

# News & Views

Inc. Stanford Rivers Parish Council News Letter

Nov/Dec 2019

Issue No. 103

## Christmas Tree Lighting



Come and join us at one (or both) of the Christmas Tree lighting events taking place in the Parish. Bring the family and start the festive season in good spirits.

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December  
6pm  
Jubilee Green, Stanford Rivers**

Mulled Wine, Mince Pies, Hot Chocolate, Carols, and a visit from Santa with his sleigh!

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December  
5pm  
Toot Hill Green, Toot Hill**

Mulled Wine and Festivities  
Lights Switch On at 5.30pm

## Toot Hill Show 2019 Round Up

The 4th of August proved to be the perfect day for the 2019 Toot Hill Show. The sun shone, but it was not too hot, and the people who came made the most of it and stayed all afternoon. In the last few years, show day has been interrupted by sudden showers or temperatures so hot that most people can only last a couple of hours in the heat. This year the show field was packed and there was a tremendous atmosphere. Many people said it had been one of the best! This feedback was a highlight for the committee at the AGM held at the Green Man on 19 September. The committee were delighted to welcome a number of new faces at the meeting. The show is run by local volunteers, for the benefit of the community and to keep a little of our heritage alive. The show committee generate income from the gate, trade stands, the barbecue and coconut shy. This covers the cost primarily of the marquee and the main ring events. The object is to make a small surplus, whilst keeping the entrance fee as low as possible. See accounts summary below. To ease the resource burden on the committee several stalls are "given over" to community groups. They are not charged by the show and keep all the proceeds they

make. The show committee are very grateful to the following organisations:

**St Margaret's Church – Tea and Cake Stall,  
Kelvedon Hatch Rotary - Beer Tent, Ongar WI –  
Raffle**

The committee were delighted with the record turnout of classic cars at 100 and believed the main ring events were all superb and in line with the country show objectives. The committee would like to thank all those who contributed to making 2019 another successful year.

### Summary Accounts

**Income:** Gate, Stalls, BBQ etc - £7,053

**Expenditure:** Marquee £2,595 - Main Ring Events £2,072 - PA, Loos, St Johns £963 - Other show expenses £853

**PROFIT was £570 - It is estimated that the show raised over £4,000 for charity and community groups.**

If you would like to meet the show committee and perhaps help in the running of the show please contact Maurice Harvey ([maurice@stanford-rivers.co.uk](mailto:maurice@stanford-rivers.co.uk)). [Toothillshow.co.uk](http://Toothillshow.co.uk)

## The Future Of News And Views

It's been over four years since the Parish Council took over the production of News and Views, and it's fair to say that in that time the content of the publication has changed considerably. In the past, the publication contained local stories of interest and news, however over time it's become more of an 'information' newsletter. As a small rural Parish it may be that we simply don't have much local news. We also live in close proximity to the town of Ongar which has a hugely popular publication – Ongar News – and in the current climate of social media, we need to ask ourselves how we see News and Views

going forward. There have been a number of different suggestions, however we'd like to know what you think.

- How often should News and Views be published? (currently 6 times a year) – should it be less / more?
- Is there any content missing that you would find of interest?

- What else would you like to see in the Magazine?

Your comments will help us decide what the future of News and Views will look like.

Email [stanfordrivers-pc@gmail.com](mailto:stanfordrivers-pc@gmail.com) with your comments.

# Telephone Box Gets An Overhaul

Many of you will have noticed that the telephone box in Toot Hill has recently received some long awaited refurbishment work. This is as a result of the Parish Council successfully obtaining £500 via the Essex County Council Community Initiative Microgrant Grant Funding Scheme. The grant was to enhance this telephone box as a local small tourist information centre which provides useful information on the area to any visitors as well as local residents. This provides opportunities for people to become more informed about things to do in the area, and hopefully encourage them to become more active and involved. The telephone box also seems to be turning into a book exchange which is a very popular use of these old but well loved structures. Going forward the phone box will be kept spick and span, and if you haven't stopped by yet, please do pop in and see if you can find a good novel to read.



## Ongar Wildlife Society

Most of us have heard of turtle doves from the song *Twelve days of Christmas*, with the words: "On the second day of Christmas, my true love gave to me – two turtle doves .....". However, this could not be true in this country as turtle doves are summer visitors, arriving in late April and leaving in September to spend the winter in West Africa. At the monthly

meeting in September, Emma Stobart from the RSPB explained why this bird, just smaller than a collared dove, is of such interest. It is because the breeding population in Britain has declined by an alarming 91% in the last 10 years and the remaining birds are now confined to south-eastern England. The turtle dove is found on arable and mixed farmland in places where there are suitable nesting sites.

They require a continuous supply of wildflower and cereal seeds from April to August and a lack of seed is probably the major factor limiting their breeding success. Whilst turtle doves are protected in Britain, they are shot in large numbers during migration, and they also experience problems in their African wintering grounds. The RSPB's *Operation Turtle Dove* tracks birds with satellite tags which has provided detailed information of their migration route, and shown that they migrate mainly at night, covering 400-500 miles in one flight, and flying at speeds of around 40mph. *Operation Turtle Dove* also supports farmers in providing supplementary food for the doves, many of which arrive in this country before wildflowers have produced seed. But why are they called turtle doves? It is not because of their appearance but because they have a soft 'purring' song and their "**turrr - turrrrrrrrrr**" call has been translated as "tur-tle".

The **last talk of the year** is on 9th December when Brian Rosen from the Natural History Museum will give a talk appropriately called *Christmas Corals*. Yes, Corals not Carols!

**All meetings are now held at Budworth Hall**, High Street, Chipping Ongar, CM5 9JG. Visitors pay £5, but why not join - only £25 a year for nine talks, a garden party and a New Year party. It's great value and an opportunity to learn about wildlife and the environment. More information can be found at [www.ongarwildlifesociety.org.uk](http://www.ongarwildlifesociety.org.uk)



**Toot Hill Village Hall - Hire the Hall**  
**Parties – Weddings – Community Events – Reasonable Rates**  
**Also available for hire – cutlery – crockery – folding chairs**  
**Contact the booking secretary Vicky on 01992 523402**

## Want to Advertise in this Magazine?

Contact [stanfordriverspc@gmail.com](mailto:stanfordriverspc@gmail.com) –  
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Advert/ Frequency	Per edition (6 per year)	Per Annum (6 editions)
Quarter Page	£20.00	£100.00
Half Page	£30.00	£150.00
Full Page (A4)	£50.00	£200.00

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Stanford Rivers Parish are supporting Essex Police to increase local and visible policing in their area.

Visit [www.essex.police.uk/Specials/standordrivers](http://www.essex.police.uk/Specials/standordrivers) to find out more

The Parish Council now has twitter! Follow us @stanfordrivpc for up to date local information as it happens.



# Highways – Broken Gateway Signs



Upon entering Stanford Rivers along the A113 London Road from Ongar, you are greeted by two 'Gateway signs', the purpose of which is to remind road users they are entering a village and to reduce their speed. Unfortunately, these gateway signs are in a total state of disrepair. Whilst the maintenance of these signs is the responsibility of Essex County Council (ECC), the Parish Council has agreed to repair the signs for the benefit of its residents, as it has concerns over the length of time it would take Highways to do the work. It is understood that due to budget constraints and ECC having to prioritise work load, many Parish and Town Councils across Essex are deciding to complete such work themselves, as what is a priority for local people isn't always a priority for the County Council!



## Highways – Snow, Ice and Gritting

### Winter service

Winter 2019 officially began on 21 October for Essex Highways who treat over 2000 miles of roads in Essex, which is about 40% of their road network. These are the most important routes to keep moving and all routes are treatable in a maximum of 3 hours. ECC operate 62 gritting lorries with ploughs plus two mini gritters with around 116 drivers who are deployed based on weather conditions.

### Winter decision making

ECC decision makers get a report from their forecasters daily. This shows them minimum temperatures along with any hazards expected (frost, black ice, snow etc). From this they can make an informed decision whether to grit the County's roads and the best time to do this. Roads are gritted before frost forms.

When they have made the decision, usually at lunchtime, they communicate this via their [@essexhighways](#) Twitter account using the hashtag #EssexGritters.

In order for a road to be salted, it must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- be one of priority roads PR1 or PR2 - (also referred to as County Routes)
- access routes to hospitals with accident & emergency facilities, fire stations, ambulance stations and other emergency services
- bus routes with four or more buses per day in both directions for at least five days of the week
- sites where there have been four or more personal injury accidents within a three-year period and frost/ice on the road surface was a contributory factor
- other 'high risk' sites where a full risk analysis has been carried out by ECC. The assessment based on traffic volumes and an allowance will be made if the road or site has a significant hill or bend
- the Winter Access Rural Network (WARN) – the access route to the main settlement of a parish of 50 or more households not already on the precautionary salting route.

## Highways – Finger Post Broken

Thanks to the eagle eyes of a local Toot Hill resident, the Parish Council was recently advised that the Heritage Finger Post located at the junction of Drapers Corner and Greensted Road had either been knocked down or simply fallen down. There is some discrepancy as to exactly who owns these finger posts, with some believing they are owned by the respective Parish in which they are situated, despite them being technically classed as 'highway furniture' and thus being the responsibility of Essex County Council Highways. After inspection, it seems the cost to actually repair the post is almost the same as providing a new one, and as such the Parish Council has agreed to fund the complete replacement of this post. Finger Posts are one of those things that you don't really notice until they are suddenly missing. They help provide a sense of character and place in our rural environment. Fingerposts are not only attractive in their own right but have become icons that are important to national as well as to rural identity. They enrich the countryside wherever they are found and enhance local character which is so important to local communities. Once upon a time every village green boasted a fingerpost. If you have any history of the Finger Posts in our Parish, please do let us know by emailing us at [stanfordriverspc@gmail.com](mailto:stanfordriverspc@gmail.com).





WhatsApp



to report the crime to get support. **Call the free 24 hour Support line on 08 08 16 89 111**

They work with Stop Hate UK, True Vision, Hate Incident Reporting Centre network, Essex Police and Crimestoppers.

## NHW Social Media

Many of you are members of the Stanford Rivers Neighbourhood Watch Facebook group, and I think you will agree we are seeing an increasing number of posts on the page that are not relevant to its purpose. There is a clause that has been added in the pinned post at the top of our page which states 'Please do not use this group to advertise for local services - Use Stanford Rivers Community group instead

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2186954641537345/>

however it seems this is either being ignored or not noticed. Our NHW WhatsApp group and Facebook pages are well used, and serves the purpose of alerting local people to issues of crime in our vicinity to help us be more alert – please lets try and use these social media platforms for their intended purpose.

**Your main NHW coordinator is John Adams:**

[srpcnw@gmail.com](mailto:srpcnw@gmail.com)

Tel 01277 362194

**www.victimsupport.org.uk**

**f VictimSupport** **@VictimSupport**

## We are United in Kind

We are people across Essex working together to reconnect with our neighbours and communities to help overcome loneliness. Hundreds of community, charity and voluntary groups supporting people who feel lonely or isolated. It's time to re-connect. And make everyone feel part of a kinder community. Because together, we can tackle loneliness with kindness and reach more people. Start now. Do one kind thing every day. Even better do it together to make our community a better place. From Basildon to Braintree, Sheering to Shenfield. We are Essex. We are United in Kind.

The facts

- One in four people say they are always or often lonely, let's change this, overcoming loneliness in Essex with kindness.
- Lonely people are more likely to suffer from a mental health disorder, let's reduce the impact, overcoming loneliness in Essex with kindness.
- Half a million older people go 5 or 6 days without seeing someone, let's change this, overcoming loneliness in Essex with kindness.
- 8 out of 10 carers have felt lonely, because of their caring role, let's change this, overcoming loneliness in Essex with kindness.
- 85% of young disabled people feel lonely, let's change this, overcoming loneliness in Essex with kindness.

### Get Involved

Join the United in Kind movement. No matter how big or small the act, let's connect our communities with kindness. Through kindness, together we can develop personal connections within our communities, our families and our friendship groups. To see the great initiatives already active in your area, and to find volunteering opportunities, go to [www.essexmap.co.uk](http://www.essexmap.co.uk). If you are organising a community activity, add it on The Essex Map. To do this see [www.essexmap.co.uk/register](http://www.essexmap.co.uk/register).

**do something  
kind  
today**



# St Margaret's Church Stanford Rivers



**'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace' (Isaiah 9:6)**

These words were spoken about 700 years before the birth of Jesus. This child was long awaited and the expectations on him were staggering. How could one person bring about world peace? Israel was desperate for peace. It was a small nation, surrounded by powerful enemies and facing constant threat. In Jesus' time they were under Roman rule. It wasn't just political peace they longed for though, it was peace with God. Israel, the chosen people, were constantly facing the wrath of the Almighty for their unfaithfulness and disobedience.

Jesus brought peace with God, for Israel and for any who believe in his name. As a later prophecy from Isaiah put it, '*upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace and with his wounds are we healed*' (Isaiah 53:5). The Prince of Peace would give his life in place of ours and because of his death, we have a life that will never end. Peace may feel like a distant concept for you this Christmas. Maybe you feel despair at the political landscape. Perhaps your family are at loggerheads. Or maybe you are just overwhelmed by the demands of life.

This Christmas, spend some time with the Christchild and experience the peace that he offers. Come to one of the services at St Margaret's (details below) to explore more about the peace that Jesus can bring.

I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

***Neil Taylor, Parish Priest***

## **SERVICES FOR ST MARGARET'S CHURCH STANFORD RIVERS**

1st December - Catch-up Church with children's activities

15<sup>th</sup> December - Catch-up Church with Communion and children's activities

22<sup>nd</sup> December - Crib Service (3pm)

24<sup>th</sup> December - Carol Service for all the family

### **THANK YOU**

TO ALL WHO ATTENDED THE MCMILLAN COFFEE MORNING RUN BY ST MARGARET'S CHURCH ON TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER.

WE RAISED £95 WHICH WITH THE £72 KINDLY DONATED BY THE FOLK CLUB AT THEIR GET TOGETHER ON THE PREVIOUS FRIDAY HAS MEANT WE HAVE SENT £167 TO THE CHARITY.



## **Toot Hill Village Hall – Managing Its Future**

Most local residents have at some time used the Toot Hill Village Hall, and many have witnessed its transformation into a hall fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, originally championed by the late Cllr Ron Hayden and more latterly by the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee. The Hall is managed by very small group of volunteers who give up their own free time to ensure the hall is well used. What many do not know is that the hall is held by way of a 50 year lease by the Toot Hill Village Hall Charity – a lease which expires this year. Whilst the Management Committee do a great job, historically finding people to

give up their time and sit on the Committee has proved challenging. In order to ensure the continued success and longevity of the hall, the Parish Council is considering how best to move forward. There is no threat to the hall itself, just consideration as to how its run and managed. We would be very interested to hear from any members of the local community who would be willing to give up some of their time to help with the running and administration of the hall. If that's you, please contact [stanfordriverspc@gmail.com](mailto:stanfordriverspc@gmail.com) or call 077377 36365, or ask your neighbours and friends if they may be interested.



# Stanford Rivers Parish Council Newsletter

## Parking in Toot Hill

This continues to be a problem, despite numerous polite reminders to our residents. The Parish Council will shortly be conducting a survey of residents in close proximity to the area of Barnmead with a view to establishing if there would be enough support for a possible parking solution in this area. But in the meantime, please be considerate, and park somewhere safe.

## A113 Stanford Rivers

We were hoping to have an update to report to you, however this is now expected to be in the January edition. We continue to chase.

## Website

Cllr John Adams has taken on the task of updating the Parish Council's website, both in terms of content

and accessibility requirements. Copies of agendas, minutes, and other useful information can be found at [www.stanfordrivers-pc.gov.uk](http://www.stanfordrivers-pc.gov.uk) – why not take a look!

## Highways

As reported earlier in this publication, we have agreed to fund the replacement of a heritage finger post and the refurbishment of two gateway signs. We hope you agree this will be money well spent.

## Annual Audit

Each year the Parish Council undergoes an External Audit completed by a Government appointed body, and this year this was signed off on 17<sup>th</sup> September. Visit the website for full details.

Next meeting **5.30pm Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020**  
**Toot Hill Village Hall**

## Epping Forest District Council - Workshops

### Saturday 7 December 2019– Printmaking

This two-hour printmaking taster session will be taught by a practicing artist who will take you step-by-step through the linocut print making process. This will be a hands-on creative workshop.

### Saturday 11 January 2020– Drawing in Charcoal

Spend a relaxing two hours at Lowewood Museum with one of our in-house artists, learning how to use charcoal to create a landscape picture.

### Saturday 8 February 2020 – Animation

Develop new skills and have fun. Explore different ways to create your own animation using collage or drawings, and your smart phone. For inspiration we'll look at key artists in the history of experimental animation. You don't have to be able to draw to do this; the aim of the session is to build confidence in your creative skills.

### Saturday 7 March 2020– Drawing and Painting with Watercolour Pencils

This artist-led workshop will give you a taste of the joys of using watercolour pencils. Learn simple drawing techniques while expanding your colour repertoire beyond the greys and blacks of pencil and ink. This workshop is for anybody who wants to draw more confidently and have fun with colour.

[Visit https://eppingforestdc.bookinglive.com/](https://eppingforestdc.bookinglive.com/) to book

## Christmas Folk Club – Everybody Welcome

**FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**NEXT EVENT – yes, Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> - 6.30pm Toot Hill Village Hall    THEME: Christmas Attire**





# VE DAY

75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

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- Tree Preservation Orders (T.P.O.) and Conservation Areas
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