



May / June
Edition 205

**TOPPESFIELD
& GAINSFORD END** *Parish Newsletter*



USEFUL NUMBERS

Braintree District Council	01376 552525
Colchester Hospital	01206 744491
Doctors Car Service	07845 596092
Freshwell Health Centre	01371 810328
Hedingham Medical Centre:	01787 461465
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
Medical Equipment	01787 238146

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!

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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 - Kitty Bourlet (Chair), Paula Edwards-Holmes (Vice Chair), Amanda Smith, Chris Neale, Frances Winter, Jeremy Graves and Jane Daines.

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 20th June 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



What a season we have ahead of us!

As I write this, I am absolutely not taking for granted the fabulous weather - and am just hoping it is the beginnings of a lovely summer ahead!

The village seems to be thriving more than ever at the moment, especially with the excitement building for the VE celebration on the 11th May. It is another example of people coming together to organise something that will be of such enjoyment to us all. As you can see from the poster later in the newsletter, we will start the day with a VE Day Church Service at 10.30, followed by the village event at 12.30 on the playing fields. There will be music, family races and fun, and so much more. Please do come along, and bring your friends and family too.

Of course this celebration marks a very important anniversary for our country. As the Pageant-master Bruno Peek commented, it is “**the peoples, families and communities of our great nation coming together to unite and celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of World War II in Europe that so many millions paid the ultimate sacrificed to achieve it....VE Day 80 is not only a tribute to those who fought for the freedom we all enjoy today, but also a powerful reminder of the resilience and unity that have defined our country ever sinceTogether, we honour the past and celebrate a future built on unity, hope, love and peace”**

We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Thank you

Kitty

Parish Council Information

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

In March Cllr Richard van Dulken reported:

- Hedingham Medical Centre – details on progress of the project have been circulated and publicised by Braintree District Council
- There will be an extraordinary meeting held at Braintree District Council following the consultation to seek views on a proposal to form a Mayoral Combined County Authority for the local government areas of Essex County Council, Thurrock Council and Southend-on-Sea City Council (referred to as Greater Essex in this consultation). Details on this can be found using the following link: <http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/greater-essex-devolution>
- The Waste consultation has now closed. There were 7500 responses which are now being analysed.

Other business in March included:

- British Coatings Federation have agreed to supply the required paint free of charge to paint the telephone box. Volunteers will be sought to paint it.
- Parish Council Strategy document is making progress.
- Annual litter pick has been organised for 5th April 2025.
- Update on VE Day event given - full details of this can be found in the minutes on the parish website.
- Discussions were held about Church Lane and installing signs to say it is unsuitable for heavy vehicles.

In April Cllr Richard van Dulken reported:

- He will be liaising with Cllr Schwier regarding the 5 worst potholes in the parish – these will include ones on Great Yeldham Road and Cllr van Dulken will look at the ones along Stambourne Road to possibly include this as well.
- Braintree District Council is trying to stop homelessness by helping people prevent this from happening by looking at various options that could be open to residents.
- An Essex County Council household waste survey which was carried out across the county showed that 30% by weight of waste in the black bin is food waste and 10% is glass. Recyclable items need to be disposed of correctly to reduce this, a behavioural change is required to change this.

Other business in the April meeting included:

- Neighbourhood Plan will be progressed to the consultation stage as soon as practically possible.
- Strategy document agreed for publication .

- Further issues of heavy goods vehicle attempting to go down church lane were discussed and have been reported to Cllr Schwier to reinforce the need for signage to stop large lorries travelling along this road.

Full minutes of each meeting can be found on the parish website: [Minutes - Toppesfield Parish Council \(e-voice.org.uk\)](https://www.toppesfieldparishcouncil.co.uk/minutes.html)

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 7.30pm —7.45pm.

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



Parish Channel Sweeping

Braintree District Council will be carrying out their next mechanical channel sweeping runs on:

Wednesday 11th June 2025 in Toppesfield and

Thursday 12th June 2025 in Gainsford End

It would be appreciated if you could park on your driveways or elsewhere on these days to allow the sweepers to have clear access to the road channels (Kerbs).

Both sweeps are only scheduled to take half a day so disruption will hopefully be minimal.

Thank you for your help and understanding.

Toppesfield Playgroup History

Just a note to clarify the earliest beginnings of the Little Chestnuts Nursery.

In 1973 a group of young mums found themselves taking their children out of the village to attend a Playgroup in Finchingfield and so got together to form a committee to start a group here in Toppesfield. Catering for 3 to rising 5 year olds in association with the Preschool Playgroups Association with their guidelines and training courses, which we attended.

Several of us ran and staffed this enterprise for many years, at first led by Margaret Bohling from Little Yeldham, who had previous experience. So this was Toppesfield Playgroup.

The Toddler Group was formed a little later to cater for younger children, separate from the Playgroup. The Playgroup was keen to offer the opportunity for older siblings to play and learn at their own level whilst not hindered by their younger siblings. It also allowed the younger ones to have separate time with their Mums or carers at their level of need.

Now the Little Chestnuts Nursery has changed in many ways while providing the opportunities for learning through play and social interaction with other children and adults outside the family as always—we hope they go from strength to strength.

Jacquie S-B

THE GREEN MAN

Church Lane Toppesfield CO9 4DR

SATURDAY 17th MAY

from 8pm



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



Saturday 3rd May 2025—10.30am—12.30pm

Saturday 7th June 2025—10.30am—12.30pm

Saturday 5th July 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 much more.



Or pop
in for a



St. Margaret of Antioch Toppesfield

Church services for May and June 2025 are detailed below.

All services start at 11.00am unless indicated.

May 4th Holy Communion (CW) led by Rev Chris

May 11th **Service of Celebration for VE Day 10.30pm**

May 18th Messy Mass led by Revs Chris and Tia

May 25th Holy Communion (BCP) led by Rev Graham

June 1st Holy Communion (CW) led by Rev Chris

June 8th Holy Communion (CW) led by Rev Graham

June 15th Messy Mass led by Rev Chris

June 22nd Holy Communion (BCP) led by Rev Graham

June 29th Benefice Service at Tilbury juxta Clare



Toppesfield Footpaths Walking Group

As some of you may know, whilst checking out the route of the footpath number 23 last month I had an unfortunate experience with my young Jack Russell who slipped the lead close to the Sewage Works. He managed to get under the fence, probably after a rabbit and managed to jump straight into the raw sewage first holding tank, which you can imagine was very thick like quick sand. By the time I managed to climb the 7ft gate topped with barbed wire, and get to him he was close to drowning in the effluent.

I managed to get him out just before he sank without trace, he stunk for 2 weeks after.

I have been in touch with the Operations Director of Anglian Water and after a site visit they closed the gap under the gate and sorted out the perimeter fence holes as I pointed out to the engineer it was a safety issue.

Just a warning to keep your dogs under close control when walking down here as it is a very dangerous site.

I have conducted a walk every Thursday this last year with many enjoyable sunny days with upwards of a dozen walkers and their dogs.

There are no issues on any of the footpaths.

I have purchased a Mini chainsaw to enable branches to be kept in trim on the walks.

Paul Thompson



11th May 2025

VEHICLE DISPLAY

SUBSIDISED BAR

BRING YOUR OWN
PICNIC

COMPLIMENTARY
TEA & COFFEE

80

10.30AM - CHURCH SERVICE

12.30PM - ARRIVAL

1PM - OPENING & FIGURE UNVEILING

2PM - FAMILY RACES & GAMES

3.30PM - BEST KNEES & ANKLES COMPETITION

4.30PM - CLOSING REMARKS

VE DAY®

VE Day by Patricia Denise Newman

It's over, it's finished, the war has now been won,
Thank God it's finally ended; finished; over; done!
we'll no longer hear the sirens as the bombs come falling down,
no longer hear the aircraft as they fly above the town,
no longer see the searchlights lighting up the darkened sky,
or see the burning buildings of the terraces nearby.
We can hear the people cheering as the bells peal out the news,
and we gather, dancing in the road, dispelling wartime blues.
It's victory in Europe - oh such a lovely sound,
no bombs, no incendiary fires, no more sleeping underground!
The roads are filled with happy people, celebrating victory,
the lights are on in every town, such a brilliant sight to see,
there's bonfires and fireworks, a colourful display,
we'll sing and dance and drink with cheer until night turns to day.
We'll not forget the sacrifices made by others in our name,
they gave their lives so we might live in freedom's sweet domain.
Their fighting now is ended, rejoice in victory,
England and her allies will remain forever free.



Community Litter Pick

A big thank you to everyone who turned up to help at the community litter pick.

20 happy volunteers turned up on a lovely sunny day and they managed to cover most of the parish. It was nice to see that the amount of litter collected was less than last year but there was still quite a bit.

There are others in the parish who litter pick throughout the year on their walks and a big thank you goes to them as well.

A lot of the litter tends to be cans, bottles and snack packets - please dispose of these properly when you get home and not along the highways and byways.

If you want to litter pick at anytime of the year and don't have a 'grabber' you can borrow one from the parish office.

Thank you again to everyone who helps keep our parish tidy.



Toppesfield Allotment news

We have an allotment that has become available, please let me know if you are interested in this space. Locals first choice but will take others if we cannot fill.

Good to see that Amanda's allotment is in the process of being tidied alongside the chairman's patch, which has been neglected due to lack of time last year. I am on track for a good asparagus harvest.

Good to see that the forest school is going well at the bottom right corner.

If you walk your dog through the green space around the allotments , you are welcome but please pick up your dogs mess !

The May blossom is in full flower at the moment and the birdlife is busy.



Seeing plenty of bolting Rhubarb around at the moment with this dry spell we have had, here's how you can combat it!



Rhubarb tends to bolt, or send up flower stalks, when it's stressed—especially by heat, drought, or age. Bolting diverts the plant's energy away from producing those thick, juicy stalks and into reproduction. The best way to avoid bolting is to keep the plant cool and consistently moist. Rhubarb is a cool-season perennial that doesn't do well in hot, dry conditions, so if you live in a warmer climate, consider planting it where it gets some afternoon shade. Applying mulch around the base can also help regulate soil temperature and retain moisture.

Watering is key. Rhubarb doesn't like to dry out, and drought stress is a big trigger for bolting. Deep, regular watering helps keep the plant stable. Using straw or compost mulch can help maintain consistent moisture levels, especially during hot weather.

If a flower stalk does appear, don't worry—just remove it as soon as you see it. Cut it off as low as possible before it gets too tall. This prevents the plant from wasting energy and encourages it to focus on growing edible stalks instead. Bolting can also cause the regular stalks to taste a bit rubbish, so try and avoid it! The grassland around the allotment and the grass that we planted behind the causeway is now virtually weed free. Keeping it mowed as helped with this.

Get your beans in ASAP if not already done , June may be a bit late.

Everyone knows nettles as a fearsome weed to be avoided and dug up at first sight. But did you know that nettles can be incredibly useful in the garden - here's why...

Nettle Fertiliser

Nettles are a fantastic source of nitrogen, iron, potassium, copper, zinc, magnesium and calcium, making them an excellent fertiliser for most garden plants.

Toppesfield Allotment news continued

Nettle tea can be used as a general-purpose fertiliser for various garden plants, offering rich nutrient profile due to its natural plant-derived composition. To use the fertiliser, dilute it with water at a ratio of approximately 1:10 (nettle tea to water) and apply it to the soil or as a foliar spray on your plants.

Nettles make a high-nitrogen feed, so they are superb at promoting leafy green growth. In fact there aren't many organic fertilisers that can compete with nettle regarding nitrogen levels.

How to Make Nettle Fertiliser.

Gather the nettles: Select a group of nettles and cut the leaves and stems using gloves and shears to avoid being stung. Collect enough nettles to fill a large container such as a bucket or a barrel.

Prepare the container: Chop the nettle leaves and stems and place them in the container. The container size will depend on the amount of nettle tea you want to create, but ensure there is enough room to pour water over the nettles without overflowing.

Add water: Fill the container with water, covering the nettles completely. Avoid using chlorinated water, as it may inhibit the fermentation process, rainwater is an excellent alternative.

Cover and ferment: Place a breathable cover, such as gauze or cloth, over the container to keep debris and insects out. Set the container in a shaded area and allow the nettles to ferment for at least three weeks, stirring occasionally to encourage decomposition.

Strain and dilute: Once the fermentation is complete, strain the liquid through a sieve or cheese-cloth, discarding the solid matter. Dilute the nettle tea with water at a ratio of one part nettle tea to ten parts water. This will create a suitable concentration for the use as a fertiliser.

Application: Apply the diluted nettle fertiliser to the soil around your plants, either by pouring it directly or using a watering can. Nettle fertilisers work best when applied during the growing season, providing an efficient and natural boost to your plants' nutrient intake.

Great for Compost

For the same reasons that nettles make a great fertiliser, they are also excellent for adding to your compost pile.

They are high in nitrogen, so work much the same as grass in getting your compost going and adding heat to your pile. Because they are also packed with other nutrients, they add lots to your compost, meaning you will have well-balanced compost.

Fantastic Mulch: Again, for all the same reasons above, nettles make fantastic mulch.

They will improve your soil, and add tonnes of nitrogen and other nutrients while suppressing weeds.

This makes them a really great mulch, with a large asterisk*.

That asterisk is this, ensure you don't pick nettles with seeds on, I'm sure you can see why this would be a huge headache!

Toppesfield Allotment news continued

Work as a great companion plant: Aphids love nettles; they will seek them out over almost all other plants. So, say you have a nettle patch in the corner of your garden, then grow something that struggles with aphids, like lupins next to it.

Adding onto this, because aphids love nettle, so do ladybirds. This is because they know they will find their favourite snack there. So by having nettles, you can keep aphids away from plants you want to grow and attract everyone's favourite aphid hunter.

Lots of butterflies also love nettles, so by having a patch you can help to keep some caterpillars off your crops. You will also support the butterfly population without sacrificing any of your plants, a real win-win for me. What I often do in the garden is to pick caterpillars off any plant I don't want them on, and pop the onto nettles.

I am not against butterflies and love seeing them in the garden, but I don't want caterpillars feasting on my prized cabbages! So I can enjoy butterflies in the garden without worrying about what they are up to!

Nutritious: Many people will also eat nettles due to their high nutrient levels. Apparently they are a bit of a superfood. This isn't something I have tried, but there are tonnes of recipes out there. I will say, only use nettles you grow in your own allotment or garden, don't forage for them unless you know the area. This is simply because people love to spray nettles with weed-killer, and you don't want to be digesting that!

The Easter Draw was a great success.

Any fees that are unpaid need to be posted to Clare without delay as we need to keep the accounts updated.

Volunteers are needed to remake the Water Tap box which has finally rotted after 14 years, please contact me if you can help.

Regards

Paul Thompson

Chair

07824 665915





This fantastic weather has been great for the vineyard. We have been able to get ahead with pruning, pulling out and tying down thanks to VineGuard Contracting. Last weekend we took advantage of the family being here for Easter to bring the 'Tow and Blow' machine out from storage so that we can protect the grapes against any potential frosts between now and early June.



Spencer House Event, St James' Park

We were one of 14 East Anglian vineyards who attended a wine event at Spencer House in March.

This was an industry event aimed at raising the profile of East Anglia as THE region for producing high quality still wines. Spencer House is owned by the Spencer Family albeit managed by the Rothschilds who currently hold the lease. It was a fantastic day with lots of amazing social media coverage about East Anglia as a great location for producing still and sparkling wines.



Future Events – Save the Dates

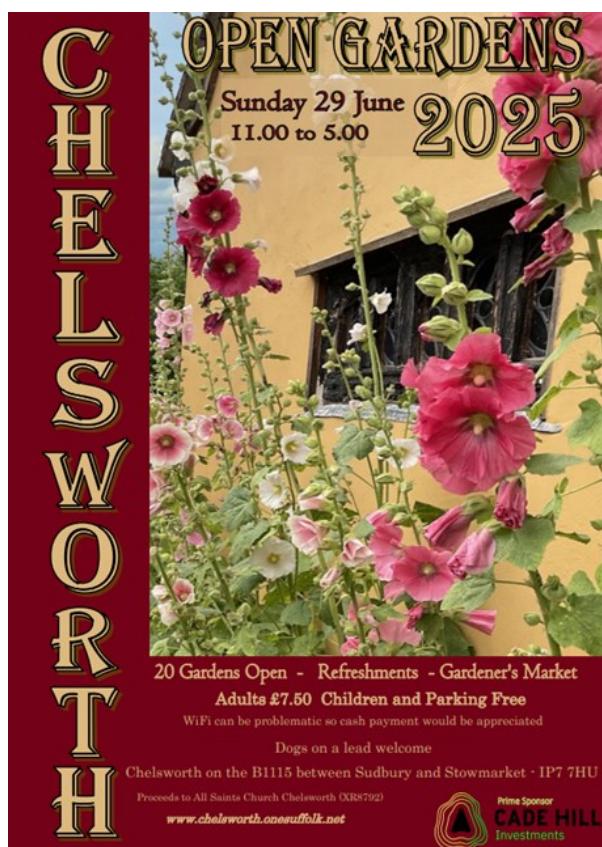
Taste of East Anglia, Kentwell Hall, 14th of June

We have a stand at the Taste of East Anglia at Kentwell Hall on Saturday 14th of June. This event celebrates the amazing local food and drink that we are so lucky to have in this region with over 70 local artisan stalls including some very beautiful handmade crafts and plants, a fantastic kitchen theatre, a children's tent with free activities going on all day and a wonderful selection of bars with local craft ales, cocktails & **wines from 10 East Anglian Vineyards** plus a delicious line up of amazing street food!

It would be lovely to see some Toppesfield faces there for what is a great day out for all the family (and well behaved dogs on a lead!).

Chelsworth Open Gardens, Sunday 29th June

We will be having a wine stand again this year at the Open Gardens event in Chelsworth. This picturesque Suffolk village has some fantastic gardens which are open to the public once a year. There are some lovely craft and garden stalls as well as home made afternoon teas served in some of the bigger gardens of this beautiful village. We hope to see you there.

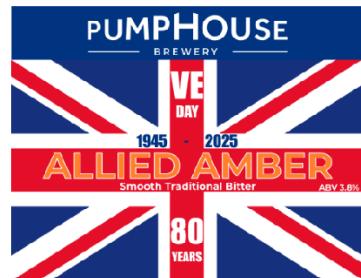


PUMPHOUSE

BREWERY

Suddenly it seems that everyone is wanting beer! The post-Christmas lull is over and we are receiving an increasing request for beers.

Part of this is due to the imminent 80th anniversary of VE Day. The actual day is the 8th May but we are supplying beer for events from the 8th through to the 11th May. On 8th May we will be at Shalford's celebration, on Saturday 10th we are supplying the beer for the Finchingfield British Legion event and on Sunday 11th our Allied Amber – together with its specially designed pump clip - will be on show at Toppesfield's own celebration. Our special thanks to Wendy Ames for designing the eye-catching clip, which is shown here.



Before that, we will be holding a pop-up-pub at Stambourne village hall on Friday 2 May. This is planned to complement the Pizzeria Gusto pizza van that will be providing authentic wood-fired pizzas between 4pm and 8pm. Beer and pizza: sounds good to us! Beer can be consumed in the hall or can be taken away. You can find more information here - [Pumphouse Brewery pop-up pub in Stambourne - Stambourne](#) and [Neapolitan PIZZA van in Stambourne - Stambourne](#)

We have recently changed the way we are operating at the brewery, following Aaron reducing his hours in order to focus more on his studies. He is now brewing one day each week and a small group of volunteers is undertaking the racking weekly.

Chris, one of the volunteers involved, is shown here cleaning barrels in preparation for transferring the fermented ale into barrels. It is a satisfying task to help 'give birth' to the beers and we are fortunate to have volunteers like Chris giving up their time to do unpaid tasks like these.



As many know, Pumphouse is one of only 3 community owned breweries in England (there are 2 in N Ireland) and we are the only one in the east and south of the country. One of the effects of this is that we are sometimes asked by others who are thinking of setting up a community brewery about our experiences. In April we had a visit by a group from St Neots who are considering establishing a brewery in a listed oast house in the town. Aaron was able to explain about the challenges and rewards of brewing and the group subsequently had an enjoyable time including lunch in the Green Man.

We hope everyone has a great summer, and don't forget:

'Keep Calm and Drink Beer'



Toppesfield Village Hall

Village hall is in regular use daily term time for use by the pre-school. Recently they have expanded their hours to include a after school facility for the primary school pupils until 5.15pm four days a week. In addition they have booked some partial weeks in the in the school summer holidays.

The village market continues to be popular, first Saturday of every month with the added lure of bacon butties.

Hall continues to be used for major village events such as flower show and church supper auction, and the recent influx of young families to the village has increased demand for children's birthday parties, and even have a wedding reception booked for later this year.

Sadly the return of evening clubs has not occurred since the Covid epidemic, apart from the carpet bowls which continues on a Tuesday evening. We do get enquiries from various outside clubs but nothing concrete as yet.

Financially the hall is in a comfortable position and have been able to complete some improvements to the outside areas. The well worn metal gate has been replaced by a wooden one more in keeping with the existing front gate and both fitted with an easier latch.

In conjunction with the pre-school we have finally had a large concrete base laid for easier and safer access to enable new sheds to be put up and even up the ground levels, bonus is will and stop the nettles etc that blocked the rear access. The pre-school have had a bespoke outside office space erected to benefit the staff, a quiet place for children and a private space for meeting parents.

Our AGM has been delayed until May 15th due to illness and other commitments. Our committee has shrunk to just 5 members which means more work for less people. As with many village organizations it is increasingly difficult to recruit new blood and we are well aware that we are not as active in providing social activities, we are much more of a managing committee focused on keeping the hall financially viable and dealing with everyday needs of maintenance and keeping to the statutory requirements of a charitable organization. We would be delighted to welcome anyone interested in helping to keep this facility running as we are in danger of not being compliant with charity rules to keep operating. Please do consider joining, is just a few meetings a year, but we do want input from our users if you only choose to attend the AGM and share your preferences.

Future improvements will be replacing our dilapidated shed to provide storage for equipment for outside events ie gazebos and garden games. New steps for accessing the stage are planned. Any further ideas welcomed

Hopefully we can return to the hall and its grounds to being the first choice for fetes and celebrations rather than a forgotten resource.



Topesfield Village Hall

Reg. Charity 301426

AGM NOTICE

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE VILLAGE HALL
COMMITTEE IS TO TAKE PLACE ON
THURSDAY 15TH MAY 2025
IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM.**

ANYONE INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO COMPLETE AND RETURN A NOMINATION FORM PRIOR TO THE AGM. FORMS CAN BE FOUND / LEFT IN THE SHOP/ HALL.

A quick quiz to do over a small cuppa.

1. What name is commonly given to the aerobatics display team of the Royal Air Force?
2. Bobby Crush became famous in the U.K. for playing which musical instrument?
3. Who was the frog that hosted The Muppet Show?
4. Name the second largest loch in Scotland, after Loch Lomond?
5. Name the largest and only city in the county of Cumbria?
6. In 1936, Billy Butlin opened his first holiday camp in which seaside town?
7. Which country has been the world's largest coffee producer for over 150 years?
8. How many pennies are there in an old style English pound?
9. Name the only animal able to turn its head in an almost complete circle?
10. Which brand of milk chocolate drink was once advertised by The Beverly Sisters?

Toppesfield and Gainsford End Village Show

Saturday 13th September 2025

Toppesfield Village Hall 2.00pm

- Yes - save the date. The village event of the year.
- Competitive classes. Flowers, Fruit and vegetables, Cookery, Handicraft, Art, Photography and children's classes.
- Stalls
- Games
- Amazing raffle
- Delicious refreshments

Put it in your diary



Ann Read





St. Margaret's C of E Primary School

We have had an exciting half term with Key Stage 2 starting swimming lessons, a visit from a fire engine, the cross-country team attending a second event held at Hedingham school and the return of our community coffee afternoons.

We are delighted to now have our new outdoor classroom in place. We have been able to facilitate this through a range of grants, including from FOSMs and from The Halstead and Earls Colne Educational Charity and our thanks go to them for making this possible. This will be used for teaching sessions, as a quiet space at break and lunchtimes and as a supportive space when children are finding things tricky.

The choir represented the school magnificently at the Young Voices concert in the O2 on February 4th. They had a fantastic time and were an absolute pleasure to take.

A group of children represented the school beautifully at the Candlemas service at St. Margaret's Church with some children carrying candles and some reading. Well done to everyone involved.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to attend one of our coffee afternoons. We have two more coming up next half term. The first is on 28th February and will include a beetle drive! We hope to see lots of you there. Please also encourage other members of the community to come along.

There are some dates to add to your diary:

Community coffee afternoons will be next half term at 2:00 pm on the following Fridays: Friday 28th February and Friday 28th March. These coffee afternoons are open to all. There are wonderful refreshments available, prepared by FOSMs, and children on hand to play some games and have a chat with. We are planning to have a beetle drive in February. Do please come along and bring a friend with you so that we can keep this community event running.

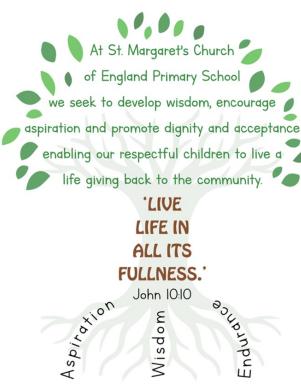




We look forward to keeping you up to date with our news in the next edition of the Parish magazine and look forward to seeing you at lots of our events this year!

Facebook: [St. Margaret's CofE Primary School, Toppesfield](https://www.facebook.com/St.MargaretsCofE.Primary.School.Toppesfield)

Twitter: @StMargaretsTopp
Instagram: stmargaretstop





Quiz Answers

1. What name is commonly given to the aerobatics display team of the Royal Air Force?
Red Arrows
2. Bobby Crush became famous in the U.K. for playing which musical instrument? The piano
3. Who was the frog that hosted The Muppet Show? Kermit
4. Name the second largest loch in Scotland, after Loch Lomond? Loch Ness
5. Name the largest and only city in the county of Cumbria? Carlisle
6. In 1936, Billy Butlin opened his first holiday camp in which seaside town? Skegness
7. Which country has been the world's largest coffee producer for over 150 years? Brazil
8. How many pennies are there in an old style English pound? 240
9. Name the only animal able to turn its head in an almost complete circle? Owl
10. Which brand of milk chocolate drink was once advertised by The Beverly Sisters? Ovaltine



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

Kevin vs. Janet: The Battle of the Dishes!

Each Friday, watch as Kevin and Janet go head-to-head in the kitchen, each whipping up a special dish to win your hearts and taste buds. Who will reign supreme? You be the judge!

~

Sundays

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

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Monthly Pub Quiz Night!

Join us for a night of trivia and fun, all in support of Air Ambulance. Test your knowledge and help a great cause at the same time!

1st Saturday of the month from 7.30pm

VOLUNTEERS

NEEDED.

DOCTORS CAR SERVICE

Take local residents to their doctor's surgery for appointments and bring them home

Contact Paula to Volunteer

Paula Edwards-Holmes

07845 596092

pjedwardsholmes@gmail.com



Citizens Advice in Halstead

Starting Tuesday 4th February 2025

Drop-in advice sessions

**First Tuesday of each month 10am - 2pm
at United Reformed Church, Kings Road,
Halstead CO9 1HJ**

**Drop in for advice on income maximisation, benefits, debt,
employment, housing, family issues and much more.**

Alternatively ring 0808 278 7877



**citizens
advice**

**Braintree,
Halstead
& Witham**





TOPPESFIELD

Community Shop

***OFF LICENCE & GROCERIES**

**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	.....	8.30am - 4.00pm
Thursday	.....	8.30am - 4.00pm
Friday	.....	8.30am - 4.00pm
Saturday	.....	10.00am - 12.30pm



WEDNESDAY 10am - 1pm