

# News & Views

Inc. Stanford Rivers Parish Council News Letter

July/August 2022

Issue No. 114

## Toot Hill Show 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022



This year's show will take place on **Saturday 6th August** opening at **12pm**. Why not come along and see strong man "Mighty Smith" and "The Medieval Combat Society" performing in the main ring. There will be a medieval camp plus all the usual stalls and side shows. The Horticultural Competition held in the marquee is open to everyone. There are many different classes for all ages so why not have a go! Entry forms are due in by Wednesday 3rd August. Available from Senners News Agent and online. We have a fun dog show run in aid of Wallace kennels, so bring along your pet pooch. We also have the classic and sports car show. Parking is free and entry to the show is just £4 for an adult and £2 for a child.

**Mighty Smith** - Adrian Smith, 5th in the World's Strongest Man and three times winner of UK's Strongest Man Competition, presents a show geared for family fun with visual humour and audience participation. Tearing up Argos books, bending six inch nails in his teeth, walking on a bed of broken glass, holding a chair with a seated lady on it in his teeth. These along with more serious feats of strength -including a vehicle pull.

**Medieval Combat Society** - Enjoy the spectacles of full contact combat displays, archery demonstrations and dance displays in the Main Ring. A medieval encampment and kitchen will also be at the show for the enjoyment of everyone.

You can find more information online at  
[www.Toothillshow.co.uk](http://www.Toothillshow.co.uk), or contact [maurice@stanford-rivers.co.uk](mailto:maurice@stanford-rivers.co.uk).



MAKE



BAKE



GROW

# A Wonderful Jubilee

The weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> July saw celebrations taking place across the Country to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee. To mark 70 years on the throne, Beacons were lit across the UK and Commonwealth on the Thursday evening in the first community event commemorating the Jubilee. As a community we wanted to be part of this historic event – one which none of us are likely to see again in our lifetimes – and we were delighted to see so many residents joining us on Sharps Green in Toot Hill. Despite the extremely chilly unseasonal weather, all

present managed to enjoy some food, refreshments, and thankfully warm up as a result of the very 'enthusiastic' beacon! We collectively joined in a rendition of God Save The Queen to ensure the historic occasion was marked for both current and future generations. ECC Cllr Jaymey McIvor and our Parish Council Chairman Cllr John Glover joined over 70 residents at the event, thanking them for attending and reading out the specially written Royal Proclamation to mark this momentous occasion. God Save The Queen!



Cllr John Glover

# Potholes

We all remember the recent Ride London event that affected many parts of our Parish, and for some the disruption it caused to our daily lives. However one benefit as a direct result of the event was that numerous potholes and road defects that had been present in the Parish for many months (in some cases years) were repaired. Whilst we celebrate this, there are still many potholes that cause problems with travel around the Parish, especially on some of our more rural roads, and we want to know where they are. Essex County Council is pleased to announce that their 'member-led' pothole repair initiative is back for another year. Launched at the start of June, the programme offers Essex County Councillors the opportunity to liaise with their local Parishes and Districts, as well as using their own local knowledge, to nominate important pothole locations to Essex Highways for repair. This scheme enables Members to complete additional repairs locally which may not normally be considered for immediate repair under existing maintenance policies. Work will take place in two phases, began in earnest on 13 June, and will continue through to the end of the year until both phases have been complete.

So we feel who better to identify where these potholes are than the people they affect each and every day. If you want to put forward a pothole that you feel really needs to be repaired, please let us know the exact location, how big it is, roughly how deep it is, how long it

has been there, and what problems it cases. We can then contact Essex County Council in the hope this is considered for repair under this scheme.

## What is a pothole?

A pothole is a hole in the road that is **deeper** than 50mm and 100mm across. They are usually formed during the winter months as a direct result of snow, ice and prolonged periods of rain and occur where an area of the road's surface has broken up and fallen out. Email [stanfordrvierspc@gmail.com](mailto:stanfordrvierspc@gmail.com) with details of your potholes. A word of caution – please don't venture into the road to take any measurements, or put yourself at risk in anyway. Stay safe!



## Ongar Wine Circle Jubilee Report



In glorious sunshine Ongar Wine Circle held a truly English picnic in the garden of Maurice and Leonie on the Friday of the Jubilee weekend. Members, many dressed in red, white and blue, were greeted on arrival with a glass of Pimms. Picnics were unpacked and corks popped; in the background Rob entertained us with songs from across the decades with several members unable to resist getting up to dance. Later on, after ice cream was served the afternoon was topped with a glass of fizz to toast the Queen with a stirring rendition of God Save the Queen – just the one verse – to finish.

*Article by Phillipa Giles*

## Now For Some 2021 Census Statistics

The Parish of Stanford Rivers sits within the District of Epping Forest. In Epping Forest, the population size has increased by 8.3%, from around 124,700 in 2011 to 135,000 in 2021. This is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%), where the population grew by nearly 3.5 million to 56,489,800. Nearby areas like Uttlesford and Harlow have seen their populations increase by around 14.9% and 13.9%, respectively, while others such as Enfield saw an increase of 5.6% and Brentwood saw smaller growth (4.6%). In 2021, Epping Forest ranked 169th for total population out of 309 local authority areas in England, maintaining the same position it held a decade ago. As of 2021, Epping Forest is the 20th least densely populated of the East of England's 45 local authority areas, with around three people living on each football pitch-sized area of land. Tower Hamlets in London has become the most densely populated local authority area in England (overtaking Islington) with the equivalent of around 112 people per pitch. There has been an increase of 16.6% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 5.7% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 9.6% in children aged under 15 years. For Stanford Rivers as a Parish, the current estimated population is 835, up on 2011 estimate of 817 and 2001 estimate of 739. If you find all these figures interesting, visit the Census 2021 home page at [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk)

## Estimated aged demographic 2020

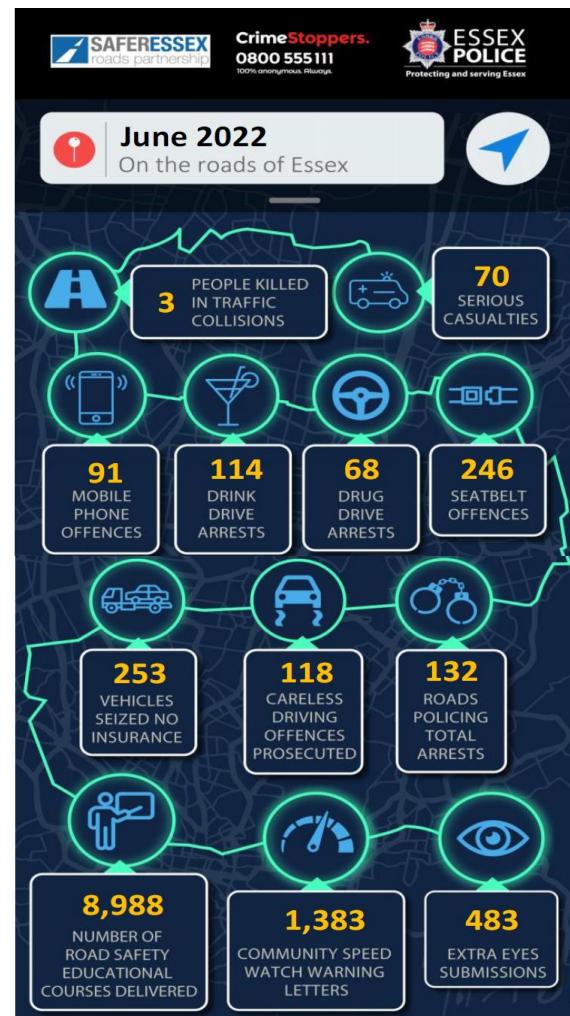
0-9 years	108
10-19 years	92
20-29 years	83
30-39 years	96
40-49 years	89
50-59 years	153
60-69 years	100
70-79 years	74
80+ years	37

# Community Speed Watch

During June three people were tragically killed on the roads of Essex, with 70 serious casualties (one less than last month) affecting many families and friends as a result. The vital role all Community Speed Watch volunteers play in helping to keep Essex roads safer for all users cannot be underestimated and the aims of Vision Zero in reducing the number of fatalities and serious injuries on our roads are at the forefront of everything Community Speed Watch do. 1,383 Community Speed Watch motorist letters were sent to motorists recorded as exceeding the speed limit and there were 483 submissions to the Essex Police 'Extra Eyes' website (50 more than recorded for May). The Community Speed Watch system is very active in Stanford Rivers, however more volunteers are needed so that we can continue to help educated people driving through our villages that speeding is dangerous for everybody.

## How many people dying on the roads in Essex every year do you think is acceptable? 5? 20? 42?

What if some of them were your family, your friends, neighbours, colleagues? When you think of it like this, isn't one person killed one too many? Human beings make mistakes, but is it right that sometimes even a small mistake means that someone will not be going home? The Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) has launched Vision Zero - an ambition to have ZERO road deaths and serious injuries on roads in the Essex, Southend and Thurrock council areas by 2040. Whilst considerable success was made in reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries recorded on the roads of Essex between 2005 and 2020, there were still 42 deaths and 675 serious injuries recorded in 2020. This is too many. A spokesperson for SERP said: "We completely support Vision Zero, and are urging all leaders of Councils, emergency services and businesses, together with the people of Essex, to prevent these unacceptable and avoidable tragedies. As our roads get ever busier, we must not lose sight of what really matters – people's safety."



To find out more, visit [www.saferessexroads.org](http://www.saferessexroads.org) or contact [stanfordriverspc@gmail.com](mailto:stanfordriverspc@gmail.com)

## Love Essex – Love Food – Don't Waste!

Did you know that the average Essex family is wasting roughly £720 every year on food they don't eat? Not only is this a waste of your money, but it's damaging the environment and contributing to climate change too! 70% of all food waste comes from our homes. This means we can all play our part in reducing the amount of food thrown away. Planning your meals, even just a few days in advance, means you can use up what needs to be eaten in your fridge, and only buy what you need. This saves you both time and money, and can be less stressful as there's no need to worry about what to cook every day. Think about what meals you want to cook, check your cupboards and then write a shopping list before heading to the shops. Make sure to check date labels and understand the difference between 'Use By' and 'Best Before'. This makes it easier to use or freeze your food before it spoils!

### USE BY

'Use by' refers to safety: you must not eat food past the 'use by' date. You cannot always smell the bacteria that causes food to spoil, so after the 'use by' date, the food may appear perfectly fine to eat, but could still lead to food poisoning. Let's be absolutely clear: you should NOT eat food after the 'use by' date - even if it looks and smells OK.

### DISPLAY UNTIL / SELL BY

These dates are for the retailers – not us at home. You don't need to worry about these. Some products, such as uncut fruit and vegetables and wine, for example, aren't required to have a date label, and there are specific regulations referring to hen's eggs, which require the use of a Best Before date.

Visit [www.loveessex.org](http://www.loveessex.org) for more information.



### **Date Labels – What do they mean?**

#### **BEST BEFORE**

'Best before' refers to quality: your food will be at its best before the date given. After this date, it might not be at its best, but it will still be safe to eat. Use your senses to make a judgement.



WhatsApp

yourself, as well as other useful information, visit [www.Actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.Actionfraud.police.uk). Be Aware - Stay Safe!



Your Neighbourhood Watch team are still very active in the Parish, which continues (thankfully) to see very little in the way of crime. However, we were recently made aware of an incident in Ongar where a local resident paid for goods/services using Google Pay via his mobile phone, only to discover that somebody very close to him copied all of his card details straight onto their own phone, thought to be done by using some sort of machine. The details were used minutes later, and again one hour later in Romania. After having reported this to the Police and his credit card company, it became apparent that this is not an irregular occurrence. Therefore, in order to try and protect yourselves when paying by either Apple or Google Pay, please be aware of your surroundings, specifically anybody standing too close to you. If so, politely ask if they could give some space whilst you make payment. For further details on how to protect

**Your main NHW coordinator is John Adams:**  
[srpcnw@gmail.com](mailto:srpcnw@gmail.com)  
**Tel 01277 362194**

## Hot Weather – Be Smart!

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service has appealed to the public for their support throughout the summer amid record-breaking temperatures and dry conditions. Control operators have received an unprecedented number of calls over the past 7-10 days. From Saturday 16 July to Thursday 21 July, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service attended 629 incidents. This included 354 fires. On Monday and Tuesday, two of the hottest days the UK has ever seen, the Service's Control Room received 750 calls and crews attended 350 incidents.

At one point on Tuesday, the Service attended 26 concurrent incidents with 34 crews tackling fires across the county. While facing high demand in Essex, the Service was also called to assist colleagues in London Fire Brigade. Essex sent 10 fire engines, a water bowser and an off-road vehicle to London while colleagues faced one of their busiest days on record. Essex County Fire and Rescue Service is asking people to only call 999 in a genuine emergency and to 'help them to help you', by following some very specific safety advice (see boxes on right). Area Manager Neil Fenwick said: "At this time we're working incredibly hard to make sure our resources are there for people who really need our help. With conditions as dry as they are at the moment, the smallest of bonfires or barbecues can quickly spread to an incredibly serious fire – so please don't take the risk. Like fire and rescue services across the country, we are facing unprecedented challenges – and over the coming weeks, we expect this to continue. So please, help us to help you and follow our safety advice to stay out of harm's way. You should still call us in the event of an emergency – as always, the sooner we hear about a fire and can respond, the easier it is to get under control."

As well as smaller field fires, firefighters have also been called to notable incidents across the County, including one in Mutton Row which involved around 4 hectares of standing corn. The EPFCC Fire and Rescue Authority is responsible for fire and rescue services covering an area over 1,400 square miles and a population of 1.8 million.



**DON'T HAVE BONFIRES OR CAMP FIRES**

**DON'T JUMP INTO OPEN WATER – IT'S NOT WORTH THE RISK**

**DON'T HAVE BARBECUES**

**IF YOU'RE A SMOKER, DISPOSE OF CIGARETTES RESPONSIBLY – MAKE SURE THEY ARE OUT AND NOT NEAR DRY GROUND**

**DON'T LEAVE BROKEN GLASS AROUND – IT MAGNIFIES THE SUN AND CAN START FIRES**

# Toot Hill Village Hall - Your Community Hall

Your local village hall remains open for business. If you have never used the hall before it's a great place to hold birthday parties, small events or functions. There are a number of regular groups run at the hall including the Folk Club, Pilates, Silk Painting, History Group, Ladies Group and others. The hall is a small, local hall, run for the benefit of parish residents. If you would like to hire the hall, or are interested in joining one of the groups, please contact the Parish Clerk on 077 377 36365, or email [stanfordriverspc@gmail.com](mailto:stanfordriverspc@gmail.com)

Hall Rates are:



## Village Hall WiFi

The Parish Council recently signed up to a Community WiFi initiative being offered by Gigaclear, where they supply broadband free of charge to the Toot Hill Village Hall for a period of 1 year for the benefit of the community and hall hirers. This will be a great asset for our residents who use the hall, and help bring the Village Hall into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century when it comes to communication. We are awaiting a date for installation, and will provide further updates in future editions of N&V.

## Folk Club - Dates

Toot Hill Folk and Music Club has been going for over 10 years. More than just good music, it's great fun in a friendly environment. If you play, bring your instrument, if you like to sing, bring your voice. No divas please (If we know your song we join in the chorus). Next Meet Fridays **16/09, 14/10, 18/11 and 16/12. 7-11pm.** Toot Hill Village Hall. Bring your own drink (and food if you want). Look up our website [toothillfolkandmusic.co.uk](http://toothillfolkandmusic.co.uk). See you there! Matt 07855170256 (Co-founder and website)

## Parking – Toot Hill

Over recent months we have noticed that people have again started to park their cars on the small triangle at the junction of Mill Lane and Toot Hill Road. We would like to remind local residents that parking is not permitted on this land, and it can make access to and from Mill Lane extremely dangerous for road users. There have also been issues with parking on the corner of Toot Hill Road, again causing safety concerns for drivers turning into and out of this road. Rule 423 of the Highway Code states that you 'MUST NOT park within 10m (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space. Clearly both examples go against the Highway Code, and are an offence. The Parish Council will be liaising with the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) regarding enforcing the law. In the meantime, please be considerate of other road users.



# Parish Council Update

## Election of Chairman

Cllr John Glover was elected as Chairman of the Parish Council at the May 2022 meeting for the 22/23 municipal year. Cllr Robert Jackson elected as Vice Chair.

## Chairmans Report 2021/2022

May I start by thanking our Clerk, Adriana Jones, for a year of excellent organisation and assistance and for the work of our Councillors in ensuring we deliver on our responsibilities. The areas covered include planning, finance, cleaning and maintenance, liaison with our residents and the support of the local economy and events. In 2022 we had no PC elections. In 2021 we did not need to have PC Elections due to the exact matching of councillors to the posts available. The PC comments on all planning applications made. The majority of planning applications are mainly procedural and we have contested a number of "stables" to "residential" accommodation throughout the year. Last year an application was in hand to close a beautiful footpath and I am pleased to say this has been saved. The PC will always defend the rights of way of footpaths. Once lost they will never return. Some planning applications are found to be misleading and we seek proper clarification before finalising our views. The Parish Council comments on every application referred to it by the District Council. The District Council makes the final decision. Monthly tasks include the maintenance of our greens, surrounds and the Village Hall. Now we are out of lockdown we expect the VH to return to normality and we are planning to order new external tables and chairs. From time to time we are asked to liaise with residents over local issues and we provide information to help search for an acceptable solution. This can include commenting to the District Council planning application matters. Last year we welcomed the return of the Toot Hill Show and we gave financial support based on the number of attendees. In 2022 the Toot Hill Show should be fully "back to normal" for the first time since 2019 and the Parish Council will discuss support for the current year. All the items listed above are dealt with on a monthly basis and reported on at our bi-monthly formal Parish Council meetings. These are normally held in the Toot Hill Village Hall and are now back to "normal" and "Face to Face". Parishioners are very welcome to attend our meetings.

*Cllr John Glover, Chairman*

## Defibrillator

Work continues to find a suitable location at which to locate a community defibrillator in Little End, and we are working with Essex County Council and other partners.

## Permitted Development

Many of our Toot Hill Residents would have noticed the two steel framed structures erected on land along the Epping Road towards Tawney Common. Thanks to EFDC Cllr Brady, the Parish Council was made aware of the

start of construction work on these sites, and approached the Local Planning Authority (Epping Forest District Council) as to whether planning permission was in place for the structures, and we were advised they were granted in 2020 under Permitted Development Rights. One barn is for the storage of hay, and the other for storage of machinery. After some further investigation, we were extremely disappointed to learn these barns did NOT in fact fulfil the criteria of permitted development, and should never have been granted permission via this route. Unfortunately, now that permission has been granted there is very little that can be done, however it emphasises the importance of keeping your eyes and ears open, and raising any potential issues as soon as possible with the relevant authority.



## Planning Committee Meetings

The Parish Council now has a dedicated Committee to consider any and all planning applications that come before us for comment. These committee meetings are held in public, and are open to the press and public. Agendas are posted at least three clear days before each meeting on our website. If you are interested in joining a mailing list for any Parish Council agenda, please email the Clerk at [Stanfordriverspc@gmail.com](mailto:Stanfordriverspc@gmail.com).

## Audit 2021/2022

The Parish Council has published its annual accounts for 2021/2022 on both the notice boards and the website. All relevant documentation has been submitted to the External Auditor for review, and the notice of public rights placed on the Notice Boards and website in accordance with the relevant legislation.

## Parish Council Meeting dates 2022/2023

All meetings of the full council are held in the Toot Hill Village hall starting at 5.30pm:

- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Members of the public are encouraged to attend. Dates of Planning Committee meetings will be updated on the Parish Council website and Facebook page.

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# MY COMMUNITY MY OPPORTUNITY MY OTHER LIFE

VILLAGE HALL  
CLATTERFORD END



SPECIAL CONSTABULARY  
NOW RECRUITING  
**STANFORD RIVERS**

*My  
Other  
Life*

 #MyOtherLife

If you want to make a real difference in your town then volunteer as a Community Special Constable and play a part in keeping your neighbourhood safe.

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.

