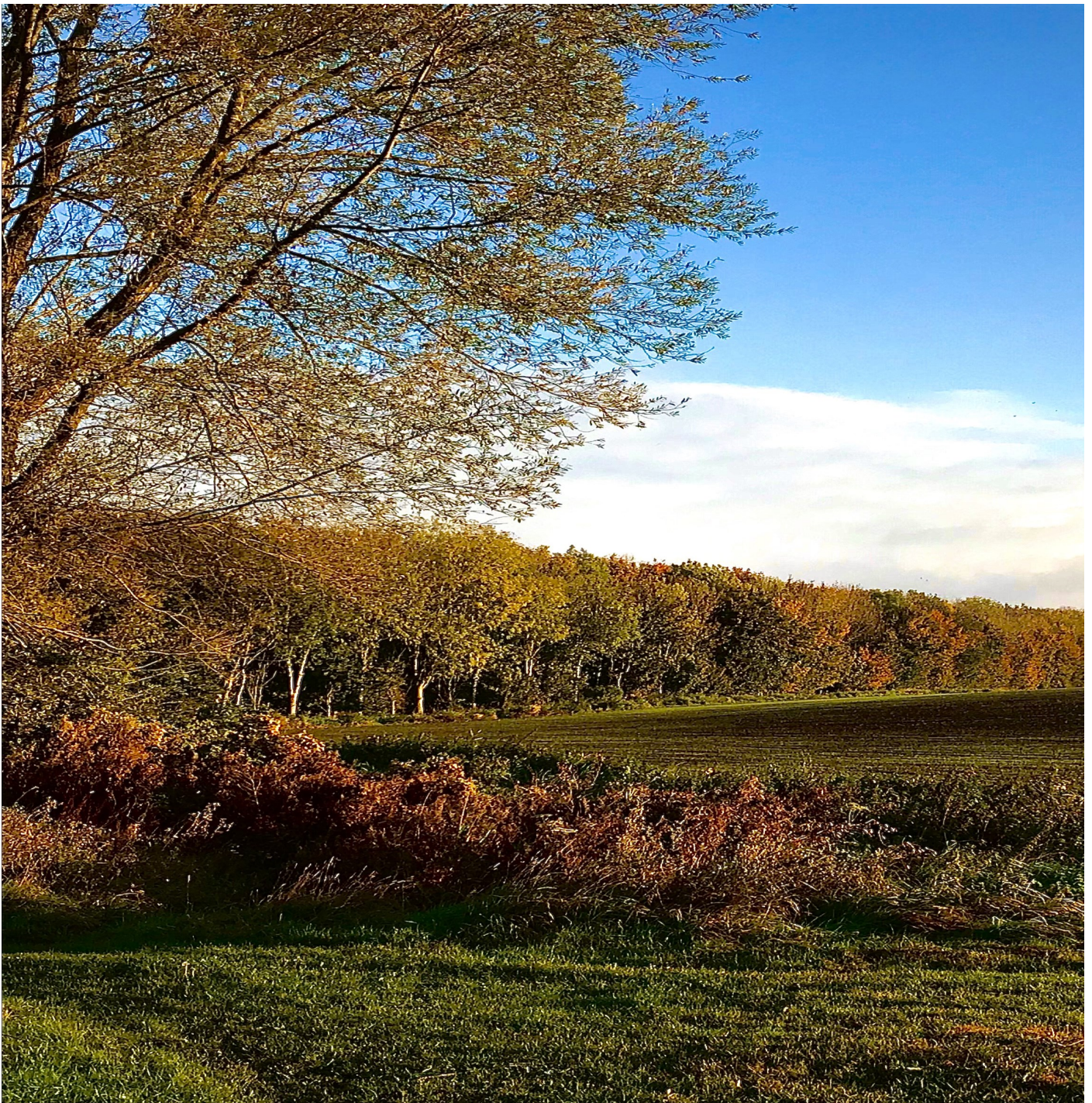


**January /
February 2023**

Edition 191



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 | 07341264219 |
| Little Chestnuts Preschool | 079018 80914 |
| Little Hedgehogs Toddlers | 01440 785778 |
| Pumphouse Brewery | 07780 702293 |
| Rev. Caroline Brown | 01787 469161 |
| St Margaret's School | 01787 237354 |
| The Green Man Public House | 01787 237418 |
| Toppesfield Community Shop | 01787 236003 |
| Toppesfield Village Hall Bookings | |
| Wendy Ames | 07933743724 |

TOPPESFIELD COMMUNITY SHOP

Church Lane, Toppesfield. Tel: 01787 236003

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

Monday—Friday

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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

Councillors — Alan Collard, Amanda Smith, Chris Neale, Trisha Roberts and Kitty Bourlet. There are currently two vacancies for Parish Councillors, if you are interested in joining the Parish Council please inform one of the councillors or 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 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 first Toppesfield and Gainsford End Newsletter of 2023.

A happy new year to you all.

I wanted to start this newsletter with the excellent news that the outcome of St Margaret's school Ofsted report can now be shared. The school maintained its 'Good' rating. This is not only great news for the school but for the Parish as a whole. Did you know that property prices are boosted with having a good school? The school are expanding their extracurricular activities with some strengthening the links between the school and wider community.

I would like to say an enormous thank you to those who helped with the village Christmas decorations, both putting up and taking down. I am sure that you will all appreciate that this is a very tricky venture. We were fortunate to have a tree donated this year by the Kent-Jackson family. Thank you, it was a wonderful tree. It was felled by Rob Stafford-Baker and team who also transported it. George Young brought a cherry picker home from work. Of course, not forgetting Father Christmas who took time out of his busy schedule to drop in, along with his helpers Rudolph and Snowman. As a family we love to see the tree and pump lit up. It really feels like the countdown to Christmas has begun! January came and along with it the need to take the decorations down. Thanks go to George for his chainsaw skills cutting it all down. Alan Collard, Steve Preston, Kaaren and Boyd Page for removing and packing away the lights and decorations and also Bill and Belinda Littler for agreeing to dispose of the tree. I apologise if I have missed anyone. I am grateful to you all.

The success of the events and activities in the village are due to people giving up their time and skills for the whole community. We did receive some negative feedback to this year's Christmas event. One of the complaints was no roasted chestnuts. We can only apologise for this as we can only do what our limited number of volunteers allows. We need more volunteers to improve what we already do and add new events and activities around the village. In the next newsletter we hope to have compiled a diarised list of upcoming volunteering opportunities. It's a great way to spend some time with others from the village and benefit the wider community.

Congratulations to Kevin and Janet for your first year in the pub. It is exciting to see that there is another 'Save the Date' in the newsletter for 10th June when the pub will be celebrating 10 years as a community venture.

If you would like to be more involved within the community, the Parish Council elections are being held in May. It's an interesting role and I have learnt a lot in the last 4 years. You don't need to have an in depth knowledge of local government but it is a great to have a say in the community and also make a positive difference. If you would like more information, please see page 11 of this newsletter or reach out to myself for a chat.

Chris Neale

Chair of Parish Council

Parish Council Information

A short summary of Parish Council goings-on at the November and December Meetings:

- In November and December, District Councillor Richard van Dulken reported:
 - ◇ Braintree District Council website has information and advice on it regarding the cost of living crisis and information regarding warm bank venues.
 - ◇ The Sible Hedingham Medical Centre should be open by 2024.
 - ◇ BDC have an ambition to reach a target of 75% recycling rate. This was 54.4 in September. Essex County Council have a target of 60%. In order to achieve a higher recycling rate more education is required. Unfortunately, across the county 25% of food waste goes into the grey bins.
 - ◇ The Rural Prosperity Fund (for areas of less than 30 thousand people) of approx. £580, 000 is dedicated to two projects. The first is for villages to set up Repair Café's and the second is for small/medium companies for who are using low carbon technology i.e. installing solar panels or electric charging points. Further details of the fund will follow in due course.
 - ◇ The BDC budget setting review will affect the parish directly as they are proposing to reduce the Street Cleaning fund by 33%. Also 88% of homes have a green bin collection and it is suggested from 2024 there would be a yearly charge of £45 for this service.
 - ◇ No news regarding the Wethersfield Prison project has been received.
- In November Essex County Councillor Schwier reported:
 - ◇ Essex County Council has discounted broadband packages available.
 - ◇ Free meals scheme was delivered over the October half term.
 - ◇ Avian Flu increasing and exclusion zones are now in place.
 - ◇ Funds are still available from the discretionary grant fund.
 - ◇ Councillor Peter Schwier agreed to contact Highways department to progress the issues with the road defect on Toppesfield Road and the drainage issues on Church Lane near house number 28.
- The Road between Great Yeldham and Toppesfield is planned to be closed January 23rd – 26th.
- Goal posts for the playing field at Gainsford End have been purchased and will be installed in the spring.
- Toppesfield PC has joined the Braintree Area of Local Councils.
- There will be a Braintree District Council election in May 2023.
- Plans for Christmas decorations and lighting up the tree were agreed.

Parish Council Information continued

- An update regarding the MoJ proposals for building mega prisons on the former Airfield at Wethersfield was given, WASC, the multi-Parish Council group, has completed its plan of works. No planning application has been received by BDC, and BDC has issued a statement asking the MoJ to clarify its plans.
- A planning application has been made for a 3-story extension to the side of the house at 19 Stambourne Road.
- It is hoped to open the new Petanque court on the Toppesfield recreation field by Easter 2023.
- Flooding on Church Lane from the corner near The Green Man public house to the village hall gates has been reported. Reference number 2806140. Essex County Council have investigated and risk-assessed the issue. Their recent inspection of this issue has prioritised it as not as serious as some of the other defects they are aware of, so have recorded it and will consider it when they are planning future works in the area.

An update from WASC January 2023

It is planned that the four parishes with part of the airbase within their parish will work together on a joint Neighbourhood Plan (NP) which will cover all of Wethersfield and Finchingfield and just the parts of Toppesfield and Sible Hedingham that include part of the airfield. This has been discussed with Braintree District Council (BDC) who are very supportive and wish to progress the joint plan as quickly as possible. BDC has also suggested that a separate joint plan to address just the former airbase might be easier and faster to complete, and this can then sit alongside a joint NP for Finchingfield and Wethersfield.

Braintree District Council has issued a statement regarding the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) proposal, issued in September 2021. The full statement can be found on the website, but in essence, it calls on the MoJ to clarify its intentions.

Surveyors have been seen in Wethersfield and Finchingfield, examining the “major junctions”. Apparently, they have been acting for the MoJ’s agents and are presumably looking at the obvious traffic pinch points in both villages. What a shame they didn’t come and look prior to issuing the proposal in September 2021!!



St Margaret's Church

By the time you read this Christmas and New Year will have been and gone and maybe along the way you have lost your Ho Ho Ho. This time of year, can evoke many emotions, happy, sad, lonely, angry to name but a few, the commercialisation pre-Christmas can make us all feel as if we do not live up to the 'perfect' image.

Tia Stickland and I went into St Margaret's School on the last day of term, to make angels, sheep, crowns, kings and a nativity scene, there was a lot of glitter involved, of which Rev Caroline has been banned from using again...whoops!!! At the Church service I encouraged the children to think about what Christmas means other than presents, sprouts and chocolate. It was encouraging to hear them talk of family and love. God knew we had failed in living godly lives so he sent us his Son Jesus, to show us how we should be living and to save us all, and he sent his son knowing that he would sacrifice himself for us on the cross. Surely there can be no greater love than that. In 2023 try and take time to show your love to others, small gestures can mean so much to someone especially if they are alone or ill. Spread that feeling of goodwill to all men throughout the year not just at Christmas.

Thank you to all who decorated trees and helped at Messy Church Christmas, the Church looked amazing especially when lit by candle light.

For something different on **January 8th, I will be leading a Plough Sunday service** that will include Holy Communion, and it would be lovely to see you there.

In addition, on **Saturday 21st January from 10.30 am, we will be holding a Coffee morning**, with tombola, and book stall, so we can raise funds to continue to do our families and children's work.

We are not just here for funerals, but also for christenings and weddings. So, if you are thinking of planning either of those get in touch and we can have a chat.

And the normal pattern of services continues on Sundays with services starting at 11.00am.

In addition, the Church is open every day for private prayer. And as always if you know anyone in need of a visit, or you would like a visit yourself. Please get in touch.

revcarolinebrown@gmail.com: 01787 469161



St Margaret's Church

Upcoming Services

All services at 11.00am

Jan 8 Service for Plough Sunday

Jan 15 - Morning Prayer

Jan 22 - Holy Communion

Jan 29 - Morning Prayer

Feb 5 - Holy Communion

Feb 12 - Holy Communion

Feb 19 - Morning Prayer

Feb 26 - Holy Communion

Mar 5 - Morning Prayer

Mar 12 - Holy Communion

Mar 19 - Mothering Sunday Service

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

Saturday 4th February 10.30am—12.30pm

Saturday 4th March 10.30 am—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.



Toppesfield Village Hall

A while has passed since our last item in the newsletter.

Unfortunately the attendance at our attempts for the Village for a Warm Hub coffee morning was quite poor.

Our Committee had worked hard to supply cakes, biscuits and various drinks all completely free. Also provided were games, cards, table tennis and a lady artist, new to the village, who volunteered to advise on drawing etc.

We will arrange another date for a coffee morning and hopefully more villagers will support and show interest in what after all is their village hall, available for hire. In the meantime we take this opportunity to wish all readers a Very Happy and Healthy 2023.

Jean Bagnall on behalf of the Village Hall Committee.



TOPPEFIELD COMMUNITY PUB 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



10TH JUNE 2023

SAVE THE DATE

THE GREEN MAN



News from the Footpaths

Hi Everyone

Happy new Year. I hope you have had a good Christmas and are looking forward to 2023. What a year it has been. Unfortunately covid is still lurking about but hopefully you are all jabbed up. In June we had the great Jubilee celebrations but then sadly, in September, the sudden death of our dear Queen.

But what of the weather? It has been crazy this year with hottest temperatures, driest conditions on record. An amazing mild Autumn giving us wonderful blue skies and beautiful colours. Then we had floods and that sudden drop of snow which hung around for almost a week and made getting about tricky and the paths quite treacherous with temperatures the lowest for many years. On the plus side the hoar frost did make amazing pictures decorating the cobwebs and trees. The snow vanished in a few hours with the sudden rise in temperature from -5 degrees to + 12 degrees !



All this was quite difficult for us to cope with but what of the natural world? In October we had things flowering that should not have been flowering until the Spring and the birds that migrate seemed to be much later in setting off. But Nature is so adaptable and I have noticed that the hellebores are coming into flower and the early bulbs peeping through, right on time.

The changing conditions underfoot have made walking on the footpaths a bit challenging but I hope you are all still enjoying your walking. I would like to thank our local landowners for spraying out the cross field paths and cutting back hedges so that field edge paths are accessible. I know that every time I go out walking on the footpaths I will see something of interest. Maybe the footprints of birds or deer or a little muntjac hiding in the bushes. We are so lucky to have all this on our doorstep.

Keep walking and enjoying our beautiful parish.

Ann Read

PUMPHOUSE

BREWERY

The Bottles, the People and the Pubs!

The Bottles: We attended three Christmas Markets, at Finchingfield, High Easter and Writtle, selling around £2000 worth of bottled beers and gift packs.

By Christmas we had almost sold out of bottles, so sincere apologies to those last minute customers we simply couldn't supply.

The People: Trevor Wyeth and Wendy Cook have stepped down from the committee. As Chair, Trevor guided our progress and greatly helped us rise to the many challenges of the pandemic. Wendy (for whom professional responsibilities mean less time available) brought her considerable financial skills to the role of Treasurer. We owe them both a huge debt of gratitude and are delighted that they are continuing as volunteers. Mick Simms has joined the committee and Richard Evers has re-joined.



And the Pubs! More and more pubs and clubs are serving Pumphouse real ales, so here's a quick update on some of the places you can enjoy a Pumphouse pint: *Cock Clare, White Horse Ridgewell, Dog Inn Halstead, Black Lion High Roding, Spotted Dog Barnston, Fox & Hounds Steeple*

Bumpstead, Bell Woodham Walter, White Hart Gt. Yeldham, Wethersfield Club, Railway Arms Saffron Walden, Leather Bottle Pleshey, Lion Lamarsh, Fox on the Green Finchingfield and of course our very own Green Man Toppesfield.*

*The Leather Bottle is currently between Tenants

Bottles are available direct from the Brewery

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at £2.50 each.

We brew the beer for the Pub of the Year

This year is Election year – why not become a councillor?

What the parish council does is a mystery to some but in its simplest form the parish council is here to serve its community by providing services and facilities at a local level.

Our Councillors are community spirited and passionate about our parish, wanting to see the precept spent responsibly, care about the future development and facilities and want to try and make a real difference to our community.

In May this year the current Council will step down and a new Parish Council will begin its four-year term.

Toppesfield can have up to seven councillors; currently it has five after some resignations during 2022.

Why not think about putting yourself forward for election this year?

To become a councillor you must:

- be at least 18 years old
- be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union, and
- meet at least **one** of the following four qualifications at the date of nomination:
 - ◇ Your name must appear on the register of local government electors for the parish;
 - ◇ You have occupied any land or other premises as owner or tenant in the parish/community for 12 months;
 - ◇ Your main or only place of work during the prior 12 months has been in the parish/community area;
 - ◇ You have lived in the parish/community area or within three miles of it for 12 months.

The Chairman, Chris Neale (07540533611) or the Parish Clerk, Kaaren Berry (07341264219) will be pleased to answer any questions you may have about the role.



Picture for attention purposes only.



St. Margaret's C of E Primary School

As we move into the New Year, we are excited about the upcoming term. We are looking forward to our spring topics of 'Where shall we go?', 'How do we use...?' and 'What do you believe across our three classes.

Looking back on the period since the last newsletter, we have been inspected by OFSTED, with the report being due out imminently – keep an eye on social media or our website to see when it is released; sapling class had an amazing day cooking; seed class performed a wonderful Nativity show called Baarmy Bethlehem to their families and friends and we had a fantastic day immersed in learning about the Christmas story with Rev Caroline and Tia Stickland, to whom we offer our heartfelt thanks, before ending our term with a service in the church.



And of course we had a snow day. We were set some home learning when we were not able to be in school due to the snow. You can see what we did by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.st-margaretscofe.essex.sch.uk/spotlight-on-learning/>

We wish you a happy New Year and look forward to updating you again soon!

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

Twitter: @StMargaretsTopp

Instagram: stmargaretstopp





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 ALLOTMENTS with NASLAG

Hope everyone had a great Christmas.

I must start off this article with a complaint I am afraid; we are getting more frequent incidents of Dog POO being left over the allotments. It is a shame that dog walkers that take the route around the green spaces that we try to keep tidy do not have the courtesy of bagging up you pooch faeces.

Tommo's Tips

January is probably the coldest period of the winter and coming on top of the floods and heavy rains of just before Christmas it is well worth taking the time to look over the allotment and prioritise the jobs for the month. Top of the list has to be clean up the plot and dispose of all the damaged and rotten crops. Don't worry too much about soil preparations for now just concentrate on clearing the way for a February blitz; weather permitting of course. Most of the overwintering vegetables will have suffered under the wet conditions make a list, visit the site shed or garden centres and get in what replacement seeds or bulbs you will need for your immediate needs.

Harvesting

Brussels sprouts, cabbages, leeks and parsnips, if they haven't been damaged by flood water. Check on any vegetables in store and discard any that have gone mouldy or rotten.

Sowing and planting

Patience is the watchword. The days are still too short and cold even to think of sowing seeds either outdoors or in the open. A few sowings of onions, lettuce, peas, broad beans, radish and early carrots can be made under protection towards the end of the month. The January sun can push temperatures quite high so give a little air to transplanted lettuce plants on warm days closing down early in the afternoon.

General

Protect overwintering vegetables under cloches or fleece, don't forget to ventilate and allow plenty of fresh air to get in on sunny days. Under protection winter sunshine temperatures can get as high as on a hot summer's day.

Pack some straw or fleece around celery to protect it from any damaging frosts but remove it on sunny days to let the plants breathe.

Draw the soil up around the stalks of cabbages and winter cauliflowers to just under the first set of leaves. Check over Brussels sprouts and sprouting broccoli and support them with a strong stake to prevent them from being blown over in high winds.

Take advantage of days when the soil is frozen hard to barrow and stack manure and compost close to where it will be dug in later on. Don't walk on the soil as it begins to thaw it will be wet and sticky.

If you have any plants or seedlings ticking over in a cold greenhouse cover them with several layers of newspaper on frosty nights but remove it on warm days.

Cloches

Dig up rhubarb roots and divide them leaving the sections on the surface of the soil for a few days to let them be frosted prior to forcing. Cover any crowns in the soil that have been set aside for forcing with an upturned bucket or flowerpot and cover the drainage holes to shut out the light. With luck you will be harvesting pale pink sticks by late February.

Check on any fruit and vegetables in store and remove any that are diseased or soft.

Towards the end of the month when the weather and soil conditions allow plant out soft fruit bushes. Spray all fruit trees and bushes with a garlic winter wash on a fine day; do not spray in frosty conditions. It won't hurt to hold the job over to next month.

Seed potatoes will be available from the end of the month. Order your seed potatoes and collect seed trays or wooden tomato trays ready to chit them in. On days when you can't work on the plot clean the shed, greenhouse, tools and linseed oil any wooden handles. Check that the watering can and buckets don't leak and that the wheelbarrow doesn't have a flat wheel.

We have one allotment available from the end of March so anyone wanting a plot or even half a plot please contact me.

Thanks

Paul Thompson



Happy New Year to all our customers and thank you
for your support in our first year!

Janet & Kevin x

What's On

Valentines Day Set Menu - Booking essential
2 Courses - £21.95 | 3 Courses - £26.95

Fun Quiz - Last Sunday of the Month from 6pm

Open Mic - First Sunday of every month from 5pm

Coming soon - Bingo

Bar Opening Hours

Monday - Closed

Tuesday - Thursday 3 - Close

Friday- Sunday 12- Close

Kitchen Opening Hours

Wednesday & Thursday 5-8

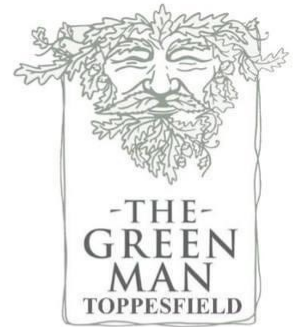
Friday & Saturday 12-9

Sunday 12-4

For take away and table bookings please call 01787 237418



The Green Man
Valentine's Menu
Tuesday 14th February



Starters

Steamed Mussels served With Sauté Onions & White Wine Sauce

Prawn Cocktail with Marie Rose Sauce & Salad Garnish

Deep Fried Brie with Salad garnish & Cranberry Sauce

Leek & Potato Soup served with Home Made Soda Bread

Main Courses

Beef Wellington served with a Port & Red Wine Sauce, Sauté Potatoes & Fresh Vegetables
(£5 Supplement for Beef Wellington)

Salmon Linguine with Prawns

Breast of Chicken Wrapped in Parma Ham Filled with Sauté Mushrooms & Sauté Onions & Parsley
topped with a creamy white wine sauce with Sauté Potatoes & Fresh Vegetables

Home Smoked Pork Belly Served with Home Made Hoisin & BBQ Sauce,
Chips & Home Made Coleslaw

Desserts

Belgian Double Chocolate Brownies

Strawberry Panna Cotta

Apple Strudel

2 Courses £21.95

3 Courses £26.95

For this menu Bookings are essential

Tel: 01787 237418





LETTERS FROM UKRAINE



Last year, a number of Ukrainian families were guests in Toppesfield for several months. In the last Newsletter, we explained how 3 of the families were getting on after they decided to return home, when the situation in Ukraine appeared to be improving. The fourth family moved to Scotland where the daughter had obtained a scholarship to Glasgow University; in any event, they would have been unable to return as their home town continues to be occupied by the invading Russians.

Since then, they have stayed in touch with friends in Toppesfield, largely through WhatsApp messaging.

The following are extracts from messages they have sent. The messages cover topics from the mundane and ordinary to their experiences of missiles, power cuts, destroyed buildings and forced appropriation of property.

We often read about or see on TV conflicts from around the world but they often seem so distant. In Ukraine it is different, not least because it is nearer to us but also because many of us know people who are suffering.

When reading the following, please bear in mind that, as good as it is, Google Translate provides a less than perfect English version of the original Ukrainian!

*'**We are fine**, but every day there are many rockets coming, and not far from us, a power plant was also damaged. We have already been informed that there will be no light all day tomorrow, we don't know what will happen next'*

*'**Good afternoon**, our dear friends! Thanks to God, everything is fine, but we are very worried about what will happen next. Yesterday, Russia launched 100 missiles all over Ukraine, they are causing a lot of trouble and they don't stop. The light is turned off almost every day, sometimes for 2-3 hours, sometimes from morning to evening. But these are trifles compared to the fact that they bomb residential buildings and kill peaceful people, children, after the war the lights will be repaired, and no one will return the people I hope the war will end soon and we will see each other.'*

*'**England** helps Ukraine a lot, and we are grateful to everyone who supports us!'*

*'**We probably won't** have a Christmas tree this year. The lights are turned off every day, it's very difficult because there is no schedule. They turn it off at any time, sometimes there is no light all day, only at night for a few hours, and I'm so excited... they gave the light!!! and I run like a bee to turn on the washing machine, vacuum, wash the dishes, take a bath, so that I can do everything in time. And while I do everything, I will sleep for 2-3 hours and I have to get up for work. But nothing, I'm not sorry, I'm just telling it like it is, before people lived without electricity at all and we will move. I am really looking forward to the end of this terrible war, and I want you to come to us!!!'*

'Russia thinks that by taking our light and warmth, we will get scared, start to panic and give up. But they are wrong, we only become stronger and not broken!!! There are disconnection schedules, but they do not all match. On Thursday, when there were rocket attacks, there was only 20 minutes of power per day. Today it was in the morning from 9:00 to 12:00 and in the evening from 17:00 to 19:00, they just took it away'

'I'm doing well at work, there's a lot of work, now it's such a time that many patients are sick. However, the polyclinic has been separated from the hospital for almost a year, and they can't sign a contract with us, and that's why they don't pay us much, we already have a lot of debt. But we hope that everything will be fine from the new year. With this blackout, my oven broke, there must have been a lot of voltage when the light was turned on and the electronics went astray. And I can't bake. Now many people have such problems. We will be without a cake for a while, it will do us good, we eat too much sweets!'



'After the shelling, we had electricity for 2 hours a day'

'As a result of the latest shelling (a rocket exploded 2.5 km from our house), we had no electricity, no internet, no mobile communications for 4 days. And even now the electricity is 8 hours a day and the connection works intermittently. But we do not lose optimism and believe in the victory of Ukraine.'



'Winter has started earlier this year. From freezing rain, which covered all the trees and roads with a layer of hard ice. Such a snowy winter happens in Kyiv once every 4 years. And as we sit by the fireplace our hearts fill with the warmth of memories from being in

'I am very worried about my parents and home. The situation there is very tense, people live in fear for their safety and life, constant air raids.'

'In Ukraine 40% of the energy infrastructure was destroyed due to the war. In my city of Skadovsk there are now a lot of armed people of the Russian army, they loot, break into houses and apartments of people who have left and take away their property and transport. In my flat, which was converted into a notary's office, 2 weeks ago, armed people from Russia broke down the front door, changed the entrance locks, and access to it is impossible.

My dad saw all this lawlessness, but he could not prevent them, since they were armed. This happens on a massive scale, people are simply illegally deprived of their private property and evicted from their own homes, and the military is settled in the vacant place.

I am very worried about my parents, the Russian military is also inhabited near their apartment, and unfortunately, I had to take antidepressants in connection with these events in order to somehow maintain my psycho-emotional state and health.'

'I returned home yesterday and I am very glad about it. There were air raids and 4 explosions in the evening, but we are far away, where we don't know for sure yet. I am very happy to be at home. Now I have a big mess in the house and in the yard, but my eyes are afraid, my hands are doing ... '

'Now I catch myself thinking that I miss England. Probably, there has never been a single day when I did not remember spending time in England. Everything is stable with us - air raid alerts, sometimes 4 times a night, and during the day too, there are fewer explosions now than 4-5 days ago. When I hear explosions, I immediately understand that someone had a great grief.'

'We're all pretty stressed out. All the media write about the possible infliction of a tactical nuclear strike on Ukraine after these untruthful referendums on the accession of the occupied Ukrainian territories to the Russian Federation. Ukraine intends to liberate its territories, and Russia considers some of them to be its own. Another escalation of the conflict. There are bombings every night and day, but I can no longer sleep in the basement. Mentally tired. I sleep in the house, and my husband is in the basement.'

'Words of support are always important and necessary. Of course, we believe in the best, but insanity actions in Russia do not give any result! We thought that this was already the bottom for them, but, it turns out, they guessed it. This is some kind of abnormal and very dangerous country! We didn't even discover it before.'

'We are very tired of all these constant bombings, day and night '

'This damned war has changed our life completely and our windy world too. Yesterday was a terrible day in Ukraine. All people cried... and then sang our songs. They won't break us. We love life, our Motherland and treat people with respect. other countries! We love and respect other nations!'

'Today they blew up the chestnut square in the city center and the flower market. How I hate them.... It hurts to think about it and see it. I really miss England. It was a happy time for me!

I really want to be together, so that there is peace and live like before, with your normal life... Is it really that much? There is no water, the Nazis are blowing up our power plants .. in our city. Today there was no light for a whole day ... now they have already turned it on. Public transport trolleybuses and trams do not run, you can't turn on the lights in the evening - blackout ... This is very sad and hard ... Sorry, but I can't talk on the phone right now, it's very difficult for me mentally. I want back to Ukraine, but I don't want to go back to the war.'

'My friend told me that the Russians appropriated her notarial office with its furniture and appliances, the notarial archive, which is the property of the state, appropriated it. The same thing happened to her car garage... Now she does not have her property - her office'

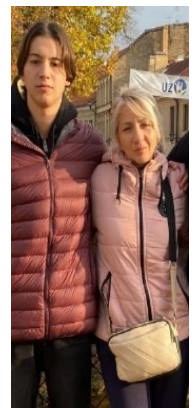
'This is difficult, but we hold on and even gather friends to our place on Saturday. We will make Ukrainian bognach and fry kebabs! The main thing is to be calm in the city! We pray about it. I've had a tough week, but I'm not giving up!'

'Thank you for your kind words of support! We are having hard times now, they have been hard since the beginning of the war, but especially now. Everything is fine with us, after a massive attack - yesterday and today it was bad with the Internet, the power is turned off, and we have not had drinking water in our city since April. But our citizens have learned to get around these difficulties - everyone has candles and imported water ... As long as there is heating, everything is fine. This terrible dream should end soon, we all want to wake up... We are so used to it that we do not pay attention to the air raid alert, everyone is minding their own business, working. Yesterday, many saw and heard rockets. Surprisingly, it flies quietly, and after it there is already a very strong sound!'

'I remember England with joy and love! Now it's a little difficult for us - there was no water, now there is electricity! My work is now impossible without the Internet... A lot of people need legal and psychological help! We try, but the soul is also very hard! I love Toppesfield so much!'

'We had no light, heat and communication for a day. Now everything is getting better, but my mother still has neither light nor heat. It's impossible to believe, but it's true 21st century

We try to hold on. I try not to think deeply about everything, otherwise it becomes very bad at heart. We just live day by day.'



'We are very dependent on electricity. This is our pain. If we are without light, then I will not be able to attend. When there is no light, there is nothing, no heat, no water, no connection. I love the Christmas fuss so much, but we don't have it... It's very sad, no one thinks about gifts and holidays... '

'Good evening! Now we have every day by candlelight - there is no light for 12 hours, but we decided to make beauty out of this problem and do not despair!'

'Happy New Year! peace and happiness to all of us in the new year! We drank red wine in memory of those heroes who gave their lives and shed their scarlet blood for our freedom and independence!'

'Give everyone in Toppesfield our most sincere congratulations for a Happy New Year.'

If you would like to help people in Ukraine, Margaret Dyson is working with an established Ukrainian focused charity called UK-Aid ([UK-Aid | Felsted Aid - Essex Based Charity For Under Privileged Children](#)). Margaret is collecting goods such as toiletries, tinned goods, new, warm clothing (such as hats, scarves, gloves), new towels etc and taking them each month to a collection point in Leaden Roding from where they are taken to Ukraine. If you would like to support this endeavour, Margaret is happy for donations to be taken to her house or you can call her on 01787 238146. Her house is in Camoise Close and has the large Ukrainian flag in its garden.



Danaher Animal Home

Say hello to the Lovely Gloria!!

Gloria is now looking for the perfect home, where she can build her confidence away from kennel life. Gloria loves countryside walks and having a good sniff of her surroundings while she is exploring! When she is calm and settled she walks well on a harness and Haiti lead by your side.



Gloria is fully of energy and once she knows you, she will give you the biggest cuddle every day. She will also sit and give you her paw for that lovely treat waiting in your hand. Despite her size she takes treats from your hand very gently.

Once she gets to know you, Gloria is very happy to see you and will come over to you all excitedly for a cuddle.

Gloria would benefit from a home that has a good understanding about her breed and previous experience with large breeds similar to her like mastiffs. Gloria can be noise sensitive and worried with sudden movements so she needs someone who can take the time to settle her into a new home.

Gloria needs someone who understands she is a sensitive girl and cautious at times with people, so she will need slow socialising and introductions to people at her own pace. Once she knows you, she is one loving and loyal companion!

Someone who loves their big mastiff breeds would certainly fall in love with Gloria.

If you would like to know more about Gloria or if you already think she may be the perfect fit for your home please fill out an interest form on our website at www.danaheranimalhome.or.uk. If you are suitable we will be in touch!

Say hello to handsome Zeus

This handsome chap Zeus is looking for his forever home and humans! Zeus came into our care through no fault of his own.

Zeus loves playing fetch with a tennis ball and totally enjoys that play time.

Zeus is looking for an adult home, he a very large boy. Because of his size he is also strong on the lead, we find he relaxes in quiet surroundings where he enjoys his walks and sniffing, but please bear in mind strength on the lead when registering your interest.

We are specifically looking for someone with large breed experience to ensure new owners are comfortable managing him. He is an active and very intelligent dog who will need plenty of exercise outside of the home as well as enrichment at home.

The new owner will need to have an understanding of Zeus behaviour around other dogs and know how to deal with the situation.

If you love your large breed dogs, or specifically mastiff, then you will certainly fall in love with Zeus.

If you would like to know more about Zeus or if you already think he may be the perfect fit for your family, please fill out an interest form on our website



Tiptoe and his new wife Bravo are looking for their forever home after meeting here at Danaher and falling in love. It was most definitely fate as they found themselves as neighbours but would kiss and flirt with each other through the bars. Now they are Husband and Wife. They are ready to find their marital home and start living their happily ever after. We are looking for a calm home for this lovely pair as Bravo can be a little timid of people and will therefore need time to gain in confidence especially with regards handling and accepting fuss from her new found human family. If you feel you have the right home for this loved up pair please submit an interest form for them at www.danaheranimalhome.org.uk

A LITTLE CHESTNUTS PRE-SCHOOL FUNDRAISING EVENT

GROWN UPS

 **QUIZ!** 

TOPPESFIELD VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 4TH
FEBRUARY
2023
7.30PM

UP TO 6 PER TEAM, £20 PER TEAM
BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS & NIBBLES

REGISTER YOUR TEAM:
MANAGER@LITTLECHESTNUTSPRE-SCHOOL.CO.UK, 07901 880 914
OR FB MESSAGE