



July 2021
Edition 182



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. Liz Paxton | 01787 277270 |
| St Margaret's School | 01787 237354 |
| The Green Man Public House | 01787 237418 |
| Toppesfield Community Shop | 01787 236003 |
| Toppesfield Village Hall Booking | |
| Secretary—Daphne Jude | 01440 788270 |

TOPPESFIELD COMMUNITY SHOP

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TOPPESFIELD POST OFFICE

Church Lane, Toppesfield

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Toppesfield Parish Council

Councillors — Alan Collard, Amanda Smith, Andrea Chinery, Boyd Page, Gemma Mackman, Chris Neale and Daisy Watson.

Parish Clerk — Kaaren Berry

Parish Council Meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of every month in the village hall. During lockdown the parish council are meeting virtually. You are welcome to attend the Open

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 issue no.182 of the Toppesfield & Gainsford End Newsletter.

In the last Newsletter in May, we were eagerly looking forward to June 21 and the lifting of the final covid related restrictions. We were anticipating a return to a more normal life, with events like the Church Fete scheduled for early July. As we now know, all those hopes were dashed by the announced delay to the final lifting of lockdown measures. The new date (all being well) will be 19th July but that unfortunately means that the Church Fete, due to take place on 3rd July, has been postponed. Likewise, the 'Tea & Cake Welcome' for new arrivals in the village on 26th June had to be deferred to a future date. Keep your eyes and ears open for information about possible new dates for these events.

The rules, however, did permit the holding of a village market on 19th June and another is planned for 10th July. Social distancing rules and control of numbers in the village hall will still be in place but it is good to see the market taking place again. Likewise on 4th July, the Cricket Club will be opening its delayed season at Gestingthorpe; if the weather is good, it would be a pleasant afternoon out.

The parish council has now returned to 'in person' meetings. Our first was the June meeting – socially distanced and there continues to be a limit to numbers allowed in at any one time. Please remember that the public are welcome to attend these meetings, which normally take place on the first Thursday each month. There is a time slot of 15 minutes at the beginning during which parishioners can ask questions and comment on topics.

You will see later in this newsletter an item about the proposal for the council to purchase the Green Man Barn. You should also have received a note setting out the background to this. The parish council is supportive of exploring this plan fully as are TCP and David and Paul in the Green Man. We believe it will provide benefits to the village without increasing the precept (the village part of your council tax). One of the key challenges that villages of our size face is to making our community sustainable for future generations; the greater the range of amenities we have and the better condition they are in, the more likely we will be to make Toppesfield sustainable. We need not only to keep existing facilities but improve and develop them.

Talking of which, we are also looking at enhancing the playing field with new play equipment (under advice from the children using the field), planting more trees and hedges, improving the pavilion so it is more attractive to more groups and various other things. We'll give more details as we move forward with the plans.

On the environmental front, the council is looking to put in place an Environmental Policy for discussion at our July meeting. Along with most councils, we are increasingly aware of the need for us all to take action to address the big challenges facing us and it is important that local councils, large and small play their part. We are also trying to improve the look of the village. New village signs were put up in May and the next project is to smarten up the parish street signs: details are in this issue.

Finally, don't forget that the parish council has an amount each year that is available as grants to village groups and organisations. In line with best practice, we ask that applicants provide some funding from their own resources and provide us with basic financial details of their organisation. Application forms can be obtained from Kaaren, the parish clerk.

Notice from the Parish Council

As you will probably know, the parish council has been discussing with TCP the possibility of purchasing the barn at the side of the Green Man and in principle has agreed a price of £55,0000.

The council is now in the process of seeking the views of residents about the plans for the barn and we hope to conclude that process by the end of July.

It is important that we have views from the community about our plans. Despite what some seem to think, there is no 'done deal'. There is however a process which we have to follow and that is why we invite your views and are following the procedures recommended by Essex Association of Local Councils.

During the last week, every household should have received a leaflet outlining the plans and the reasoning behind them. The parish council invites comments on the plans and these will be taken into account before any final decision is taken.

To reiterate, the key points are:

- The council believes there are 3 main benefits from its proposal, which are:
 - ◊ It will provide a fit-for-purpose parish office for the clerk. The current space occupied in the village hall is small and unsuitable, is not able to accommodate the parish safe (which contains some confidential documents) and has no easy access to running water and toilet facilities;
 - ◊ As part of the project a multi-use room could be created at the front end of the barn and be available for use when the village hall is unavailable (currently 5 mornings and 3 afternoons a week);
 - ◊ The proceeds of the sale of the barn could be used to enable TCP to enhance the facilities of the Green Man, which the council sees as a critical part of the village social infrastructure.
- The council proposes to borrow from the Public Works Loan Board to help finance the purchase and renovation costs. This finance would be long term (50 years) at a rate of interest fixed for the entire period; currently the rate is about 2.30%pa.
- The cost of financing the loan would be covered by savings in rent currently paid for the parish office, the rent paid by the brewery and new income from the rent of the multi-use room.
- There would be no increase in the precept caused by the servicing of the loan.
- The village would gain a useful new asset.

Don't forget, if you have any comments or questions or if you would like more information, contact our Clerk, Kaaren Berry on 07341264219 or by email to

clerk.toppesfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com





TOPPESTFIELD

Community Shop

Hi Everyone

Greetings from a very hot Toppesfield, or it was when I wrote this. We are never satisfied are we... too hot, too cold, too wet or too dry! I would have hoped that by this time we would be coming out of Covid restrictions but sadly not yet. However this has not affected the shop as we continue to provide a safe environment in which you can do your shopping.

We aim to keep up with the seasonal produce and have had fresh locally grown asparagus and strawberries as well as other seasonal fruit and vegetables. Don't forget that we can order all your meat requirements from Priors Hall. Please order in the shop by Monday afternoon for delivery on Thursday. Now is the time for those delicious sausages, beefburgers and chicken joints, just perfect for the BBQ!

To keep all you gardeners happy we have a range of bedding plants and also compost for all those pots. I hope you are enjoying the revamp of the shop garden. Why not sit and enjoy a coffee there?

The donations to Halstead food bank keep coming in and I thank you so much for this. It just shows what a caring community Toppesfield is. Also on the donations front you can now leave your empty tablet and medication packaging in the box at the shop. These will be recycled and Marie Curie Foundation will benefit.

Great news is the restarting of the monthly Village Market. This is where local producers of all sorts fresh meat, pastries, crafts, preserves, jewellery and more. Very low carbon footprint! The first one has been held on Saturday 19th June in the village hall. Do keep an eye out for future dates and support your local market.

Now is the time when we look back on the last financial year of the shop and hold our Annual General Meeting. Having had a huge increase in takings in April, May and June last year sadly takings have now dropped right back to where they were, more or less, before Covid. This is both sad and worrying. If there is some product or newspaper or magazine that you want please ask and we will do our best to supply it. However as always true to our remit we do return money to the community in the form of grants and this year we have awarded grants to Toppesfield Primary School for their sensory garden, the Environmental Group towards planting of trees and the Cricket Club towards improving the facilities.

I will be standing down from the committee at the AGM. Do have a think about becoming involved in this vital and exciting village facility. We need new ideas. Last year we had our AGM in September on Zoom but this year we are holding the AGM LIVE!

Toppesfield Community Village Shop AGM will be held on Thursday 15th July 2021 in Toppesfield Village Hall at 7.00 pm. All are welcome but to comply with Covid regulations we are limited to 30 people and would ask that you wear a mask. Do come and get involved.

Ann Read

News from the Footpaths



Hi Everyone

Greetings from a very hot Toppesfield. I have to admit I have not been walking so much these last few days. All just a bit too hot for me.



In the last newsletter I commented on the dry hard ground. We went from that to very wet and muddy and now the heat. I did read somewhere of an old farming saying that is "A dripping June keeps everything in tune" and this certainly applies to our fields and hedgerows as the combination of wet and heat has made everything flourish. The hedgerows are certainly awash with cascading dog roses and hawthorn blossom and the verges are a tapestry of colour with the buttercups, daisies, vetches, white dead nettle, cranesbill, clover, dandelions and many more flowers, the nectar and pollen wonderful feast for all the bees, butterflies and other invertebrates.

Good news on the footpath front. In the last newsletter I did bring to your attention that the bridge over the brook at the back of Ollivers was in a dangerous condition. After almost two years of complaining to Highways it has just been repaired and secured and looks great. Over two years ago several planks were missing and it was repaired but then when the brook flooded the bridge seemed to float and was not secure. However it has been now repaired and looks great. Also a couple of other issues I had reported now seem to be getting attention so perhaps all my complaining has done some good!



Cross field paths have always been a bit of a problem. It is the responsibility of the landowner to keep these clear but after cultivation of the land and sowing of the new crop in the Autumn this can be tricky on our sticky heavy clay soil. It is great to see that around the parish many of these paths have been sprayed out. This is a win win situation as we know where the path is and the land owner knows where we are so thank you to our farmers for keeping the paths clear.

Do keep walking and enjoying our glorious parish. If you do come across a problem on the footpaths do let me know and I will see what I can get done about it.

Ann Read

PPP officer for Toppesfield Parish Council



St Margaret of Antioch – Toppesfield

Unfortunately, we had to make the difficult decision to cancel the fete that was to be held in the churchyard at St Margaret's. With the Covid restrictions not being lifted it was impossible to have a fun social event as we had hoped.

For many years Brian and Val Moody have held the fete in the grounds of their home, but this felt the right time for a change, hence the intended move to hold the fete in the churchyard. I would like to publicly record my thanks on behalf of you all for all that Brian and Val do for the Church and for the village as a whole. And in addition, a big thank you to all of you who came forward to help in some way, whether that be running a stall, providing goods, handing out leaflets, or putting up gazebo's, it really is appreciated. Hopefully we can revisit this event in the future.

I have now downloaded their brains, and we now have a master plan of 'How to do the fete', it all seems so easy from the outside, but there is especially in these COVID times so much to organise and plan to ensure events go well and most importantly safely.

A further thank you to those involved in keeping the Churchyard looking so wonderful, you are doing a fantastic job, and the grounds look beautiful.

So far, I have spoken to a few of you, and contacted some of you, and hope to meet in person soon now, as my academic studies come to an end.

One thing I have learned so far, is everything takes time, planning and support, and encouragement from others. And whatever new things happen in the future I am going to need support and help.

To comply with Church of England safeguarding I cannot run a group on my own, so the first steps towards anything new will be to get a team together. Therefore, to do any group activity, I will need some helpers who have been DBS (safe guard checked) so if you would be interested in helping me set up a Family/Children's, Toddler group, Messy Church, please let me know and we can have a chat.

My head is full of ideas but perhaps you have some of your own? Is there a project? or group? you think would help the community of Toppesfield.

Thank you for the warm welcome I have received. And please get in touch if you need any help, want a chat, or have an idea.

Caroline Brown
revcarolinebrown@gmail.com.

Adopt a street sign

Can **YOU** spot the difference?



Before.....and.....**after**

As you can see above above, the Park Lane sign has just been repainted and the 'after' does look a lot better than the 'before'.

The parish council would like to smarten up some of the other street signs in Toppesfield & Gainsford End. We have recently replaced two sets of village gate signs and would like to now move on to other signs.

Throughout our parish we have a number of road name signs that need a bit of love and attention.

A survey of all our signs will shortly be completed, so we will have a list of exactly what is required and where.

Some only need a scrub with soap and water; others need repainting.

We are particularly interested in anyone who has experience or knowledge in refurbishing road signs. The Camoise Close signs were repainted several years ago by a resident and are still looking good.

If anyone is interested in adopting a sign, and bringing it back to its former glory, please contact Kaaren, the parish clerk at 07341264219 or by email at clerk.toppesfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com

The Next Village Markets will be Saturday 10th July and the 7th August

At Toppesfield Village Hall from 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.

Covid regulations will be adhered to with track and trace, a one-way system, masks are to be worn and social distancing respected.

Toppesfield Cricket Club

At last, at last! After what seems an endless wait, the club is looking forward to a number of games over the next couple of months, following the easing of restrictions on amateur sporting activities.

We have a good number of players signed up for the season and have hopes that we can notch up a few more wins this year.

Our first match is away to Gestingthorpe on 4th July. Hopefully the sun will shine on us so why not come along to the lovely ground at Gestingthorpe, bring a picnic and a bottle of wine or beer (from Toppesfield suppliers of course!) and celebrate the return to action of your village team.

I am also pleased to report that the club now has sufficient funding to proceed with the all-weather training pitch at the playing field. This will be funded partly by the reserves we have built up and partly from generous support from several individuals, organisations and local businesses. We are very grateful for the support and really looking forward to being able to hold practice net sessions at times when the ground is too wet to use, whilst at the same time providing a facility for the whole community to make use of.

Don't forget that we have nets every Thursday evening, so why not come along and join us for an enjoyable hour? Perhaps you will rediscover those long forgotten talents!

Finally, we are hoping to hold our Family Crinders event in August to which everyone is invited. We would however really appreciate some help to organise it; if you would like to assist please get in touch with me at 07760 172094 or email at toppesfieldcricketclub@yahoo.com

Nick Hasler, Club Captain

A promotional poster for practice net sessions. The background is a close-up of green grass with a red cricket ball and a white cricket bat lying on it. A semi-transparent white box contains the text. At the bottom, there is a logo for Toppesfield Cricket Club and the club's name in red text.

*If you'd like to start playing again
or simply want to give it a try,
come along to...*

PRACTICE NET SESSIONS

*Thursday 18.30 hrs – 19.30 hrs
at Toppesfield playing field.
All over 18's welcome*



Toppesfield Cricket Club

Toppesfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Due to pressure of work Nigel Meek has had to stand down as lead on the neighbourhood plan project. I have been asked to assist.

As you all know very little progress was able to take place in the last few months due to Covid, however we are now moving forward with our plans. The key date is the Saturday the 31st of July when we are displaying and discussing the outcomes of our information gathering, and hopefully gaining a lot of feedback from as many residents to the issues that the neighbourhood plan poses. We have been in the doldrums for some time now, but if we are going to have a comprehensive neighbourhood plan it needs to express the views of all the community and not just a small group. A considerable amount of effort has gone into the plan to date, so please do come and get involved with your input as to how the village should evolve in the future.

If we do not create our own plan it will be much easier for external agencies to make decisions on how the village is developed over the coming years.

Keep the date Village hall 31st July 10:30 to 15:30

David Oxnam



St. Margaret's C of E Primary School

We have been busy in school as always with children enjoying forest school visits for reception and year 6 and bikeability for year 6. Children are also preparing for sports day and productions. Of course, our usual end of term celebrations will look slightly different this year due to COVID restrictions which are still in place in schools. We are unable to invite parents to join us for sports day and the production will be a recorded event rather than live but we are still looking forward to doing as much as we can of our usual activities, albeit with a twist!

Year 6 are looking forward to a camp out on the school field as they have been unable to attend a residential during their time in class 4. This promises to be an exciting event and a fitting send off for a fantastic group of young people.

In addition, we are looking forward to our September return and planning ahead. We will welcome our new reception children in July as they attend a Teddy Bears Picnic with us (outside and socially distanced of course) so we can meet them before they join the school in September.

We hope everyone has a wonderful summer and wish our families, children and staff a lovely break.



PUMPHOUSE

BREWERY

Busy times at the Brewery

Midsummer weekend, including Father's Day, was a great success, despite the cool, damp weather. Sales were more than double last year's - and we keep adding new pubs to our growing list of customers.

You can now enjoy a Pumphouse pint at the White Hart, Gt. Yeldham, the Spotted Dog at Barnston, the Black Lion, High Roding and the Railway Arms, Saffron Walden, as well as the Green Man.

By the longest day of the year, we had already taken orders for hundreds of bottles for Christmas, both as corporate gifts and retail sales - and we have installed a new chiller unit in the cold store to keep all that lovely beer in prime condition.

Aaron will be brewing the regular favourites through the year: Gold, Pale Oktober, St. Margaret's, 9th's Havocs, Allied Amber, 19 Elms and Black, plus seasonal and festive specials.

With restrictions (hopefully) lifting on 19 July, we should be able to welcome back all our volunteers to the Brewery. If you have some time to help with bottling, labelling or delivering Toppesfield's fine artisan beers, and would enjoy the company, we would love to hear from you.

And finally, a sneak preview of our proposed new



branding

Proud to be supported by



THE PRINCE'S
COUNTRYSIDE
FUND

Brewery open: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 11am-4pm. Saturdays 10am-1pm.

We are pleased to take card payments, cash or bank transfers.

All bottles are just £2 each and there are always one or two draught beers available as takeaways at £2 a pint.

Allotments Group Newsletter in association with NSLAG

Paul Thompson Chair, Clare Thompson Admin, Rob Stafford- Baker Vice Chair.

If anyone would like to step forward for the above roles after Feb 23 next year a meeting will be called. Please contact me on 07824 665 915

Jobs involved will be as follows:

Liaising with Anglian (wave) water for compliance inspections, Applying for funding & grants, Updating the constitution, Enrolment of allotments holders into NSALG, Raising yearly plot agreements and collecting fees, Maintaining accounts on Excel and running the Bank account. Coordinating ground maintenance and servicing of Equipment, Organising events such as coach tours when allowed after Covid restrictions. Setting up working parties etc. etc.

The allotments are doing very nicely thank you since the wet and cold weather of May has passed.

The Allotment grounds continue to be visited by Parishioners with it being the only open green space that is accessible to all, for dog walking, and just a nice place to congregate and chat with fellow Toppesfield residents on the extensive green space provided by the committee.

We managed to keep the community orchard fruit trees alive last year through the drought, but we may not be able to do this year due to the PC not supporting the group with a small grant that has previously been given. Even though there is no change that we were aware of in the regulations that precludes this happening.

To say we are extremely disappointed is an understatement. Bearing in mind the amount of work that is carried out on PC owned land using Allotment owned equipment such as lawn mowers, strimmer's and wheel barrows etc.

It is part of a Parish Councils obligation to provide an allotment space, we as a society have done this on a voluntary basis for the last 10 years.

We may reintroduce the coach trip to an agricultural or a flower show again next year after a long Covid lockdown which will be open as usual to all parishioners and friends.

Tommo's tips

Growing Sweetcorn – How to Grow Sweetcorn – A Guide to Growing Sweetcorn



Straight from the plant, sweetcorn is one of the most delicious vegetables for the home grower. Sweetcorn used to be a difficult crop to grow away from the south of the country as it needed a long, warm growing season. However, the development of new varieties has changed that. It still needs a long growing season but the main reasons for failure are over-crowding and under feeding. It produces masses of tall foliage and is not really suitable for container growing or close spacing.

Sowing and Growing Sweetcorn

- Sweetcorn needs a lot of nitrogen to provide food for its growth. It requires plenty of space and to be planted in a way that encourages pollination – poor pollination results in patchy development of the corn kernels. There are two methods of cultivation. The first is my own fussy, but never fails to produce a good crop with a high germination rate from what is expensive seed:



Germinated Sweetcorn After Just 3 Days!

- Start in late April–early May. Chit (or sprout) the seed first. Lay a sheet of damp kitchen paper in the base of a shallow, lidded container. Place the seeds on the paper and cover with another sheet of damp paper. Pop the lid on the container and put it in a warm, dark place (around 78°F/20°C – an airing cupboard is ideal). After three days check to see if any have sprouted, and then check daily. Usually, the seeds will sprout within a day or so of each other.
- As soon as the seeds have started to sprout, plant them 3 cm (1 inch) deep into multi-purpose compost in 8 cm (3 inch) pots or root trainers. You can also use toilet roll inner tubes filled with compost, but they tend to dry out quickly so will need a daily spray with water if necessary (the tubes are planted out and will rot away in the soil). Water with tepid, not cold water, to avoid shocking the seedlings.
- Keep the seeds warm (over 50°F/10°C). Cover with fleece if cold, particularly at night. Warm the final planting position with a cloche or fleece **before** planting out.
- Once the plants are around 10 cm (4 inches) tall, plant out into holes 5 cm (2 inches) deeper than your pots, filling the holes to the soil level of the plants, so that they are sitting in a small depression. If you didn't manure the soil the preceding winter, sprinkle a little dried blood or sulphate of ammonia around each plant to provide the nitrogen boost they need to get off to a good start. Cover with cloches and leave them on until the plants push them away with their own growth.
- When the plants reach 60 cm (24 inches), draw soil up around the stem, filling in the depression and a little above. This encourages strong root growth. Keep weed-free.
- In June apply a liquid feed to boost cob production, either a comfrey feed or a general purpose liquid fertilizer.

The alternative, simpler method of cultivation, standard:

- Sow directly into the soil mid-May, dropping two seeds in a hole 3 cm (1 inch) deep: if both seeds germinate, remove the weaker one. Cover with a cloche or use clear plastic 2-litre drinks bottles, with the bases removed, over each plant as mini-cloches.
- **If the leaves look yellowish or the plants do not seem to be growing quickly, try a high-nitrogen liquid feed which should effect a fast recovery.**

- Plant out in blocks (not rows or you'll get poor pollination), with at least 45–60 cm (18 inches–2 feet) between plants each way.

Harvesting Sweetcorn

- It's a fine line between under-ripe and over-ripe, when the corn hardens.
- Sweetcorn is ready to harvest when the tassels hanging from each cob turn brown. Double check by carefully peeling back the leaves and pinching a kernel – if the juice is milky then they are ready to pick. Just twist the cob away from the plant.

Pests and Problems with Sweetcorn

- Pigeons can be a pest, pulling away the leaves and eating the kernels.
- Earwigs are partial to sweetcorn. Try stuffing plant pots with hay or shredded paper and placing them in and around the plants. The earwigs will hide in the pots – just shake them out, well away from your vegetable garden.

Varieties of Sweetcorn

- The 'super sweet' F1 varieties are extremely tasty. The 'tender sweet' have a less chewy texture.
- Lark F1 is an excellent variety; Sundance F1 is better for freezing and more reliable if you live in the north.
- Never inter-mix varieties as they will cross-pollinate, with unpredictable results. If you do grow two varieties, they must be at least 8 metres (27 feet) apart.

Eating Sweetcorn

- The connoisseur's advice is to put a pan of water on to boil and then run (not walk!) back to the kitchen with your freshly harvested cobs, since the moment they are picked, the natural sugars begin to turn to starch.
- However, sweetcorn keeps well for a week or so in the fridge and a glut can be frozen on or off the cob.
- Try the cobs on the barbecue, leaving them in the leaves for protection as the corn cooks in its own steam.

Keep Your Plot Producing

We take an awful lot out of our plots and you don't get something for nothing in life. Eventually we exhaust the soil and the yield plummets. Potatoes are a hungry crop and to get a decent follow-on crop add some fertiliser.

You can add a balanced fertiliser like Growmore or better still in my book; fish, blood and bone. The reason I think FBB is better is that it releases more slowly. Don't over do it though, if the soil is in good heart you probably only need 40 or 50 grams per square metre to boost things.

BBQ Using the ash

As we move into summer, out comes the BBQ. As the cooking finishes and the charcoal burns out, throw any bones onto the fire. The minerals in the bones are a plant nutrient. Once things are cool, just add the ashes to the compost heap.



So much of what we throw away can be profitably recycled with a little thought and ingenuity.

Happy Digging and Keep safe

Paul Thompson Chair



01787 237418

info@thegreenmantoppesfield.com

@greenmantopps on Facebook & Instagram



Church Lane, Toppesfield, Halstead, Essex CO9 4DR

We hope you are enjoying the summer season, come rain or shine!

In our last update, we were sharing the exciting news of welcoming the community back into the beer garden in April. Reports suggested that the garden had never been so busy! Since then, we are really pleased to be welcoming everyone back inside too. It is very refreshing running the pub....once again.

We are phasing our return, with reduced opening hours, whilst we build up the service you were once accustomed to. You can look forward to the return of events, new menus, Thursday lunch club and local collaborations. Not forgetting our restaurant room can accommodate small private functions, alternatively, we are open to discussing larger events. Talk to us about availability, we are flexible with event ideas and up to the challenge for any specific menu choices. Please note some of these activities are subject to national restrictions changes. With this in mind, please save the date for a music event on Saturday 7th August, more details to follow on social media and within the pub. Music and entertainment to knock your socks off, headlining none other than our local band Reptile Dysfunction.

You may have also noticed our new look, the pub has been redecorated, as well as our social media refreshed. Our residency at the pub only commenced in July 2019, so we weren't given long to establish ourselves before our world was turned upside down. Hoping this is now our official return to normality, we felt a relaunch was appropriate. Here are some of the new images to share.

Menus available on Facebook, including Thursday to Saturday dinners and Sunday roasts. Please book to avoid disappointment. Coffee and cake is back Fridays 2 - 5 pm. Takeaway also remains available.



HOURS

| | OPEN | FOOD |
|-----------|---------------|--|
| Thursdays | 5 pm - 11 pm | 5 - 8 pm |
| Fridays | 2 pm - 11 pm | 5 - 8 pm <i>Coffee & cake 2 - 5 pm</i> |
| Saturdays | 10 am - 11 pm | 10 - 12 am <i>Breakfast</i> 5 - 8 pm |
| Sundays | 12 pm - 7 pm | 12 - 4 pm <i>Roasts</i> |



Bring out your rubbish!



The parish council has arranged with Braintree District Council for an Amenity Vehicle to come to Toppesfield and Gainsford End on Saturday 7th August.

The vehicle is for general household waste, including kettles, irons, microwaves and small TVs.

Please note that it will not take asbestos, liquids, tyres and white goods and the operatives will refuse any such items.

The vehicle will be at the Pump (opposite the Green Man pub) from 10am to 11.50am and then move up to Gainsford End, by the telephone box from midday until 1:00pm.

Rubbish Wordsearch

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------------|
| C | V | U | H | C | Z | G | H | R | I | N | P | D | X | Z | C | Z | I | Q | Q | BOTTLES |
| K | E | W | H | E | E | L | I | E | B | I | N | L | X | V | Z | E | J | O | K | COMPOST |
| Y | I | P | D | U | M | P | E | T | K | D | T | O | A | M | T | J | H | K | S | DEBRIS |
| F | K | T | P | R | K | S | S | T | X | N | F | O | X | S | X | J | U | S | D | DISPOSABLE |
| T | K | L | V | L | N | O | G | I | W | V | L | S | T | O | T | P | P | L | D | DUMP |
| D | W | W | Z | C | U | O | H | L | G | S | Y | M | Z | I | H | I | W | O | E | DUSTBIN |
| C | Z | F | K | Z | J | H | I | S | T | F | T | D | S | X | I | K | C | R | B | DUSTCART |
| X | N | E | Y | E | J | U | E | T | F | E | I | Y | D | O | O | S | V | R | R | FLYTIPPING |
| H | I | I | P | N | A | L | I | A | A | Z | P | B | U | C | V | O | E | I | I | JUNK |
| J | B | G | W | A | T | N | D | H | W | T | P | K | S | O | H | S | L | E | S | LITTER |
| I | T | J | L | T | K | E | V | U | E | L | I | P | T | M | H | A | B | S | R | LORRIES |
| Q | S | V | O | E | J | W | Y | D | V | A | N | N | C | P | D | G | A | Q | E | PAPER |
| P | U | B | D | H | T | C | P | E | M | T | G | V | A | O | A | F | S | U | P | PLASTIC |
| Q | D | K | X | Y | X | S | L | W | U | E | R | M | R | S | U | S | O | P | A | RECYCLE |
| Y | W | M | U | B | W | C | A | E | J | M | U | J | T | T | O | B | P | Y | P | SANITATION |
| Y | E | T | P | O | Y | W | F | W | X | P | F | O | J | O | Z | K | S | P | O | SCRAPMETAL |
| R | G | M | D | C | C | A | O | T | W | A | P | G | Y | C | A | N | I | H | P | SKIP |
| Y | J | J | E | V | Z | J | Q | X | M | R | Y | Y | U | W | A | G | D | W | P | WASTE |
| G | E | R | C | E | Q | Z | X | N | T | C | G | A | Z | T | L | R | Y | I | L | WHEELIEBIN |
| I | X | S | O | T | L | J | J | N | E | S | U | T | P | N | B | H | Q | Q | K | |

Introduction to Peter McMillan, the new farmer of the Berwick Hall estate.

Last year Berwick Hall farm was sold and the new owner is keen to introduce himself to parishioners.

Normally, of course, they would have got to know many people by now at village events, but the past year has not been normal.

I am Peter McMillan and, together with my wife Angela, was lucky enough to be able to purchase Berwick Hall Farm from the Clark family last September.

I thought it would be helpful to everyone if I took this opportunity to introduce us.

We are from farming families who were brought up in Stisted and West Hanningfield. We live in the village of Boreham in the original family farm bought by my grandfather in 1922. When we got married in 1968 we moved into Old Hall, a large house dating from 15th century through to 19th century, which had been un-occupied for 17 year: quite a challenge at 23 years old.

We have both been involved in various village activities. While I was on the parish council for 20 years my wife got involved in starting an Edward Bear group for young children in the church and also established a handbell group.

On my weekly trips to Toppesfield I have made myself known to quite a few of you when I see you walking the footpaths.

As you will have seen, we are attempting to improve the look of the farm buildings at Berwick Hall, which may take some time, but we have made a start.

I have also asked James Nott, my contractor, to try to keep the footpaths easily marked and have asked for the deep ruts on the edge of Berwickhall Wood to be levelled when they eventually dry out. As for the wood itself, we are very happy to see the children from St Margaret's continuing to enjoy Forest School trips there.

It has been brought to our notice that there is concern about the mild smell from the digestate that has been spread in the growing crops. This material is the by-product of waste food and various plant-based material that goes into anaerobic digesters that produce gas. The gas then either goes straight to a gas pipeline or is fed to an engine to produce green electricity.

We look forward to meeting more of you and we are enjoying our custodianship of the farm.



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We have excellent kitchen facilities and a small bar area, a fantastic space suitable for all sorts of activities

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Danaher
Animal Home

Guest of Honour

Ronnie Buckingham

DANAHER FUN DAY
2021



Sunday 25th July



AT BLACKMORE END VILLAGE GREEN
11AM - 4PM



Please join us for a fun filled day with all the family and of course bring your dogs! All money raised goes directly to the home.



£5 per car

Come along and enjoy live music, a grand raffle, various stalls including homemade cakes and tombola, a BBQ, a fun dog show including 'best rescue dog', doggy portrait photographer, games, MAGIC SHOW 12.45 and bouncy castle for children and much more!



Danaher
Animal Home

FUN DAY

Entertainment & Dog Show Timetable

11am Open

11.30am Ronnie Buckingham (official opening)

11.45am - 12pm Vikki V's Dance Academy

12pm - 12.45pm Brass Band

12.45pm - 1.30pm Magician

1.30pm - 1.45pm Vikki V's Dance Academy

1.45pm - 2.30pm Brass Band

3.30pm Raffle Draw

Dog Show Pup Star 12 Noon

Dog Judge most wants to take home 12.45pm

Best Dog and Owner Lookalike 1.30pm

Best Junior Handler (under 16) 2.15pm

Rescue Dog of the Year 3pm

4pm Close

And to finish, we're so pleased to see that all over the country pubs have been getting behind our boys at the Euro 2020 football tournament.

