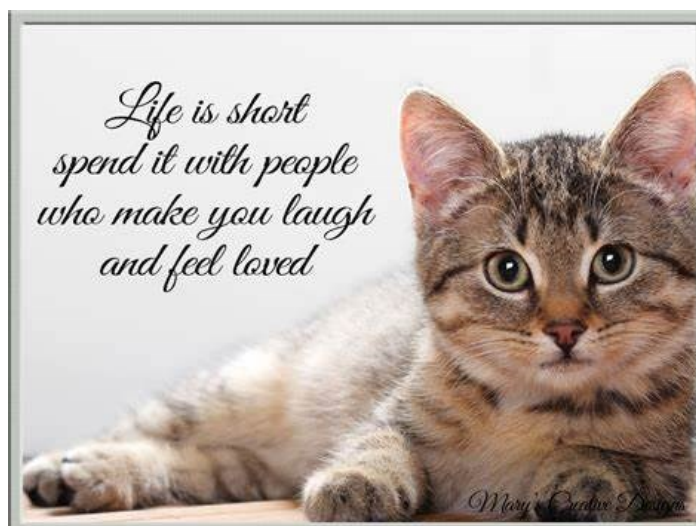
When he came to us, Eddie was very nervous. However, since being in our care, Eddie has completely come out of his shell.

Eddie has now shown great interest in playing with toys and has been responding well to a human companion. He also loves his cat nip1

As a truly special boy, Eddie would still be best suited to an adult home, free from the unpredictability of young children; a place where stability and calm reign. With the right person who can respect his boundaries, Eddie will flourish, developing trust and a bond that is as rewarding as it is sincere.

In the company of fellow feline friends, Eddie's confidence begins to blossom. He shows signs of wanting to be part of a multi-cat household, where a slow and steady introduction could lead to friendships built on mutual respect and shared quiet moments.

Eddie's ideal home a one that is quiet and calm, where he can roam both indoors and out, with the gentle support of his human. If you think you are the one for Eddie, We invite you to submit an interest form to us at www.danaheranimalhome.org.uk and follow the links and take the chance to make a profound difference in Eddie's world, In return, you will earn the love and patience of a cat who just needs a second chance.





BAR OPENING HOURS

Monday - Closed
Tuesday - Thursday 3 - Close
Friday - Sunday 12 - Close

KITCHEN OPENING HOURS

Wednesday & Thursday 5-8
Friday & Saturday 12-9
Sunday 12-4

Weekly specials
Sunday Roast featuring sirloin of beef and large
selection of fresh vegetables

What's On

Pub Quiz - First Saturday of the Month from 6pm
Proceeds to Air Ambulance

For take away and table bookings please call 01787 237418



TOPPESFIELD



Community Shop



*Support your community
to enable them to support you!*

**We stock a wide range of
frozen and convenience foods
as well as many household products
alongside our fresh and 'to order' services
all at very competitive prices**



Weekly orders

Bacon
Ham
Sausages
Chicken
Lamb
Beef

PRIORS HALL FARM



Fresh Quality Meat

Prices dependent on cut and weight

Fine wines



TOPPESFIELD
Vineyard

OZES
cdp

*also available in
our freezer cabinet*

Specialty
CAKES
PIES
PASTRIES

Magazines & Newspapers

Do you have a favourite periodical? Albeit Daily, Fortnightly, Monthly, we can order it for you.

Eat In or Takeaway

***Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Cold Drinks, Ice Cream
Soup, Rolls***

OPENING TIMES

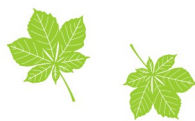
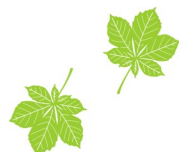
Mondays	.....	8.30am - 4.00pm
Tuesdays	.....	8.30am - 4.00pm
Wednesdays	.....	8.30am - 4.00pm
Thursdays	.....	8.30am - 4.00pm
Fridays	.....	8.30am - 4.00pm
Saturdays	.....	10.00am - 12.30pm

**POST
OFFICE**

OPEN
Wednesdays
10.00am - 1.00pm



TOPPESFIELD



Community Shop

VOLUNTEERS

URGENTLY NEEDED

*Can you spare the time to
come and help out in
your Village Shop?*

*Know someone that can?
No experience needed!*

Training given!

Work experience opportunity!

Please contact

Wendy: 07933743724



alternatively please message

TOPPESFIELD VILLAGE STORES