

News & Views

Inc. Stanford Rivers Parish Council News Letter

Mar/Apr 2018

Issue No. 96

A113 Speed Working Group Finds Solutions

As you know from recent editions of News and Views, a group of local residents are working in conjunction with the Parish Council to try and find solutions to the issues of speeding and overtaking along the main road through Stanford Rivers. You may think this quite a simple task however any solutions need to be agreeable not only to local residents, but conform to the rules set by Essex County Council Highways (ECC) to ensure no adverse effect on the road network. At their recent meeting, the working group came up with some possible solutions which included:

- ✓ *The section from the gateway sign westwards for 312 meters - this should stay at 30mph and a proposal be put forward to put in double white lines and no overtaking signs/orders as this section of the road is wider than 6.1m*
- ✓ *The section from the Woodman to the village gateway signs - try to get this reduced to a 40mph buffer zone and add double white lines and no overtaking signs/orders as road is wider than 6.1m. To add weight to the proposals local people should provide relevant evidence and data to support the suggestions such as accidents, near misses, photographs, videos, etc.*
- ✓ *The national speed limit signs just beyond the gateway in a westerly direction are causing drivers to accelerate before they exit the village. These should be removed if possible.*

The group also agreed that a petition should be located in the Woodman that all local residents are able to sign, and that this could be used to show the local support for these suggestions. Some 18 months ago, ECC Highways visited the area to see for themselves the problems being faced on a daily basis, and one of the suggestions put forward

by ECC was to remove the centre white lines from the narrowest section of the road (around 4 London Road) through Little End. This would give the perception of a narrow road, and drivers behaviour is proven to slow down as a result. However, after going through the validation process, ECC has now stated that the road width does not meet the criteria for works. This is frustrating! **So....how can you help?** Have you experienced any issues along this stretch of road? What happened? When did it happen? Do you have any photos? If you have anything you can provide which will act as evidence to support the above solutions, please email the Parish Clerk at stanforddriverspc@gmail.com.



SUNDAY 6th MAY 2018

A GREAT FAMILY FUN DAY for ONGAR TOWN

Bring Your Friends – and join in the fun 9.30 a.m. – 5.00 p.m

There will be Market Stalls, Refreshments, Music, Bouncy Castles, Activities for Children, Competitions and Prizes centred around a grand Petanque Competition for 100+ players, for everyone to enjoy in the Pleasance Car Park + at the Budworth Hall -craft stalls, entertainment by local music and dance groups, our schools, snail racing and more. The High Street will be buzzing with a children's treasure hunt, our shops, pubs, restaurants, community groups, Zinc Arts, Epping-Ongar Railway, Jubilee Park - all participating and providing special surprises for everyone to share.

Kick start your Summer with a day to remember, and enjoy all the good things Ongar has to offer.

RESERVE THE DATE NOW – DON'T MISS OUR PROGRAMME OF EVENTS - OUT SOON

If you would like to help, volunteer or just get involved in the Festival, please let us know.

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GP surgery



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- Woodland Management
- Tree Preservation Orders (T.P.O.)
and Conservation Areas
- Site Clearance

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Are The Lack Of Local Facilities Bothering You?

Stanford Rivers isn't exactly the most exciting place for youngsters to 'hang out'. With all the countryside and small-town charm that the Parish has, it can get pretty boring for teenagers and even older people who like to have a few hobbies and just go out for a while. Granted, there are a few large attractions like the Toot Hill Golf Course and even just the surrounding fields and forests that many people enjoy exploring and taking their dog for a walk. Even so, younger people like myself, don't have many options when it comes to going out without driving somewhere. In addition, we don't have a local shop which, although isn't a day trip in itself, could be very useful for those who just need a loaf of bread or a pint of milk. Small things like a shop, a park or skate park, post office or petrol garage that would benefit everyone living



Image: Epping Forest

here. There are probably many others that you can think of that would aid our village. Furthermore, it is not just the lack of things to do, but also other problems such as broadband services that, let's be honest, are hardly strong enough to supply even one household. Being rather far out in the countryside broadband speeds are very low and although you might be thinking that internet speed is the least of your worries, it is actually a big problem, particularly for people who work from home or those who rely on electronic communication. Yes, there has recently been a new fibre broadband installed by Gigaclear which may seem like the answer to poor internet speeds, but it isn't exactly cheap and has not been in the area for very long, so we have no idea if it will last in the long run. Also, not everyone wants to cash out on new broadband if they don't know how reliable it is going to be. In addition, Gigaclear doesn't supply line rental which means you have to pay separately for it. Yet another cost!. Big companies like BT, SKY, and TalkTalk do supply broadband connections to the area, but as I mentioned before, being in the countryside the speeds are very low, and 76mbps broadband speeds are rarely achievable. Oh the joys of life in the countryside!

Article by Claudia Wickham

Stanford Rivers Neighbourhood Watch



WhatsApp

As those of you who are members of either the Facebook or WhatsApp groups, this is a great way to share issues of local concern. One of the latest posts was regarding incidents in nearby areas of car thefts by individuals posing as Police using an unmarked vehicle with blue flashing lights. The Police are very unlikely to pull you over if you haven't done anything wrong, so be cautious and suspicious of any such attempts.

Advice has recently been released concerning the issue of gangs. In rural areas such as ours, many parents think gangs aren't an issue. Whilst it is fair to say gangs are more prevalent in towns and cities, in rural areas children may feel remote and isolated and have a need to belong that perhaps isn't fulfilled at home. The vast majority of young people are not involved in gangs and want nothing to do with them. However, the behaviour of a small number of young people who are involved has a significant impact on communities, their families and associates, as well as themselves. Some of the reasons why young people join gangs include a desire for respect and status, a sense of belonging, excitement, and peer pressure. Gangs often leave signs of their presence and your child might adopt some of these signs, such as talking differently (new slang or language with an aggressive tone), unexplained injuries or sums of money, and an interest in music which glorifies weapons/gang culture. Gangs will often have profiles on social or networking websites like Facebook or Twitter. Girls can be affected by gangs too, but their involvement may be

harder to spot. They may be asked to hide weapons or drugs, or be targeted by male gang members in acts of revenge or gang initiations. All of this tends to go on 'behind closed doors'. It's important to understand that we are not immune from this just because we are rural. Below are some useful contacts:

Neighbourhood Police – to find details of your local team and find out more about the work they are doing in your area, type your postcode at www.police.uk

Crimestoppers – a free, confidential service where you can report information about a crime anonymously. Freephone: 0800 555 111 www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Family Lives – gives advice on all aspects of the parenting role and is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Calls are free. Tel: 0808 800 2222. Web: www.familylives.org.uk

National Council for Voluntary Youth Services – network of over 280 national organisations and regional and local networks that work with and for young people. Web: www.ncvys.org.uk

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) – runs a wide range of services for both children and adults, including national helplines and local projects. Their helpline is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Freephone: 0808 800 5000. Email: help@nspcc.org.uk Web: www.nspcc.org.uk/gangs

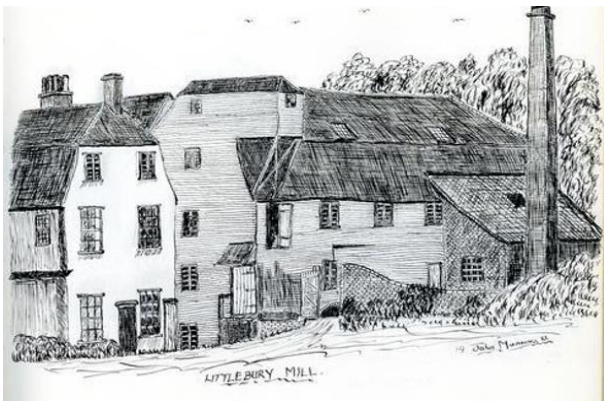
Anti-Bullying Alliance – Advice on bullying. Web: www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/

Victim Support – a national charity which helps people affected by crime. Web: www.victimsupport.org

Also available for children: **ChildLine** – offers a free, confidential helpline and online service dedicated to children and young people. Tel: 0800 1111

BACK IN TIME- Stanford Rivers Headlines 150 Years Ago

It seems Stanford Rivers wasn't always such a peaceful place, with news articles documenting a fire that took place at a water and steam mill called Littlebury Mill, belonging to Mr. Kynaston and occupied by a Mr. George Gentry. The fire started at half past 12 on Friday morning, with the newspaper that documented the events being released on Tuesday 20th October 1868. The effect was quite shocking with damage costs estimated at £1,400 which sounds not too bad, but nowadays would be the equivalent of over £150,000. It is suggested that the fire originated in the engine-house. There were a few constables and an 'Inspector Fox' present after the event. The mill was working perfectly until Thursday evening at six p.m. 'All appeared right' being the quote used in the original document, which suggests that there could be more to how the fire actually started. Although there was no evidence suggesting that the fire was started purposely, there could have been a few conspiracies back in the day. Who knows, maybe someone devised a plan that backfired. What do you think?



Not woman in article

In much later news of Friday 21st September 1910, an unfortunate accident occurred at the twenty-fifth annual exhibition of the Stanford Rivers cottage garden flower show society (yes quite a mouthful) which was held on a Wednesday. The day started off smoothly with 800 people entering the giant fruit and vegetable contest, which was said to be an increase from the year before. There was music performed by the Roding Valley brass band, and supervised sports activities, but not everyone was having a great time. A Mrs Thomas, who was the wife of the Rector, was minding her business sitting in a trap on the show field, when her pony got a fright and bucked up and ran away. This sent Mrs Thomas flying headfirst into a tent peg. Although she cut her face very badly and was taken home in a lot of pain, Mrs Thomas' injuries were not as bad as everyone thought at the time. Much to her disappointment, she could not attend the rest of the show.

Article by Claudia Wickham

Design A Sign..... And Win A Prize

Can you see it? Do you know where it is? It's not intentionally camouflaged, however over the years the Stanford Rivers community sign located on Jubilee Green in Little End seems to have faded into the background and is now hardly visible. It needs an overhaul, however the dilemma is what colour to paint it. I'm thinking whilst vibrant pink would make the sign stand out, it wouldn't receive much support! What are your thoughts? If there are any budding artists out there, young or old, how about putting pen to paper and coming up with a plan! A nice



picture or drawing showing your interpretation of the sign will provide us with some much needed inspiration. We would be particularly pleased to see how the young in the Parish would like to see the sign. Any pictures or drawings should be posted to Stanford Rivers PC, c/o Ware Farm, The Street, High Roding, Essex CM6 1NT.

YOU COULD WIN A PRIZE !



It's Here.... Hard to spot indeed!



St Margaret's Church Stanford Rivers



www.stanforddriverschurch.org.uk

I've noticed that hot cross buns have been on sale in the supermarkets since shortly after Christmas and now are being offered prominently - I have to confess that I bought some recently even though, as I'll explain, I shouldn't have. Historically hot cross buns were only intended to be eaten on one day a year - Good Friday, the day that the church remembers the crucifixion and death of Jesus on the cross so that he could pay the penalty and price for all the sins and wrongdoing that we all do. The period leading up to Good Friday and Easter is called Lent, and is when Christians quietly reflect on Jesus' suffering. During this time it was traditional to only eat very simple foods (hence having pancakes on Shrove Tuesday - to eat up all the rich foods beforehand). Having hot cross buns on Good Friday is symbolic of the end of this time of abstinence. There is further symbolism in the cross on top of the bun which reminds us of the cross on which Jesus died and the spices which are included in the mix represent the spices with which Jesus' body was embalmed. As this edition of News and Views will not be with residents until after the Easter period, I do hope everyone in the Parish had a joyful Easter.

With best wishes

Revd Neil Taylor - Parish Priest for Stanford Rivers and Greensted (priest@stanforddriverschurch.org.uk)

citizens advice Epping Forest District

Advice Sessions at Chipping Ongar Library

Every third Tuesday of the month

April 17 th	July 17 th
May 15 th	August 21 st
June 19 th	September 18 th

Drop-in Service:
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RAY TIFFEN - 1943-2018

I am sorry to report of the death of my dear husband Ray which took place on 6th March at home following a short illness. I would like to thank all of the church and town community for their messages of support. By the time this notice is printed the funeral will have taken place at St Margaret's Church and if you attended then may I thank you for that. As all have said he was a Gentle Man who loved his family garden motorbikes steam trains and the Spitfire.

Rosemarie Tiffen

Services St Margaret's Church Stanford Rivers

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Quarter Page	£20.00	£100.00
Half Page	£30.00	£150.00
Full Page (A4)	£50.00	£200.00



Stanford Rivers Parish Council Newsletter

A113 Speed Working Group

The proposal to remove the central white lines at the Little End of the village does not appear to meet the width criteria laid down by Essex Highways. The Parish Council is investigating how the measurements were taken before accepting that this proposal cannot be carried forward. The Parish Council accepts the Working Group's recommendation that the section from the gateway sign westwards, for 312 metres should remain at 30mph and a proposal put forward to put in double white lines and no overtaking signs.

In a quest to introduce a 40mph buffer zone between the Woodman and the village gateway signs we are asking all our readers, residents and road users to gather information and data to support the suggestion, including accidents, near misses, photographs, videos and other relevant reports; Please forward details to Adriana, our Clerk or a Councillor.

Finger Post Signs

These old and rather charming signs are a part of our heritage and the Parish Council is keen to preserve them for generations to come. There is very little funding available to be spread thinly over the whole Epping Forest Region, without even mentioning the red tape one has to go through to get any action; so meanwhile the Parish Council is looking into ways of having repair work carried out independently. We hope

to have some positive news in next edition.

Defibrillator.

This is now ready to install at The Village Hall; this will be coupled with extra security, such as CCTV.

Fly Tipping

There has been a noticeable increase in fly tipping in Stanford Rivers in recent months. All the significant fly-tips in the area are investigated by Epping Forest District Council (EFDC). This has led to the identification of two individuals/a company linked to at least three recent fly-tips and it is imagined they are responsible for more tipping in the area. Work is taking place by EFDC to confirm the exact identity and addresses of these individuals to pursue further action. The police are aware of the details of one vehicle it is believed they use and there are many other investigations ongoing. Covert cameras are occasionally used in the area and more have recently been purchased. EFDC does not use overt cameras as this is likely to displace the problem elsewhere, but they do recommend that landowners take action to protect their land, installing lights, cameras and signs to act as a deterrent.

All Parish Council Meetings are held in the Toot Hill Village Hall and are open to the public and press. Why not pop along to our next meeting - **5.30pm on Thursday 10th May.**



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The Green Man & Courtyard

is under a new family run management! We held our first quiz night at the beginning of March, what a roaring success with over 42 participants. Due to such high demand our next quiz will be held on Tuesday the 3rd of April at 8pm- everyone is welcome. We don't charge an entry fee and serve a selection of meals at £10. Come and join us and be in for a chance of winning a selection of prizes! We served over 200 covers Mothering Sunday - Our busiest Sunday to date. We received glowing feedback on our traditional Sunday Roasts and accommodating staff. Easter Sunday is booking up fast, we are serving 12-6pm and are offering an Easter Egg Hunt in our courtyard at 12pm, all children are welcome! Our lunchtime special menu of 2 courses for £11.95 and 3 courses for £14.95 Monday-Saturday, 12- 6pm is proving to be

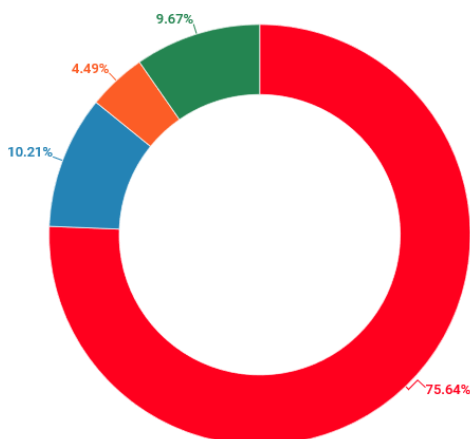
very popular and is our best selling deal, come in and try it! Every Friday we serve Fish & Chips at £10 a head, we also serve Chicken or Lamb Curry accompanied with rice, naan and poppadoms at £10 a head every Wednesday. On Friday 6th of April we have an acoustic live singer, Charlie Law, performing from 8pm, his first event at The Green Man & Courtyard. To book a table with us please ring 01992522255 or pop in and see us at The Green Man, School Road, Toot Hill, Ongar

Council Tax Increase For All

Epping Forest District Council is the body responsible for collecting your Council Tax. It then shares this with Essex County Council, the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner, the Essex Fire Authority and the Parish Council. This year (2018/2019) has seen increases in almost all elements of Council Tax with the exception of Stanford Rivers Parish Council which has remained the same as last year. Essex County Councils Council Tax increase is 4.99%, which is made up of a 2.99% increase in general council tax, and 2% increase directly for Adult Social Care. Epping Forest District Councils Council Tax increase is 2.49% and is following an agreement for new law and order initiatives to improve anti-social issues in the district. Essex Police Council Tax increase is 7.62%, and is following an overwhelming response from a recent

survey that concluded members of the public were willing to pay more for increased local policing. I'm not sure how much of this we will actually get to see! On average across the district for every £1 of Council Tax you pay the money is shared in the following way:

Essex County Council 73% - **Essex Police and Crime Commissioner 10%** - **Essex Fire Authority 4%** - **Epping Forest District Council 9%** - **Town and Parish Councils 4%**. You can see more information at the following links:



Essex County Council - www.essex.gov.uk/counciltax

Essex Police and Crime Commissioner - www.essex.pcc.police.uk

Essex Fire Authority - www.essex-fire.gov.uk

Epping Forest District Council - www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk

● Essex County Council ● Essex Police

● Essex Fire & Rescue Service ● Epping Forest District Council

Rotary News

At Kelvedon Hatch & Villages Rotary we are a small group who have great fun raising money for, mainly, local Charities; we meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at Ashwells Country Club in Bentley. We have a varied programme of fund raising events planned for this year, including a Fashion Show in April, a Mud dash at Nuclear Races in June, the afternoon bar at the Toot Hill Show in August, a professional production of the Rime of the Ancient Mariner at Zinc Arts Theatre in October and a Call My Bluff Wine Evening in November. If you would like to meet up with us, feel free to come along to Ashwells, or for more information about events please contact Alan Buckley 07785 308949; alan@langfordbridge.com



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FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT: CHRISTINE BLACKIE

TEL: 01277 823 995 EMAIL: C.BLACKIE@BTOOPENWORLD.COM

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