

July 2019

Edition 170



From the Parish Council

Welcome to the 'new' Parish Newsletter for Toppesfield and Gainsford End, edited by Kaaren Berry, the Parish Clerk.

We heard loud and clear that many people wanted this to be reintroduced, so here it is! Our intention is to produce the Newsletter six times a year in January, March, May, July, September and November.

You will see that we have a new banner for the Newsletter and many thanks to Wendy Ames for producing this. St Margaret's, our historic parish church, the elm trees representing those whose names are inscribed on the war memorial and the rolling fields of crops reminding us of the village's roots are all captured in the design.

What struck me when I saw the draft copy of the Newsletter last week was the range of activities going on in the parish. Apart from the articles from our church and school, there are also items from the three community businesses, the village hall, Toppesfield Cricket Club, the pétanque club and the Red Barrows. It's easy to forget that we are a village of only about 500 people given what goes on here.

It is important that the Newsletter evolves and reflects the needs and interest of its readers. So, if you think of something that we should cover (items on village history or environmental issues, for example?) please let us know. Even better write an article yourself for us to publish!

Finally, the Parish Council still has a vacancy following the elections in May. Our complement is 7 but only 6 positions are filled. We are looking to co-opt somebody to fill this position so if you are interested in joining the Council please get in touch with the Clerk and she will be able to tell you what is involved.

I hope you enjoy the Newsletter.

Alan Collard

USEFUL NUMBERS

Kaaren Berry, Parish Clerk 07788 055038
St. Margaret's School 01787 237534
Little Chestnuts Pre School 07901 880914
Little Hedgehogs Toddlers 01440 785778
Rev. Liz Paxton 01787 277270
Sally Croft, Pastoral Assistant 07850 361101
Doctor's Car Service 07845 596092
Sible Hedingham Surgery 01787 460612
Castle Hedingham Surgery 01787 461465
Great Yeldham 01787 237212
Freshwell Health Centre 01371 810328
Halstead Hospital 01787 273110
Colchester District Hospital 01206 744491
Braintree District Council 01376 552525
Vets – Great Yeldham 01787238255
The Green Man 01787 237418
Pumphouse Brewery 07801042545
Toppesfield Community Shop 01787 236003

Toppesfield Community Shop Church Lane, Toppesfield 01787 236003

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

Mon/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday 8.00am–5.30pm
Wednesday 8.00am = 1.00pm
Saturday 10.00am– 12.30pm

Toppesfield Post Office Church Lane, Toppesfield

Special Delivery, Mobile Top Up, Insurance Services, Household Payments, Travel Money, Moneygrams, Savings Accounts and more!

Wednesdays: 10am –1.00pm

Toppesfield Parish Council

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

Parish Clerk - Kaaren Berry

Parish Council Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month in the Village Hall. You are welcome to attend the Open Session that starts at 7.30 pm.

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

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/

St Margaret's Church

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Church Fete a success again this year, either as helpers, contributors or visitors. The weather wasn't so helpful during the preparations but the afternoon was fine. We raised a good sum for church funds (coincidentally about the same amount we pay each year to insure the ancient building).

The church is open every day for those who would like a quiet few moments, and there are services every Sunday. They are usually at 11.00am but on **July 7th** we have a special service at **5.00pm** based on the world famous worship at the French monastery of Taize, a service of peace and meditation with its own beautiful music led by our Toppesfield choir.

The choir is now well established with eleven members. If you enjoy singing and would like to join us let Sue Blackie know (237642).

If you would like help in any way please get in touch with our Rector Rev Liz Paxton (277270), or Sally Croft, or me and James Blackie, the Churchwardens.

Brain Moody

Services in July and August

July 7 **Taize service 5.00pm**
July 14 Family Communion 11.00am
July 21 Morning Prayer 11.00am
July 28 Holy Communion 11.00am
Aug 4 Morning Prayer 11.00am
Aug 11 Family Communion 11.00am
Aug 18 Morning Prayer 11.00am
Aug 21 Morning Prayer 9.30am (Wednesday)
Aug 25 Morning Prayer 11.00am

Future dates for your diary

Sept 21 Cheese and Wine at Ollivers Farm
Nov 15 Supper Auction

Game on!

Toppesfield Cricket Club continues to thrive and is in danger of looking like a real cricket team. Last season marked a milestone for the club with two victories from its five matches, including a well-deserved win against a somewhat ungracious Earls Colne side.

This season the club has five fixtures, three of which have already been played, and although all were lost, it was good to see eleven of the village's finest battling it out with the opposition. This summer the side is being skippered by Rob Sullivan, who will undoubtedly bring all his competitive experience to match days.

Off the pitch another heavyweight has joined the ranks – a new motorized heavy roller. Club captain and groundsman Nick Hasler has been test-driving this splendid bit of engineering and reports that it was money well spent. The wicket has never played straighter or truer.

Without doubt one of the highlights of the season is the annual family Crinders day, a chance for everybody to get together, have a bit of cricketing fun, eat, drink and generally be merry. This year Crinders will be taking place on Sunday 28th July, starting at 2.00pm. The more the merrier, so please bring yourselves, kids, dogs etc, along. No previous experience required.

As ever the team would like to see as much support as you can muster, especially for home matches. Even better if you fancy strapping on some pads or turning your arm over, new recruits are always welcome. Either turn up to nets on a Thursday evening, 6.30 start or find one of the team members in the Green Man and make yourself known.

TCC looks forward to your continued support over the season.

John Levick, Press Officer



Toppesfield Cricket Club Fixture List 2019

29th May vs. Gestingthorpe - lost by 70 runs

23rd June vs. Bardfield - lost by 9 runs

28th June vs. Rayne - match lost....fortunately so was the score!

July Sun. 28th Family Day 2.00 Home **ALL WELCOME**

August Sun 18th Rayne 1.00 Away

September Sat 14th Old Southendians 2.00 Home

Petanque.

Some people call it Bocca or Boules but whatever its name it is fun and played on our village playing field rink just past the clubhouse.

If you would like to have a go (no commitment) either give me a call or turn up at the rink on Sunday 14th July at 11.00am.

No equipment needed. No pressure, no skill or experience needed - just come and try it.

Sheila Braithwaite 07553243453



YOUR COMMUNITY SHOP

Have you been into your Community Shop lately?

Have you tried the hot drinks, the freshly made sandwiches and cakes (made with care only a couple of miles from Toppesfield!)?

What about all the local produce on offer – have you tried any of it?

At the Village Community Shop, we are always trying to improve the service offered to the village by adding something new, and trying something different, so if there is something you would like from your Community Shop which is not currently on offer, please do mention it and we'll see what we can do.

Our Community Shop offers a lot of us a chance to get out of the house and interact with lots of people as we do a shift or two of serving in the shop. It's fun (rather like playing shop at school but with real products and cash) and keeps the brain active. If you fancy having a go, please talk to anyone on duty. Training is given, the till is not as onerous as you might think, and you can join a small group of people who together keep the Community Shop alive in Toppesfield.

It's true you don't get paid in money but you do get a wonderful supper and BBQ each year and of course, the satisfaction of knowing that the few hours you spend as a volunteer matter a huge amount to the whole community.

By the way, Toppesfield Community Shop makes money available to the village in the form of grants. Each year we give away around £1500 to clubs, societies and organisations to help enhance life in our community. Be a part of it!!

Shop there because any profit stays in the village!!
Volunteer there because you can make a difference!!

Trisha Roberts

Toppesfield & Gainsford End Village Show

Saturday 14th September 2019 at 2.00pm

Schedules are available from the Community Shop or contact Ann Read or Maureen Dimmock.

An excellent opportunity to showcase your talents and see the talents of others.

A wide range of classes to enter for every age.

Toppesfield and Gainsford End Allotments

Mid-summer is now upon us at the allotments and community orchard, where everything is now in full swing. The rhubarb and asparagus seasons are almost over and we have had bumper harvests of both this year.

Linda has made vast improvements to the community herb garden and relaxation area, so if residents want to chill out after a stroll and take in the surroundings, this is the place to do it!

We have a new member, tackling the once productive plot near to Mike and Mary James. Welcome to Hal.

Thanks to the Parish Council for taking over the grass cutting on the greensward. It really makes a big difference to the place.

Please remember all are welcome to visit this place but please pick up dog mess and put it in the bin provided.

And finally, please use WATER Sparingly, Thank you.

PAUL THOMPSON

Red Barrows

At our AGM, the decision was made that the focus of our grants in the future would be used exclusively to support locally based causes and organisations.

We therefore agreed to make a final donation of £2,000 to Breakthrough Breast Cancer, a charity we have been pleased to support for many years, as well as two grants of £500 each to Little Chestnuts Pre-school and Friends of St Margaret's School ('FOSM'). The balance of our funds will be used to support other local projects once details have been finalised.

Since the Barrows was set up we have raised over £70,000, all of which has gone to charity.

Chris Barnard

Toppesfield Village Hall.

Over the last two years we have made big improvements to the village hall. New double-glazed windows and doors have made it warm and secure. A new electric heating system has been installed, along with dimmable ambient lighting. Our imminent project is to give the internal walls a much needed coat of paint. Now, we have a multipurpose, well resourced hall ready for all of the uses anyone can think of!

How will you enjoy your hall?

There are many clubs and interest groups already taking place but come and discuss with us if you would like to start a new one. We would love to hear your new ideas and we are particularly keen to move into new areas of community use.

So, if you would like to host your party or event, anything from a child's party, a wedding, new club or use a visiting health practitioner please contact us.

We have an impressive list of quality resources which we can also lend out.

Don't wait any longer- start that club or organise that event and use your village hall to the full.

Contact the booking secretary Daphne Jude 01440 788270 for further details.

The Openreach Community Fibre Project to bring Ultrafast Broadband to the village is moving along nicely. Following the contract being signed in April preliminary surveys have been completed and more complex design and delivery work is ongoing. It's expected the project will be delivered early 2020.

The logo for 'Ultra fast fibre' features the word 'Ultra' in a large, bold, multi-colored font (with shades of red, orange, yellow, green, and blue). Below it, the words 'fast fibre' are written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

This project will benefit the village by providing residents with access to multiple Ultrafast Broadband providers with a range of speed offerings and prices. Currently around 6% of the UK has access to full fibre broadband (Ofcom Connected Nations 2018) so this will put Toppesfield well and truly at the forefront of internet connectivity.

I will keep residents updated via Facebook and the Parish Newsletter. For those who signed up to the initial project I will also provide an email update.

Chris Neale

Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

On 11th May almost 50 people attended an open meeting at the village hall organised by the Parish Council and led by Jan Stobart from the Rural Community Council of Essex ('RCCE'). Jan explained that many communities are now developing their own NDPs and talked through the reasons they are doing so. Basically, the NDP process empowers a community to develop its own policies regarding the development and use of land in a parish. It is produced by the community but before it can be formally adopted it will need to conform to overarching planning policies and guidance at the local, national and European level and also demonstrate support from the community by way of a referendum. The view at the meeting was that this would be a worthwhile exercise for the parish to undertake. The next step is for the Parish Council to agree to start the process and this was due to be discussed on 4th July. Thereafter a Steering Group will need to be formed. At the moment there are four people who have expressed a firm interest in joining the Steering Group and at least two more are seriously thinking about joining. If the future development of Toppesfield and Gainsford End is important to you, why not think about getting involved? The next meeting is scheduled for 24th July and if you are interested please let the Parish Clerk, Kaaren Berry, know and come along on 24th. If you don't want to get involved at the Steering Group level but have specific skills or interests that would be relevant for specific aspects of the process, (for example, environment, PR, website design, housing, green energy etc.), please let Kaaren know.

Trees

You may have been reading recently about the important role trees can play in helping to address the environmental impact of climate change. The Parish Council is keen to determine what Toppesfield & Gainsford End as a whole can do for its part. There are two broad aspects to this. First, what is the health of the existing tree stock (how many dead or dying ash trees do we have in the parish, for example?). Second, where could we feasibly plant more trees and what types of trees would be best? If you are interested, let Kaaren Berry or any Parish Councillor know and we will see how we can move this forward. This affect all of us and especially the younger members of the community so all ages are welcome!

Speeding

The Parish Council has heard from several residents in Toppesfield of their concerns about speeding traffic, especially along Park Lane and The Causeway. Please remember that we have a 30mph speed limit in the village for a very good reason – it makes the village safer.

Please stay within the limit!

....and finally, don't forget that if you need more recycling bags, you can collect these from the Village Market of the first Saturday each month.



PUMPHOUSE POST

Prince's Countryside Fund helps provide extra employment at the Brewery - and Aaron will go full time

Pumphouse Community Brewery has recently been awarded a grant of £24,500 from the Prince's Countryside Fund, enabling it to provide more local employment opportunities - one of its key objectives.

The grant will make a significant contribution to the additional costs of employing two new staff members and making the Head Brewer's role full time, over a three year period starting in October 2019.

As a consequence, later this year we will be in a position to add two paid employees to our team - a part time Assistant Brewer and a part time Sales and Administration Assistant.

Pumphouse will also be able to employ Aaron Osborne, our 23 year old Head Brewer, for five days a week, rather than the current three.

We are hugely grateful to the Prince's Countryside Fund for their generous assistance in moving forward our expansion plans. They clearly recognise what we are trying to do for the community.

Our aims are to provide quality, affordable beer to aid the sustainability of the Green Man and other local pubs, to offer volunteering opportunities to residents, to provide rural employment and in time to distribute surpluses to the benefit of the community.

In another piece of excellent news, Pumphouse has been awarded up to £10,000 from the Community Trade Up Programme. They will reward additional sales by granting £1000 for every £1000 increase in sales up to a maximum of £8000 and we will receive an automatic up-front £2000 for agreeing to participate in a 12 day programme at the School for Social Entrepreneurs over the next 9 months.

Pumphouse Community Brewery is owned, and operated by the community on a not-for-profit basis. It supplies traditionally brewed ales to the community owned Green Man and to other pubs, clubs, retail outlets and private functions throughout N.Essex.

If you are interested in getting involved as a member/shareholder or as a volunteer, please call in at the brewery on Monday, Tuesday or Friday or call Alan Collard on 01787 237841.

Celebration Beer for the 75th Anniversary of D-Day enjoyed in Normandy, brewed right here in Toppesfield

A Spitfire, a Willys Jeep, and two amphibious DUKWs travelled to Normandy for the D-Day 75th Anniversary Commemoration, together with a firkin of Pumphouse Bitter.

Having been inspired by Major Graham Cooper, of the Guild of Battlefield Guides; a group of High Easter residents paid their respects on Arromanches Beach and at Caen throughout the week.

The Spitfire was scheduled to fly over as part of the official escort to the Dakotas, following their original route. The Jeep and the DUKWs were transported there. All of them are privately owned and maintained.

Rob Lodge, Chair of High Easter P.C. says 'Over the last year we have built up an excellent relationship with Pumphouse Community Brewery. They have supplied draught and bottled beers to several successful events, so when the Normandy trip was arranged, they were our first choice.

On D-Day itself, English Bitter was dropped in barrels to aid morale. We wanted to recreate that.'

'We like the Pumphouse not-for-profit community ethos - and we really like the beer!'

Pumphouse Committee Member, Richard Evers says 'We are of course pleased and proud to have been chosen to supply the beer on such an important occasion. We wish Rob and his friends well and look forward to many more opportunities for them to enjoy a Pumphouse pint!'



St Margaret's School is in its final few weeks of summer term. It's a time where we usually say a sad farewell to our Year 6 children as they transition to secondary. However this year we are also sad to say farewell to our Headteacher, Mrs Thomas, who will be taking a year's sabbatical from teaching.

Whilst Mrs Thomas has only been with us for two years she has made a significant impact on the school. Engaging with parents, staff and children on a school vision to inspire all has been really key in our journey. The vision has included more frequent school trips, where we have engaged with the library and local venues. The vision also looked at engaging more with the community. Children have been passionate about supporting events such as the doves in the church through to the Church fete. The school regularly uses the church for assemblies, including our Celebration Assembly which families join.

The school is blessed to be within such a caring community. The children have benefited from Toppesfield Village shop funding, which has allowed us to buy the top 100 books a child should read. This has really sparked the reading interest of some children who hadn't previously enjoyed reading.

The shop committee also provided monies to purchase some religious artefacts.

This year saw the launch of our Forest School, which has focused on the reception class. The school are very grateful to Jane Clarke who has provided an area where we can go and use for our weekly outing.

The strength of our community and rural setting also helped us attract some amazing candidates for the Headteacher role and we are delighted to welcome Mrs Newland, who will join us in September together with a bursting reception class of 16 children! Mrs Newland comes from an Essex church school where she was head of school for two years and is an excellent hire for St Margaret's.

We would like to say a big thank you to our community for their continued support and wish Mrs Thomas all the very best for her break, together with a warm welcome to Mrs Newland.

St Margaret's School, Governing Board.

Green Man news

As you are most probably aware Steve and Paula will be leaving The Green Man at the end of July; we are truly sorry they are leaving us and would like to take this opportunity to thank them and their family for all their hard work putting on a range of events and supplying the village with their famous fish and chips and Sunday lunches. They will be missed but we look forward to welcoming them back as customers and supporting the new tenants.

By the time you read this all the interviews for a new tenant will have taken place and a decision will have been made in order to ensure that the new tenant is ready to take over the pub on the 31st July. We were very pleased with the amount of interest we received from our adverts and the quality of the candidates that we met. Thank you to the people involved in the interview process - your help and input into this important decision was much appreciated.

Many thanks also to everyone who came along to a great night of music in May to raise money towards the Window Replacement Fund. Thanks to Chris Ames and Strangers Know More, Reptile Dysfunction, Jim Kelland and Molly May for providing the music and entertainment! The evening raised a whopping £1047 and along with a generous donation from the Red Barrows we are now in a position to start replacing some of the windows in most need of replacement. We will continue to fund raise and are looking for sponsors in order to replace the remaining windows and would be grateful if you could spread the word or let a member of the Committee know if you (or your company) would be interested in this.

We are also pleased to say that the front of the pub is also going to be painted thanks to a group of volunteers offering their time along with a donation of a very big pot of paint!

Please do come along to say good bye and thank you to Steve and Paula and to welcome our new tenants to the village.

We look forward to seeing you in the pub very soon!

SOCIAL CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT (SCAD) UPDATE

It's been quite a while since I last wrote about SCAD – the Charity in Southern India that I have been involved with for the last 10 years or so, and quite a lot has happened in that time.



Just to recap:

SCAD was founded in 1985 to work with and improve the lives of the most disadvantaged communities in the areas of Tirunelveli and Tuticorin, two cities in southern Tamil Nadu. Since 1985, some of the achievements of SCAD are:

- Supported 120,000 children under sponsorship and various educational programmes, and supported 7,000 children to pursue higher education
- Provided pre-school education and learning materials for 15,000 children
- Helped more than 17,500 people to have cataract surgery
- Helped more than 24,000 people through general health sessions and more than 5,000 people with disabilities through specialist interventions
- Held more than 15,000 health training and education programmes
- Immunised more than 50,000 children
- Established more than 43,000 kitchen gardens and almost 650 school gardens
- Organised fish cultivation in more than 160 local village reservoirs
- Trained more than 75,000 people on sustainable agriculture and eco concepts
- Conducted more than 300m animal health sessions and treated more than 90,000 animals
- Established more than 3,400 women's self-help groups (THE key to sustainable development in villages)
- Provided skills and livelihood trainings to more than 18,000 women
- Supported more than 25,000 families with the installation of toilets
- Created almost 600 irrigation ponds in villages for rainwater capture

- Provided aids and appliances to more than 8,000 people with disabilities
- Provided corrective surgery to more than 2,500 people with disabilities
- Freed more than 15,500 families from bonded labour in the salt pans
- Educated more than 900 children from the gypsy community
- Supported more than 65 families affected by leprosy

That's not the full list, but gives an idea of how grass-roots development work can positively affect many people.

All this work continues, together with establishing Farmer Producer Companies, lots of income generating opportunities for women, a major programme "0 - 1000 Days" to reduce the prevalence of malnutrition amongst rural children and pregnant women and a large medical centre providing complete rehabilitation therapies to rural children with special needs and providing medical care to the rural poor.

SCAD has identified some 300 children who are on the margins of the margins: children who are orphaned, living with a relative, have special needs or HIV. Some children have all of these conditions. They need some intervention to make their lives better. I have visited some of these children and, for the first time, I couldn't maintain my detachment. It costs only £16 per month to sponsor one of these children, and I know the money goes where it is supposed to go. If you can help, please contact me for further details.

If you would like to receive news and information about SCAD, please let me know and I will add you to the mailing list of an informal group I am organising called Friends of SCAD UK.



Trisha Roberts
Prober16@hotmail.co.uk

The Green Man Toppesfield

Your Community Pub

Opening Times:

Mon: 17:00 - 22:00

Tues: 17:00 - 23:00

Weds: 17:00 - 23:00

Thurs: 17:00 - 23:00

Fri: 14:00 - 23:00

Sat: 12:00 - 23:00

Sun: 12:00 - 20:00

Telephone: 01787 237418

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

Email: info@thegreenmantoppesfield.com

'Or Just pop in for a chat'

