



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, Jane Daines and Chris Neale.

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 3rd January 2025

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



I hope that as the weather is distinctly changing, and the leaves are beginning to turn orange, you are all keeping well and warm. We have already had a few of the winter bugs in our household, and they never seem to get less vicious!

I am very glad to see the Footpath Walking Group is not at all undeterred, with a great number of regular walkers joining. It is a wonderful way to keep fit, as well as the chance to use the coffee shop at the end for a chat!

It was also lovely reading the school's update on their Choir – I always think singing and music is such a fundamental part of the fun of the winter season.

Talking of songs and the winter season, please do save the date in your diaries on Saturday 7th December. We will be hosting our annual, traditional, Christmas event in Toppesfield! The event will be for all the villagers (and any guests) of Toppesfield and Gainsford End! The event last year was fabulous, with Santa appearing not once, but multiple times! This year may be a little different, but it will be filled with joy and many wonderful Toppesfield traditions.

We always start with the Christmas Market from 11, we have messy church for the littles in the afternoon, and commence the celebrations with the Tree Lighting at 5 ish (with Brian's carols in the pub to round us off!)! There will be more details to follow on Facebook, but please do all come if you can. These events are so magical when everyone comes together to celebrate, sing, dance, be merry and be reminded of the magical traditions of Christmas.

See you all soon Kitty

Parish Council Information

A summary of Parish Council goings-on at the September and October meetings:

During the public session in September concerns were raised about the speed of traffic and congestion in Church Lane, especially at school drop off & collection times and the incorrect disposal of waste material. It was agreed the Parish Council would liaise with the school regarding traffic, find out about other traffic calming measures and raise awareness of how to dispose of waste correctly.

In September District Councillor Richard van Dulken reported:

- Local Plan review As mentioned in your agenda. You have only one or two small sites put forward for consideration for housing development, under the Call for Sites system. Before the general election in July these sites were going to be considered at BDC Local Plan meetings this month, as part of a tight schedule for the review of the Local Plan rolling forward to 2033. We have heard however that the new Government is making changes to the planning system, including moving back the deadline for having new plans in place, which gives BDC more time. As things stand the 319 sites across Braintree District will probably be considered in May of next year. I take the opportunity to confirm that just because a site is accepted as being appropriate for housing or other development, it still has to go through the planning application process to be initiated by the site owner.
- Wethersfield I have little to add to what you might be aware of. The latest number
 of residents at the asylum centre is 580, and we have had no further news on the future of the site despite the Home Office ending the contract for the Bibby Stockholm
 barge and halting discussions re Scampton airbase in Lincolnshire. There have been
 some recent local incidents as reported on Facebook, but I understand someone has
 been arrested.
- While this may not effect many of your residents, I have been made aware of at least two recent occasions when scheduled no.89 bus services have not run, and I have spoken to Hedingham & Chambers coaches about this matter. There is also a new Monday-Friday service (no.60) run by Flagfinders 4 times a day in each direction, running between Braintree and Sudbury via Halstead and The Hedinghams.
- 13th September 2024 is the last chance to apply for BDC Community Gardens and Open Spaces Fund grants (up to £4,000) - details on the BDC website.
- I have made no commitments from my £1,250 grant fund so will be pleased to receive any notifications of interest.
- At Cabinet on Monday, it was agreed that the garden waste subscription service for the coming year would be largely unchanged in terms of cost - £55 for the first bin, an increased price of £30 each for any additional bins, and £8 for a roll of the plastic sacks which I doubt apply in your villages. Maintaining the £55 basic charge has been possible due to the very satisfying take-up of the service, about 64% of houses with gardens in the District.

Other business included: A tree planting project is being progressed but locations for the trees still need to be found. The Christmas event wil be held on 7th December - details to be finalised over coming months. A Parish Council Strategy document has been drafted for Councillors comments.

In October District Councillor Richard van Dulken reported:

- At the last full council meeting of Braintree District Council a motion was passed to oppose the government's decision to withdraw the winter fuel allowance for all pensioners and they commit to help those who need help by way of advice and encouragement to apply for pension credit.
- The call for sites which have been submitted for the Local Plan will be considered from May 2025 and the final plan should be in place by February 2027.
- Volunteer drivers are needed to drive cars for Braintree's Social car scheme and minibuses for as they hire minibuses with volunteer drivers to non-profit making groups and schools. More information can be found on Braintree District Council website.
- It was agreed at cabinet that for the financial year 2024/25 the cost of the garden waste green bin will remain at £55 per year and any additional bins would be £30 per year.
- The waste incinerator in Rivenhall will come on stream late next year. Waste will be taken to the incinerator rather than landfill, the incinerator can handle 500,000 tonnes of waste each year. Braintree District Council are responsible for collecting the waste and Essex County Council are responsible for disposing of it.

Other council business included: further planning to the Christmas event, information about 20 is Plenty Scheme and how the school needs to be involved to progress this and how ideas for future projects are required for next years budgets.

Full minutes of each meeting can be found on the parish website: Minutes - Toppesfield Parish Council (e-voice.org.uk)

If you have any concerns you would like to raise with the Council, ideas for projects or anything you would like to parish council to consider please do get in touch or attend the open session at a Parish Council meeting. There is a public session held at the start of every parish council meeting from $7.30 \, \text{pm} - 7.45 \, \text{pm}$.

Parish Council meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of each month but please check the website to confirm.



St. Margaret of Antioch Toppesfield

SERVICES

Nov 3	Morning	Prayer	with All	Souls	11.00am

Nov 10 Remembrance service 10.45 am

Nov 17 Morning Prayer 11.00am

Nov 24 Holy Communion 11.00am

Dec 1 Morning Prayer 11.00am

Dec 8 Holy Communion 11.00am

Dec 15 Carol Service 3.00pm

Dec 22 Holy Communion 11.00am

Dec24 Christmas Eve Holy Communion 6.30pm

Dec 25 Christmas Day Family Service 11.00am

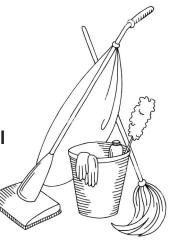
Dec 29 Benefice Holy Communion 11.00am

We need a cleaner

We have a vacancy for a <u>cleaner</u> to vacuum and dust the church for an hour each week.

The church is open every day from about 9am to 5pm so the work can be carried out at any time to suit personal availability.

If you are interested please contact the Churchwarden Brian Moody on 01787237974.



Toppesfield Footpaths Walking Group



Wow! We have now completed 11 walks from the pump since the last report.

We have not yet lost anyone, and have amalgamated some walkers from Sible Hedingham and Gt Yeldham.

There have been up to a dozen walkers on our regular 10 am starts on a Thursday. Rain or Shine.

There are no issues to report on the pathways as all seem to be passable.

The way finder post at Grass Green has been straightened and the hedge cut back to allow it to be seen from the road.

Come and join us if you think you would like to get some exercise and wear good footwear for the odd muddy sections through the winter months, then maybe call in for a coffee and chat at the shop afterwards.

Walks are generally 1 and 1/2 hrs long.

Regular updates on the route are put on The Toppesfield & Gainsford End Facebook Page.

Paul Thompson



TOPPESFIELD ALLOTMENTS with NASLAG

You will notice that we have a posh new Sign at the entrance to the Lotty.

Thank you Wendy Ames for the design work.

Little Chestnut's outdoor learning area is now up and running, which is just past the compost area. This is a great extension to the children's learning.

Lots of scrap iron was moved from the site to enable the ground to be cleared, (can we please request that parishioners do not dump old lawnmowers -wheelbarrows old tools, or any more compost bins on the site as we have to dispose of these!)

Poo bag dispensers are now at the entrance to the allotment foot path from The Causeway please pick up after your dog at all times as it is unpleasant to stand in! Also at the entrance of the Playing fields. Park Lane and the Gainsford End playing

field.





It has been a great growing season year this year, and I strongly recommend having an allotment to those that need company or fresh air!

With this in mind, we have a plot available which needs a friend.

Please contact me if you are interested.

The grass area near the front Orchard is now re seeded and top dressed, so it should be a more uniform Crass culture without weeds in the spring.

Thanks go to the team for the efforts in grass cutting.

Tommo's Tips

Take cuttings from healthy fruit bushes, including Blackcurrants and Gooseberries

- Use cloches to protect winter peas , beans and salads, but leave the ends open as good ventilation is vital
- Prune autumn-fruiting raspberries to the ground after harvesting
- Plant Garlic ,Shallots and Onions in free-draining soil or raised beds, then cover with Fleece

TOPPESFIELD ALLOTMENTS with NASLAG continued

- · Once dormant Prune, Black currents Red currents and Gooseberries
- Support top-heavy Brussels sprouts with sturdy canes, and pile earth up around the stems for extra stability
- Cut down Jerusalem Artichokes then dig up and store the tubers in a bucket of dry compost
- Put netting over Cabbage ,Kale and other hardy brassicas to protect them from pigeons
- Plant bare rout fruit bushes and canes, as long as the ground isn't too wet.

Paul Thompson Chair 07824665915









St. Margaret's C of E Primary School



We have been hard at work for the last half term and are thrilled to be sharing some of our highlights with you. We are delighted to have welcomed 7 children to our St. Margaret's family this term. We are also thrilled to welcome Mrs O'Reilly to the team as one of our Blossom teachers, working alongside Mrs Newland.

We have already been very busy in school with the choir performing a joint concert with the Hedingham Singers (which raised £200 for the school); our Harvest festival; a small group of children making weekly visit to Little Chestnuts to help; our first two community coffee afternoons of the year; the FOSMs quiz night in the village (which raised a massive £500 for the school) and of course, lots of learning!

We will not be holding any more coffee afternoons this term as we are not in school on the last Friday in November or December; but coming up in 2025 we will be holding them on January 31st 2025, February 28th 2025, March 28th 2025, April 25th 2025, May 30th 2025 and June 27th 2025. Put them in your diaries now, find a friend and come along to support the children and school and perhaps you will hear the choir sing or play in a beetle drive, but you will always enjoy some delicious refreshments!









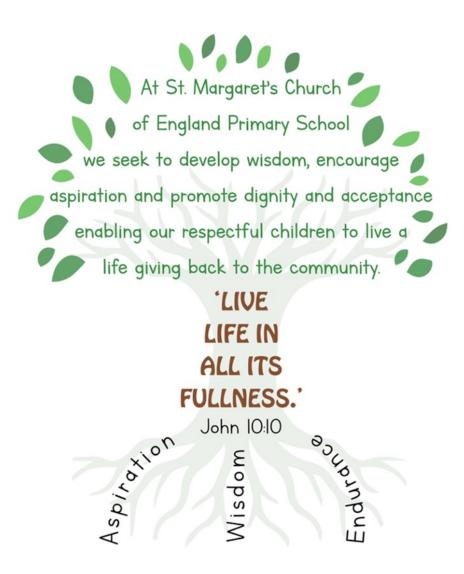




We look forward to keeping you up to date with our news in the next edition of the Parish magazine and look forward to seeing you at lots of our events this year!

Facebook: St. Margaret's CofE Primary School, Toppesfield

Twitter: @StMargaretsTopp Instagram: stmargaretstopp



Toppesfield and Gainsford End Village Show September 14th 2024

Yet again we were blessed with a beautiful day. The stalls were busy, the delicious strawberry teas were eaten and you could have a bounce to keep yourselves fit!

Actual entries to the show were down a bit on last year , particularly in the vegetable section , partly due to the tricky weather I think. However there were plenty of entries in other sections and it was encouraging to have some new people entering the show. The children's section was again amazing. A huge thank you to Pre school and St Margaret's School for their support to the show and also local businesses and local people for their generous donations of prizes for the raffle.

Award winners this year were:-

Adult sections – Jacquie Stafford-Baker, Lynn Collard, Chris Hammond, Ann Read, Andrea Chinery, Zoe" Hughes, Ronnie Davies-Hatton, Jac Watson and Annie Clements.

Children's section – Nancy Bassett, Hermione Nicks/ Caine Hughes, Aphra Littler and Sebastian Hewlett.

Congratulations to the award winners and also congratulations and well done to all the entrants.

All the exhibits were brilliant and without you we would not have a show.

As ever a huge thank you to my small band of helpers.

Maureen Dimmock, Fran Neale, Victoria Wallis and Zoe" Hughes.

We already have some new thoughts for next year's show so if you would like to get involved please do contact me.

Ann Read





Toppesfield Vineyard Harvest 6th October 2024

What a great community day we had at this year's harvest. We had over 70 volunteers, most of whom were probably very thankful that the 2023 yield was much lower than THE BIG ONE last year. Due to a wet summer, and particularly the lack of sun in September, the UK vineyard sector was significantly down this year compared to last year. It did, however, mean it was a much more relaxed harvest day than 2023. We had plenty of time to enjoy Zoe's amazing cakes, drink TOAST coffee and then spend a couple of hours chatting over a traditional harvest lunch. This year we decided to set up tables in the barn as the weather forecast changed daily in the week before harvest. Thanks to the wet weather contingency planning, we had lovely sunny weather for most of the day!!

We love to see the children helping to collect the grape crates with the tractor & trailer – this year there were quite a few LARGE children doing tractor tours as you will see below....

With sincere thanks to Susie and Sharon for helping with all the prep work and to our community harvest team - we look forward to seeing you all again next year,













PUMPHOUSE

BREWERY

"The best laid schemes o' Mice an' Men, Gang aft agley. An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain, For promis'd joy!"

The past couple of months have been interesting at the brewery... and very challenging. Never have Robbie Burns lines seemed so appropriate to us!

Our first challenge came the day before Aaron left for his long-awaited holiday to India. We planned to prepare a brew run of our Snake Island Stout, which takes at least 2-3 weeks to ferment, so it seemed ideal to leave the stout to brew during his absence. The plan was that it would be put into barrel on his return and we would quickly get back to using our full capacity to brew our regular beers. Many in the village will recall, however, that we have had a couple of quite long power cuts in recent months and, yes, one of these hit us as Aaron was in the process of pumping the stout from the copper to the fermenting vessel. The cut lasted several hours and led to the complete wasting of the brew.

On his return from holiday, Aaron did a new brew but this took up 50% of our brewing capacity for almost 3 weeks which led to a dramatic fall in our stock levels. Added to this, our brewing kit, having served us well for the past 9 years has started to show signs of its age. Problems arose through the pump and the chiller system both failing at critical times during a couple of brewing processes; the outcome was more beer literally poured down the drain!

We are now getting back to a more stable position, thanks in no small way to the generosity of the management committee of Toppesfield Shop which has agreed to maker a grant to the brewery to cover the unexpected costs that have arisen.

Looking forward, we have the stout which will be available for sale during November, we have a large regular order from Poplar Nurseries (look out for 'Poplar Pride' on their

shelves; they have own-labelled one of our popular ales) and an order from the social committee of a large Investment Manager in London, which is also own-labelling one of our beers and calling it 'Golden Mane'). And, in preparation for Christmas, look out for our seasonal brew which this year will



be lightly infused with a mixture of warming, winter spices. This will be available in good time for Christmas; buy some and see if you can identify the subtle spice flavours!

And of course, we have a selection of bottled beers, ideal for Christmas gifts, for sale from the brewery or from Toppesfield Stores!

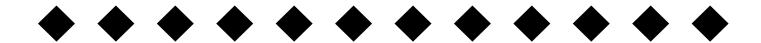
Feedback on Services.

Feed back from the Amenity Vehicle visit on 21st September.

The driver of the vehicle said the uptake of the service in Gainsford End was not a lot but those who did use it were grateful.

However, the comment from the driver when he pulled up by the pump in Toppesfield was 'I have not been anywhere where people were queuing to use the service'. The Toppesfield stop was very well used and a lot of waste taken away.

There has already been requests for the service again next year!



Correction to article in the last Newsletter

In Ann Read's comparison of village 1982 and now. It was mentioned that the Mission Hall in Gainsford End I said it was built in 1028. This was an error as it was built in 1928. Apologies for the error.



Request from Braintree District Council

Do you have a few hours to spare. Do you have a willingness to help and would like to put something back into your community?

Braintree Community Transport are looking for volunteers either in your own car or in one of our 12 seater minibuses, no commitment - hours to suit yourself. Out of pocket expenses are reimbursed and pensions/benefits are not affected.

To find out more please call 01376 557883 or email community.transport@braintree.gov.uk



CHAPEL COMMUNITY CARE

Support through Life Changing Situations

Ridgewell Community Chapel, Meeting Lane, Ridgewell, Halstead, Essex, CO9 4RS
Chair: Rev'd Adrian Burr, 07983 656166
Project lead: Jill Holmes, 07883 423528



Chapel Community Care, formerly Stambourne Chapel Care, has been running for nearly 4 years. We are currently in the process of registering as an independent charity, hence the change of name.

We have recently welcomed 3 new volunteers and 4 new service users.

We have had some successful outings and more recently visited Tiptree Tearooms and museum. This was enjoyed

by 11 people and we all had a great time. It's well worth a visit!



We continue to attend the Dementia Cinema at Halstead Empire and enjoyed 'My Fair Lady' and 'Mrs Doubtfire'. This is every 3rd Thursday afternoon at 2.30pm.

We have a trip to Monks Eleigh planned on November 14th, a Christmas lunch on December 12th and a visit to the pantomime in Haverhill also in December (date to be decided).

Of course, we continue to offer befriending and transport as well as liaising with professionals on behalf of some or our service users.

If you, or someone you know would like to join our outings group or would like a befriender please get in touch.

Or if you have a few hours to spare to support those in your local community get in touch.

Jill Holmes

Tel:07883423528



The Next Village Markets will be held at Toppesfield Village Hall on:

Saturday 7th December - Christmas market - 11am - 3pm Saturday 1st February 2025 - 10.30am - 12.30pm

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

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

Please note: there is no market in January 2025



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



CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Tuesday 24th Dec	8.30am - 13.30pm
Wednesday 25th Dec	CLOSED
Thursday 26th Dec	CLOSED
Friday 27th Dec	8.30am - 13.30pm
Saturday 28th Dec	10.00AM - 12.30pm
Sunday 29th Dec	CLOSED
Monday 30th Dec	8.30am - 16.00pm
Tuesday 31st Dec	8.30am - 13.30pm
Wednesday 1st Jan	CLOSED
Thursday 2nd Jan	8.30am - 16.00pm
Friday 3rd Jan	8.30am - 16.00pm

Normal opening hours will resume from SATURDAY 4th JANUARY



BREAD -MILK - FRUIT & VEG -FROZEN FOODS
ICE CREAMS - BEERS - WINES - SPIRITS
STATIONERY - CARDS - STAMPS
COAL - PET FOOD - PLANTS

NEWSPAPERS - MAGAZINES - CIGARETTES



*no alcohol is to be consumed on the premises

OPENING TIMES

Monday		8.30am - 4.00pm
Tuesday		8.30am - 4.00pm
Wednesday	<i>y</i>	8.30am - 4.00pm
Thursday		8.30am - 4.00pm
Friday		8.30am - 4.00pm
Saturday		10.00am - 12.30pm



2024/2025

not end at your Recycling does kerbside collection

bring banks to recycle your: turther by using recyding Reduce your waste even

- glass bottles and jars
- textiles and shoes
- food and drink carrons, eg Tetra Pak

THURS WED

2 8 14

JANUARY 2025

FEBRUARY 2025

APRIL 2025

MAY 2025

or www.loveessex.org and lots of other items, go to www.recydenow.com/recyding-locator To find out where to recycle these

collection updates straight to your phone bin and recycling SIGN UP for at www.braintree.gov.uk



Grey bin and food bin Different collection day

Gearsacks and bod bin only (green bin suspended)

Green bin (9) (subscribers only), clear sacks and food bin

Different collection day

JULY 2025

5 (12) 19 (27) **AUGUST 2025**

RECYCLING SACKS



For furniture or bulky items use our collection service

BY TAM

All cardboard kept dry in clear recycling sacks

www.braintree.gov.uk/bulkywaste

Clear recycling sacks are securely fied All waste is in the bin with the lid shut Out for collection on the right day by 7 am

My Recycling Calendar

TUESDAY ROUTE 2

####

GREY BIN

종

Braintree

OCTOBER 2024





































DECEMBER 2024







Hyou print (Nis, please recycle it in your clear sack.

















GREEN BIN











MY COLLECTION CHECKLIST:

Different collection day





2024/2025

not end at your Recycling does kerbside collection

bring banks to recycle your: further by using recycling Reduce your waste even

- glass bottles and jars
- textiles and shoes
- food and drink cartons, eg Tetra Pak

and lots of other items, go to or www.loveessex.org www.recyclenow.com/recycling-locator To find out where to recycle these

APRIL 2025

MAY 2025

7 (13) 20 (27) **JANUARY** 2025

SIGN UP for collection updates bin and recycling



Grey bin and food bin Different collection day

Clear sacks and food bin only (green bin suspended





My Recycling Calendar

MONDAY ROUTE 1

EXCESSWASTE

GREY BIN

OCTOBER 2024





























FEBRUARY 2025

3 (10) 17 (24)





























If you print this, please recycle it in your clear sack



















4 (1) 18 (26) TUES

AUGUST 2025









MY COLLECTION CHECKLIST:

Different collection day

Different collection day

clear sacks and food bin

All waste is in the bin with the lid shut Out for collection on the right day by 7am

Clear recycling sacks are securely fied

All cardboard kept dry in clear recycling sacks

www.braintree.gov.uk/bulkywaste For furniture or bulky items use our collection service

BY 7AM

Please check www.braintree.gov.uk for any changes Correct at time of publication 5.9.2024

Braintree District Council