

Welcome to Great Canfield



Information pack for new residents

A very warm welcome to our village!

The information in this pack will let you know about local services and what is happening in and around the parish. It includes information on important rural characteristics of the parish which the parish council works hard to retain for the benefit of all who have chosen to live here.

Produced by Great Canfield Parish Council

Our Village

Great Canfield has a long history with artefacts from Celtic times and the Roman occupation being found on its land. Its rich and fertile soils have supported generations of villagers and agricultural farming is still much in evidence today.

From early times the village adopted the linear character. These linear hamlets including Bacon End, Church End, Hellmans Cross, Green Street and Hope End still exist today. The urbanisation to the north of the parish at Takeley and Little Canfield make retaining the rural characteristics of Great Canfield and these linear settlements increasingly challenging especially at Hope End.

The Village Design Statement was produced by the community in 2010 and adopted as a 'matter for consideration' in all planning applications. It contains a history of the village and provides a detailed description of the current character, surroundings, and main features of design in Great Canfield – the things that make it special for its residents. It highlights aspects the community would like to conserve and protect.

If you are considering alternations to a property, outbuilding or land in Great Canfield, please take time to consider the information in the VDS. It is available on the parish website, www.greatcanfield.org.uk

There is further information on the website about the history of the parish including interviews with local people and photographs marking historic or significant events.

Facts and Figures

The parish is 10.23km². Its land is predominantly agricultural and used for growing arable crops.

At the 2021 census the population of Great Canfield was 476, a 15% increase on the 2011 census and 30% increase when compared to 2001. This increase in population is the result of small new housing developments at Hope End and the conversion of redundant agricultural barns to housing.

Local government

Essex County Council, based in Chelmsford, is responsible for education, social care, highways, public rights of way and the mobile library service. The Council, currently Conservative Party controlled, has 75 elected councillors; one (Susan Barker, currently) represents Dunmow electoral division, which covers Great Canfield.

Uttlesford District Council, based in Saffron Walden, is responsible for waste collection, planning, street cleaning, housing, environmental health and licensing. The Council, currently Residents 4 Uttlesford (R4U) controlled, has 39 elected councillors; two (Geof Driscoll and Neil Reeve, currently both R4U) represent the Hallingburys and Hatfield Broad Oak ward, which covers Great Canfield.

The parliamentary constituency of Harlow includes the Uttlesford ward Hallingburys and Hatfield Broad Oak; the current Member of Parliament is Chris Vince (Labour).

Great Canfield Parish Council is responsible for public seats and other items of historic street furniture including the Peace Oak memorial at Hellmans Cross, as well as common land and village green as detailed below. It is the leaseholder for the village hall and a statutory consultee on all planning applications, it seeks to take a lead on issues of community quality of life.

There are 7 elected councillors who give their time voluntarily supported by the Parish Clerk.

The Parish Council meets monthly (except August) generally on the 2nd Monday of the month at 8pm in the village hall. Agendas and minutes are available on this website.

The Parish Council is always available to talk with residents and all are welcome to attend the meetings. Please get in touch via the Parish Clerk, parishclerkallisonward@gmail.com

Village Greens and Common Land

There are two areas which are registered Common Land within the parish. 'Common land is land that has an owner but over which other people have the right to use'. The two areas of Common Land are Church End Green which is in private ownership, and the verges along Green Street from Hellmans Cross to Peckers which are largely in the ownership of the parish council.

There are two registered village greens in the parish. At some point this was land that was established as areas used by local people for recreation. The verges on either side of Bullocks Lane which are in the ownership of the parish council, and Bacon End Green which is privately owned.

Both common land and village greens have statutory protection, for example they cannot be developed or enclosed.

The parish council enters into easements, a legal right to use or access another person's land in a specific way, with residents to provide access to properties. If you live along Bullocks Lane or Green Street (Hellmans Cross to Pecker) and are unsure if an easement is in place for your property, or if you wish to make alterations to an existing easement or carry out works of maintenance to the access, please contact the parish council.

To protect their status and to allow access for the public, the parish council does not permit vehicles to be parked on any part of the common land and village green in its ownership, this includes the access across the land to your property. We ask that residents co-operate to avoid any legal action.

Footpaths

Great Canfield is surrounded by mostly arable farmland. The many footpaths, bridleways and byways give quick access to the countryside. Please follow the way markers to ensure you stay on the footpaths and do not stray onto farmer's field which causes damage to crops. If you notice any issues with footpaths these can be reported directly to Essex County Council via their 'Report a Problem' system.

You will find a footpath map on the village website as well as a series of 'Canfield Walks' put together by a resident.

Verges

Many of our verges become over-used in winter – people drive irresponsibly through the village and the verges degrade. We are very appreciative of all our villagers who drive with care and attention and use any passing areas where possible.

Litter Pick

We need your help to keep the village tidy. Twice a year the parish council organises an official litter pick to clear the verges and ditches of litter - but these can always be supplemented by people picking up litter as they walk our many beautiful footpaths.

Waste Services

These are provided by Uttlesford District Council. Bin collection in Great Canfield is generally on Wednesdays and alternates between black bin and recycling, with food waste collected weekly. For small sections of the parish collections are on Tuesday or Friday. Please see this link for the latest schedule <http://bins.uttlesford.gov.uk/>

Uttlesford provides a subscription service for garden waste and details of how to subscribe can be found at this link, <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/gardenwaste>

Great Canfield Village Hall

The village hall is located on the junction of Green Street and Marsh Lane, it was formally the village school. The hall is owned by St Mary's parish church and is leased to the parish council who are responsible for day-to-day management, this is looked after by a village hall committee who organise events throughout the year to bring the community together.

The hall can be hired by local groups or by individuals for gatherings and events. Details of who to contact and costs can be found on the village website, <https://www.greatcanfield.org.uk/village-hall.html>

Regular groups who meet in the village hall

- Bi-weekly toddler group Wednesday mornings, get in touch via their Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/canfieldslittleones/>
- Yoga, Tuesday evenings, details on the village website.
- Happy Circle, monthly for our older residents, please contact the clerk for details.

Schools

There are no preschools in the parish, there are local term time pre-schools in adjoining parishes including Takeley, Little Canfield, High Easter and Aythorpe Roding.

Please take care when considering primary schools. Free school transport is only provided to your nearest school, this may not be the same as your 'catchment school' which for the parish is The Rodings primary school.

<https://www.rodingsprimaryschool.co.uk/>

For residents at Hope End, Takeley Primary School is likely to be the nearest school,

<https://www.takeley-pri.essex.sch.uk/>

The nearest secondary school for most residents is Helena Romanes in Great Dunmow

<https://www.helena-romanes.essex.sch.uk/>

Further details of free school transport eligibility are available on the Essex County Council website.

Children's Play Areas

The parish does not have a children's play area, the nearest playgrounds can be found in High Roding (Broadfields), Takeley and Hatfield Broad Oak.

Hatfield Forest which is owned by the National Trust is 2 miles from the parish and accessible from the Flich Way.

Healthcare

The parish council has installed two defibrillators in the parish, one at the village hall and one on the front of Ashfields Country Kitchen. These are available 24/7 and access instructions will be issued by the East of England Ambulance when you dial 999.

There are no primary health care provisions in the parish.

There are a range of NHS services available in Great Dunmow

GP - John Tasker House, <https://www.jth.org.uk/>

GP - Angel Lane Surgery, <https://www.angellanesurgery.co.uk/>

Dentist - <https://greatdunmowdental.co.uk/>

Mobile Library

Essex County Council supports a mobile library to the rural parishes. This visits every three weeks, currently Wednesdays between 15:55 - 16:25. The stop is located at the junction of Church End and Green Street. Details of dates can be found on the ECC website or in local newsletters.

The redundant red telephone kiosk at Hellmans Cross is used as a free book exchange for residents.

Faith

St Mary's, Great Canfield is the parish church, it is kept locked when not in use however access can be arranged via the churchwarden

St Mary's is part of a group of 10 churches and services are generally held at least twice a month. Further information including their service rota, is available on their website, www.regc.org.uk

The nearest catholic church is in Great Dunmow or Hatfield Broad Oak, <https://www.stanneline.org.uk/location.shtml>

United Reform Church, Hatfield Heath, <https://www.haebea.org/churches/hatfield-heath-urc.html>

The Herts and Essex mosque is located in Bishops Stortford, <https://www.hertsandessexmosque.co.uk/>

The nearest synagogue is in Harlow, <https://www.harlowjewishcommunity.org.uk/>

Communication

The village website contains lots of information about the village and includes a section for the parish council where you will find the agenda and minutes of parish council meetings. <https://www.greatcanfield.org.uk>

The village Facebook page is the Great Canfield Residents Page https://www.facebook.com/groups/greatcanfieldcommunity/?_rdr

This details events which are coming up and any news and other items of interest. Commercial advertising is not generally allowed.

Parish News is distributed monthly by a team of volunteers and covers the 10 villages (Easters, Rodings, Great Canfield). It includes lots of local adverts as well as news, information and articles. The cost is £12 for a year's subscription, please email admin@regc.org.uk if you would like to be added to the distribution list.

St Mary's church edits and prints a quarterly newsletter which is delivered free to every house in the parish. This contains news specific to Great Canfield.

Public Transport

There are no public routed bus services in the parish.

Essex County Council operates DigiGo, a shared public transport service which offers on-demand or pre-bookable travel in parts of Essex. This service is available to some residents of the parish who are to the west of Ashfields. There is no fixed route or timetable, and the service operates 7 days a week, from 6am to 10pm on weekdays and from 7am to 10pm on weekends. Journeys can be booked to travel on-demand or up to 7 days in advance. Bookings are made and paid for on the TravelEssex app, further details including where they cover can be found at

<https://www.travelessex.co.uk/about-demand-responsive-transport/ddrt>

For residents at Hope End there are bus services within walking distance which operate along the B1256 and bus stops are located close to the junction of Canfield Road.

The nearest train station is at Stansted Airport and bus services from the B1256 run to the airport. Alternatively, Bishops Stortford rail station has parking.

Residents in Great Canfield meet the criteria for the 'Local Residents Discount Scheme' when picking up and dropping off at Stansted Airport. Please see this link, scroll down the page and you will see the details of how to apply, if you have any problems with this scheme please get in touch with the parish council.

<https://www.stanstedairport.com/parking/pick-up-and-drop-off/>

Food Outlets

Located in the parish, Ashfields Country Kitchen is a café which serves great coffee, breakfast, lunch and cake from Tuesday-Sunday.

<https://www.ashfieldscarriageandpoloclub.com/ashfields-cafe/>

The nearest local pub is:

The Black Lion. John the owner is very welcoming. The pub serves food and pizza. It has a garden for the summer months. <https://www.theblacklionhighroding.co.uk>

Further afield (slightly) are:

The Axe and Compasses (Aythorpe Roding), <https://theaxeandcompasses.co.uk>

The Spotted Dog between High Easter and Barnston <https://the-spotted-dog-bishopsgreen.co.uk/>

The Lion and Lamb, Little Canfield <https://www.lionandlamblittlecanfield.co.uk>

There is also a selection of cafes, bars and restaurants in Great Dunmow

Local Markets and food provision

There are no shops in the parish, there are some local services in the neighbouring parishes of Takeley and Little Canfield, or a full range of shops are available in Great Dunmow.

Great Garnetts, adjacent to the Spotted Dog, High Easter Road is a local pork and turkey farm selling produce direct. It also has a farmers' market, see their website for the latest information <https://greatgarnetts.co.uk/>

Sport's Recreation

Great Canfield Cricket Club

Located in the heart of the parish and with a licensed bar. The cricket club is active and always looking for new residents to join.

<https://www.greatcanfield.org.uk/cricket-club.html>

Ashfields Carriage and Polo Club

Located on Green Street and offering a wide range of equestrian and carriage facilities. Here you will find Ashfields Country Kitchen, and the venue hosts a variety of events during the year.

<https://www.ashfieldscarriageandpoloclub.com/>

We hope you enjoy living here.

Ginny Barlow, Chairman

On Behalf of Great Canfield Parish Council.