

**March/April
2022
Edition 186**



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	
Frances Winter	01787 237778

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

8.30 am— 4.00 pm

Saturday—10.00 am—12.30pm

TOPPESFIELD POST OFFICE

Church Lane, Toppesfield

Wednesday— 10.00 am—1pm - Services are Temporarily suspended .

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, Andrea Chinery, Boyd Page, Chris Neale, Trisha Roberts and Kitty Bourlet.

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

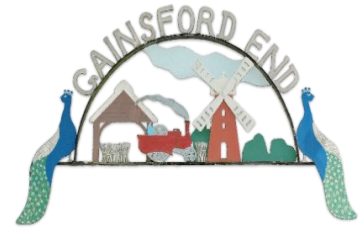
Toppesfield and Gainsford End Neighbourhood and Development Plan

Twitter & Instagram— Toppesfield & Gainsford End Community

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



From the Parish Council



For the first time in almost two years, we can put together a Newsletter where COVID is not a seemingly never-ending cloud hovering over us and affecting every single thing we do.

Moreover, it's time to look ahead to some really interesting activities and events that will be taking place in Toppesfield this year.

The really big event of course will be the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in early June. An organising group has already started meeting and planning a series of activities for the four days from the 2nd to 5th of June. You will get a flavour of what the group is planning on page 13 of this Newsletter. If you are able to assist in any way your help and support will be very welcome; you can contact our Clerk, Kaaren Berry, for more information. Kaaren's contact details are on the page opposite.

This will be followed a couple of weeks later by the arrival of the 'Big Top' in Toppesfield, the first time that the circus is coming to town. A few early bird tickets remain; you can request them by emailing the pre-school, which is organising the event to raise funds to support its increasing activities. See the back page of the Newsletter for more information. Having an active and successful pre-school in the village together with the other community focused facilities -school, shop, pub, brewery – makes the village more attractive as a place to live, more sustainable and, according to widely used statistics, increases the value of properties. So, support your village and support yourselves!

We are also holding another 'Coffee, Cake and Catch-up' on Saturday 26th March at the Village Hall. This will be the third such session and we are pleased to advise that our District Councillor, Richard van Dulken is supporting the cost of the event from his discretionary grant fund. This is a very pleasant way of spending an hour or two, catching up with people (and let's be honest, we've been able to do little of that over the past 24 months) and sampling some delicious cakes!

A new addition to the Newsletter is a brief review of what was discussed at the most recent parish council meetings (overleaf). As explained there, the council is represented on the Wethersfield Airbase Scrutiny Committee, which meets monthly to keep updated on what is going on in the background of this proposal. Meetings have been held with our local MP and more are planned or being sought in coming months with the MOD and Ministry of Justice. As of yet, no planning application has been submitted to Braintree District Council but one is expected imminently.

When we delivered the last Newsletter, we inserted a brief questionnaire about the views of parishioners about the prisons proposal and we would like to thank those who responded.

In total we had responses from 46 people (from an adult population of about 450). Of these 46:

- 30 were strongly opposed
- 4 were somewhat opposed
- 5 had no strong views
- 5 were somewhat in favour

These are major decisions being taken about our immediate area so it is important that everyone has a say; even if you have no strong views one way or the other, it is important to let that be known. Ultimately, the MOD will dispose of the airbase, so something will be done with the hundreds of acres there.

Finally, the parish council is in the process of establishing a community charity to support village groups and activities. More information will be available over the coming months.

We hope you enjoy the Newsletter!

Parish Council Information

A short summary of Parish Council minutes will now be included in each Newsletter. This is the first one, and covers the January and February Meetings.

- **Essex County Councillor Peter Schwier reported:**
 - ◇ There could be an increase of 4.5% in the Essex County Council portion of the Council Tax for the coming financial year – this being 1.5% from last year, 1% for social care and 2% in core council tax. The council are still looking at efficiency and savings and their proportion of the council tax has not increased in several years.
 - ◇ The Climate Change Action fund is still open and welcoming applications of up to £20,000 per project.
 - ◇ The Arts & Culture Fund has opened in the last few days.
 - ◇ There have been lots of reported incidents relating to PROW (Public Rights of Way) which are being looked at.
- Braintree District Councillor Richard van Dulken reported:
 - ◇ The latest planning application for the Fishing Lakes in Great Yeldham is due for a decision shortly.
 - ◇ He thanked everyone for the patience regarding the waste collections over the holiday period as crews were given a week off during Christmas and New Year. Subsequent delays were due to covid and other illnesses.
 - ◇ Councillor van Dulken also reported he has not heard anything further regarding a planning application for the proposed Wethersfield Prison.
- The coffee morning in the Village Hall for all residents was well attended and went well. It was agreed to organise the next one on Saturday March 26th.
- The beacon on the playing field in Toppesfield has been inspected and repaired in preparation for the Jubilee Celebration, 300 trees and shrubs have been planted on the playing field in Toppesfield and work on the school pond area is due to commence later in the year. Plans for the pavilion to incorporate toilets and the petanque court locations are being drawn up. The new play equipment has been installed and is being used frequently.
- Toppesfield Community Pub committee (TCP) are supportive for the shop to occupy the end section of the barn but there is no decision as yet as to sell the barn or lease it to the shop.
- It was agreed to try and catalogue all the historical items relating to the village that residents may have.
- Following a number of occurrences of delivery vans getting stuck in Mallows Lane, it was agreed to investigate a sign indicating there is no turning area.

Also for your information the two representatives for Toppesfield are Alan Collard and Trisha Roberts for the multi-Parish Council group WASC (Wethersfield Airbase Scrutiny Committee).

The Parish Council meets on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm.

Residents are encouraged to bring any issues for discussion to the meeting, the first 15 minutes of which are a public meeting.

News from the footpaths



Hi Everyone

I hope you are all keeping safe and well. I am writing this in the middle of Storm Eunice and hoping my fence is going to survive!

January and February seem to have been strange months weather wise and I have had to take the occasional walk when weather permits. Still as always there are things to spot and enjoy.

The churchyard is a wonderful carpet of snowdrops soon to be joined by the primroses and the daffodils. I always think these flowers are almost welcoming Spring.

I spotted a little crocus as well braving the elements and have to remind myself that Saffron, the pollen from the crocus, is one of the most valuable substances in the world.

Just a few days ago it was the full moon. This one is sometimes called the snow moon. It was so big and clear that just with ordinary binoculars you could see all the craters and seas. Just amazing to think that man did walk on it! Also the moon had a halo around it which I believe is caused by reflection of light off the ice crystals in the air. All just magic. My back garden faces S.W. so I have the delight of seeing amazing sunsets too.

On the footpath front, Highways have replaced the finger post by the Stambourne Road entrance to the concrete farm road. As yet sadly no response to my reporting the dangerous state of the bridge at the back of Ollivers. I have again reported it as a matter of urgency.

Take care and enjoy your walking.

Ann Read





St Margaret's Church

We are starting to see the first signs of Spring, and the snowdrops are in abundance and I even have a few daffodils out on my patio. The COVID rules are relaxing and people are starting to look forward and feel hopeful again and are planning holidays and seeing family again.

We need however to be mindful that some in our community have health conditions, or are frail and nervous about getting back to the so called normal, so keep the community spirit going and check in on those neighbours that you know may need support.

This year we have the Queen's Platinum Jubilee to look forward to which those of us at St Margaret's will actively be involved with. I look forward to a long weekend where our community can come together and have fun, eat, drink and be merry.

In February half term we had a very successful messy church (see the article written by Tia) and it was fantastic to welcome new families.

We are now looking ahead and planning for future events, and there will be craft activities during the Easter Holidays where we need to be making bunting and paper flowers for the Jubilee weekend and a full session of Messy Church, where we intend to make very large Crosses and Easter Gardens, to name a few things!

It is a joy and privilege to work and serve in this community, and please remember the Church is not just here for the sad milestones in life, 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.

The Church is open for private prayer and I encourage you to take time out and reflect and pray and take your worries to God who will always listen.

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

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



Latest News from St. Margaret's Church

Christingle Service: Sunday, 6th February

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this wonderful Service, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, with special thanks to Brian Moody and the Church Choir for the beautiful music that so enhanced our worship.

Messy Church: Wednesday, 16th February

What a marvellous morning! Thirteen excited children took part and, along with parents and helpers, the photo shows what a productive and enjoyable time was had by all. Again, thanks must go to all who helped to make this such a special morning and we look forward to the next Messy Church, details to follow soon.



St Margaret of Antioch

Book, Jigsaw Puzzle and DVD sale Saturday March 19th. 10am - 12pm

Also, a raffle and refreshments with cake will be available.

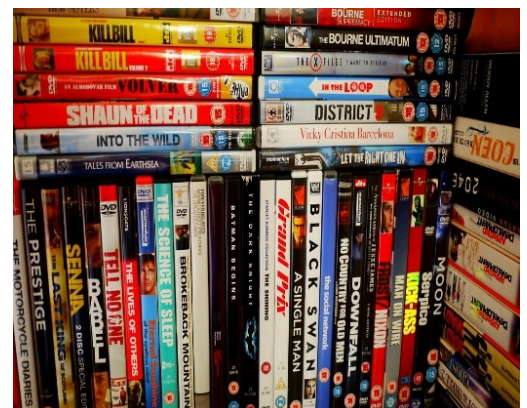
Please come along and support us.

And if you want to donate any of the above, please leave in box at Church porch

Thank You, Rev Caroline.



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St Margaret's Church Services and Events this Spring/Summer

Services

All at 11.00am unless otherwise stated:

Feb 27th Holy Communion
March 6th Morning Prayer
March 13th Holy Communion
March 20th Morning Prayer
March 27th Mothering Sunday Holy Communion
April 3rd Morning Prayer
April 10th Palm Sunday Holy Communion
April 15th Good Friday meditation 2.00pm
April 17th Easter Day Holy Communion
April 24th Holy Communion
May 1st Morning Prayer

Events

March 19th Book Stall and refreshments in church 10am-12pm

Diamond Jubilee:

June 3rd Memorabilia Exhibition in church 10am-4pm

June 5th Service in church 11.30am

July 2nd Church Fete round the church 2pm-5pm

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

Saturday 5th March

Saturday 2nd April

Saturday 7th May

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.

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

Thank you from Kim Stephens

In the last few months, I have received help and support from so many people in Toppesfield, and I want to publicly thank everyone.

We have lived in the village since 1965 and everyone knew my Ron - we always got a call when someone had some wood to get rid of!

So many people wrote to me, called me or came to visit after my beloved Ron passed away and I have been overwhelmed by the kindness shown to me.

Thank you to everyone.

Kim x

Christine (Chris) Attwater

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the sudden death of Christine Attwater on 15th January. Chris, as she was known to us, has been our Post Office lady since our own post office closed in Summer 2018.

Chris has come every week on a Wednesday from 10.00 am till 1.00 pm lugging all the equipment in and providing all the post office services as well as the chat as we all got to know her.

Chris provided this service for four other villages, Wickham St Paul, Stisted, Gosfield and Wethersfield and will be so missed.

Chris had a large family of siblings, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren and she constantly talked about them.

We extend our greatest sympathy to her family and friends .

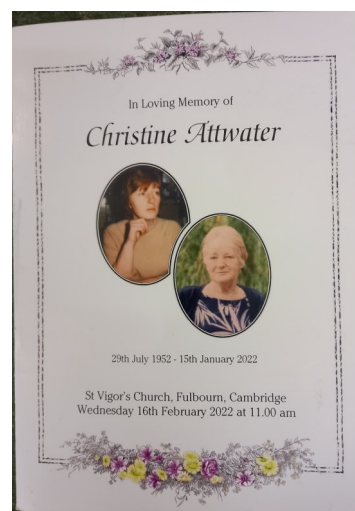
Ruth Hammond and I attended the funeral ,which was in Fulbourn Church, on 16th February and it was so befitting that the single wreath on her coffin was a circle of red flowers in the shape of a post box.

Donations in her memory can be made to East Anglian Air Ambulance may be sent c/o East of England Cooperative Funeral Services at Cornard Road Sudbury Suffolk Co10 2XA or by visiting www.christineattwater.muchloved.com

At the time of writing this I have no news on when we will get some post office services back in the village.

I am in contact with Post Office LTD and will let you know as soon as I have any further information.

Ann Read

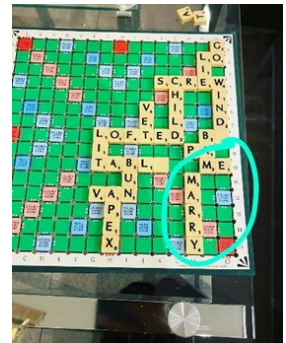


The vineyard looks rather bare at this time of year as we have pruned back all of last year's growth and kept just one cane which will bear the fruit for this year's harvest. Once the sap starts to rise and the vines become more supple, we will tie them down on to the wires to provide the structure they need to grow during the summer. The vines are dormant during the winter so we don't need to worry about frosts until May when a late frost can damage any buds that have formed in April/May. We have a new machine this year which we hope will drive off any late frosts – and mean that we don't need to drive up and down the vineyard during the night with our gas blowers (you may have come across these heaters in the marquee behind the pub on cold music nights...).



The accommodation was busy over Christmas with guests from Manhattan and from Australia.

We were delighted to have 5 successful proposals between the first week of December and the first week of January, the latest one was spelled out on the scrabble board!



One guest decorated the Wine Centre with birthday balloons and som-breros for a Mexican night of tacos and tequila!

We also had visitors from Toppesfield who ordered a delicious afternoon tea from Petals.



Peter and I did our first tasting of the 2021 vintage early February and were delighted with the results. We can't wait to receive our 10,000 bottles in April / May – particularly the Pinot Rosé which ran out several months ago due to the heavy late frost we suffered at the end of the first lockdown.

St. Margaret's C of E Primary School



Last half term was very busy with things starting a move towards 'normal' as we had a visit from The Flying Pizza Theatre Company who performed 'Jungle Book' for us and years 5 and 6 completed their bikeability training.

As a school, we also begun our journey to become a Trauma Perceptive Practice informed school. Whilst TPP is a whole school approach, it should particularly support any children who are finding it challenging at any given times. This is a very different approach to those used historically in schools, but seeks to look after the whole person and to support root causes of behaviour to enable long term change. TPP is based on the values of compassion and kindness, hope and connection and belonging.

Unfortunately, we had to change our plans as covid swept through the school, however we are back and fighting fit for the next half term. We have started this half term with our first parent event in a long time when key stage 2 came into school for a star gazing event in the evening. A lovely time was had by all. We now look forward to book week, world book day and our Easter activities going ahead.



Remember to keep an eye on what we are doing on social media to see even more about what we are doing:

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

Twitter: @StMargaretsTopp

Instagram: stmargaretstopp

PUMPHOUSE

BREWERY

Good news! Aaron has been hard at work brewing and we're well stocked with bottled beers after the Christmas rush.

We have St. Margaret's, Gold, Pale Oktober, 9th's Havocs, Allied Amber and 19 Elms, all deliciously conditioned and ready to enjoy.



Open Mon - Fri: 10 - 4, and the first Sat of the month: 10 - 1

Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 19 March: Taster Session at the Brewery.
Come and try any, or all, of our bottled beers, from 10 - 1.
Saturday 23 April: Pumphouse AGM, in the village hall.
Everyone welcome (but only shareholders may vote).

For details and up to date information, please visit our Facebook page: @Pumphousecommunitybrewery

We look forward to seeing you soon.



Platinum Jubilee

1952—2022



THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Toppesfield & Gainsford End Celebrations

Thursday 2nd June

*Picnic in the Park,
Crinders, Royal Cake
Competition & Beacon
Lighting*

Friday 3rd June

*Royal Memorabilia
Exhibition, Treasure
Hunt & Arts and
Crafts*

Saturday 4th June

*Food & Entertainment
at
The Green Man*

Sunday 5th June

*Church Service &
The Big Village
Lunch*

Get involved!

Royal Cake Competiton & Bunting Making

If you would like to help with any of these events to help mark the Jubilee please contact Kaaren at:
clerk.toppesfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com

What Have You Got in Your Loft?

A recent discussion with a friend led me to wonder what we all have stored away. Not personal stuff, but stuff relating to our village – its history, its clubs, institutions (past and present), perhaps photographs, paintings, or even the WI Tablecloth!

The Parish Council would like to know so that it can look at how best to bring these things together, catalogue and store them carefully and correctly so that people in the future might be able to see them. This is not a grab for items to take to the Antiques Roadshow, but a genuine concern that some items could be lost over time. It might be that there is an opportunity perhaps for a historical group to be formed in the village, but as a minimum, it would be good to at least have a catalogue of items.

One opportunity to look at all those items relating to the village history might be as part of the Platinum Jubilee in the summer.

So please would you contact Kaaren Berry to advise what interesting gems you have and also indicate if you would be interested in the project of cataloguing.

Many thanks.

Trisha Roberts for The Parish Council

Toppesfield Woman's Institute

Did you know that there was a W.I. in the village? there are still some founder members living in Toppesfield and Gainsford End. All of us who belonged over the years have happy memories of yes, 'jam and Jerusalem!' but most importantly, fun and friendship.

Toppesfield W.I. was started up in 1972 and celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2012. Unfortunately, due to falling membership, there was no choice but to close in 2013.

Former members are anxious to ensure that the existing records are kept in a way that is accessible to the community and safe for posterity. There are photographs, newspaper cuttings, scrap books and a much loved tablecloth. As a new member joined they were invited to embroider their names around the edge of a cloth. This is unique. The books and photographs are fascinating. We feel that it is important to keep these 'historical memories' safe within the village.

I am waiting to hear where the village can store this particular archive. In the meantime it will remain at my house. If the village ever feels it does not want to keep them then the County Federation Archives have requested to have them.

These artefacts have been used in the Church for a historical display and were displayed at the

100 year old birthday celebration of a past member. If you know of anyone or any organisation who would like to use them for a display or research into village history, please contact me.

Sheila Braithwaite

TOPPESFIELD & GAINSFORD END TABLECLOTH

Toppesfield & Gainsford Women's Institute was formed in 1972

In July 1975 a suggestion to make a tablecloth for the President's Table was approved by all members at the monthly meeting.

It was decided to have an appropriate motif in one corner....with a border on which all members would embroider their signature.

The white linen was purchased in August 1975. It was cut into 4 squares of 65 cms, which would be 'faggoted' together and the double thickness border attached, giving a tablecloth 150 cms. square. (see photo 1)

Everyone was asked to submit designs for the motifand members voted overwhelmingly for the 'Pump' motif designed by Jennifer Hodgkinson (see photo 2) depicting two items of significance to our W.I. :-

The Village Pump... an oak shelter erected in the centre of the village over the two pumps in 1897 to commemorate the recent Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria.

Oak Leaves _____ as our W.I. belongs to the 'Oak Group' of W.I.'s in our local area.

Silks were purchased in autumnal colours and whilst two volunteers worked on the main motif, sections of the border were distributed among members for them to start embroidering their signatures.

After many months the work was completed..... then Pat Barnard and her team of 'faggoters' began the task of sewing all parts of the cloth and its borders together.

On **November 1st 1977** at the **monthly meeting**, the then President, Ann Clark, unveiled the completed cloth for all members to see and it has been in constant use for the last twenty-seven years.

During this time more than 150 members have added their signature to the border!

Wethersfield Airfield Prison Proposal Update

Both groups formed to oppose the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) mega prison proposal have been very busy since the last newsletter update.

SWAP – Stop Weathersfield Airbase Prisons – is a campaign run by The Fields Association which was formed in response to the MoJ proposals. The Fields Association now has its website up and running www.thefieldsassociation.org and as soon as the bank account is established (this has taken an inordinate amount of time as there has been a high incidence of fraud using community bank accounts in the last two years) you will be able to join the association through the website. Please explore the website and use the contact button to get in touch with the SWAP team.

SWAP plans to distribute a leaflet to every household within the 10 parishes that currently make up WASC - Weathersfield Airbase Scrutiny Committee once the bank account is live.

A SWAP demonstration was held in Great Bardfield on February 19th and this has been reported in the local press. Three women came from London as representatives from The Community for Action on Prison Expansion (CAPE) supported the demo having picked up the message from SWAP on social media. The CAPE website is www.cape-campaign.org.

The SWAP team have also been engaging Braintree District Council, asking questions at the full council meetings. These sessions are available to view on YouTube and the latest session (February 21st) is at [Council - 21/02/22 - YouTube](#). SWAP also participated in the December meeting. All questions are taken early in the meetings, so you don't have to watch for hours!

The Wethersfield Airbase Museum is currently closed, but the Curator, Ross Stewart, had recently made presentations about the History of the Base in Wethersfield and Sible Hedingham. His illustrated talk was followed by a short presentation by some member of the SWAP team, explaining the reality of the MoJ proposal. It seems that few people really appreciate the size and brutal architecture of the proposed mega prisons nor the impact it will have on the surrounding area.

On Friday March 25th, Ross will be giving his illustrated talk at Toppesfield Village Hall, so please save the date and keep your eyes open for further information.

Drone footage of the Five Wells Prison at Wellingborough is available on YouTube at [Wellingborough's HMP Five Wells Mega Prison - What's your thoughts? - YouTube](#). This prison is the same design but only half the size of the proposed mega prison development at Wethersfield. It's worth taking a look (start about 5 minutes in) and imagining such a brutal concrete development in our idyllic rural landscape.

WASC, the multi-Parish Council Committee, has been active on more technical issues such as starting to establish a baseline for traffic in the area, and obtaining an expert view regarding the brownfield status (or not!) of the proposed development site. WASC is also working to obtain access to the Ministry of Defence plans for the whole site, and has responded positively to the MoJ white paper on Prison Strategy (it gives lots of reasons why the Airbase is not a suitable location for a prison).

Please do not hesitate to contact SWAP through the website or of course, you can contact me, with any questions or comments.

Trisha Roberts

Toppesfield Village Hall

The village hall has had a busy year despite all the Covid restrictions. We managed to keep open for the pre-school and many of our regular clubs. Sadly we have not had Thai chi or dance group return as yet but we live in hope. Thank you to all those who have taken heed of the various restrictions that were in place at various times, with abiding by and producing risk assessments, one-way systems, mask wearing, restricted numbers etc.

The investments and improvements made over last few years are paying off in terms of increased bookings, hall is now nicely warm and inviting whatever the outside weather. For our younger generation the hall seems to be the 'in' place for children's parties, or it just that parents have realised the advantages of a larger venue and noise not an issue.

New chair storage area has allowed more room and the danger of bruised shins from slipping chairs. The trolley has been repaired and is now glides along super smooth, holds 18 if stacked correctly so please use when hirers have a number of chairs out.

We soon filled the new space with the purchase of a state of the art Cornilleau table tennis table, for those that understand these things! Easy to put up and down and move along.

We have the addition of a table tennis club on a Thursday afternoon currently. Table is available to hire privately too once hirers are aware of how to 'operate' it. £9/hour for quality family fun time and exercise to boot.

Monday evening are now booked with a Yoga session with a very popular local instructor, that I'm sure will prove very popular.

To continue with the improvements of the hall we are installing instantaneous hot water heaters into the toilets and the kitchen. This is a win win, will save us energy and water and ensure hot water readily available instead of waiting an hour or so, if and when customers remember to switch on the old water heater. No excuse for not having a 20 second sing along hand wash now.

We are having new fast broadband installed shortly, which will be available to hirers so offers many potential opportunities for customers, and will allow better control of our heating system remotely which is currently at the mercy of a poor signal.

Daphne Jude has sadly resigned her position as our bookings secretary after many years of being 'the' person to call, even after she left the village. We are grateful to her for all her efforts on our behalf, and I am realising how much work it was, and her organising skills.

We are now trying to move to electronic form filling via email. New bookings /enquiries can be made via Frances Winter 07809237789/01787 237778 or Andrea Chinery 01787 236179 and via email toppesfieldvillagehall@gmail.com. Like many other halls we have moved away from cash and now ask for hire fees to be paid via BACS preferably, or cheque. An email address on enquiry is helpful to us to.

We have had some unwanted visitors which we are monitoring with evidence of rats nesting in the loft space which is not something I remember having to deal with before – so please ensure any food is dealt with and not left out, and if needed to be kept, stored properly. Been made aware we are not the only business to have suffered with these horrid pests, the downside of country living etc.

It's that time of year approaching for AGMs and like many organisations we are looking for community minded locals to join our committee to help maintain this village resource. There are major changes being considered to the hall so fresh ideas would be welcomed to make sure we go forward in the right direction and keep it a facility that serves the community the best way and open up to a wider populous, especially our older generation who worked so hard to attain and keep the hall viable for the last 60 years. Please feel free to call for any further info on the commitment the role entails, or pass on any ideas.

Frances Winter

Treasurer.

Table Tennis.

Village Hall has purchased a super table tennis table which is available for hire once hirers have been shown how to operate the mechanisms. It is simple to put up and down and moves easily but as with most things there is a knack and it is easily damaged.

There has been a weekly club on a Thursday evening since November. This takes place on a Thursday between 5.30 -6.30 pm but has not been successful as little interest has been shown. From my point of view I do get to play with my family for a whole hour, but clearly it would be better if it were more widely used . Apparently Stambourne have the same issue - a table tennis table that is now only used as – well a table.

We really don't want that to happen to ours.

I am keen to hear if there is any interest out there; children are welcome to use the equipment but do need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian with them. We can set up a smaller table for them alongside the big table. Likewise we will be willing to extend the session if anyone is interested, just bear in mind the parish council use the hall from 7.30pm on the first Thursday of each month so the hall will need to be cleared and ready for them.

For more info call: Frances 0780 9237789

Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Coffee, Cake and Catch up

Following the success of previous Coffee, Cake and Catch up mornings, the parish council have arranged another one on:

⇒ Saturday 26th March is the date.

⇒ 10:00am—12pm

⇒ Toppesfield village hall is the venue.

Come along and bring a friend and meet a friend!





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.

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



Stambourne Chapel Care

Matthew 25:40 (CEV) *The king will answer, "Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me."*



Stambourne Chapel Care has now been running for a year at the beginning of February.

We have supported about 30 people over that time and have recruited 6 volunteers. We currently have 4 people who have requested a befriender. If you feel you are able to fulfil this role, please get in touch.

We are also supporting people through life changes such as divorce, bereavement and care support issues.

We do not charge for our services. We rely on grants and fundraising events throughout the year. If you would like to make a donation, have an idea for fundraising or would like to help with applying for grant funding, please contact Jill Holmes.

In 2021 we held book sales and coffee mornings as well as a sponsored bike ride around the area we serve.

We are planning another sponsored cycle, walk or jog around Great Notley Park.

We are also starting a sponsored slim for Lent. (1st March- Easter Sunday).

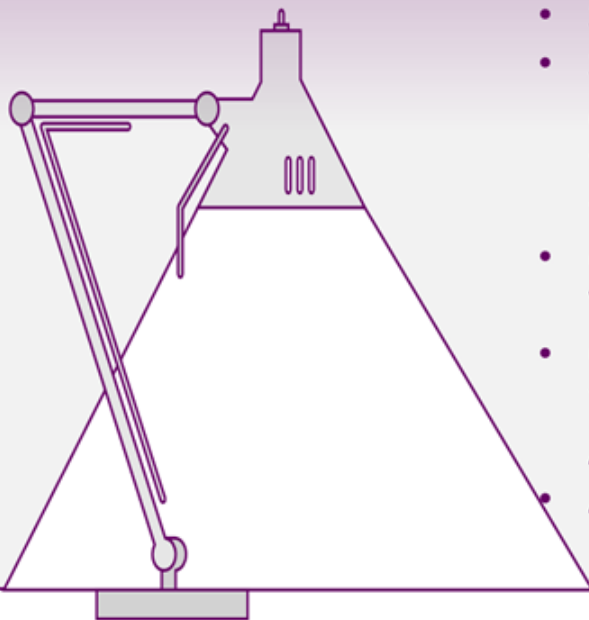
If you would like to join us for either event please get in touch.

Any other fundraising ideas are welcome, to make a referral or to volunteer.

Jill Holmes
Project Lead
07883423528
holmesjill30@gmail.com

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Danaher Animal Home

Our delightful duo Teddy and Bess are looking for a home where they can stay together and continue their love for one another.

Teddy is the older gentleman of the two who adores bottom tickles and all the cuddles he can soak up. Bess will play fetch with her favourite toys until it's time to get in on the cuddles with Teddy.

These two are bonded and enjoy lazing around on the same bed together. They have been together for 7 years! Teddy is 11 years old and is on an easily available joint supplement for some old age legs, but this doesn't stop him!

Teddy and Bess are both extremely well socialised and take everything in their stride! They have even lived with cats before so cats used to dogs are considered! Bess can become very excited and bark on lead but this soon calms down once she gets going.

If you feel you can offer this duo their new home together, then please fill out an interest form at www.danaheranimalhome.org.uk



Little Chestnuts Pre-school brings
Happy's Circus
to Toppesfield



Sunday 19th June 2022
@Toppesfield Park 1.30pm

Tickets are £10 per each.
Children 2 years and under can sit
on laps free entry.



Tickets
available from

manager@littlechestnutspre-school.co.uk

collection from the village hall

Toppesfield

CASH ONLY.

There will also be a beer tent and hot food stalls