

# GREAT CANFIELD NEWSLETTER SUMMER



2020

## CHURCH SERVICES

During this difficult time when our church buildings are closed, we are still a church meeting virtually for services, prayer and fellowship, and to which all are welcome. If we can be of any help or you have a prayer request, please contact Rev'd Robert Stone, details on the back page or use the contacts page on our website to get in touch.

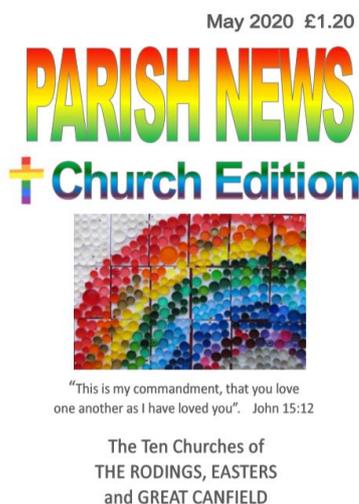
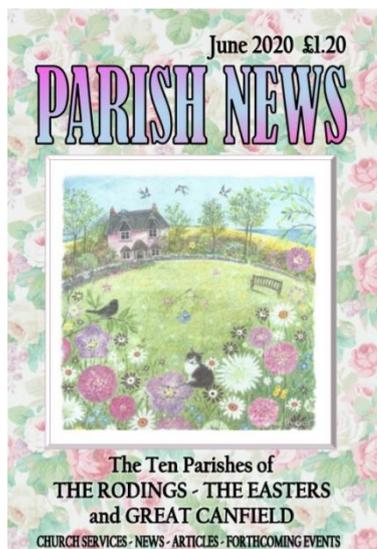
The church website is continually updated with weekly service sheets, Robert's sermons, children's activities, (check out the 'Children and Youth' page for extra activities and links) prayers and services to follow at home. During May we streamed our first service in the 10 churches using the Zoom platform and details of how to join these weekly services are on our website, together with links and details of other options for joining in worship. You can also find Morning Prayer services on Robert's YouTube channel. Search for 'Robert Stone Rodings'



Daily Hope is a free service from the Church of England offering music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services at the end of a telephone line. The free line is available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044 and has been set up particularly to support those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions. A section called Hymn Line offers callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily.

The [Government's COVID-19 Recovery Strategy](#) suggests that church buildings could be open for public access from July as part of the conditional and phased plan to lifting the lockdown. Like all organisations the Church of England is looking ahead to the potential easing of lockdown and what restrictions will need to be in place for public worship to take place, including weddings and funerals. At the time of writing we have no confirmation on what these restrictions may look like and how they will limit our ability to provide public worship at Great Canfield and across the 10 churches. The only certainty is the pattern of worship will be different to pre-Covid, so please keep checking the website for the latest information, [www.thesixparishes.org.uk](http://www.thesixparishes.org.uk)

## PLEASE CONSIDER SUBSCRIBING TO PARISH NEWS



Each month a team of volunteers edits and distributes over 900 copies of Parish News to residents in the 10 villages, which includes Great Canfield.

There are two versions of Parish News which rotate on a bi-monthly basis, a larger Parish News which includes information on what's on or happening in each village as well as reports from local groups, organisations and services relevant to the local community. On alternate months the local churches edit a 'church edition' which is a smaller publication with church news and a selection of local reports and information. Both editions include the 26 pages of local advertisers.

The cover price is £1.20 per edition, however the annual subscription for the magazine is £10 per annum payable in January or £5 if you subscribe for July to December. Once you've paid your subscription a magazine will be delivered through your letter box by one of the village volunteers each month.

The cost of printing the magazine (printed by a local company) is covered by the advertising revenue, which allows your subscription to be received by your village church, providing a vital source of income which helps to support general running costs.

If you are not already receiving a copy of Parish News and would like to subscribe, please contact Barbara Hughes who is the coordinator for Great Canfield 01279 871513 or email [tony.barb61@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.barb61@btinternet.com). Or if you are a local business interested in advertising please get in touch with Peter Brookes, [peter.aythorpe@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.aythorpe@btinternet.com), who will be able to advise you further including the costs and any waiting lists.

## ST MARY THE VIRGIN GREAT CANFIELD

Dear Friends,

Whilst you couldn't describe the current situation we are all facing together as good it has been heartening to witness the way in communities have come together to support those in need, and things like the Thursday clap has been very heartening. I have also been encouraged by a recent news report that suggested one in four people have been experiencing church online and are praying for our nation and the world.

I have to admit that I never planned to become a YouTuber but I am now online and we are producing weekly resources for the community. You can check out what we have been up to at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5wgMql6xkhJK9rfFKeo4Sg/featured> ? or via <http://thesixparishes.org.uk/index.php/our-church-online>

Prayer is not just what humans do when they feel they are in tough places, it that thing which I believe draws us closer to God, so that we learn more about Him and what in the end changes us by contributing to the experience of becoming the best version of ourselves we can be. It can also be an expression of our love for others, especially those in need to this end I have a 'Say One for Me, Prayer Promise'. If you would like someone to pray for you just send me some brief details or give me a call and I promise to remember you in my prayers everyday for a month. I don't need a huge amount of detail to do this small thing for you. Why not email me at

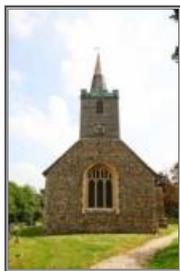
[roberstone1965@gmail.com](mailto:roberstone1965@gmail.com) or call or text on 07726 719288.

Rev'd Robert Stone

*Say One for Me*  
Prayer Promise

ST MARY THE VIRGIN GREAT CANFIELD

## CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT



This is my first report since Robert arrived and we met with the Tiny Terror, Covid 19. Not the best time to be reporting on the going's on at the church.

Due to the presence of Covid 19 within the world population The Church of England closed all churches to everyone on 24<sup>th</sup> March and remain closed. Recently incumbents have been permitted to use the church for their own worship and may also stream worship under strict regulations. This has left the church with something of a challenge. How to worship God with each other when we can't BE with each other? The answer rests with technology. We, yes even the wrinkly we, are now embracing new technology, and what we find is endless opportunity to communicate and do God's work in ways we never thought of before. Ways they will fit in with modern society, whatever that will be. We will all have had time to re-evaluate our lives and address what is important to us all. Maybe God can now come into your lives. With a little help God speaks Facebook. And Zoom. And YouTube. And all-sorts. God has always been available On Demand. Now the church is too.

Sunday services will be on available on Zoom at 11am. If you're stuck call or email me. We can be stuck together (only joking).

Anyway, the only goings on going on at present is the grass is being cut by Tim Windley. He is back after his recent battle with the other C-word. (Prayers – tick). We have many plans afoot for the future, for example toilet, kitchen area and pathway improvements. More of them next time

I had planned to detail here the forthcoming fundraising events during the summer. Of course, the little perisher has put pay to that. The plans we have as briefly mentioned above will of course have a cost. Even without them we now have a permanent Priest who we have to pay for, although he is worth every penny and some, and without the fund-raising all ten parishes are in need of funding. Anything you can help with will be so welcome, see box below for more information.

Finally, spare a thought for the new kid in ~~town~~ villages. He thought he was leaving his desk job behind. **WRONG!**

David Turner  
**Churchwarden**

**01279-870620**  
[hartview2@gmail.com](mailto:hartview2@gmail.com)

We find ourselves facing the biggest challenge of most of our lifetimes and the church has had to close its buildings in the interests of protecting the NHS, one another, and saving lives. Despite closed buildings the Church remains an anchor of prayer and our mission remains constant, as do the bills!

Like Churches and organisations across the country we face extremely challenging times ahead. Our income has decreased as a result of the loss of collections at services, plus the loss of other streams of income including local fundraising.

We understand these are difficult times for many in our community, however if you are able to consider making a regular contributions to St Mary's to allow us to continue to provide a place of worship and support to the community we would be extremely grateful. If you currently make a financial contribution using the envelope scheme or via cash in the collection we would also encourage you to consider setting up an electronic payment.

If you can help, bank details are Great Canfield Parochial Church Council, sort code 30-92-76 and account number 00341046, or contributions by way of cheque payments to Great Canfield PCC are always welcome. Further information including a gift aid form if you are a UK taxpayer are available from Tony Hughes 01279 871513 or email [tony.barb61@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.barb61@btinternet.com). Thank you.



**GREAT  
CANFIELD  
VE DAY  
75<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATIONS**



Despite everyone remaining in isolation which meant we couldn't celebrate together, a lot of households made a great effort with flags and bunting. The community Facebook page was invaluable as it enabled the community to post various things throughout the day, which meant people had a feeling of connection, even though they couldn't be together in person.

Apart from the pictures of decorated houses, people supplied images of food they had made for the day, paintings and garden displays including some who shared interesting family memorabilia with even a signed thank you from the Queen, and there were links to Linda Hop lessons so people could get into the swing of things!

At 6.55pm, Henry Green kindly agreed to be our acting Town Crier for the day and gave a touching video tribute to our armed forces during WW2 which was watched by most of the village – see <https://youtube/9tTKoX86lYk>.

Our thanks to the community of Great Canfield for your support.

Village VE Team



## NEWS FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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### Chairman's Annual Statement

The current coronavirus pandemic means it is not possible for me to present my annual report in the normal way. A new set of regulations are currently in place which allow Parish Councils to hold virtual meetings and Great Canfield Parish Council made history by holding its first virtual meeting via the Zoom platform on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020. The regulations also remove the requirement to hold an Annual Village Meeting at which I would normally make this statement. However, I felt it was still important to remind you of the work the Parish Council has been involved in during the last year on your behalf.

Firstly, I would like to thank residents for their commitment to looking out for and supporting their neighbours during the coronavirus pandemic and especially to single out the two WhatsApp groups at Bacon End and Green Street. The village Facebook page has also been invaluable during this time for sharing information and keeping residents in touch, and of course our thanks to the local businesses who have provided supplies when needed! Also, a thank you to the Hepburn family for the free village quiz webinar hosted from the village hall during the lockdown which was able to make use of the wifi service funded by the Parish Council.

2019/20 began with District and Parish Council elections in May. We welcomed two new District Cllrs, Geof Driscoll and Neil Reeve from Residents 4 Uttlesford and we have valued their attendance and District updates at our monthly meetings. The Parish Council saw Declan Tiernan step down due to work commitments and we welcomed back Keir Donald to fill his place.

May 2019 also saw another first for the Parish Council when along with Takeley Parish Council, we had joint Rule 6 status at the planning appeal by Gladman for 135 homes on land to the west of Canfield Road. This was a significant undertaking for such a small Parish Council and I must single out and thank Cllr Ginny Barlow for all her work and for the representation she gave at the appeal. I also thank Cllr Jenny Jewell and our Clerk for their commitment and work behind the scenes, and the residents who made statements and attended. The cost of the appeal was £20.4k and we are extremely grateful for the financial contributions made by both Takeley Parish Council and Hatfield Broad Oak Parish Council which enabled this representation to be possible. The Planning Inspector dismissed the appeal after confirming conflict with the development plan policies 'which seek to protect heritage assets and control development that would harm the character and appearance of the countryside'.

The other significant application for 80 houses opposite the Gladman site was refused by Uttlesford in early 2020, the refusal was by the Planning Officers and therefore did not go to Planning Committee, this decision has not yet been appealed. In July and in support of our neighbouring Parish Councils we spoke at the Planning Committee in objection to the Bonningtons development which was subsequently refused by Uttlesford. Other small-scale developments in Great Canfield have had varied success, with some being approved at appeal and others refused. The threat of small- and large-scale planning applications are set to continue following the recent withdrawal of the Uttlesford Local Plan and the lack of a 5 year housing supply. A new Local Plan process is due to start in the coming months, however current estimates are that a plan will not be approved until 2023 at the earliest; there are already suggestions that the villages are likely to have to take additional housing in this new plan. There will be plenty of opportunities for residents, community groups and Parish Councils to input into the plans in the coming months.

The Parish Council has and will continue to object to outline applications on unsustainable sites which threaten the character of the parish and have an impact on the countryside, including at appeal. Once outline applications are approved the concept of building on the site is in place. Whether we agree or not with this decision the Parish Council will turn its views to ensuring

whatever is proposed is the best design possible to fit in with the local character, if it is necessary to engage with developers to achieve this then it will consider doing so. The Parish Council accepts this is a difficult balance and that its views may not always be aligned to residents, in particular where views continue to focus on opposing development or issues that are not supported or relevant in planning.

There have been small incidents of fly tipping in the village and thankfully not the large scale tipping we saw in 2018. The blight of general littering continues and I would like to thank those who have helped at the Autumn litter pick and those who regularly pick up litter to help keep our village clean and tidy.



The two byways in Great Canfield have suffered significant damage this winter with the wet conditions and use by motorised vehicles. The Parish Council has met with Essex Highway Engineers as well as County and District Cllrs and the landowner to look at what alternative solutions there are to ensure the byway is safe for all users including those on horse-back and walkers. The Parish Council was due to meet with the Green Lane Association (GRASS) before the lockdown and this will be progressed when it is appropriate to do so. In the meantime, I would like to thank the two landowners who have used their own time and machinery to flatten the surface of both byways in the parish.

Potholes and road surface continue to be a problem. The Parish Council was disappointed when Green Street was removed from the list for micro surfacing in 2019/20 due to a change in priorities to focus on more urban local roads. The Parish Council continues to lobby for Green Street repairs and resurfacing.

Great Canfield community trust have been progressing negotiations with Great Canfield Parochial Church Council on an extension to the current lease for the village /church hall which ends in November 2020. Negotiations are nearing completion which should see the lease extended for a further 7 years, with the option to continue to roll this in 7 year time blocks. Advice from the Rural Community Council of Essex has led to an agreement in principle that the Parish Council will become the leasee to the agreement. In this scenario the existing village hall committee will continue to manage and run the hall in the way they have been doing, although from a legal point of view they will need to become a committee of the Parish Council and to provide regular reports at Parish Council meetings, other than that nothing will change. This will ensure the security is in place to allow the hall to continue to be operated as a community space for the benefit of Great Canfield for many years to come.

We made our annual donation to the village firework display and paid for another year of WiFi at the village hall. As a reminder grants are available from the Parish Council for any organisation or suggestion which benefits residents of Great Canfield.



This year we have again raised our precept by £2k, with the intention that this increase is 'ring-fenced' for work to alleviate some of the minor flooding issues in the parish and we will be progressing this further in the coming months.

Finally, in closing I would like to thank my fellow councillors who give their time and energies voluntarily to our community and our Parish Clerk who keeps us legal. There are many residents who also give their time and talents to this community and I would like to mention Andrew Clack for managing the village website and Claire Knight for her energy on promoting 10 green parishes and her efforts for VE Day celebrations. The regulations as a result of Covid 19, also remove the requirement for Parish Councils to hold their Annual Parish Council meetings and therefore our Cllrs will continue with their current responsibilities for a further year. As I said in closing last year, I am very proud to be the Chair of Great Canfield Parish Council and look forward to continuing in this role for a further year.



Their website, <https://uttlesford.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/> has plenty of information on help that is available, and ways in which you can donate to support individuals and families across our local communities who are struggling at this time.

### **Other Parish Council News - Planning**

The planning application for 80 homes on land north of Canfield Drive and south of the Flich Way, which has been undecided for some time, was refused by Uttlesford planning officers in mid-March. The primary reason for refusal was, 'the proposed development by reason of the site's rural location and the scale of the housing scheme as indicated would result in the urbanisation of open countryside and a country lane in conflict with & contrary to ULP Policy S7'.

On 1<sup>st</sup> April a notice was issued by the Planning Inspector allowing the appeal and granting planning permission for the demolition of the existing garage to Mayrose House, Canfield Drive, construction of driveway and erection of one detached 1 1/2 storey dwelling and one single storey dwelling and two cart lodges.

On 20<sup>th</sup> May, Uttlesford District Council Planning Committee made a decision to approve the application for a 'refuse lorry depot, classic car storage and restoration business, flexible office space, enhanced public open space, cycle and pedestrian uses and associated development' on land east of Braintree Road (B1256), Great Dunmow. This would see the existing waste depot moved from Dunmow town centre and the Uttlesford service which also operates out of Newport and Saffron Walden, consolidated on this one site. The approved site had the support of Dunmow Town Council and neighbouring Parish Councils including Great Canfield. An alternative site promoted on land in Little Canfield which received objections from all local Town and Parish Councils had been refused by Uttlesford Planning Committee in 2019.

Next quarters parish Council meetings are as follows. All meetings take place at 8pm and will use the Zoom platform. Details of how to join each meeting will be on the first page of the agenda, on the village website and residents are very welcome to attend.

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Please note there is no scheduled meeting in August

Parish Council agenda and minutes are available on the village website  
[www.greatcanfield.org.uk/parish-council.html](http://www.greatcanfield.org.uk/parish-council.html)



## A report from your Essex County Councillor Susan Barker

Dear Residents

I do hope that you and your families are keeping safe at this time

Remote working has become the new norm at Essex County Council, holding Zoom meetings with Cabinet colleagues to conduct business and now Parish and Town meetings too. There have, of course, been changes. We have closed Libraries and Civic Amenity sites and our formal Country Parks. We are hoping very soon to reopen the Country Parks and The Civic Amenity sites but ensuring that social distancing is observed. These are outdoor spaces; but indoor spaces such as Libraries are likely to reopen rather later and likely to be for book borrowing only. Again social distancing will need to be in place as well as rules around book handling. We have a duty to protect the public and the staff. We have seen a 10,000 increase in the number of residents using our Libraries online where we have vastly increased the number of e books and comics, as well as making Story and Rhyme times available.

The majority of ECC staff in my area of work are working from home and have adapted swiftly to the new norm. This includes customer services, financial services, the registration service, legal services and business support. The registration service has been under a lot of pressure although the government did move swiftly to allow the registration of deaths by phone rather than in person. One particular area where there are difficulties is weddings, where there are restrictions in place on the number of attendees allowed. Many couples who had planned to get married this summer have had to change those plans. To give you an idea there are around 600 weddings planned in August alone ...so a lot of reorganising.

We have furloughed a few staff such as those involved in Essex Outdoors and our Music Teachers but the majority of staff are working normally. (Councils can only furlough staff who earn their salary through fees) .Many who are unable to work ( such as front line Library staff) have agreed to retrain to other positions and taken up work within the registrations service and the Essex Welfare Service, supporting those who are shielding and do not have support.

Many of you, I know will be helping neighbours and relatives who cannot go out and many thousands also signed up with Essex County Council to volunteer. Some days more than 1000 requests for help have been made and all of these picked up by a volunteer in under a minute. So much kindness. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Our road contractors initially ceased work but as of the start of May are back working and we are expecting an allocation from the Governments pothole fund to help clear some of the backlog. Across the area from Little Hallingbury to Dunmow there are road surface dressing schemes planned, including the total resurfacing of the High Street from the Braintree Road roundabout to the Queen Vic roundabout. The majority of the work will be done overnight and the latest date I have is early September. Follow the link for more details <https://one.network/?tm=116724650>

Other Highways schemes that will progress in the New Year include the long awaited build out at the bottom of Rosemary Lane in Dunmow, the extension to the 30 mph speed limits in Rands Road, High Roding and Stortford Road Leaden Roding. Works to improve signage in Sawbridgeworth Road Little Hallingbury and Ongar Road Great Dunmow where drivers frequently come off the road. The installation of railings outside High Stile School and the designing of a pavement widening scheme on the hill from Barnston to Dunmow.

My portfolio at Essex includes many back office functions such as IT, where the procurement of new systems, and supporting staff working remotely carries on. A new Library management system is being procured which will enhance the Library experience online and in branch.

As you will be aware many retail shops and pubs have been able to claim a grant from Government of £10,000 or £25,000 depending on their rateable value. This grant is also available to some Village Halls, sports clubs and similar who receive a rates bill (even if this is Zero). To apply go to <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/covid19-business-grants-fund>

For other help with funding ... I have a £10,000 ECC grant pot which is available to distribute in my Essex County Council towns/villages.

Please do get in touch if I can help in any way

Susan Barker [Cllr.susan.barker@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.susan.barker@essex.gov.uk), or 01245 231250

We are an independent charity, providing emotional and practical support to thousands of Essex residents each month who have witnessed or become a victim of crime. Presently we continue to provide support by phone.



Although these are uncertain times, having seen the surge in community spirit and interest in volunteering, we are going ahead with our recruitment plans for an autumn intake of volunteers (with social distancing measures in place). If you are interested and have four or more hours a week to spare, then we would love to hear from you. Full training provided involving a home-based online learning course followed by workshops on 12, 13 & 19 October. Call us on 01277 357557 or email [essexvolunteer@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:essexvolunteer@victimsupport.org.uk), Website address [www.victimsupport.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer).



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To login to these services you will need your library membership card number and PIN. The default PIN is your birthday in the format ddmmyy. (if you do not have a library card there are details of how to obtain one on the website).

**Please note:** You can download e-books and e-audio to your device or computer, but it isn't possible to read them online in the browser. You may borrow up to 7 e-books and 7 e-audio at any one time. This is in addition to the 14 items through your normal Essex library card.

**Please** see this link for details, <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/e-books-e-audio-e-magazines-and-book-groups/e-books-and-e-audio/>

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## ADVERTISING

If you wish to advertise in the Newsletter  
please e-mail [Alison M Clarke@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Alison_M_Clarke@yahoo.co.uk)  
The cost is £5.00 per advert.

Deadline for the AUTUMN Newsletter is Thursday 20 August 2020

# theWI

## INSPIRING WOMEN

### HIGH RODING & GREAT CANFIELD WI

Little did we know that after the pleasurable yoga session at our March Meeting we would have to suspend meetings and our planned events due to the coronavirus lockdown and be advised to keep to the Governments guidelines. Looking back in WI minutes at the outbreak of World War II in 1939 a WI meeting was called to decide whether to hold future meetings and it was decided to continue to do so, although we feel almost like being in a war situation this pandemic is certainly not letting us have this choice!

Although our meetings have been suspended for the time being, we have all enjoyed hearing what everybody is up to via e-mails and telephone calls. Members have been busy baking in spite of "Where have all the flours gone? Long time passing. Where have all the flours gone? Long time ago" .....sounds like a song to me but everyone seems to have sourced it somehow to make home-made bread and cakes of many varieties and time spent trying new recipes! With the beautiful weather many have spent time in their gardens, planting seeds and being so appreciative and thankful to have a garden to enjoy. Many Crafts have been finished and new ones learnt!

As many of us are having to come to grips with technology, we were with the help and expert guidance from Elizabeth our Secretary, able to hold a Virtual May Meeting on Zoom which proved a great success. After the formalities of WI business everyone spoke in turn as to what they had been doing during the lockdown. This definitely showed how varied our interests are and that nobody was wasting time by getting bored. These included restoring and painting furniture, exploring new walks, knitting baby hats for premature babies and jumpers for vulnerable children in this Country and Africa, intricate embroidery of a cabbage completed by one member, skyping and keeping in touch with people and understanding technology were just some of the interests.

I am sure after these unusual times our homes and gardens will be immaculate, all our craft projects completed and we will have saved money by not going out, so will have much more time once this is all over, to meet up in person and spend time together again.

Hoping everyone stays safe and keeps well.

Margaret Stevenson

### OBITUARY

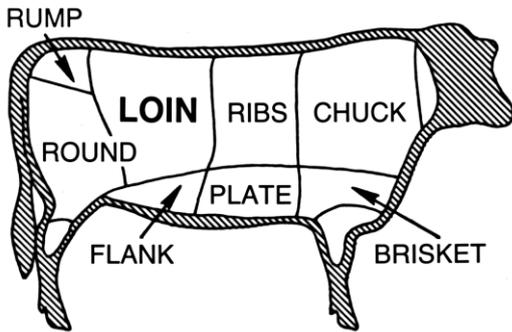
Jaqueline Sives, 1938-2020  
Clovelly House, Hellman's Cross

Jaqueline, known as Jackie, came to Great Canfield 34 years ago, with her husband, Gordon and girls, Angela and Amanda. She loved the Great Canfield community and took an active role with memberships of the WI, the Happy Circle and she was clerk for the Parish Council.

Jackie fought a long battle with Parkinson's Disease and resided in Croft House, Great Dunmow, towards the end of her life. She died peacefully in Broomfield hospital on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

It is intended that a Thanksgiving Service will be held later in St Mary The Virgin Church, Great Canfield once the movement restrictions are lifted. This will be notified in due course.

## BEEF FROM CANFIELD BURY FARM



I have several joints for sale including Fore rib on the bone, Top Rump, Topside Corner Cut and a selection of braising and stewing cuts. Also Steaks and Oxtail are available.

### BURGERS ON SALE

If you are interested in a locally Sourced Sunday Roast from traditional breed cattle

Please give me a call on 0785 668 6812 or e-mail [Jonathan.clarke159@gmail.com](mailto:Jonathan.clarke159@gmail.com)

## GREAT CANFIELD TODDLER GROUP



Hope everyone is keeping well  
We will let you know when we  
can get going again in line with  
government advice

### HAPPY CIRCLE OUTING TO ANGLESEY ABBEY 18 APRIL 2012

As we set off northbound on the M11 a light rain was falling but towards Cambridge the sky was a little brighter. A steady ride along the A14 and travelling through the strangely named villages of Stow-cum-Quy and Lode we arrived at Anglesey Abbey. The journey had taken only fifty minutes.

We soon discovered that this fine country house has much to offer by way of interesting collections and recent history.

Anglesey Abbey was left to The National Trust by the last private owner Lord Fairhaven. He and his brother acquired the house in 1926 and had it renovated to the most modern standard of that time. It was an era of elegance and refinement. The extremely affluent son of an American oil magnate ensured that nothing was beyond Lord Fairhaven's financial means and allowed him to acquire the most tasteful furnishings. A 200 year old clock takes pride of place in the living room. The clock resembles a pagoda with each stage housing ornamental plant pots holding flowers and on striking 3pm every day these plant pots twirl and tinkle for two or three minutes. By chance some of us were in the right place at the right time to watch this happen. At the far end of the same room hanging on either side of a window recess is a matching pair of 3ft.long wall hangings displaying ceramic flowers mounted on gold coloured metal. The living-room leads into the 'oak room' (the snug of its day) with oak-panelled walls. A beautiful solid silver salver stands on the sideboard. A painting by Munnings of a thoroughbred horse hangs over the fireplace and placed discreetly away from it hangs an amusing picture of a London to Winchester coach carrying thirteen passengers pulled by four horses which look like rocking-horses!

Back in the main hallway an ornate console table resplendent with fresh flower arrangements stands in front of a large wall-hung tapestry. This is one of many tapestries throughout the house. At the foot of the stairs stands a small scale 'long-case' clock, but on closer inspection the top of it also provides a letter collection box. Presumably the butler would collect any letters written during the day and take them to the village post office for despatch.

The flight of stairs opens on to a long landing displaying all forms of human subjects.

A true innovation in 1928 was the idea of a small private bathroom adjoining a bedroom. How impressive it must have been for guests of Lord Fairhaven to have the luxury of an en-suite bathroom! These bathrooms provided hot and cold water from the innovative chrome taps, a heated towel rail and a shower head over the bath all amidst the opulence of marble. Indeed a royal guest in 1948 had been the Queen Mother. On separate occasions she and Princess Margaret had occupied the 'ship' bedroom. Quite a small room but so named because of a model sailing ship in a glass case placed on the mantelpiece. The intricate miniature ship had been made from almost nothing by a French prisoner. The hull had been hammered, flattened and shaped from an old coin, the rigging made from strands of his own hair and the sails from pieces of paper and parchment.

The painting hanging above on the chimney breast needed some studying to understand it.

The lady room attendant explained that it was a Polynesian study of new life and death but true to life and not in the abstract. At the fore-front of the picture is a natural birthing-pool – by no means a modern method of childbirth—showing a girl in the pool being watched over by a fertility statue and a midwife on hand sitting close by. The painted markings on her 'derriere' stating her occupation! In the background of the picture is a gathering of people escorting a barge holding a funeral pyre.

Moving to the next bedroom a single bed with a mirrored headboard is central to pretty bedside cabinets but the walls are hung with extraordinary paintings by the Pether family.

At first they appear to be very dark gothic scenes and not worth a second look but the attendant shone a torch on each one in turn and luminous objects would appear in the compositions. For example a light in a window, the moon and stars, someone fishing in the moonlight. A fascinating technique of painting. Again even this small bedroom had its own ensuite. Lord Fairhaven added an extension to the original abbey building. Here in the new part is the biggest room in the house, the library. As well as wall-to-wall shelving holding books, the library has other remarkable features. From the ceiling hang two magnificent solid silver chandeliers brought from the court of George III in Hanover. The room displays more clocks adding to his Lordship's collection. A large painting by John Constable takes pride of place on one of the long side walls. It depicts a royal barge, flotilla and redcoated soldiers bringing King George IV (then still Prince Regent) to the inauguration of Waterloo Bridge. We were told that the Prince was not pleased with this painting because his figure was too inconspicuous and so commissioned another to be done giving him more prominence. The latter hangs in the Tate Gallery. Therefore Anglesey Abbey now displays a huge painting by John Constable which was a royal reject! However the surrounding woodwork to this painting does have its own history. Following the rebuilding of Waterloo Bridge circa 1920, timber from the elm wooden pilings of the first bridge was used to create a tenuous but appropriate link to the picture.

Lord Fairhaven's imposing personal writing desk is positioned facing an end window affording plenty of natural light. The arrangement of writing materials, ink blotter, family photos etc. give the feeling that he will soon return to continue his day's correspondence.

A wide corridor with two small bedrooms leading off takes you to the Windsor upper gallery. This room is filled with studies of Windsor and Eton by various artists. A curved staircase leads down to the lower gallery which contains a collection of oriental furniture as well as cabinets displaying porcelain and carvings made from semi-precious gems such as jade, amethyst, amber and ivory. This room was used by Lord Fairhaven for entertaining his guests with music and dancing. A grande piano stands at one end and on the day of our visit the pianist and a singer giving impromptu performances for visitors. It is necessary to return to the upper gallery in order to descend the main staircase. After passing a walk-in clothes closet displaying Lord Fairhaven's outer coats, shoes and boots, a gentleman's boot room stands vacant as it would have done in the thirties and forties ready for the use of the guests after a day at Newmarket races or a day's pheasant or partridge shooting.

The last room of the tour of the house is the ancient dining room. It is easy to imagine monks sitting here at the solid refectory table under a heavily vaulted ceiling. A roaring log fire would heat the room. Lord Fairhaven enjoyed sharing meals with his guests in this same relaxing atmosphere.

Outside it was not a day for wandering around the grounds but at this time of year the Hyacinth Garden should not be missed. Before entering through an opening in the yew hedge the fragrance of the thousands of blue and white hyacinths was lovely. The beds are set out in geometric patterns with a large statue in the form of the figure of Father Time in the centre, holding a sun-dial.

Another main feature in the grounds is a fully restored and working grain mill. Driven by a water wheel the mill produces flour which can be bought on site.

Anglesey Abbey treats its visitors not only to a glimpse of a life of decadence but of one man's passion for amassing collections of beautiful furniture, interesting artwork, valuable artefacts and fascinating clocks.

Having thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Anglesey Abbey we returned home looking forward to our next Happy Circle outing.

LIZ PICKFORD

## BOOK CLUB

**Corpus by Rory Clements was the book club read in February.**

Rory Clements is best known for his Elizabethan murder/espionage books featuring John Shakespeare and was a new author to most of us. The main protagonist in this book is American professor in Cambridge with a particular interest in Frances Walsingham, Queen Elizabeth's secretary and spymaster.

The story is set in 1936 and a very interesting period. Communists and fascists fight it out behind the scenes and lines are drawn pro and anti-Hitler.

King Edward VIII's relationship with the divorcee Mrs Wallis Simpson is also covered as an integral part of the story which centres around an apparent suicide and a number of murders all set around Cambridge and its environs.

This book was universally popular with the group for its fast paced and easy to read writing style and also for the relatively local setting and the interesting time period. While it was felt that some licence might have been taken with the levels of support for both communism and fascism (most characters seemed to be one or the other) it was a very enjoyable read and many of us will be searching out other titles by the author.

### **Little Women – Louisa May Alcott**

Given the recent film release we decided to revisit this book, which most of us had read in our youth, for our March read. Unfortunately given coronavirus related restrictions the book group could not meet as scheduled in early April but a number of us did manage a zoom meeting and discussion which, while not as sociable as our usual meetings was better than not meeting at all!

Unfortunately the book itself did not really live up to our recollections. While most of us remembered quite enjoying it in the past most found it rather dull this time round (and some did not manage to finish it). Overall it was found to be overly sentimental and the characters too good to be true. One member rather accurately described it as "interesting but not hard to put down".

One eagle eyed member spotted a very early use of the phrase "OK" which most of us had thought was a much more modern construct but had in fact been used even earlier than this book published in 1880.

The positives were the setting during the American Civil War, to see a book by a female author and with female main characters written and being successful at this time, and also that it did not go for an ending with the easy and obvious pairings.

### **At Home – Bill Bryson**

A rather apt choice given lockdown restrictions. At Home is described as a journey around the rooms in the author's house – an 1851 Norfolk rectory. In fact the rooms are a very loose device to impart a huge volume of interesting facts about almost everything from Crystal Palace to early civilisation housing to the Industrial Revolution.

While everyone found the book interesting at least in parts many found it over long and rather dense – so much information packed in that it was impossible to retain it. Also as there was little structure holding the narrative together it was not an easy or quick read – some members found it an ideal way to get to sleep....

There were also questions about the accuracy of the facts portrayed as some parts – around Pepys' diary was known to be incorrect which rather cast doubt on some of the rest.

However, the facts included in the book provoked an interesting debate. Everyone agreed that even with coronavirus we were glad to be living now and not during any of the times portrayed in the book.

We had another fairly successful meeting by Zoom (picture attached) and hope to be able to meet in person soon.



# The Challenge of Corona

We were flying to the Moon  
We were finding life on Mars  
We were dropping bombs with drones  
We were getting bigger cars.

We were building finer homes  
Flying out to warmer lands  
We were busy buying clothes  
We were brushing up our tans.

We were throwing out good food  
While we watched the starving poor  
We kept burning fossil fuels  
And our air became less pure.

We were warned by our Pope  
Need to mind our Common Home  
Need to watch our Carbon Footprint  
Try to save our world from doom.

But we didn't want to listen  
And we didn't want to hear  
We just watched TV and Tablets  
Drank our wine and quaffed our beer

Then Corona chose to visit  
We were all caught unprepared  
This wee microscopic VIRUS  
Has our whole world running scared.

So our hands we keep on washing  
And we're careful when we cough  
We stand six feet from our neighbour  
Cause this virus might jump off.

Now we live in isolation  
While our hearts are full of fear  
And we fill our fridge and cupboards  
Just in case it lasts a year.

Pubs and cafés are forbidden  
And we dare not go to Mass  
Nursing homes we must not visit  
Hospitals we have to pass.

But this enforced isolation  
Gives us lots of time to think  
Time to clean the kitchen cupboards  
Time to make our wardrobes shrink.

Could it be that this Corona  
Is a blessing in disguise  
Makes us think about our lifestyle  
Makes us open wide our eyes.

We thought we were all important  
Greatest beings on this earth  
So we used it and abused it  
As if it were ours from birth.

But Corona is a challenge  
Makes us take a different view  
Helps us see what really matters  
What it is we need to do.

We must watch out for our neighbour  
Doing everything we can  
We are all in this together  
Let us love our fellow man.

God is with us every moment  
Minding us with loving care  
Now we know how much we need Him,  
Let us talk to Him in prayer.

So Corona, thanks for coming  
Truth to tell, we needed you  
But don't overstay your welcome  
That, alas, would never do!

*- Sr. Maud Murphy, SSL,  
Knock, Ireland*



## GREAT CANFIELD CARPET BOWLS CLUB



I was just about to start this piece with my usual blast of humorous musings on life etc. Even started typing. Then I realised that the present situation is far from funny. As we face each day in Lockdown, the senior citizens amongst us having already been in protective House Arrest for longer than most, we all are having more time to re-evaluate our lives and what is REALLY important to us all.

One of our past members, Pat Salmon (Postman Pat) who passed away a couple of years ago used to say that what really matters is good health and good friends. I think that so many people all over the world who never knew him would understand and agree. That so completely encapsulates the current crisis. We are all acutely aware of our fragility and in no time at all we can and do become reliant on others.

The media are bringing us daily reports of the remarkable acts of friendship between people who do not know each other, have never met and will never meet. At long last we seem to appreciate the NHS, Care workers, and so many other people who in this time of unique threat to the population of our planet have put their very lives on the line for us "others". Far too many have lost.

Parallels have been drawn with WW2. Big differences are this time it is much harder to support each other and we don't really know how to fight back. Mind you this little blighter should be under a form of control in about 6 months. WW2 lasted 6 years.

What baffles me is where has all the money come from? Not just here but across the world. How will the books ever balance?

Sorry that lot had nothing to do with Carpet Bowls, but there hasn't BEEN much carpet bowls recently. We did have our AGM. Pretty good turn-out (free refreshments). The treasurer reported that we had stood still during last year. Probably as well at our age. May explain some (well, most) of our match results.

We only played three matches in 2020, so I won't discuss the results. Actually there is a connection with the foregoing (that's the bit before this bit). Referring back to Pat Salmon the best part of Carpet Bowls is the good friends. That is really what it's all about. We enjoy ourselves. Pure and simple. Actually, can't think of anyone pure. Probably have more success with simple. There's.....

Watch this space, and the pages of the National Press GC Facebook for when we rise like Phoenix from the a--- Crikey! Must go.  
Forgot the bonfire. If my neighbour has got the washing out, she'll have smutty washing!

One day we will play at: Priors Green Community Hall  
Bennet Canfield  
Little Canfield  
DUNMOW  
CM6 1YE

Tuesday evenings 7.15pm  
Fees: £10 membership for a full year and £2 per evening.  
First evening **FREE!**  
Tuition **FREE!**  
Refreshments **FREE!**

Contact David Turner on: 01279-870620 or 07803-848681

May 2020

## LOCKDOWN QUIZ FOR BABY BOOMERS AND OLDER

Answers can be obtained by e-mailing [Keith.vincett@btinternet.com](mailto:Keith.vincett@btinternet.com). The answers will be electronic form because all the answers link to evidence on Wikipedia and many of the entertainment ones to You Tube

1. Where did Professor Jimmy Edwards stand for parliament in the 1964 general election. What musical instrument did he play.
2. Where was Jim Laker when he took nine wickets in the first innings of a test match and ten wickets in the second and who was his team playing against?
3. What is the connection between a Rodgers and Hammerstein production of 1949 & 1958 and the News in the 1970s.
4. Who used "She knows, y'know!" and "Be soon"
5. Which company's light weight fire pump engine was developed into a racing engine including for Formula One. What mass production small car was powered by another derivative?
6. What is the connection between the Court of King Arthur and the Spitfire fighter.
7. Which now closed national newspaper sponsored the Enterprise sailing dinghy. What was unusual for the times about the sails. What stunt was used to launch the dinghy.
8. What is the association between a small french car and a commercial radio station
9. Who was Stanley Unwin?
10. Who used "Can you hear me mother"
11. What were the nationalities of the first two men known to have successfully climb Mount Everest. in 1953.
12. Which motor racing driver died in 1959 while driving his Jaguar on the A3 near Guildford.
13. Who used "Can I do you now, sir?"
14. Which railway station was renamed to that of a football club after a campaign to change the name.
15. Where was Gerard Hoffnung when he recorded the story of a bricklayer's misfortunes when raising some bricks in a barrel to the top of a building.
16. Where did Mick Jagger study?
17. What is The Fosbury Flop?
18. Roger Banister ran the first sub-4-minute mile. Who were his pacemakers and which record keeper was the announcer for the meet.
19. Which Island in the River Thames made a significant contribution to the popular music of the 1960s.
20. What was the maximum wage for a professional footballer before the Football League abolished the maximum in 1961. Who was the Chairman of the Professional Footballers Association at the Time.
21. Who sang of foreigners "and they practice before hand which spoils the fun" and for two bonus points what connection is there to economics?
22. Which football club did the goal keeper of the team that won the World Cup in 1966 play for.
23. Who invented phonetic punctuation?
24. Who used "Hello playmates!"
25. Which Spitfire pilot commentated on Telstar being used for the first transatlantic TV transmission and on the Monte Carlo Rally.
26. What were there "more hops in ....."?
27. Who got punched on That Was the Week That Was? What brought the programme to an end?
28. The Derby is run now on a Saturday. What day was it previously run on? Why has no horse ever won it twice? Who was Prince Monolulu?
29. Oi! Where's me tiger's head?
30. How many records in German were released as the Beatles.
31. You may have heard a British soldiers song from First World War which begins " We are Fred Karno's army The ragtime infantry "Who was Fred Karno. What and where did he build by the River Thames.
32. Who taught (nearly) everyone to play guitar in the 1950s.
33. What is the link between D Day Dodgers and the Profumo Affair.
34. Which sports man ran a Greengrocer's shop in Wembley? What did he go onto be a team captain of?
35. Who told Officer Krupke " We ain't no delinquents, We're misunderstood, Deep down inside us there is good!" and claimed one of their number had a "social disease".. Foreextra points what is the connection with Shakespeare?
36. What common change has been made to Piccadilly Circus and Trafalgar Square since the 1950s.

## KEEPING YOUR HOME SAFE IN THESE CHANING TIMES

Having been “confined to barracks” during lock down don’t forget to lock up your home securely when you do go out. Whether going for your daily exercise, or to get your provisions, or with some now beginning to return to work its important get back into the habit of locking up when we leave our homes unoccupied.

Even if you are at home still consider your home security for as it gets warmer, we get to see a rise in the number of “Creeper Burglaries” where burglars take advantage of open gates, windows and doors.

An open or insecure garden gate will provide the thief with access to the back of your home. If you have unoccupied rooms that are accessible to others from outside or off flat roofs make sure the windows are closed, if you need ventilation in these rooms whilst at home at least lock the larger window and only have the small window open even during the daytime. If you only have just bigger windows consider a lockable window restrictor and a small alarm sensor on the window to detect entry.

Leave any accessible door open or insecure and an opportunist thief will pop in and anything lying around will be gone. You may have only popped out, or down the end of the garden or having a quick shower; it only takes a second for a thief to steal.

A few tips for keeping your home secure:

1. Don’t attract a thief with insecure pedal cycles or cars or gates.
2. Keep side or rear gates, sheds and garages shut and securely locked.
3. Doors closed and locked? Don’t forget that with a PVCu multi-locking door you may have lifted the handle but until you turn the key or thumb turn on the inside you have not locked all the locks in place. **Before going out or turning in for the night** don’t forget to check all doors, someone may have closed it but did they lock it?
4. Windows - lift the blinds or open the curtains and check they are closed, the sun may have been on the TV when it was hot, and so the curtains were drawn with the window open. Remember the above advice about open windows. **Make sure in case of fire that keys to windows and doors are readily accessible to occupants** but not in view of possible burglars.
5. If you have an intruder alarm activate it when going out and activate the zone for the unoccupied area whilst in.
6. Car keys - **don’t** take them to bed with you, where possible leave them in noisy drawer/location. Keep the keyless fob in a “Faraday” bag.
7. If you do hear a suspicious noise in the house that you are not happy with dial 999 and make a noise, shout out, it could cause any intruder to flee, they may not have known you were home, remember your life is more important than your property. If safe to do so get a good description of the person/s and if possible the car index number and direction of travel.

**Stephen Armson-Smith**  
**Crime Prevention Tactical Advisor**  
**Essex Police**  
**Telephone 101 extension 407110**

## THE HUNDRED PARISHES SOCIETY

[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)

One of the features of The Hundred Parishes website is a section on famous people from our area. There is a short account of each of 21 past and present celebrities, from Dick Turpin to Jamie Oliver. Gustav Holst is one of these and I make no apology for repeating text from our website here:

### **GUSTAV HOLST (1874-1934)**

While teaching and composing in London, Gustav Holst began a love affair with Thaxted after a walking holiday in the area led to his taking a weekend cottage nearby. A great attraction must have been its cathedral-sized church with spacious, white-painted interior, where he became involved with local music-making, encouraged by the town's socialist vicar, Conrad Noel. Holst himself was an active socialist.

In 1916, Holst invited some of his London pupils to spend four days of music-making in Thaxted in the town's first Whitsuntide festival. Sadly, this was repeated for only two more years before being moved to London to avoid Holst's pupils, especially those from St Paul's School, becoming associated with Noel's controversial extremist left-wing sermons. It was 1980 before the highly successful Thaxted Festival was re-established.

Holst stayed in Thaxted for several years working, amongst other things, on his acknowledged masterpiece, *The Planets*. He adapted the big melody from "Jupiter" to accompany the poem "I vow to thee, my country". This became a popular hymn and Holst named the tune "Thaxted". It has since been used for no fewer than fourteen other hymns worldwide as well as the anthem of the Rugby World Cup. Holst also composed the music for a popular Christmas carol, "In the Bleak Midwinter".

During these days of social distancing we are not able to travel and enjoy our beautiful area as much as before, but we can remind ourselves of what is out there and read about our rich local history on the Society's website.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

### Photos:

Gustav Holst



Thaxted church



## WHO'S WHO IN THE PARISH



Organisation	Name	Address	Telephone No.
Priest in charge	Rev'd Robert Stone	Robertstone1965@gmail.com	07726719288
Church Warden	Mr David Turner	Hart View, Canfield Road	01279 870620
Church Warden (Deputy)	Mrs Mary Clarke	Haslow, Church End	01371 872213
Church Visitor Access	Mrs Jo Donald	Rodingbourne, Church End	01371 879197
Church Contact	Mr David Turner	Hart View, Canfield Road	01279 870620
Church Treasurer	Mr Tony Hughes	Fanns Cottage, Canfield Road	01279 871513
Organist	Mrs Margaret Stevenson	High Roding Bury Farm	01371 872206
Church Flowers	Mrs Mary Clarke	Haslow, Church End	01371 872213
Church Bells	Mr Jonathan Clarke	Great Canfield Bury Farm	01371 873403
Book Club	Penny Judd	Fanns Farm	
Carpet Bowls	Mr David Turner	Hart View, Canfield Road	01279 870620
Cricket Club	Mr Stuart Hepburn	Fitzjohns	01279 871664
Footpath Rep	Mr Chris Easter	Griffin Farm	01279 870155
Neighbourhood Watch	Mr David Hummel	davidhummel@hotmail.co.uk	01371 874884
Parish Council Chairman	Mr Robert Mackley	Foxley, Bacon End	01371 879192
Parish Council Secretary	Mrs Allison Ward	Peartree Cottage, Slough Road, High Easter	01245 231798
VH Committee	Mr Jason Asser	TBC	
Village Hall Lettings	Gill Vincent	<b>For bookings and enquiries:</b> <a href="mailto:greatcanfieldhall261@gmail.com">greatcanfieldhall261@gmail.com</a>	01279 871421
WI High Roding & Gt Canfield	Mrs Margaret Stevenson	High Roding Bury Farm	01371 872206
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Website : <http://www.greatcanfield.org.uk/>