

**March 2020**

**Edition 174**



## USEFUL NUMBERS

Braintree District Council	01376 552525
Castle Hedingham Surgery	01787 461465
Colchester Hospital	01206 744491
Doctor's Car Service	07845 596092
Freshwell Health Centre	01371 810328
Great Yeldham Surgery	01787 237212
Halstead Hospital	01787 273110
Kaaren Berry, Parish Clerk	077889 55038
Little chestnuts Pre School	079018 80914
Little Hedgehogs Toddlers	01440 785778
PumpHouse Brewery	07801 042545
Rev. Liz Paxton	01787 277270
Sally Croft, Pastoral Assistant	07850 361101
Sible Hedingham Surgery	01787 460612
St Margaret's School	01787 237354
The Green Man	01787 237418
Toppesfield Community Shop	01787 236003
Toppesfield Village Hall Booking Secretary - Daphne Jude	01440 788270
Vets – Great Yeldham	01787 238255

**Toppesfield Community Shop**  
Church Lane, Toppesfield  
01787 236003

Fresh Fruit & Vegetables, Milk,  
Newspapers, Confectionery, Pet Food,  
Dairy Products, Meat & Poultry, Kindling  
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Mon/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday  
8.30 am – 4.00 pm,  
Wednesday 8.30 am – 1.00 pm,  
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**Toppesfield Post Office**  
Church Lane, Toppesfield

Services include: Special Delivery, Mobile  
Top Up, Insurance Services, Household  
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Savings Accounts plus more!

## Toppesfield Parish Council

*Councillors* - Alan Collard, Andrew Bull, Amanda Smith, Andrea Chinery,  
Boyd Page, Chris Neale and Robert Stafford-Baker.

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 that starts at 7.30pm.

A Parish Councillor will also be available to listen to your views and answer your queries at the Village Markets.

## Toppesfield & Gainsford End Parish Newsletter

Published by Toppesfield Parish Council

Editor: [Kaaren.berry@kaaren.co.uk](mailto:Kaaren.berry@kaaren.co.uk)

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

Twitter & Instagram - Toppesfield & Gainsford End Community :  
Website: [www.essexinfo.net/toppesfield-parish-council/](http://www.essexinfo.net/toppesfield-parish-council/)



## From the Parish Council



When we started putting together this Newsletter, we thought that Spring would be well underway by now and memories of Winter would be fading. How wrong we were; despite the heroic efforts of spring flowers, like those on the front cover, the weather has been and continues to be decidedly wintery. But, by the time this Newsletter is delivered over the first weekend of March perhaps it will have changed again. Or not.

Despite the weather we have plenty of things to look forward to.

The **VE Day anniversary celebrations for 8th May**, being put together by Jacqui Burnett and her team, continue to progress. You will see below that Jacqui has a couple of specific requests for help. If you can assist with these, or anything else, she would love to hear from you.

On **21st March, a drop-in event for the Neighbourhood Plan** will be held in the Village Hall between 10:30 and 14:30. This whole exercise is an opportunity for you to influence the village's future, so please try to come along.

An important amenity in the village is the allotment area. This year sees the **10th anniversary of the re-(welly)boot of the allotments**. An overview of what has been achieved appears later and congratulations are due to all those who have transformed what had been a weed infested and overgrown area of the village, especially Paul Thompson and Rob Stafford-Baker.

Most of you will have experienced the somewhat chaotic work undertaken by contractors for County Broadband over the last month. The Parish Council did write a strong letter of complaint to County Broadband (copied to County and District councillors and Highways) but as we go to press no response has been received. On a far more positive broadband note, BT/Openreach has completed all its work in the village and in a far less disruptive manner. We hope that by the time you receive this you will all be able to access ultra-fast connections which will put **Toppesfield amongst the top 10% of communities nationally for broadband speed**. We should acknowledge the huge amount of work and knowledge that Chris Neale has brought to make this happen for all our benefit.

You will find in the Newsletter another article under the by-line 'Gaia', who, in ancient Greek mythology, was the mother goddess who presided over the earth. Today, we are all aware of the risks to the earth and the vital need to address issues such as carbon reduction, resource management, habitat and species protection. The articles by 'Gaia' have so far been written by different parishioners; if you would like to write something yourself on the topic please get in touch with Kaaren Berry.

Last, but by no means least, we would all like to wish Sally Croft and her family well. Sally is moving on to the next stage of her life with her ordination this summer, followed by undertaking the curacy at Ingatestone and Fryerning. Sally and her family have always been active and enthusiastic participants in village life and will leave a gap in the village.

## News from St Margaret's Parish Church

We're now in the season of Lent and preparing for the most important time of the church's year – Easter - when we remember Christ's resurrection after being crucified on Good Friday.

There are a number of special services in the seven churches in our benefice, details of which are displayed in church. Here at St Margaret's please join us on:

March 22nd 11.00am Mothering Sunday service  
April 5th 11.00am Palm Sunday service  
April 10th 5.00pm Service of Meditation for Good Friday  
April 12th 11.00am Easter Day Holy Communion

Elsewhere in the benefice, at St Peter's, Sible Hedingham at 3.00pm on Holy Saturday April 11th there will be a dramatised reading of the story of the Crucifixion, written by Stephen Cottrell, our present Bishop of Chelmsford who will soon become Archbishop of York.

We're all delighted to hear Sally's news about her coming ordination this summer. She's written the following to tell us more.

Frazer, Jazmine, Harry and I can now reveal that we are moving to Margaretting in July 2020 in order that I can serve my curacy in the Churches of Ingatestone and Fryerning.

We all of course will be very sad to leave Toppesfield, as we have lived here for 21 years, with a short sabbatical to France in 2007. Both the children have grown up in the village and we all have fond memories of village and church events to carry with us. We all hope that the organisations in Toppesfield and Gainsford end will continue to be supported by the villagers, as I think we may all under value the facilities we have in this small rural community.

There will be a church service on May 31st @ 11am to say a formal goodbye and I am sure we will arrange a farewell drink early in July @ The Green Man.

May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
The rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

With Love  
Sally Frazer Jazmine & Harry x

Important dates for later this year:

June 13th Church fete at Berwick Hall

November 13th Supper Auction in the Village Hall

We also hope to hold a cheese and wine evening in Late April and a Hog Roast in early September. More details later.

## **Toppesfield and Gainsford End Village Show 2020**

A horticultural and produce show has been held in the village for many, many years.

Many villages have lost their shows and I am appealing to you to not let this happen in Toppesfield. I am very happy to still be involved with running the show but do need some help.

I have had some offers of help and have decided to hold a  
**meeting in Toppesfield Village Hall on  
Friday 20th March at 2.00 pm**  
to discuss the way forward .

Please come along if you would like to be involved in any way with the show. I need help with the planning, booking in on Thursday evening, publicity and lots of jobs on the day. If several people could just take on one job that would make a huge difference. Perhaps you have some new ideas for the different classes or other events we could do on the day. I am suggesting the show , if we go ahead, will be on Saturday 19th September in the village hall.

Please come along on Friday 20th March at 2.00pm in Toppesfield Village Hall if you would like to help in any way.

**I look forward to seeing you there!**

**Ann Read**

## **Sights and Sounds in Toppesfield Village Hall**

Hirers of Toppesfield Village Hall may not know that, amongst the equipment also available for use in the Hall, is a Projector and Screen facility and a PA Audio System. The computer-driven projector set-up, kindly donated by Peter and Jane Moore, is accompanied by a large roll-up screen. The system can project PowerPoint presentations, photographs, and videos. The PA system, purchased by a grant from The Sainsbury Foundation, consists of two powered speakers, a 4-channel mixer deck, and two wi-fi microphones. It is suitable for public speaking, auctions, and amplification of music and singing, amongst other things. Instruction booklets are available to assist in setting up.

## **Allotments and Community Orchard update nearly a decade on.**

As we enter into the 10th year of the rejuvenation of the allotments, the committee thought it pertinent to review where we have got to on our journey and some of the events that have been key to the development of the society.

It started with tackling the wild bush and brambles and dumping ground that we took over, with many man-hours of volunteer sweat capital, from myself, Rob Stafford-Baker, Jason Keeble, Nick Hasler, Fran Laskowski, Steve Amerio, Mike James and Barnaby Daines with his digger, Peter Moore with his tractor and flail & Oscar Pickess for ploughing the site. Let's hope we haven't forgotten anyone!

One of the many key features needed in the allotment was to install water, which we managed to do with a grant funded via Edible Essex, a scheme that ran for 3 years through the RCCE, so we were able to install a complete water system with the addition of some donated pipework. Edible Essex also funded our orchard of fruit trees, including cooking apples & pears, cherries (if the birds don't get there first). Peter Grassick helped with nets over the last couple of years, but the birds still managed to get there before us! We have some lovely eating apple trees and some plums. We have always told parishioners to please do go and help yourself.

A few years ago, we put on coach trips to various venues, mainly garden related of course, but also Country shows. This is something that we would like to consider re-starting again. On return from the trips we always arranged for a dinner in the community pub. The trips made a small profit allowing for many years of free allotments for all members.

Quiz nights, Sausage Sizzles with a bonfire, produce sales and the likes, all helped to raise money for the upkeep of the space.

A thank you also has to go to the community shop who have helped fund a couple of really big sturdy wheelbarrows & strimmer, still in use and in good condition.

Also, a thanks to the Mortlock brothers, Ted & Dennis, very sadly no longer with us, who helped Rob Stafford-Baker and me build the bridge from the recreation ground to the field around the side of the allotment. This allows vehicle access once again, without disturbing the church grounds. Kimplas Ltd did the pipework donation for the culvert, with my Jeep helping to pull up all the roots. We have also had donations of manure from the local farms, the Mortlocks and the stables in Finchingfield (we allotmenters do love a bit of the smelly stuff).

We even arranged to have the ground blessed by the Church! What a lovely time that was.

We have lost a few allotmenters over the years, and struggled to sign up new ones; some have just given up and some have moved away from the village but with new vigour for the coming season, we have now got a virtually full complement, with interest shown for smaller plots.

Special mentions must go to Rob and Linda. Rob has maintained the grasslands and hedgerows, which is a big task in itself to take on and needs many voluntary man hours, especially in the summer. Linda has made a fine job of the community herb garden, giving her time and financing to make it a really lovely space. With the effort from these two, it means that the allotment is a nice place to go and sit and contemplate, read or take in the wildlife or walk the dog through linking up with the network of village pathways!

(Please pick up any dog mess either on the Allotments or on the pathways around the allotments.)

The space is abundant with wildlife: rabbits, kites, pigeons, other birds and indigenous species.

Mike James! Thanks for being the stalwart lone allotmenter who maintained his and Mary's allotment for many years, and inspired us to forge forward in creating the space that is here today for all the village to enjoy.

There were some concerns over the rejuvenation of the space interfering with the wildlife, but the way the site has been managed (with the driving force behind the planning of the grasslands being Rob Stafford-Baker with the planting of comfrey), in the summer the amount of bees that we attract is an amazing sound. We have some ideas in place to attract more...watch this space for Owl Houses, Hedgehog Homes, and Bird Boxes. Mrs T (Clare) was instrumental in securing funding for the two orchard spaces.

I have penned this article in the Parish Mag for 9 years with a supplement of Tommo's Tips for all to marvel at the horticultural knowledge gleaned from Tinternet (Yorkshire google speak). Over the last 2 years, for personal reasons, I have not been able to devote as much time to this fabulous facility which is, in fact, a benefit to all who use it or even just walk through it, but I can assure you that although not present in body on occasions, I was definitely there in spirit. I have always been available via phone or text, but return with renewed vigour and enthusiasm for the coming years.

We have updated the Tenancy Agreements to all current allotmenters, to be given out (if you haven't already received them) at the up and coming meeting. We also look forward to getting some new fundraising ideas from everyone involved with the project.

A new WhatsApp Group has been set up for ease of contact so any initial ideas can be put on this valuable social media tool. The notice boards will also be used more efficiently. Discussions are ongoing to start another Social Media page.

Anyone interested in an allotment of any size please do get in touch.

### **Burning Heap**

Rob Stafford -Baker recently burnt the fire heap that was expanding out of hand, with the help of our newest member Rae Syder

It is in fact an allotment holder's duty to stack any burnable material in a safe manner and not under any circumstances place anything that will not burn, such as soil, or waste matter which could be composted on the individual allotments.

It is not a dumping ground for the village. Green bins are provided by the DC for this purpose once a fortnight

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### **Tommo's Tips.**

#### **Here are some key allotment jobs for March.**

- Weed your plot. Dig out any problem weeds, especially perennial weeds – if you get on top of them now, they'll be easier to control for the rest of the year. ...
- Protect plants from pests. ...
- Warm the soil and force early crops. ...
- Order or buy young veg plants. ...
- Sow seeds. ...
- Get planting.

Paul Thompson Chair 07824665915

Toppesfield Parish Paths Group

# Bluebell Walk

**Sunday 3rd May 2020**

Meet at Green Man at

**10.30 am**

Join me for a ramble around our beautiful parish.

- Walk off the Easter Eggs.
- An hour and half to two hours depending on weather and conditions.
- Stout footwear recommended. It might be a bit muddy!
- Dogs welcome, on a lead please.
- Great exercise, conversation and company.
- ALL WELCOME
- Why not book in for lunch at The Green Man for when we get back.

Further information Ann Read 01787 237464



## 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe 8th May 2020

The preparations for the VE Day Anniversary are progressing nicely.

Alongside the street party, there will be an exhibition in the church and a service of remembrance and celebration.

I would love to hear any suggestions or ideas for fun activities.

Also, if anyone has any bunting that we could borrow for the day, I would be most grateful .

One thing that I have been unable to find so far is a 40 metre rope to use for the tug of war; does anyone have a suitable rope we could borrow?

And lastly, we will need help with erecting the flags and bunting on 7th May and setting up the tables and chairs on the 8th so any very, very tall people and strong people please let me know if you can spare some time!

Many thanks

Jacqui Burnett, 0774316230





## Springtime at the Brewery

### **Help us name these beers!**

Aaron is brewing three new beers this March, and they will all need naming, so please help by sending us your ideas.

**Each winning submission will be rewarded with a three bottle gift pack as a small thank you from the brewery.**

The new beers are:

1: Our VE day celebration ale, a traditional amber IPA  
(working name Allied Amber)

2: A golden beer to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Prince's Countryside Fund,  
(working name PCF10)

3: A stronger version of Spring Ale, at 4.2% ABV  
(working name WTFN)

**Please email your suggestions to: [pumphousecommunitybrewery@gmail.com](mailto:pumphousecommunitybrewery@gmail.com)  
or drop in to the Brewery.**

**It's open every weekday and Aaron will be delighted to see you.**

### **Beers for events**

As we go to press, we have just sold five firkins of ale to High Easter P.C. for their VE Day weekend and a pin of Tap to a highly respected legal practice for their quiz night.

If you have any kind of event where beer would be good, Pumphouse can help make it better!

### **Brewery update**

The cold store is nearly completed (big thanks to Aaron's Dad, Wayne for lending his professional expertise), but as with all building works the brewery hardly looks at its best.

In the midst of all this, we had an unannounced visit from BDC's Environmental Health Department on 21 February. It was good to survive unscathed!

We will soon be knocking through a doorway from the brewery to the cold room and clearing the upstairs space in the barn to provide secure and tidy storage.

This will free up space downstairs and make for a much more pleasant, efficient and presentable working environment in the brewery.

Clearing the upstairs will require a concerted effort. If you think you could help by volunteering for a few hours, do please email the brewery or speak to Aaron, Kaaren or Bill.

**Please join us for the AGM**

**Saturday 28th March at 3pm in the The Green Man**

## **St Margaret's School**

Our Spring term got off to a Roman start for our class three taking on a new topic. Miss Mill, class three's teacher, has brought the topic to life through guest 'visitors'. She has dressed up as Miss Millistorian and had a family member come in dressed as a gladiator. This has really inspired the children's learning and made the topic very relatable.

We also welcomed a new Reception Class teacher, Mrs Scott, who has been inspiring learning through their topic of Adventures in an Ice World.

Class two moved on from Medieval Castles to a new topic of Around the World before thinking about Epic Explorers.

Mrs Mooney, the class teacher for Class 4 ended the term with a visit to Bulmer school for the children to watch Shakespeare's The Tempest. This was a contemporary production, which was interpreted really well for primary school children and is informing their work this half term. They are also enjoying their topic of The Earth and Beyond.

Our school continues to provide extra curricular activities for the children to allow them to gain new experiences. Ms Oxley, Class 2 teacher, took a selection of children to a local cross-country competition, where our children performed really well and came home with some great medals. In addition she takes time after school to run the Creative Club, which the children really enjoy. Mrs Newland, our Headteacher, also runs an after school club for children to engage in singing. The choir came together for our Christmas service and sang two beautiful songs for us all to hear.

Congratulations to our Catering Manager, Mrs Cranfield, who was awarded a 5 star food hygiene rating by Braintree District Council Environmental Health department. This is the highest rating that you can achieve and is very well deserved. Our children love the exciting menus which Mrs Cranfield creates and her food is just amazing! – well done.

Lots of energy went into our NSCPCC Number day, where children were invited to dress as rock stars for the day; our staff embraced the theme too! The Number Day helped us to relaunch Times Tables Rock Stars and encourage our children to learning mathematics through a fun way. Being able to quickly recall your times tables is the foundations of good maths and is just one of our maths initiatives.

Our Friends of St Margaret's Group (parents and friends of the school) continue to busy away and support the school. They organised an amazing Christmas Fayre in December, a Movie night in January and are planning a Spring Disco in February. The great work of this team raises money which has allowed us in the past to buy books, purchases iPads for the classroom and fund the pantomime to come to the school.

Our school premises were enhanced during the Christmas break with the implementation of a new fence securing the back part of the school. This ensures that all visitors have to go through reception and makes this a safe environment for our children

Helen Kent-Jackson  
Chair of Governors - St Margaret's COfE - Toppesfield



# LITTLE CHESTNUTS EASTER EGG HUNT

**SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2020**

**2-4PM**

**TOPPESFIELD VILLAGE HALL**

**£1 PER CHILD**

**FAMILY FUN EVENT WITH REFRESHMENTS AND EASTER  
ACTIVITIES**



## **Toppesfield Parish Neighbourhood Plan**

Things are now moving apace! Wynne-Williams Associates have now started working up our Landscape Character Assessment

As we noted in the last Newsletter, the unique natural beauty of our area will be described in the Landscape Character Assessment, which will then be used to inform other planning policies. A Landscape Character Assessment is a process to identify and understand the things that give character to the landscape. Understanding the character of an area is the vital first step in making almost any landscape-related decision, whether it is for a village street or an entire region.

In essence, Gill Wynne-Williams will co-ordinate the creation of a visual archive of hand-drafted maps and surveys, annotated sketches and hand-drawn pictures. This will include photographs of landscape features at different times of the year. This is going to need the active involvement of the whole community, so please get involved by taking photographs of your favourite landscape features that you would wish to see retained for the future enjoyment of us all. Forward them to us via email at [ToppesfieldNP@gmail.com](mailto:ToppesfieldNP@gmail.com), or via our new FaceBook page, which can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/tgenp>.

We have also now set up an Instagram page showing the views some people have already submitted. Here is a link to explain how to create an account: <https://help.instagram.com/155940534568753>

Once you have an account if you search for "toppesfieldviews", you should then be able to click follow and then be able to see the page.

The Housing Needs Survey questionnaire is also just getting its final tweak. We hope to be sending these out with the Parish Newsletter. It will be similar to the one you may remember from 2015, but updated for 2020. This is being organised by Laura Atkinson at the Rural Community Council of Essex, (RCCE). Please do try to complete and return these questionnaires as they provide vital data for assessing possible future housing needs. In order to provide help and guidance for completing the questionnaire, we are holding an "open to all" drop-in event at the Village Hall in Saturday 21st March, as advertised opposite!

The purpose of this event is to introduce the concept of the Neighbourhood Plan, and show you the progress that has been made so far. There will be displays providing information the Vision Statement and Objectives, as well as the Landscape Character Assessment, Housing Needs Survey, Design Code, Community Businesses & Facilities, as well as providing opportunities for you to let us know your views and thoughts going forward. The Steering Group Committee and members of the RCCE will also be present to help with any questions you may have regarding filling in the Housing Needs Survey questionnaire or anything else that may be of interest to you.

Please do make the effort to come along. It is an opportunity for you to help shape the future of our Parish over the next quarter century!

If you have any queries, thoughts or opinions, do please feel to contact us at [ToppesfieldNP@gmail.com](mailto:ToppesfieldNP@gmail.com).

**SATURDAY 21st MARCH**

**10.30am - 2.30pm**



***"help  
shape  
your  
future"***



# **OPEN 'drop-in' MEETING**

**TOPPESFIELD VLLAGE HALL - CHURCH LANE G09 4DR**

*light refreshments will be served*



*Come along and discuss the RCCE housing needs survey*

## Better Broadband is nearly here!

Work to install the new Openreach Fibre Optic Broadband network is almost complete with all new overhead cables and connection boxes installed and being tested ready for you to order Ultrafast Broadband from service providers such as BT, Zen, Freeola and very soon Sky. A few sections are left to be completed that require some tree pruning and some more digging work.

The new fibre optic network will provide speeds up to 330mb/s! An enormous improvement over the current speeds available in the village. The school will soon also be able to receive Ultrafast Broadband speeds so the pupils can access content and learning faster than before.

Thank you to all of you who have helped make this project a reality with many signing up for government provided vouchers which have paid for the project in full along with a generous grant from BT of £30,000 to help the school.

I hope by the next newsletter to tell you all the work is complete and you too can enjoy faster more reliable broadband.

County Broadband and its contractors TELEC Networks continue to install their new underground network within the village. This work is not associated with the Openreach fibre optic project. I appreciate there has been some confusion in the village but the chaos caused around the school, pub and village hall was not caused by Openreach or BT.

Thanks,

Chris.



Hi Everyone

I am sure ,like me, you are longing for Spring to arrive. Hopefully it is just around the corner. There are lots of things happening at the shop so do support it. Here are some dates for your diaries.

March 2nd - Change to Summer opening hours. The shop will remain open until 5.30 pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

March 7th – Village Market in Village Hall 10.30 am -12.30 pm.

March 18th – Order Tensheds bread for delivery on 21st.

March 22nd - Mothering Sunday. Get your cards, gifts and flowers at the shop.

April 10th - Good Friday. The shop will be open from 8.30 am -1.00pm but will be closed on Easter Monday 13th April. Get your cards, Easter eggs and gifts from the shop.

April 11th - Easter Market. Village hall from 10.30 am -12.30 pm.

April 15th - Order Tensheds bread for delivery on 18th.

May 2nd - Village Market in Village Hall 10.30am – 12.30 pm.

May 8th - Friday V.E. Day holiday. The shop will be open from 8.30am -1.00pm

May 13th - Order Tensheds bread for delivery on 16th.

That should bring us up to the next Newsletter. Do support your community shop. Think of the benefits to the community and to your pocket . Zero miles instead of petrol and diesel. We are always looking for new volunteers. It is great fun and of such benefit to the whole community. We have recently had four volunteers retire and all four of them have been volunteering in the shop since it opened in October 2002.

Do have a think about it.



Ann Read

## **Residents of Gainsford End: the Parish Council is seeking your help to improve your community facilities.**

### **THE TELEPHONE BOX**

The telephone box door has been repaired and re-hung.  
The defibrillator has now been fitted into the telephone box and BT are organising the reconnection of the electricity supply.  
Once the electricity is on, the defibrillator will be able to be used.

We are seeking your help for the following: –

1. Repainting the telephone box. (We have the paint and will even supply the brushes.)
2. A small group of volunteers to check the telephone box and defibrillator on a regular basis and keeping it clean and tidy.

### **THE PLAYING FIELDS**

If you have walked through the playing field recently you will see there is some work being carried out.

The old swings which were condemned following a survey last year are being replaced by two kid's swings and an infant's swinging basket.

The new play equipment should be installed within the next 6 weeks.

The old swing and base are being removed.

A general tidy up of the trees and boundary is in progress and will be completed over the next 4 weeks.

Here we are seeking further help for the following –

1. A small group of volunteers to walk through the playing field (possibly whilst walking their dogs) and visibly check the area and play equipment for any potential problems.
2. A work party in the autumn to help tidy up the playing field.

All the work so far in the playing field and the telephone box door repair has been carried out by Toppesfield Parish Councillors Rob Stafford- Baker and Boyd Page.

If you are able to assist in any way to share the load in your community, please contact Rob Stafford-Baker or Boyd Page

## Environment and Ecology News

Did you know that on average we use 169 litres of water per person per day in East Anglia. This coupled with East Anglia being the driest region in the UK, puts significant pressure on water resources. When was the last time you consciously thought about how much water you were using?

It only takes a few small changes to your daily routine to make LARGE savings to your water usage.

### Here are Ten top tips for saving water:

- 1. Turn the tap off when brushing your teeth – This can save around 24 litres of water a day.*
- 2. Take shorter showers – 9 litres of water is used every minute you are in the shower, while baths use around 115 litres of water.*
- 3. Fill up a jug of water and keep it in the fridge – this saves running the tap waiting for it to go cold.*
- 4. Use a washing up bowl – just running the tap can use 8 – 12 litres of water a minute.*
- 5. Use a bucket and sponge to wash the car – running a hosepipe for a minute can use 150 litres of water.*
- 6. Water harvesting – use a water butt to collect rainwater in the garden, this water can then be used to water your plants and vegetables.*
- 7. Fix dripping taps.*
- 8. Report any water pipe leaks to [anglianwater.co.uk](http://anglianwater.co.uk).*
- 9. Fill up your washing machines – washing clothes accounts for around 20% of your household water consumption.*
- 10. Don't tip your left over water bottle water down the sink – use it to fill the kettle or water plants.*

Not only will using water wisely help keep water in our environment allowing plants and animals to thrive, it will help you save money on your water bill.

Let use water wisely!

### 'Gaia'

#### Upcoming Village Markets:

**Saturday 7th March**

**Saturday 11th April**

the markets are held in Toppesfield Village Hall from  
10.30 am - 12.30 pm

Please pop along to see what is on offer from fresh meat, jams, pastries and cakes to handmade crafts, jewellery and much more. Or pop in for a tasty bacon roll and a cuppa with friends.

If you would like a stall please contact Zoe on 01440 785778





# Toppesfield Church Bells

ST. MARGARETS of ANTIOCH, CHURCH LANE,  
TOPPESFIELD ESSEX, CO9 4DR

Telephone: 01787 237530 Email: vwturner@btinternet.com

The Bells committee would like to let the Community of Toppesfield and Gainsford End know that after 12 years of ringing our Bell Ropes are wearing out and continuously need repair. A complete set of new ropes are needed. The cost of these is £1216 plus VAT.

We would welcome any financial help towards this cost so that we can continue ringing for the community. If any one is interested in making a donation for these ropes please call Vic Turner on 01787 237530.

Our practice night is Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 9:30pm. If anyone is interested in taking up this ancient art of bell ringing please get in touch with me.

Vic Turner

Tower Captain



# TOPPESFIELD Community Shop

- \* BREAD
- \* MILK
- \*FRUIT & VEG
- \*FROZEN FOODS
- \* ALL GROCERIES
- \* ICE CREAMS
- \* PET FOOD
- \*PLANTS

NEWSPAPERS - MAGAZINES - CIGARETTES  
 SANDWICHES - ROLLS - BAGUETTES  
 COAL - LOGS - KINDLING  
 STATIONERY - CARDS - STAMPS

\*\*\*\*\*  
**OPENING TIMES**  
 (CLOSED FOR LUNCH 1PM - 2PM)

Monday	.....	8.30am - 5.30pm
Tuesday	.....	8.30am - 5.30pm
Wednesday	.....	8.30am - 1.00pm
Thursday	.....	8.30am - 5.30pm
Friday	.....	8.30am - 5.30pm
Saturday	.....	10.00am - 12.30pm

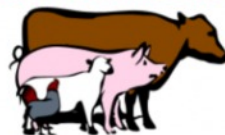


WEDNESDAY 10am - 1pm

## Local Produce Ordering Services



PRIORS HALL FARM



Fresh Quality Meat

**OZES**  
bakery



TOPPESFIELD  
Vineyard



### Monthly Artisan Bread Orders

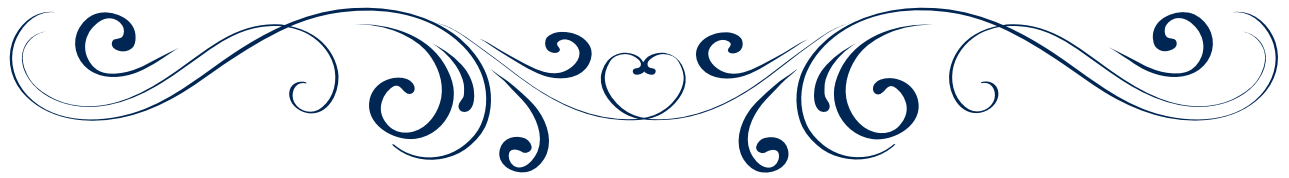
order by Wednesdays for delivery on Saturdays

**21 March - 18 April - 16 May**

**20 June - 18 July - 15 August**

**19 September**

**17 October - 21 November**



# *Mother 's Day*

## *Menu*



### *Salad*

Slices of Serrano ham, Homemade pate served with  
Cornichons and home-made bread

### *Main course*

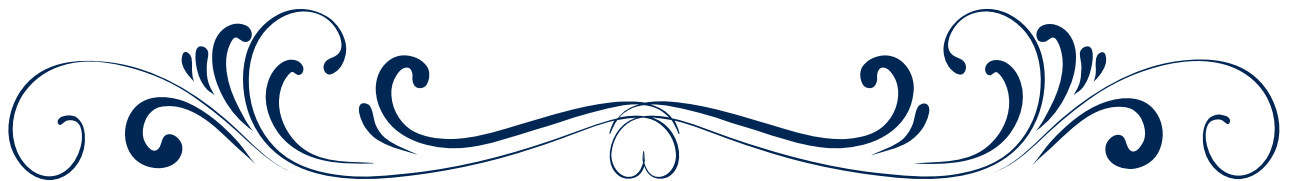
Butterflied King Prawn, Cooked in Garlic butter and white  
wine,  
New potatoes and seasonal vegetables

### *Dessert*

Passion Fruit Tart,  
Buttery pastry case filled with a tangy Passion fruit curd

£27.50

Pre booked only



The Green Man  
Church Lane, Toppesfield, Halstead, Essex, CO9 4DR  
(01787) 237418





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## **Starters**

### **Soup of the day**

Served with homemade bread

**£4.45**

### **Chicken Liver Pate**

*with warm Toast*

**£4.45**

### **Whitebait**

Served with Brown Bread and Butter

**£4.50**

### **Fillet of smoked mackerel**

With a cucumber salad and bread and butter

**£5.25**

### **Roasted Red Pepper and Chickpea salad**

**£4.95**

## **Main Courses**

### **House Special Game Pie**

Made with suet pastry

**£15.95**

### **Pan Fried Duck Breast**

On a bed of braised red cabbage

**£15.45**

### **Fish Cake**

Served with chunky tartar sauce and Peas

**£10.50**

### **Gammon steak**

With 2 fried eggs or Pineapple or both

**£10.50**

### **Ribeye steak**

Roasted tomatoes and mushrooms and topped  
with homemade onion rings

**£16.45**

### **Chicken breast**

Pan fried served with spinach in a red wine sauce.

**£10.50**

### **Mushroom and fennel risotto**

**£10.15**

# Retro

Duo playing the rockier side of pop from the 60s, 70s and 80s

**At The Green Man on: Sat 28<sup>th</sup> March –  
9.00. to 11.15pm**



**The Green Man Toppesfield**

**Your Community Pub**

**Opening Times:**

Mon: Closed

Tues: 17:00 - 23:00

Weds: 17:00 - 23:00

Thurs: 12:00 - 23:00

Fri: 14:00 - 23:00

Sat: 10:00 - 23:00

Sun: 12:00 - 20:00

Telephone: 01787 237418

Address: Church Lane, Toppesfield, Essex. CO9 4DR

Email: [info@thegreenmantoppesfield.com](mailto:info@thegreenmantoppesfield.com)