

May /June 2022

Edition 187



USEFUL NUMBERS

Braintree District Council	01376 552525
Colchester Hospital	01206 744491
Doctors Car Service	07845 596092
Freshwell Health Centre	01371 810328
Hedingham Medical Centre:	
Castle Hedingham	01787 461465
Sible Hedingham	01787 460612
Kaaren Berry, Parish Clerk	07341264219
Little Chestnuts Preschool	079018 80914
Little Hedgehogs Toddlers	01440 785778
Pumphouse Brewery	07780 702293
Rev. Caroline Brown	01787 469161
St Margaret's School	01787 237354
The Green Man Public House	01787 237418
Toppesfield Community Shop	01787 236003
Toppesfield Village Hall Bookings	
Wendy Ames	07933743724

TOPPESFIELD COMMUNITY SHOP

Church Lane, Toppesfield. Tel: 01787 236003

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

Monday—Friday

8.30 am— 4.00 pm

Saturday—10.00 am—12.30pm

TOPPESFIELD POST OFFICE

Church Lane, Toppesfield

Wednesday - 10.00 am—1pm

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

Toppesfield Parish Council

Councillors — Alan Collard, Amanda Smith, Andrea Chinery, Chris Neale, Trisha Roberts and Kitty Bourlet. There is currently a vacancy for a 7th Parish Councillor, if you are interested in joining the parish council please inform one of the councillors or the parish clerk.

Parish Clerk — Kaaren Berry

Parish Council Meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of every month in the village hall. You are welcome to attend the Open Session which starts at 7.30pm.

Toppesfield & Gainsford End Parish Newsletter

Published by Toppesfield Parish Council

Editor: clerk.toppesfieldparishcouncil@gmail.com

Please see our online resources to find out what is happening

Facebook Pages :-

Toppesfield & Gainsford End Community

Toppesfield Village Hall

Toppesfield Village Stores

The Green Man, Toppesfield

Pumphouse Community Brewery

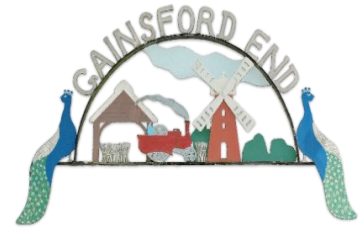
Toppesfield and Gainsford End Neighbourhood and Development Plan

Twitter & Instagram— Toppesfield & Gainsford End Community

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



From the Parish Council



Welcome to the latest Toppesfield & Gainsford End Newsletter.

After a couple of years during which so many events have been cancelled due to lockdowns, you will see this month that we again have a lot of attractive things to look forward to.

In addition to the village market on the first Saturday each month, the Allotments society has arranged a trip to the Suffolk Show at the end of May, the 'Red Hot Ukes' are re-launching after 2 years of covid-enforced inactivity, 'Happy's Circus' will be performing in the village on 19 June to raise funds for the village pre-school (to whom congratulations are due on their 'Good' rating from OFSTED) and Ann Read is giving an early notice of the Toppesfield Village show to be held in September.

But, of course, the BIG event of the year will be the Jubilee celebrations between 2nd and 5th June.

There is a notice in this Newsletter setting out the range of activities that are being planned and you will see that there will be a lot going on, from the picnic and beacon lighting on Thursday 2nd through to the special service at St Margaret's on Sunday, followed by a community lunch at the village hall and its grounds.

In the Newsletter you will find a packet of wildflower seeds. We would like each household to plant these so that we can have a continuing reminder of the event around the parish.

This jubilee is an historic one; no other British monarch has reigned for as long and this is an event that quite probably will never be repeated.

So please join in – this is for the whole parish and everyone is welcome. We would love to see all of you at as many of the events as possible!

One institution that is integral to events such as the Jubilee is, of course, The Green Man. On Saturday 4th June, the Jubilee event will be centred on our community owned pub and for those of you who have not yet met them, it will be an opportunity for you to get to know the new tenants, Kevin and Janet who became part of our community at the end of March. We wish them every success at the Green Man.

Over the past two months it has been impossible to avoid the terrible events that have unfolded in Ukraine. It is so difficult for us to even imagine how one's life can be upturned so suddenly and violently. The UK government has established a Homes for Ukraine scheme offering safe homes for some of the many who have had to leave the country. Revd. Liz Paxton, the Rector of the Hedinghams and Upper Colne Benefice, and her husband, Garry, have been involved in delivering aid to Ukraine for many years and through a long-term friend there, Liz and Garry have arranged for 13 families to be hosted by families in the Benefice area. Two of these families are now based in Toppesfield and you will see them around the parish. I am sure that everyone will give them a warm welcome. Certainly, the blue and yellow flag prominently displayed on the church lychgate will be a good indication of how we are pleased to see them. More host families are being sought for Ukrainians seeking to leave the country. If you are interested in considering this you can find out more from Garry Paxton by phone (07817 507230) or by email to garrypaxton@gmail.com

Finally, Boyd Page has stepped down as a Parish Councillor at the April meeting. We are disappointed to lose Boyd as a colleague. He has been extremely active in supporting the council's activities and helping to make the parish an attractive and sustainable community.

This does mean that we have a vacancy and if anyone is interested in becoming a parish councillor, please contact the Clerk, Kaaren Berry, for information. Kaaren's contact details are on p2 of the Newsletter.

Parish Council Information

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

In March, Braintree District Councillor Richard van Dulken reported:

- There will be a public consultation regarding proposed council boundary changes
 - A "Men's Shed" is to be installed in Great Yeldham
 - BDC Planning Enforcement is to be strengthened
 - North BDC has been identified as a deprived area in the Levelling Up White Paper issued by Essex County Council and he is asking local Parishes for ideas on what can be done.
- At the request of residents in Mallows Lane, Gainsford End, the PC is obtaining quotes for a road sign to indicate that turning is restricted in Mallows Lane. Apparently, there have been several instances of delivery =vans becoming stranded.
- A letter will be sent to residents of Dordell Court detailing who to contact if there is a damp problem.
- There will be a review of recreational facilities in the village.
- A coffee morning will be held on March 26th.
- A litter pick will be held on April 9th
- The June PC meeting will be on the 9th not the 2nd.
- The Gainsford End Village signs near Woodleys Cottage and the Noticeboard in Gainsford End will be repaired shortly.

In April Cllr Schwier (ECC) reported:

- Over 1000 trees came down and were dealt with during the recent storm.
- The Council is focusing on arrivals of refugees from Ukraine.
- He has funding available for Parish projects and is seeking applications.
- After a discussion regarding play equipment for younger children at Gainsford End Recreation area, it was agreed that this should be part of the review planned for Toppesfield. However, as this may delay any immediate installations, it was agreed that 6' x 4' football nets with plastic frames will be purchased for Gainsford End.
- The Neighbourhood Plan is proceeding.
- Plans for village Platinum Jubilee celebrations are continuing.
- It was agreed to increase the Clerk's remuneration and to backdate the increase in line with NALC Guidelines.
- June 13th to 17th is Loneliness Awareness Week and Community360 are running a Road Show around villages in the Braintree District. The aim of the Road Show is to engage with as many people as possible who may suffer from isolation & loneliness to point them to agencies and clubs who can help them. It was agreed that the road show would come to Toppesfield.
- The PC was notified of 5 planning applications, one of which was for information only. The PC was supportive of the other 4 with a reservation regarding traffic and parking noted about the proposed new health centre in Sible Hedingham.

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

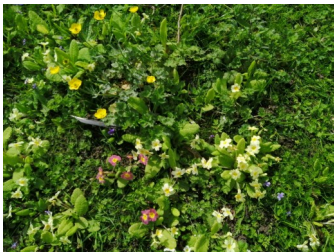


Hi Everyone

I hope you are all well and enjoying your walking. Looking back at last year's May edition of the newsletter we were in the initial stages of getting the first covid vaccination and now we are into the fourth and I suspect a lot of you have had covid but hopefully not too seriously.

Thankfully as the land has dried up and many of the cross field foot paths have been marked out we can now explore the footpaths again. I think my theme for this time of the year has to be yellow. It starts, of course, with the sun and then the first yellow flowers to appear are aconites shortly followed by celandines. Then the primroses and daffodils and now the cowslips, dandelions and later the buttercups.

I always think dandelions are much maligned and certainly they are a bit of a pest in the garden but oh the colour and they provide a very nutritious feast for butterflies, bees and other insects and who can resist blowing the clock in the Autumn? Also the leaves are very palatable. The tortoises love the leaves and the flowers and did you know that during war the roots were ground up to make coffee. Still on the theme of yellow of course the rape is just coming into flower making the countryside almost glow. I do hope not too many of you are suffering from the pollen.



In the last issue of the newsletter I included a photograph of the snowdrops in the churchyard. Now it is a carpet of primroses, both yellow and pink mixed in with the dainty purple and white violets and the odd buttercup putting in an appearance. Do take a look. It is just magical.

The Blackthorn blossom is just beginning to go over but has been just like white foam decorating the hedgerows. I just hope a late frost doesn't damage the flowers so that there is a good harvest of sloes in the Autumn.

The birds at this time are frantically busy making their nests and rearing their young.

The bird song is such a delight. I was listening to a robin the other day and couldn't believe that such a terrific sound could come from such a small bird. This is only outdone by the Wren often called the little bird with the big voice. I am looking forward to hearing the first cuckoo, a sure sign that Spring has arrived. Also another positive sign is that the tortoises have woken up!

I have kept reporting the dangerous condition of the bridge over the brook at the back of Ollivers and today, finally, have heard **that it has been inspected and is to be repaired in the next ten days**. Do take care if you are walking that way before it is repaired.

Ann Read





St Margaret's Church

I hope that you all enjoyed a joy filled and blessed Easter, the previous 2 Easter holidays have been affected by COVID restrictions so it was lovely for everyone to get together and see family again. At St Margaret's we had an amazing Easter Messy Church led by Tia Stickland and a team of helpers as unfortunately I was stricken with the dreaded COVID.

The Church looks lovely and is filled with flowers, and the children made a fantastic tableau of the 3 crosses on the hill so if you are passing by, please drop in and see the display. The Church is open every day for private prayer, and there are candles available to light and prayer cards to take and help you with your prayers if you are struggling to find the words. And of course, I am available to meet you to pray with you and to talk to you. I encourage you to take time out and reflect and pray and take your worries to God who will always listen.

This year the we have the Queens' 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.

Over the weekend we will be holding the activities listed below: **Queens Jubilee Weekend**

Thursday 2nd June : 4pm-6pm We will be at the Crinders Game on the playing field .

I have arranged a face painter that will be free, some have a go games, such as the infamous splat the rat, and shall be having a craft table to make, flags, crowns and tiara's.

I WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL OF OFFERS OF MANPOWER TO CARRY SOME TABLES AND CHAIRS OVER TO THE FIELD PLEASE !

Friday 3rd June : St Margaret's Church will be open all day to show an exhibition of memorabilia in relation to the Queen and Royal family.

I will be having a craft table making Jubilee craft, between **1.00pm and 3.30pm.**

And there will be an opportunity to collect the Treasure map to discover the clues around the village, and there will be a small prize if you complete the puzzle.

Sunday 5th June

St Margaret's Church – Service to mark the Queens Jubilee commencing at **11.30am.**

On a somewhat sad note it has come to our attention that not all dog owners are acting responsibly with their pets in the Churchyard and are allowing dogs to mess in the Churchyard , this is wholly inappropriate and I ask those concerned to clean up after their dogs where necessary .We have an amazing team of volunteers who work very hard to keep the Churchyard tidy so I would be grateful if you would respect this sacred place.

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.

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



St Margaret's Church

Upcoming Services

May 8th Holy Communion 11.00am with Rev Mike and Caroline

May 15th Morning Prayer 11.00am

May 22nd Holy Communion 11.00am with Rev Graham

May 29th Benefice Holy Communion at Castle Hedingham 11.00am with Rev Chris

June 5th Platinum Jubilee Service at 11.30am with Rev Caroline

June 12th Holy Communion 11.00am with Rev Liz and Caroline

June 19th Morning Prayer 11.00am

June 26th Holy Communion 11.00am with Rev Graham





We wanted to share our Ofsted Inspection outcome with you! The inspection took place on Thursday 24th March, during the inspection we were able to show the inspector the service we provide for local families, how we support children with additional needs and how we plan and make changes to our daily activities to promote learning and development. The inspector was impressed with all areas of the setting and the children's behaviour and social skills. Here are some extracts from the report.

“Children arrive enthusiastically and are eager to enter the welcoming pre-school. They settle quickly and make independent play choices from a good range of resources.”

“Staff know children very well. They consistently reflect on children's ongoing emerging needs and development. They carefully plan interesting activities to help children build on their existing skills and what they need to learn next. As a result, children are happy, keen to join in and remain engaged as they learn.”

“The dedicated manager is passionate about her clear and ambitious vision for the pre-school. She evaluates the provision and is committed to making improvements to raise the quality of care and learning to the highest level.”

All the staff and committee were delighted with the Good outcome and that the hard work and dedication from all involved has been recognised by the inspector.

To read the full report please go to the Ofsted website and follow the link for 'find an inspection' and use our URN 40244.



Toppesfield and Gainsford End Village Show 2022

Sadly the Annual Village Show has been a casualty of Covid 19 and we have missed 2020 and 2021 **but..... we are back.** I plan to get the show going again and would hate to see it stop. It is such an important and historical event in the village calendar and so many villages have lost their village shows. Do not let Toppesfield be one of them.

I have set the date of **Saturday 17th September 2022** , For the moment in the village hall. I need some help in organising the day and would love to have some new people involved to bring an exiting new look to the show.

So please put the date in your diary and contact me if you would like to be involved in any way.

I look forward to hearing from you!!!

Ann Read m.07981422665 email skomerann@tiscali.co.uk

A promotional poster for cricket practice net sessions. The background is a green grass field with a cricket helmet and a bat. The text is centered and reads: 'TOPPEFIELD CRICKET CLUB PRACTICE NET SESSIONS THURSDAYS 6.30PM - 7.30PM FROM 28TH APRIL TOPPEFIELD PLAYING FIELD IF YOU'D LIKE TO START PLAYING OR SIMPLY WANT TO TRY, COME ALONG! ALL OVER 18s WELCOME'.

TOPPEFIELD
CRICKET
CLUB

PRACTICE NET SESSIONS

THURSDAYS 6.30PM - 7.30PM
FROM 28TH APRIL
TOPPEFIELD PLAYING FIELD

IF YOU'D LIKE TO START PLAYING OR
SIMPLY WANT TO TRY, COME ALONG!
ALL OVER 18s WELCOME



Telephone 01787 237418

email; janet.stenson@btconnect.com

Opening Hours

Monday Closed

Tuesday to Thursday 3pm to close

Friday to Sunday 12noon to close

The Green Man is under new management and we would like to introduce ourselves, Janet and Kevin.

We will be introducing a food offering very soon starting with

Sunday Roast on 1st of May.

We would like to thank TCP and customers who has helped us get started and continued support.

We are now stocking the Pumphouse bitters.



St. Margaret's C of E Primary School

We had a fantastic week celebrating books when we held our book week to coincide with World Book Day. We had a focus on trees and ran two competitions alongside it. One was to write the story of Maggie's Tree for which our winners were Daisy H and Scarlett. The second was to take a picture reading near a tree. Our winners for this one were Seb and Ellie-Ann. All entries, including the winning entries, can be found on the school website.



In addition, we managed to hold our Easter Service in the Church. This is the first service we have held for the whole school since Christmas of 2019. It was fantastic to be able to share our worship with parents and we look forward to seeing parents in school more often.

We have another busy term planned with sports day, residential visits and productions which we look forward to sharing with you as we progress.

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

TOPPESFIELD ALLOTMENTS

The allotments have been a hive of activity over the last few weeks. A general cut back of the hedges and pruning of the Community Orchard was carried out and the storm damage that occurred in March has now been cleared with the loss of the old Greengage.

We continue to water the Community Orchard and pay for the Anglian Water field supply which all allotment holder are advised to use sparingly.

With the economy crisis biting it is a great way to supplement the food we eat by growing our own.

We now have a shelter which is collapsible or use when we have inclement weather at events and working parties etc. kindly funded by BDC.

Thanks to our Community Herb Garden committee member Linda Pritchard for organising a splendid Easter Raffle which raised 140 + pounds into the coffers.

We are organising a day trip to the Suffolk Show on the 31st of May so be quick as the seats are filling up quickly on the coach. See the notice boards, the shop and Facebook for details.

Thanks go to Rob Stafford -Baker who has decided to step down from his activities as Secretary of the association, his admin will be Sorley missed.!

It was Rob and I that drove the project of renovating the old allotments nearly 11 years ago, with help from others with relentless working parties. Digging out by hand the self funded irrigation system and removing an acre of 10ft Bramble to make the space what it is today.

We will miss seeing him on the mower, I feel that he will find it difficult to be away from this project that I know he loves so much. I will certainly miss him.

Linda Pritchard as expressed a wish to take over Rob's Secretarial Duties, Linda has been active in the Herb garden for many years .

We have a small plot available for someone to take over. Please contact me if you are interested.

Tommo's tips.

Grow Rhubarb this year it is full of vitamin c

Please make your own Compost in the confines of your plot, it is easy to do.

Grow potatoes in pots to save your Back

Comfrey makes a great fertilizer

Paul Thompson Chair 07824 665915

Red Hot Ukes Play Ukulele – Come and Join Us!

Many moons ago, long before “the pandemic”, several stringed instrumentalists assembled in Toppesfield Village Hall to explore ways of playing music together. Through many attempts to create regular music sessions, Red Hot Ukes Ukulele Club emerged in “The Green Man” in September 2019. By January 2020, the Club had grown to some 20 individuals, necessitating a move to “The White Hart” in Great Yeldham. Then COVID19 ! We are delighted to announce that our live Club meetings have been re-launched twice monthly on the second and fourth Mondays from 2.00pm. to 4.00pm. at “The White Hart”. **Come and join us!**

The Club was formed originally from a tuneful combination of two community groupings, namely the ukulele section of the Toppesfield Stringed Instrument Appreciation Society (TSIAS) and the Halstead & District u3a "Play Ukulele" Group.

Red Hot Ukes Ukulele Club is an opportunity for mature people (over 55) to get together to play ukuleles, bang drums, scrape washboards, rattle tambourines, and sing together. As a social event, comradeship is encouraged with fun and laughter surrounding music making. **Come and join us!**

So, whether you want to play soprano, concert, or tenor ukulele, or you are a reformed guitarist who will easily adapt to baritone ukulele, or a budding bass ukulele player, you will be most welcome to join us. Experience is desirable but not essential, and mutual tuition can be given by group members. **Come and join us!**

More details can be found on our website at redhotukes.co.uk. RHU Songbooks are included in the "Songs and Song Books" Section to show the kind of songs we sing. Contact us via e-mail: malckyb@redhotukes.co.uk to get you invitation. **Come and join us!**

Malcolm & Sheila Braithwaite

The Next Village Markets will be held at

Toppesfield Village Hall on:

Saturday 7th May

Saturday 4th June

Saturday 2nd July

From

10.30 am – 12.30pm

Please pop along to see what is on offer from fresh meat, vegetables, jams, pastries, and cakes to handmade crafts, cards, jewellery and more.

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



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 Themed Cake Competition

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Toppesfield & Gainsford End Celebrations

Thursday 2nd June

5pm - 8pm - Picnic in the Park

Bring along a picnic to the playing fields where there will be family games, a bouncy castle, ice creams, a bar and music. Take part in the village tradition of Crinders. Put your baking skills to the test in the Royal Themed Cake Competition; Royal names, castles and Corgis are just a few ideas to get you started! Bring your cake along on the day and enter it into the competition.

9.45pm - Lighting of the Beacon

To mark the 70th anniversary of the Queen's coronation, watch as our village beacon is lit at the same time as over 1,500 beacons across the UK, followed by drinks at The Green Man.

Friday 3rd June

10am - 4pm

Children are invited to the church for arts and crafts followed by a royal themed treasure hunt around the village. An exhibition of royal memorabilia will be on display in the church throughout the day.

Saturday 4th June

2pm til late

Food, music and family games at The Green Man - more to follow

Sunday 5th June

11.30am - 4pm

A church service will take place followed by The Big Village Lunch at the Village Hall; everyone is invited for food and drinks. A film of the Silver Jubilee will play in the background.



To begin our village celebrations here is a gift, seeds to sow to attract the Bees and insects.

If planted now we may see them this year but if not they will be beautiful next year and remind us of how we celebrated this memorable event!

To plant, sprinkle the seeds in your flower beds and rake into the soil, if you don't have a garden you can sow into pots and put on the window sill.

PUMPHOUSE

BREWERY

Enjoy a warm welcome
and an ever changing
selection of
Pumphouse real ales
from Kevin and Janet
at the Green Man.

Don't miss our new
limited edition
Jubilee Ale, a fine
traditional IPA
@ 4.5% ABV.



You'll find Pumphouse bottled beers in the
Green Man too
and on sale direct from the Brewery.

We're open every Monday to Friday from 10 - 4
and the first Saturday of the month from 10 - 1

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

Get ready for the Jubilee!
We look forward to seeing you soon.

THE JUBILEE ORCHARD

On Sunday 24th April the long planned orchard trees were planted in the 2.5 acre field to the west of The Causeway, between The Old Rectory and Jasmine House. The trees were supplied by Grow at Brogdale, and the Managing Director Brian Cooper and four of his staff planted the trees in the holes dug earlier in the year. Grow at Brogdale is associated with Brogdale, of Faversham Kent, which holds the National Collection of Fruit Trees. The plan for the 104-tree orchard is to have a mixed selection of apple, pear, plum, gage, cherry, quince and crab varieties, which will give successive blossoming and fruiting. Many of the trees are of heritage varieties, creating rare fruits and interesting historical information.

The trees are planted in sectors, separated by avenues radiating from a central analemmatic sundial, to allow the shadows at the equinoxes to fall along the avenues at 2-hourly intervals. The shadow points were marked in March 2022, whilst the hourly mid-summer points were marked in 2021. These measurements enable us to plot the elevation of the sun during the day and in different seasons. That is our plan, so with much TLC it will be exciting to watch progress. We would be very happy to talk to anyone about the project.

Beryl and Pete Graves

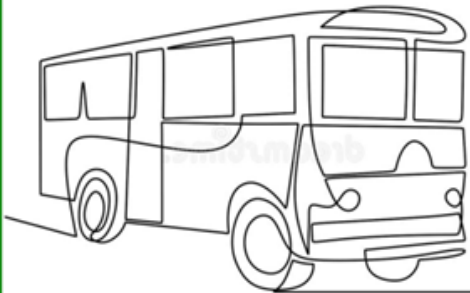
Mobile: 07765858678



Pete and Beryl with 1 of the 104 trees.



TOPPESFIELD Allotment Society



DAY EXCURSION

Tuesday 31st May 2022

THE SUFFOLK SHOW **2022**

TICKETS: INCLUSIVE OF COACH TRAVEL AND ENTRANCE
UNDER 65s £46.50 - OVER 65s £40.50

TELEPHONE: Clare Thompson 07825957625

Wethersfield Airfield Prison Proposal Update

WASC is a collaboration of Parish Councils that have come together to oppose the plans, as they currently stand, for the mega prisons complex proposed for Wethersfield Airbase. WASC has been formed under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 102 which allows two or more local authorities to come together to form a committee to discharge their function. WASC currently comprises of 12 Parish Councils - Shalford, Wethersfield, Finchingfield, Sible Hedingham, Toppesfield, Great Bardfield, The Salings, Little Bardfield, Panfield, Castle Hedingham, Gosfield and Great Yeldham. Each PC has officially discussed and then appointed representatives at their own PC meetings.

WASC has a technical sub-committee which is spearheading the opposition to the proposals. This sub-committee comprises a range of people, volunteering their time, who have relevant professional skills and is chaired by a Wethersfield councillor with over 40 years-experience as a senior planner in Local Government. To provide the most robust opposition to the plans a long and extensive work schedule has been underway since October. However, there is a huge amount to do and WASC are currently engaging with expert consultants on the following areas - landscape, heritage, ecology, transport/highways etc.

Information, meeting minutes, etc. can be found at [WASC – Wethersfield Parish Council \(wethersfield-pc.gov.uk\)](http://wethersfield-pc.gov.uk).

Some of the Parish Councils have been able to commit funds to WASC so they are able to engage with the above consultants, however, there is a funding shortfall and we need the help of local residents to help fight this battle effectively.

Which leads on to the role of SWAP...

SWAP Stop Wethersfield Airfield Prisons is a campaign group being led by The Fields Association. This is a residents led campaign group, all of whom live locally and are volunteering their time tirelessly. Their primary objectives are 1) to promote and preserve the beauty of the North Essex countryside 2) to help raise public awareness of the prisons proposal 3) to help raise funds to help WASC engage professional firms to fight the proposals 4) to consult with the local community to include their ideas for alternative uses.

So, WASC is the Parish Council led, technical response to the proposals, responsible for responding to any application with detailed expert analysis, and SWAP is the resident-led group looking to raise public awareness and raise funds to help WASC in its task of fighting these proposals.

The Fields Association website is up and running www.thefieldsassociation.org and you can join the association through the website. **Please explore the website and use the contact button to get in touch with the SWAP team. The core team is only 20 people, so please volunteer if you can help!**

SWAP has distributed a leaflet to every household within the 12 parishes that currently make up WASC as many 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.

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 (search Braintree District council). All questions are taken early in the meetings, so you don't have to watch for hours!

The latest headline news is that CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) has issued a statement the message of which is "CPRE's preference would be for the airfield to be returned to the use it had before the Second World War, *ie* agricultural purposes – especially as it lies surrounded by Grade 2 (very good quality) land. Alternatively, if the cost of reinstatement is prohibitive, a mixed-use country park and leisure scheme might be appropriate". CPRE does not consider the airbase to be a Brownfield Site. The full statement can be seen at [Wethersfield airfield: CPRE Essex position statement - CPRE Essex \(cpressex.org.uk\)](http://cpressex.org.uk).

Wethersfield Airfield Prison Proposal Update

In addition, Braintree District Council (BDC) has responded in great detail to the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) Environmental Assessment Scoping Request. This request proposed how the Environmental Assessment would be done and what it would cover. The response notes in many areas that the MoJ Scoping Request is not sufficiently detailed or that assumptions are unacceptable. One specific issue is that of air quality measurement and the establishing of a baseline. The MoJ will be required to measure air quality in the vicinity of the Airbase in order to establish a baseline. This could take 6 months and possibly delay a planning application.

Furthermore, both WASC and SWAP have met representatives of the DIO, and the deadline for disposal of 2025 has been confirmed. Any delays in planning applications will therefore be of concern.

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

Chris Packham, the well known campaigner for nature and the environment has today (19th April) tweeted his support for SWAP and the petition to prevent the building of two mega prisons.

You can sign the petition at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/603619>

Trisha Roberts

Post Office Open Again

Great News

Our Post Office facility in the Community Shop is open again and we welcome Clare from Greenstead Green Post Office who will be running our Post Office .

It will be open as before :-

Wednesday morning 10.00 am till 1.00 pm

PLEASE USE IT





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*

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CAKES
PIES
PASTRIES

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Do you have a favourite periodical? Albeit Daily, Fortnightly, Monthly, we can order it for you.

Eat In or Takeaway

***Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Cold Drinks, Ice Cream
Soup, Rolls***

OPENING TIMES

Mondays	.....	8.30am - 4.00pm
Tuesdays	.....	8.30am - 4.00pm
Wednesdays	.....	8.30am - 4.00pm
Thursdays	.....	8.30am - 4.00pm
Fridays	.....	8.30am - 4.00pm
Saturdays	.....	10.00am - 12.30pm

**POST
OFFICE**

OPEN
Wednesdays
10.00am - 1.00pm



Sible Hedingham Library Opening Hours

Monday 9am-1pm

Thursday 2pm-7pm

Saturday 9am-5pm

What's On

Monday	Baby & Toddler Rhyme Time – join in with stories and rhymes	9.30am to 10am
	Craft group – bring your own craft to our friendly session	10am to 1pm (drop in)
	Community 360 Guided Walk – walkers of all abilities welcome	10.30am (meet in front of the library)
Thursday	Family Storytime – fun after school storytelling session	3.30pm to 4.30pm
Saturday	Buzzing Bumblebees – stories, crafts and games for children	10am to 11pm
	Construction Club – get creative with Lego	2.30pm to 3.30pm

Find out more about events and activities online:

libraries.essex.gov.uk/events

facebook.com/siblehedinghamlibrary

The Mobile Library visits every: 3 weeks

Day of visit: Wednesday at Toppesfield Pump

Time of visit: 10.45am to 11.15am

Next visit dates:

18 May 2022

Sunday 19th June at Toppesfield Playing Field CO94DR

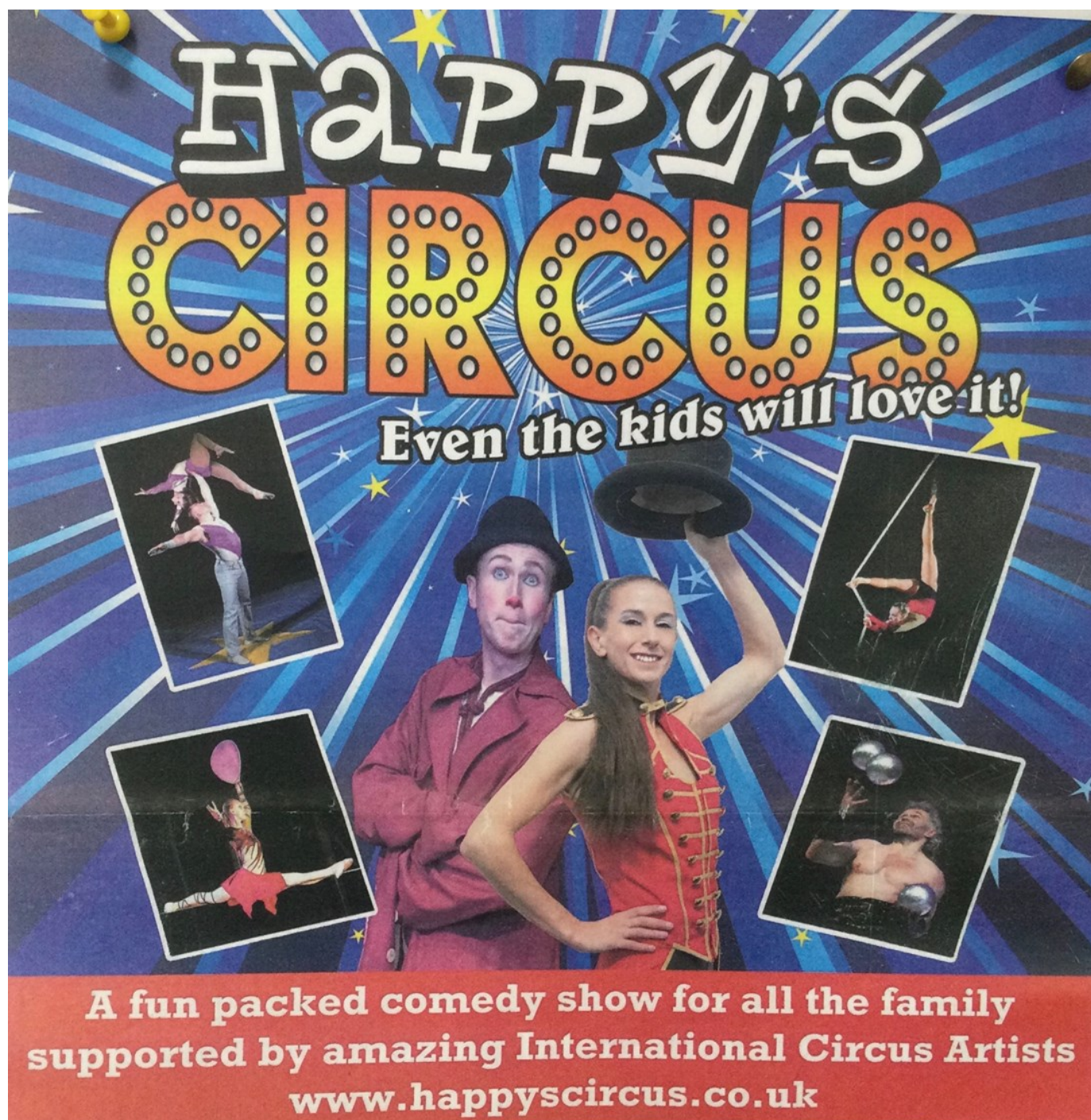
Event starts 12.30pm with show at 2pm

Tickets £10 per person under 2s sitting on an adults lap free.

This event is fast approaching it is set to be an amazing afternoon with a big top tent, food stalls, beer tent and lots for fun for all ages. ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY

Tickets must be purchased by 27th May.

To order please contact Andrea 07901880914 email manager@littlechestnutspre-school.co.uk



HAPPY'S
CIRCUS
Even the kids will love it!

A fun packed comedy show for all the family supported by amazing International Circus Artists
www.happyscircus.co.uk



Home Essentials from BT

It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that BT have broadband and phone packages that could benefit people who are in receipt of certain benefits.

Here is some basic information about this service taken from some of their literature .

What our BT's Home Essentials plan?

Our Home Essentials plan is a reliable and affordable way for people on specific state benefits, including Universal Credit and Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit), to have a low-cost broadband and phone package. You can choose broadband with a phone line, or just the phone line by itself. And if you go for the broadband and phone line option, there are a couple of plans to choose from.

Who can get the Home Essentials plan?

BT Home Essentials is available for anyone on one or more of these benefits: • Universal Credit • Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit) • Income Support • Jobseeker's Allowance† • Employment and Support Allowance. † (Certain Criteria apply to Jobseekers Allowance and Employment and Support Allowance.)

How do I get it?

Here's how: 1. Get in touch with us - • Go to our website at bt.com/home-essentials • You can call us on 0800 800 150

2. You'll need to tell us your surname, date of birth, and National Insurance number.

3. We'll run an instant check to make sure you're eligible for Home Essentials.

4. If you are, we'll connect you as soon as we can.

There are some copies of the leaflet in the shop which will give you more information regarding pricing and plans, however the most up to date information will come straight from contacting BT themselves.

If you know someone that may benefit from this service please share it with them.

Other service providers may have similar offers but the parish council are not aware of these so it may be worth getting into with your provider to check if they do.

Wildlife Ponds - Funding Available!

Ponds are a cherished part of the parish landscape; familiar historic features found at the heart of most village centres and in the wider countryside. Sadly, due to changes in land use and agricultural practices, the UK has lost around 50% of ponds in the 20th Century. Those remaining are often threatened by pollution. This means the many species of plant and animal that rely on them are also under threat.

Excitingly, funding is now available in certain parts of Essex for the restoration and creation of clean water wildlife ponds capable of supporting great crested newts. The funding is part of Natural England's District Level Licencing scheme (DLL), a new strategy for compensating the loss of newt habitats, which seeks to provide new ponds and bigger, better, more joined-up habitat for this orange-bellied amphibian at a landscape scale.

In Essex there is a high demand for such wildlife ponds through the DLL scheme. Most of the 150 or so pond projects we have delivered to date have been fully funded under the scheme. You can view some of these projects at: www.fwageast.org.uk/ponds.

We are seeking local farmers, smallholders, large rural garden owners, land-based businesses and parish-owned land to create and restore more such ponds. If you have a location in mind in your parish, please email ponds@fwageast.org.uk to receive further information or arrange an informal chat. Let's do something brilliant for wildlife!



A recently created farmland pond – Credit J McNaughton, FWAG East

A recently restored parish pond - Credit J McNaughton, FWAG East



A great crested newt – Credit Lucy Jenkins, FWAG East



Danaher Animal Home

Handsome Hercules has huge amounts of energy and a huge heart! He has a very loving nature about him and all he wants is someone to love him and give him that second chance he deserves. He found a home earlier this year but it wasn't quite right for him so he is on the search again to find his perfect permanent home! If you love your bull breeds then Hercules may be the boy for you!

Hercules finds it unsettling being left alone, because of this we are looking for new owners who are at home most of the time to implement the right kind of training to help settle his worries. This behaviour is not something that can be resolved in kennels unfortunately, so as part of his training plan we have introduced crate training so this tool could be used in the home to act as a safe space to settle. We can also offer support to adopters with help around improving his behaviour when being left alone.

Hercules is a young adolescent dog and requires a patient owner who has the time and commitment to give to him during this period of development. It is important to understand that just like human teenagers, this phase will pass! Implementing training using positive reward based methods will assist with his learning and development,

In his new home, it is important Hercules gets the right outlet and stimulation for his energy in the form of physical exercise and also brain games. The most rewarding activities for Hercules is a game of tug, long quiet walks where he has plenty of opportunities to explore using his nose, but mostly he loves calm belly rubs and chilling out by your side.

We are looking for an owner who has previous experience with energetic, boisterous and playful dogs, as well as having owned bull breeds before.

If you would like to know more about Hercules please get in contact with us. Alternatively if you are interested in meeting him please fill out an interest form at

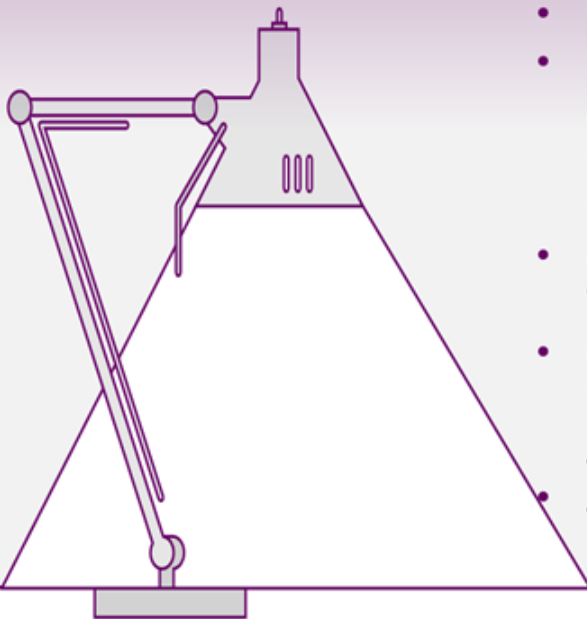
www.danaheranimalhome.org.uk

You will receive a phone call if your application shows you are a suitable match for each other.



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