

NEWS.



Toppesfield | Gainsford End

Parish Council

New Kitchen Opened in Village Hall by Bridget Sheldrake

read why on page 6

Edition 144 January/February 2013



Village buys The Green Man !

Pub purchase grabs the headlines on page 5



PARISH COUNCIL

- PETER MOORE
- DAVID BAGNALL
- ANDREW BULL
- ALAN COLLARD
- CLARE CONDIE
- JOHN LEVICK
- SHAUN SHELDRAKE

NEXT MEETINGS

- THURSDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2013; 8.00PM, VILLAGE HALL
- THURSDAY 7TH MARCH 2013; 8.00PM, VILLAGE HALL

PARISH CLERK

- KAAREN BERRY

Inside this issue:

USEFUL NUMBERS & LOCAL SERVICES	2
PARISH COUNCIL	3
TOMMO'S TIPS	4
THE GIRLS FROM THE POST OFFICE SAY	5
FOOTPATHS GROUP	6
GOLDEN CHESTNUTS MEET	7
WHAT'S ON & WHERE	12

Toppesfield & Gainsford End News

USEFUL NUMBERS

Kaaren Berry, Parish Clerk	07788 955038
St. Margaret's School	01787 237534
Little Chestnuts Pre School	07932 873200
Little Hedgehogs Toddler Group	01440 785778
Rev. Barbara Hume	01787 237138
Doctor's Car Service	07845 596092
Women's Institute, Ann Clark	01787 238075
Sible Hedingham Surgery	01787 460612
Freshwell Health Centre, Finchingfield	01371 810328
Halstead Hospital	01787 291021
Colchester District Hospital	01206 744491
Braintree District Council	01376 551414
Litter Picking Request (BDC)	01376 552525

Village Hall

Price List 2013

Monday—Thursday Afternoon or Evening £10.00
 Fri, Sat, Sun Afternoon until 4.00pm £25.00
 Fri, Sat, Sun Evenings 5.00pm—12 Midnight
 £30.00
 Committee Meetings—£10.00

If extra time outside of the above time slots is needed for setting up, this will be charged at £2.00 per hour.

A returnable deposit of 10% is payable at the time of booking. You will be charged for the Hall if you fail to cancel your booking.

As the Village Hall is in close proximity to residential property, we request you respect the village residents during and at the end of your booking and leave quietly.

**TO BOOK THE HALL
 TELEPHONE LINDA
 PRITCHARD
 ON 07921 956555**

Toppesfield Village Store

*We are open on
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 Wednesday 8.00am - 1.00pm Saturday 9.00am - 12.30pm*

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Toppesfield & Gainsford End News

Parish Council

Peter Moore

Welcome to the first edition of the Newsletter for 2013. In this edition you can see more great community events and happenings, from the newly installed kitchen in the Village Hall, a great achievement by the Committee; a short article on the tremendous purchase of The Green Man by the village, and photographs of the traditional New Year's Walk, led by Ann Read from the Parish Footpaths Group.

The Parish Council continue to champion the introduction of a strong broadband service to the community at a fair price to all, and we are working closely with our preferred supplier, County Broadband on this project, initially started as part of the Village Plan. We had a great meeting in January at The Green Man and will notify you of the next one soon.

The Allotments continue to improve this once forgotten area of the village. We now have smart rural paths taking us into the heart of this area. The Community Orchard is flourishing and the allotments are full! Well done to the team that have inspired others to take up their spades and forks and make a difference!

St. Margaret's Church

Sally Croft

Happy New Year from all of us at St. Margaret's Church. It was lovely to see the Church so full of people during the Christmas period giving thanks for the gift of Jesus and worshipping together.

In the Church calendar, events take a different guise now as we move into Epiphany, the time when Jesus was revealed as the Messiah, the Son of God and we learn about his baptism and his early ministry.

The New Year is also the time for reflection and new starts and we would like you to reflect on what Your Church can do for you and what you would like started at the Church. We are here to serve the communities of Toppesfield & Gainsford End and although we have a service at the Church on a Sunday morning at 11am, we realise that this time is not always convenient for everyone or the services to everyone's taste. It is important that we are able to provide a place of worship for everyone so it may be possible to run a different kind of service, for example, a songs of praise on some Sundays and not necessarily in the morning. We could also have a midweek prayer and praise one morning or evening, but we need your thoughts on the matter please. You can speak to our Vicar Barbara or one of our Church Wardens, James Blackie or Brian Moody whose details can be found on the Church Notice Board. You can also speak to me or drop a note through my door at Chestnut House (opposite The Green Man).

The Church is open every day during the week if you need a quiet space to gather your thoughts. We are unable, due to fire regulations, to facilitate the lighting of candles, but, we do have a prayer/memory book where you can leave the name of the person that you would like us to hold in our prayers. Our new Pastoral team are now available to bring you, or someone you know, home communion or just pop in for a chat. Call me on 07850 361101 and I can arrange this.

Please let me know your thoughts and how to serve you better in 2013.



" THE NEW YEAR IS ALSO THE TIME FOR REFLECTION AND NEW STARTS AND WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO REFLECT ON WHAT YOUR CHURCH CAN DO FOR YOU AND WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE STARTED AT THE CHURCH."



Toppesfield & Gainsford End News



**"URGENT NEED
WE NEED
HARDCORE/
RUBBLE FOR THE
BRIDGE
CROSSING AT
THE BOTTOM OF
THE PLAYING
FIELDS, ANY
SMALL QUANTITY
WILL HELP
FINISH THE
PROJECT"**

Allotment Society

Paul Thompson

Rain, rain, rain and then more rain again. Its now official; it was the wettest year in 2012 for over a century. June, July, September, October, November and December, all had much higher rainfall than average according to the Met Office. January and February were average for the time of year.

All footpaths around the allotment have been mud baths, most of the footpaths around the village have been waterlogged and as far as the actual allotments are concerned, Mike James's allotment has a moat around it, Paula's chickens have been learning how to act like ducks and we have three ponds on the grass areas and one on the Community Orchard. In spite of this, we managed to have a Family Sausage Sizzle in November which was attended by some 34 villagers and a good time was had by all.

A fabulous Quiz Night and Raffle Evening was held in the Village Hall, which raised valuable funds for equipment for maintaining the facility. It was really nice to get the children out using their brains and helping the elders attain reasonable scores! Thanks to Sally Amerio for organizing the event.

On the last weekend of December, a working party was assembled to do a general tidy up and a relay of bark chippings on the main pathway to the allotments. Very special thanks to Rob Stafford-Baker for donating the timber for the path edges, Jason Keeble for his expertise in screwing things together, Richard Millgate for his expert hammering skills and Fran for his help.

The last allotment plot that is vacant has been offered to Louisa Starkey, but there is a possible new plot, which could be cleared for future cultivation. Interested parties should contact me on 238562. First Come First Served.

URGENT NEED ! We need hardcore/rubble for the bridge crossing at the bottom of the playing fields; any small quantity will help finish the project.

Date for Diary

Wednesday 31st July 2013. We are planning a very special day out to the Sandringham Flower Show. Flowers, Bands, Steam Engines, Horses, Royalty, A fabulous day out on a coach. Please contact Sally Amerio and put your names down quickly as we are expecting a very big response. Entrance Fee is only £10.

Tommo's Tips for January and February

Use wellies!, Sow garlic, broad beans and curly kale. Clean and sharpen tools. Read gardening books and finally pray for better weather.

Toppesfield Community Shop

Ann Read



I hope you have all had a splendid Christmas and the shop was able to take some of the hassle out of your Christmas preparations. Now that we are in a new year, there, as always, is a wide range of local goods available at the Shop and with all the cold weather, please don't forget we stock coal, logs and rock salt for your comfort and mixed seed, peanuts and fat balls for our feathered friends.

Here's wishing you a Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you all in the Shop.

Toppesfield & Gainsford End News

Pub purchase makes the headlines!

The purchase of The Green Man had its 15 minutes of fame in December when local TV and radio got wind of the news that the Village had bought its pub.

First on the scene was BBC Radio Essex's reporter, Richard Martin, who did two live interviews for the Breakfast Show in the pub's lounge bar. That evening Look East's Kevin Burch braved a packed pub to interview Alan Collard, Chairman of the Pub Committee.

Two days later Anglia News did a pre-recorded piece talking to a number of well known faces who'd just happened to turn up for a swift one at lunchtime.

In the local papers, news of the purchase was writ large with editions of the Halstead Gazette, Sudbury Mercury and Haverhill Echo carrying the story, with it also featuring in the online edition of the EADT.

The story even made the pub trade's own publication, The Morning Advertiser, where reporter Adam Pescod thought it was a great positive story.

Thanks to all shareholders and villagers for turning up and supporting the pub and this historic achievement.

The girls at the Post Office say

It will be our first anniversary in February—hasn't time flown by?

Just a reminder,

Paying your bills is easy through The Post Office; Almost all household utility bills (except Anglian Water) can be paid. Just drop in with your bill and the cash or a cheque. For most there is no extra charge, so you could save the cost of a stamp!

Foreign Currency. We continue to stock Euros and can order almost any other currency for next working day delivery, so drop in and place your order.

Banking. You can draw out cash from most major bank accounts (please make sure it's your account or that you have the permission of the account holder!) You can also pay in cheques and sometimes even cash!

Mobile Phones, topping up your mobile phone is easy at The Post Office with or without a top up card.

Electricity, Rent and other things too. If you pay rent, you can pay it through the Post Office. Electricity keys can be topped up to.

At your Post Office, you can also purchase Premium Bonds, send Moneygrams and do lots of other things too. Drop in and see us—it might be a free cake day.

Trisha and Keely xx

Toppesfield & Gainsford End Village Show 2013

Provisional date for this year's Village Show is Saturday 14th September 2013 !

Further details and how to help from Ann Read.



“ FIRST ON THE SCENE WAS BBC RADIO ESSEX'S REPORTER, RICHARD MARTIN, WHO DID TWO LIVE INTERVIEWS FOR THE BREAKFAST SHOW IN THE PUB'S LOUNGE BAR. THAT EVENING, LOOK EAST'S KEVIN BURCH BRAVED A PACKED PUB TO INTERVIEW ALAN COLLARD, CHAIRMAN OF THE PUB COMMITTEE”



Toppesfield & Gainsford End News



Village Hall

Zoe Hughes

The Village Hall Committee is looking forward to its new kitchen being used after recently being fitted by Ray Syder and flooring being completed by Mint Floorcovering Ltd. The kitchen, kindly donated by Durkan Ltd of Waltham Cross, was organised by Shaun Sheldrake, Parish Councillor and member of the Village Hall Committee.

The work was completed on time ready for the Little Chestnuts Pre School on Monday 7th January 2013. This will be a workable kitchen made easy for all hirers and functions. The Village Hall Committee are working together to improve the facilities for the future of your Community Hall (Yes your Village Hall).

The Christmas Hamper was drawn on Friday 21st December 2012 in The Green Man by Zoe James, Dave Cooke held the winning ticket and we raised £322, which will go towards new stage lighting, which is our next project for 2013, which hopefully will encourage more entertainment and variety in the use of the Village Hall.

To continue raising funds, the Village Hall Committee will be starting Theme Nights, so watch this space

"EIGHT WALKERS WELCOMED IN 2013 WITH A WALK ON NEW YEAR'S DAY. IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL MORNING WITH THE SUN SHINING AND A CLOUDLESS BLUE SKY."

Parish Footpaths Group

Ann Read

Eight walkers welcomed in 2013 with a walk on New Year's Day. It was a beautiful morning with the sun shining and a cloudless blue sky. Because of the pretty wet conditions the route chosen was mainly on the farm roads and the highway but this did not detract from the pleasure of enjoying a bracing walk around our beautiful Parish.

The County Enforcement Officer spent a day in the Parish to advise us on the way forward with our Parish Paths. Three footpath signs that had fallen over have been replaced and advice given on how to make more accessible cross field paths and field edge paths. Cross field paths are entirely the responsibility of the land owners and should be reinstated within 14 days of cultivation.

The maintenance of the surface of field edge paths is the responsibility of Highways, but the field edge path should be a minimum of a metre and half wide and the hedge if there is one, should be faced back. These issues are the responsibility of the land owner. However we do have to take into consideration the appalling weather this Autumn and the heavy soil that we have in Toppesfield.

There are two applications in to divert the course of footpaths, one surrounding the concrete farm road near Berwick Hall Wood and the other around Bradfields. It does take a long time for applications to be sorted but hopefully both will be addressed in the New Year. Once this has been passed we can then set about creating maps of walks in the Parish.

Please note that if you see some problem with roads such as potholes developing, you can report it on the Essex County Council website. Its quite easy to do. Even I can do it! If you come across a problem with a footpath, please contact me so that I can go through the correct channels. Enjoy your walking!



Toppesfield & Gainsford End News

New Club 'Golden Chestnuts' is born !

The Club met for the first time on Friday 9th November 2012. We had 15 people attend our first session, we all enjoyed a free cuppa and crumpets. Those attending voted on the Club being known as the Golden Chestnuts. They would like to meet weekly on Friday afternoons between 2pm and 4pm in the Village Hall. A £1.50 subs was also agreed payable weekly when you attend.

So far we have played different games, had time for chatting and had a really good laugh. It's been fun with over 20 members now, our last session was held on the 14th December 2012 and we are looking forward to our meetings in January.

Thanks to all that have supported this new venture so far, and long may it continue. More members are always welcome, we really are having a laugh.

Thanks to the Community Shop for the very kind donation towards some new and updated equipment.



Little Hedgehogs Toddler Group Zoe Hughes

We are now in our 24th year; numbers have dropped off so much we are in danger..... so calling all new Mums, parents, carers (expecting rising 5's, all welcome).

Please help us keep going on Mondays from 1.30pm to 3.00pm. We will be 25 years old in September 2013, please use it or lose it. Our number is on the Useful Numbers in the front of the Newsletter.

Fit Fun Club Zoe Hughes

We meet Thursday afternoons 2.00pm—3.00pm in the Village Hall. We have also been approached about starting up an Evening Session, potentially on a Monday or Tuesday. Anyone interested, please call Zoe on 01440 783778.

Toppesfield School Association Zoe Hughes

The Christmas Cake was drawn on 21st December 2012 and won by Lorraine Cooke who was delighted with her winnings. The Christmas Fayre raised over £600. Thank you to all that came along, this event still remains our most successful event in the School Year that brings much needed cash into the School, to spend on items such as the Quiet Space in the playground.

The Christmas Shopping Trip to Norwich unfortunately for the first time in 23 years we made a loss of £2. It would have been more but thanks to a couple still paying for their tickets but not attending, so thank you all for your donations.

The 24th Annual Christmas Shopping Trip to Norwich has been booked for Saturday 16th November 2013. More information to follow later in the year.

" THE FIT FUN CLUB MEETS ON THURSDAY AFTERNOONS FROM 2PM TO 3PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN APPROACHED ABOUT STARTING UP AN EVENING SESSION, POTENTIALLY ON A MONDAY OR TUESDAY"



Toppesfield & Gainsford End News

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Little Chestnuts Pre-School

We provide a safe, fun learning environment for children aged two years to rising fives in Toppesfield Village Hall.

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Gainsford Hall

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TOPPESFIELD VILLAGE STORES
PRESENT

EASTER VILLAGE MARKET

'By the Village for the Village'

Saturday 23rd March 2013
10.30am—12.30pm

An 'eggcellent' Village Market full of Easter goodies.
Come along and see what there is. Have a chat over tea/coffee and bacon
rolls.

Your Village Shop will also be open, Get there early to bag a bargain

To book a table, please contact Trisha on 238360

Toppesfield & Gainsford End News



New Year's Walk 2013

This picture shows our intrepid walkers on the New Year Walk, led by Ann Read.

You can find the story on page 6

Fantastic transformation of the kitchen area in the Village Hall.

Thanks to Shaun Sheldrake, Ray Syder and team and Mint the flooring specialists.



Fantastic set of winter photographs by the talented Molly-May Stevenson. Remember that snowy week with no school?



Toppesfield & Gainsford End News

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Village Events—Get involved !



St. Margarets of Antioch, Toppesfield

Sunday 3rd February	Morning Prayer	11am
Sunday 10th February	Holy Communion	11am
Sunday 17th February	Morning Prayer	11am
Sunday 24th February	Holy Communion	11am



Toppesfield & Gainsford End W.I.

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 8pm in the Village Hall, so why not join us. For further information, please call Sue Clark 237145 or Trisha Roberts 238360



Toppesfield & Gainsford End Art Club

We meet every Wednesday in the Village Hall from 7.30pm to 9.30 pm

All welcome, young and old, whatever arts and crafts you enjoy!



Toppesfield & Gainsford End Fit Fun Club

Every Thursday at 2.00pm at the Village Hall.

All welcome to join in and exercise to music and have fun!



Little Hedgehogs Parent & Toddler Group

Mondays 1.30pm—3.00pm at Toppesfield Village Hall.

Your local friendly group. Why not come and see us or for more information please call Zoe on 01440 785778.

The Newsletter is edited, published and distributed by Toppesfield Parish Council.

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Website: www.toppesfieldparishcouncil.org.uk

Facebook: 'Toppesfield & Gainsford End'

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Notice Boards: Camoise Close; Gainsford End; Village Hall