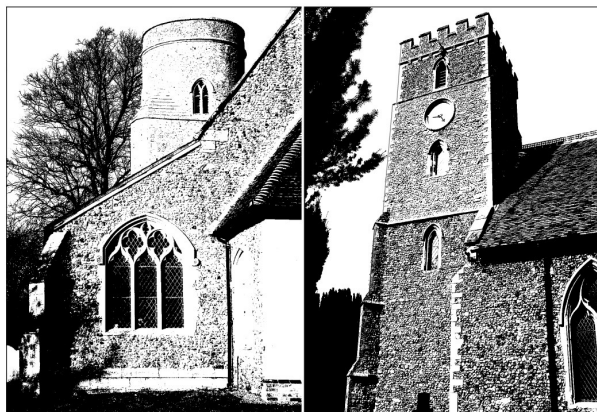


THE SALINGS MAGAZINE



APRIL 2020



THE PARISH MAGAZINE FOR GREAT AND LITTLE SALING

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

As we write this editorial on 18th March, the UK is going into lockdown for an indeterminate period owing to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Given the UK Government's latest guidance - 'avoid large gatherings, and gatherings in smaller public spaces such as pubs, cinemas, restaurants, theatres, bars, clubs' - this means that a number of the events advertised in the magazine may be cancelled or amended. Sadly, this includes our annual Plant Sale on 10th May, and all services in our two churches. Fingers crossed for the Fete and Car Display on 28th June - watch this space!

Given the ingenuity of the British public, no doubt means will be found to make the lockdown tolerable. The archbishops have requested us to become 'a different sort of church'. In that spirit, the more active members of the two churches, the Parish Council, and other people of goodwill will be organising to do what we can to support the community, especially its more vulnerable members. By now you will no doubt have seen the leaflet distributed by the Parish Council inviting you to ask for help if you need it.

Sadly, the cancellation of events means that our formal farewell to Rev Tim Goodbody and Ruth and their family will need to be postponed. We are very grateful for their ministry here in the Salings over the last thirteen years, and for Tim's role on the Millennium Village Hall Committee, and wish Tim well in his new role in Chelmsford.



**Please email contributions to the
May edition by the 15th of April to:
SalingsMagazine@gmail.com**

EVENTS AT THE SALINGS MILLENNIUM HALL

- Chair based Exercise Class: EVERY THURSDAY 13.30-15.00
- Pilates: Mondays 11.15-12.00
- Art Group: Tuesdays 10.00-15.00
- **Mobile Library** at Grove Villas 12th, 10.30-11.00
- Slimming World: Thursdays 19.00-21.00
- Village Coffee Morning: 2nd Thursday of the month 10.00-12.00
- Parish Council Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of the month 19.00-21.00



NOTICE: MOST EVENTS WILL BE SUSPENDED BY THE TIME THIS REACHES YOU—PLEASE CHECK WITH THE ORGANISERS

CHURCH SERVICES in the Salings:

Sunday 5. April

Palm Sunday

11.00 Common Worship HC

Gt. Saling

Friday 10. April

11.00 An Hour at the Cross

Gt. Saling

Sunday 12. April

Easter

Sunday

10.30 Family Communion

Lt.

Saling

Sunday 19. April

16.00

Common Worship HC

Followed by

Gt Saling APCM

Gt Saling

Sunday 26. April

9.30 Common Worship HC

Lt. Saling

Sunday 3. May

11.00 Book of Common Prayer HC

Gt. Saling

Friday 8. May **VE DAY**

17.00 Remembrance

Lt. Saling

For additional services, see the Pilgrim Post leaflet or contact the ministers.

EMERGENCY: Please always dial **999** in an emergency.

To report a non-emergency crime you can: Use our do it online service. Call our non-emergency number **101** or alternatively 01245 491491. Go to a police station. Deaf/hard-of-hearing - NGT TextRelay 18001 101

Dear Friends

So, this is it, my very last “vicar’s letter” for the magazine. I’ve lost count of how many I’ve written since the first one came out when we first started here, but I think that I have managed to say something different every month since then, and I hope at least that I have made you think once or twice about the topics I have chosen to write about.

Full disclosure; until recently these letters were very often written as a kind of stream of consciousness splurge in the last few hours before the deadline. I would literally just start typing and see what thoughts ended up on the screen and in the magazine. In the past few months I have at last got into a routine of writing the letter in the second week of the month, and now I won’t need to do them any more.

Instead from the May edition onwards you will have the opportunity to read letters from the large team of lay and ordained ministers who will continue to look after the Pilgrim Parishes after I move on to my new job. I hope that you enjoy getting to know them through these letters.

As I write it is the second week of March; still cold, but with blue skies and bright sunshine, and the daffodils, snowdrops, crocuses and aconites are blooming. These are such beautiful signs of spring, of new growth, and a fresh start. I am deeply encouraged by the way that the people of these villages have celebrated my appointment as Chelmsford Diocesan Director of Ordinands and rejoiced with me and my family at the idea of a new start for us.

For this is a new start for the villages too – in the Easter sense of new life from death, and in the more worldly sense that the person appointed to replace me will have new ideas new energy and vision, and will be able to do things that I have not done over the past few years (in case you’re counting, I came to Stebbing Lindsell and the Salings in 2006 and took on the 5 parishes in 2016).

When I first arrived, I was 40 and it was great to be referred to as ‘young man’. Now as I leave you, I’m 53, my waistband is a lot bigger and my head a lot less hairy (and what hair is left is a lot greyer!). The time has gone so quickly, yet we have had time for a lot of life experience here; our children have grown into adulthood, and they will for a long while regard the Vicarage as their home, until we settle into the new house in High Easter.

That’s right, we’re not moving too far away, so you’ll still probably bump into me at Tesco, or the GP surgery or the dentists. So, it’s not “Goodbye”, just ‘au revoir’

With every blessing, Tim

SALINGS PLANT SALE



**SUNDAY
10th MAY**

10am - 2pm

Salings Millennium Hall
Piccotts Lane CM7 5DW

Meet Up Monday scheme welcomes new venue

A scheme that aims to tackle loneliness in the Braintree District is celebrating the addition of a **new venue in Great Bardfield**.

Meet up Mondays, which have been running in the district for over a year, now have seven venues thanks to the addition of The Bell Inn in Great Bardfield.

The Bell Inn will be holding a 'Meet up Thursday' from the 6th February running every Thursday 10am-12pm.

Meet up Mondays is a weekly meet up for people who want to meet and chat to new people, venues offer free tea or coffee and a place to sit and chat for a couple of hours. As well as Mondays, there are Meet Up Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays running across the district.

After launching in October 2018 at Coffee House in the Gardens, Braintree District Council has managed to recruit pubs and cafes to join the scheme across the district in Witham, Bocking, Black Notley, Cornish Hall End, Castle Hedingham and now Great Bardfield.

Businesses within the Braintree district who are interested in running their own Meet up Monday Event can contact Kryshia Fuller at kryshia.fuller@braintree.gov.uk or 01376 552525.

EXHIBITION ON SCREEN, the award-winning and much-loved cinematic series that explores the lives and artwork of history's most revered artists.

We will be releasing our film 'Easter in Art', in cinemas worldwide from 7 April 2020 (just before Easter weekend), which explores how story of Easter has been told throughout history, through artworks from the masters of art Leonardo, Raphael, Salvador Dalí and many more.

The film will be shown in over 70 countries across the world including leading chains and regional independent cinemas:



Great Bardfield Cinema Club

These films will be shown in the coming months in the Town Hall, Great Bardfield:

3rd April Sorry
8th May The

We Missed You
Aeronauts

As usual, Town Hall doors open at 7.30pm with refreshments available, film starts at 8.00.

Free to Members, £6.00 for non-Members and guests who pay at the door.

DEANERY WALKS 2020

The walk on Saturday 18th April will start at 9am from All Saints Church, Church Lane, Little Canfield postcode CM6 1SU G/R 587 209. Queries to Hugh Mascetti, telephone 01279 871606 email hughm@tlcchurch.co.uk. Suitable

footwear for country walking is advisable and dogs on leads are always welcome.

The walk on May will be from one of the Stebbing/Lindsell/The Salings group. shortly.

Saturday 16th
churches in the
Details to follow

The inspiration for the walks this year is 'Essex 2020' a county-wide celebration of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM). The aim is to shine a light on Essex's enterprising past and inspire the future. It is hoped that this will give an added interest to the walks.

Braintree District Council has officially launched our new

Visit Braintree District tourism website,

capturing what our unique and attractive district has to offer. From visitor attractions, independent shops to local events and things to do, residents and visitors will be able to find it all under one roof.

You can view the website here: www.visitbraintreedistrict.co.uk.

ECC COVID-19 Briefing – Parish Council briefing

Date – 11th March 2020

Headline Summary

Key points from the updates below and ECC situation

- Currently there is no on-going community spread of covid-19 in Essex, England or the UK.
- There are 6 confirmed cases in Essex as at 6pm 11.03.20 and a further case in Southend.
- Cases are being detected in people whose links to foreign travel or known cases cannot be established. This is a hint that community spread is starting.
- Internationally strong containment measures are continuing.
- It is thought almost inevitable that containment efforts will fail, and community spread of Covid-19 will occur throughout England. However, containment efforts are expected to delay and reduce the peak of infection. This will ease pressure on health and care services.
- The Chief Medical Officer and Public Health England is the authoritative source for advice and guidance.
- Recently guidance on social distancing, which may be used to delay the spread of Covid-19 has been added to the official advice but has not been enacted.

Director of Public Health Update

Information about the wider picture globally and nationally

Strenuous efforts are on-going internationally to contain the covid-19 virus and prevent widespread community transmission. There are significant outbreaks in our near European neighbours, most notably Italy but also Germany. As of 09:00 on Friday 6th March there were 163 cases of confirmed covid-19 in the UK. The vast majority of these cases, but not all, were linked to foreign travel.

It is likely that sustained community spread will occur the UK. We are currently still in the containment phase in which attempts are made to identify all cases and their contacts in order to prevent sustained community spread. This will continue until it is clear that containment is no longer possible.

The following phase is the delay phase. In this phase it will no longer be possible to detect every case and efforts will focus on slowing down the spread of infection.

Head of Communications Update

ECC Comms team remain linked into the situation via colleagues from Public Health within ECC and daily comms briefings sent from the regional PHE communications team.

Communications activity continues to be led by PHE with ECC focusing on local/regional media relations, internal comms and comms to key partners.

External communications activity this week:

- News page of Essex.gov.uk updated with the latest information.
- Dr Mike Gogarty (ECC Director of Public Health) interviewed on Facebook live 09.03.20
- Website and intranet messages revised to reflect latest advice (change in advice on those returning from Italy with symptoms).

Other activity:

- Social media content focusing on hand-washing continues.



Coronavirus

Wash your hands with soap and water more often for 20 seconds



1

Palm to palm



2

The backs of hands



3

In between the fingers



4

The back of the fingers



5

The thumbs



6

The tips of the fingers

Use a tissue to turn off the tap.
Dry hands thoroughly.

CORONAVIRUS

PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS

The Salings Allotments

I have recently taken over the administration of the allotments situated at the back of Vicarage Close.

These allotments are available for use by all residents of The Salings. However, for this to be managed effectively I need to know, in the first instance, who is currently actively maintaining a plot. I would therefore appreciate it if those residence would contact me, Peter Wells peter.threepins@gmail.com or by mobile 07532 194785.

Also, anyone interested in taking up an allotment should contact me as above. If you would like to discuss any aspect relating to the allotments, please get in touch.

We have access to some mechanisation (cultivators), which takes a lot of the effort from preparing the plots, and current plot owners are more than willing to give advice.

There will never be a better time of year to get a plot prepared for the coming season, and I am sure you will find very rewarding.

Peter Wells

1st FINCHINGFIELD SCOUT GROUP

There are four sections that meet in the
Scout Headquarters, Finchingfield.

Beavers 6-8yrs held on Wednesday evenings 5.45 – 7.00pm

Cubs 8-10 1/2 yrs on Tuesday evenings 6.30 – 8.00pm

Scouts 10 ½ -14yrs on Thursday evenings 7.30 – 9.00pm and

Explorer Scouts 14–18yrs on Monday evenings 7.30 – 9.00pm

All sections are available to girls and Boys

We are currently recruiting Adult helpers for all sections

To find out more contact

Mark Wells - Group Scout Leader

T: 01371 810447 E: finchingfieldscouts@outlook.com

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THE SALINGS PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Cathryn Carlisle
Herkstead Green Bungalow Cornish Hall End Braintree Essex CM7 4HH
T: 01440 731964

W: <https://salingspc.org/> salings.pc@outlook.com

W.O.B PLAN

The hearing has now finished, the inspector has heard all our comments and we now have to wait for his decision. We don't anticipate that this will take very long but will let you know as soon as we hear.

LITTER PICK

Thanks to those who turned up on 8th March for the annual litter pick. We are considering organising a September litter pick and would appreciate feedback on this.



VELO CYCLE RACE

You may have read about the cycle event that is coming through the village on 20th September. We thought that this might be a nice excuse to try and get the villages together and have a bit of fun.

We have a large hall and several green areas around the village, so we are lucky that we are covered for all weathers.

Would you like to join in with a village event? The Parish Council are happy to try and get something organised, but we need to know if anyone would be interested in attending.

Primarily to watch and support the race we could have a type of street party going through the village. Tables and chairs along the Street, refreshments, bunting, maybe the odd stall or two – what would you like to see?

We obviously need to get cracking if we are going to do something so please get in touch with any of us with your ideas as soon as possible.

CHANNEL CLEANING

Great Saling:	30th March	6 th July	6 th Oct	11 th Jan
Bardfield Saling:	31 st March	7 th July	7 th Oct	11 th Jan

DOG FOULING

The Parish Council has been informed that there is a lot of dog poo on the Playing Field. Please can all dog owners bag their dog's poo up and bin it in the bins provided. If Residents see a dog fouling any part of the Parish and

and the owner not picking it up, you can report it to Braintree District Council.

Please note that it is an offence to not clear up after up after your dog immediately. Any person over the age of 18 found to have committed this offence can be served with a £50 fixed penalty notice. Failure to pay the notice within the required timescale can lead to court action where, if found guilty, the offender can be fined up to £1000 and pay costs as awarded by the court.

Anyone under the age of 18 may be given a warning and a letter sent to the parents/guardians.

HANDY MAN

The Parish Council are looking for a Handy Man. If you are interested in applying for this role, please contact the Clerk.

REPORT IT ESSEX FOR ROADS/PAVEMENTS ETC

<https://www.essexhighways.org/transport-and-roads/tell-us/report-all-issues.aspx>

If you see a problem with the Highway report it! It's easy.

ESSEX VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

We have the opportunity to enter the Essex Village of the Year competition. The Parish Council would like to know if residents of The Salings are interested in taking part in this. The competition is judged on how the community works together, not just on the how the villages look. However, we will also need to make sure that the villages do look their very best. This is a competition that requires the participation of the residents – the Parish Council can't do it on their own. Please contact the Clerk if you would be willing to join this community initiative.

THE WAR MEMORIAL

Now Tony has left the village we need someone to look after the war memorial on the green at Vicarage Close.

Do you enjoy gardening? Do you have a bit of time to spare?

If you think you would enjoy doing this please let us know.

Parish Councillor Contact Details

Mr Peter Martin, peter@pmp ltd.co, 07801236461

Mrs Diane Greenwood, dianeg3415@aol.com, 01371 851763

Mr Colin Bennett, petrabennett@btinternet.com, 01371 850320

Mrs Sue Baugh, susiebaugh@gmail.com, 01371 850168

Mrs Kathy Jiggins, jigginsk@aol.com, 07856563568

Mrs Natasha Coe, pinkcoe@hotmail.com, 07881784835



SALINGS PARISH COUNCIL

OUR WEBSITE IS NOW LIVE

GO TO

[**salingspc.org**](http://salingspc.org)

**THE WEBSITE IS THE BEST WAY FOR YOU TO
KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON AND COMMUNICATE
YOUR VIEWS.**

- YOU CAN READ THE MINUTES OF OUR COUNCIL MEETINGS.
- SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER AND GET AUTOMATIC UPDATES BY EMAIL.
- GET USEFUL INFORMATION.
- READ THE AGENDA
- GET LATEST PLANNING APPLICATIONS
- COMMUNICATE YOUR VIEWS AND CONCERNS ON THE 'YOUR COMMENTS' PAGE.

**Be an active member of our local community. Remember it is
your civic right to attend and observe our meetings.**

The dates and venues are always posted on the website.

So go to:-

[**salingspc.org**](http://salingspc.org)

and bookmark it on your computer, laptop, mobile phone or tablet.

We have had some questions about the significant percentage rise in the Parish Precept. It is something that the Parish Council discussed for many hours and was not a decision we took lightly.

However, the simple fact of the matter is that more money is needed to carry out the various responsibilities that the Parish Council has to undertake on behalf of its residents.

We continue to be affected by the loss of the Parish Grant from Central Government and this hit the PC particularly hard over the last twelve months.

We have experienced price rises on many of the fixed costs that we have to cover: insurance, electricity, maintenance of street lighting, maintenance of open spaces.

We have been asked by residents to keep more of our communal green spaces maintained and we have actioned this but it comes at a cost.

The PC wants to keep the villages tidy and well maintained and we are budgeting for a handyman to carry out various tasks throughout the villages but, again, we have to pay for this.

The PC was given only very short notice that the PC website provider would not be maintaining our website and we had to set up a new website with a new provider at very short cost. We were unable to budget for this since it was an unknown.

The costs of the fight against West of Braintree (which by far and away the majority of our residents have said they want us to fight on their behalf) has to be paid. The PC, in conjunction with some generous individuals, has had to pay for expert help to represent our villages at the Government inspection.

There are costs for printing flyers and other small costs which do add up.

We do hope that this helps to explain the current situation.

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Contact: Mr Colin Bennett: 01371 850 320, M: 07789770645
Email: petrabennett@btinternet.com

THE SALINGS 100 CLUB

We are always looking for new members so please contact Maya Hatcher on 01371 810887 or email me on mayahatcher@btinternet.com if you would like to join. It costs £2 per month and you can pay cash, by cheque or Standing Order.

Winners February

1st £60—Clinton Cornish
2nd £40—Anne Aggis
3rd £20—Michael Surridge

Winners March

1st £60—Ray Peake
2nd £40—Derek Monk
3rd £20—Kate Elliot

You are invited to the
**SALINGS MILLENNIUM HALL MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

20th May at 8 p.m.

We are looking for new members to help run our precious village asset; please come along and hear how you can help our village hall.

FOR SALE

We have a large amount of small pale blue “espresso” type cups and saucers that do not get used. These are ideal as cups or for crafting – painting, candle making, bird feeders etc...

There are 88 of 1 style and 6 of another. We will sell them either as one lot or in sets of six.

Top of cups 2 1/2". Width of saucers 4 1/2"

The complete 94 - £40.00

6 for £3.00

Any offers considered.

These are kept in the hall so please ask if you want to look at them. For further info: Colin 01371 850320 or 07789770645

THE SAILINGS VILLAGE HALL

Able Community Care is a Norfolk home care company which was established in 1980 and now provides care 24/7 throughout the UK and beyond. We continually read news/articles flagging up the activities of Doorstep Criminals: - fraudulent roofers, gardeners, service officials and other non-genuine visitors who target older people. Over the years we have also had first-hand evidence from our own clients and carers.



As a company we have decided to see if we can help prevent this on a small scale and so we have had the attached Door Safety Sticker printed to give away to older people.

To date we have sent out 40,000 since February and if you would like to have one, please either ring on 01603 764567 or

email to info@ablecommunitycare.com

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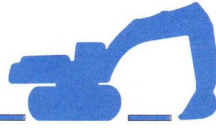
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Cllr. Paul Euesden

By the time you read this, Spring will be here. Work will have started on the Infrastructure, roads and services for Horizon 120, the new employment park at Great Notley. This is planned to provide around 2000 new jobs in a very pleasant environment with links to the Country Park and easy access to the local shops. It will also include what is expected to be the first All Electric Forecourt in the UK serving the needs of Electric Vehicle drivers, much as a service area does for the rest of us, provided by Gridserve. Construction work for this started in February and Gridserve expect to open for business in June this year.

Hopefully, many of you took the opportunity to express your views on Braintree Town Centre pedestrianisation which is now in the planning stage and will unlock the much-needed improvements to the condition of the current road and pavements. An extra £1m grant from the Government has been secured towards the cost of this work. Work on Manor Street regeneration has also begun with temporary changes to Parking, Bus stops and traffic flows. Disruption is likely for the rest of 2020.

New initiatives around the online booking system and a move to cashless payments at our Leisure Centre receptions have been put in place by Fusion. However, extensive consultation and communication with users will be carried out in advance of the start date in April. Following concerns raised by several Councillors, a further meeting with Fusion is planned.

Meet up Mondays is a scheme that aims to tackle loneliness in the Braintree District and has been running for over a year and now has 7 venues across the District with the addition of The Bell Inn in Great Bardfield. The Bell Inn will be holding Meet Up Thursday, running every Thursday from 10am -12 noon. The venues offer free tea and coffee and a place to sit and chat for a couple of hours. Everyone is welcome. There are several other Meet ups running across the district. To find out more visit

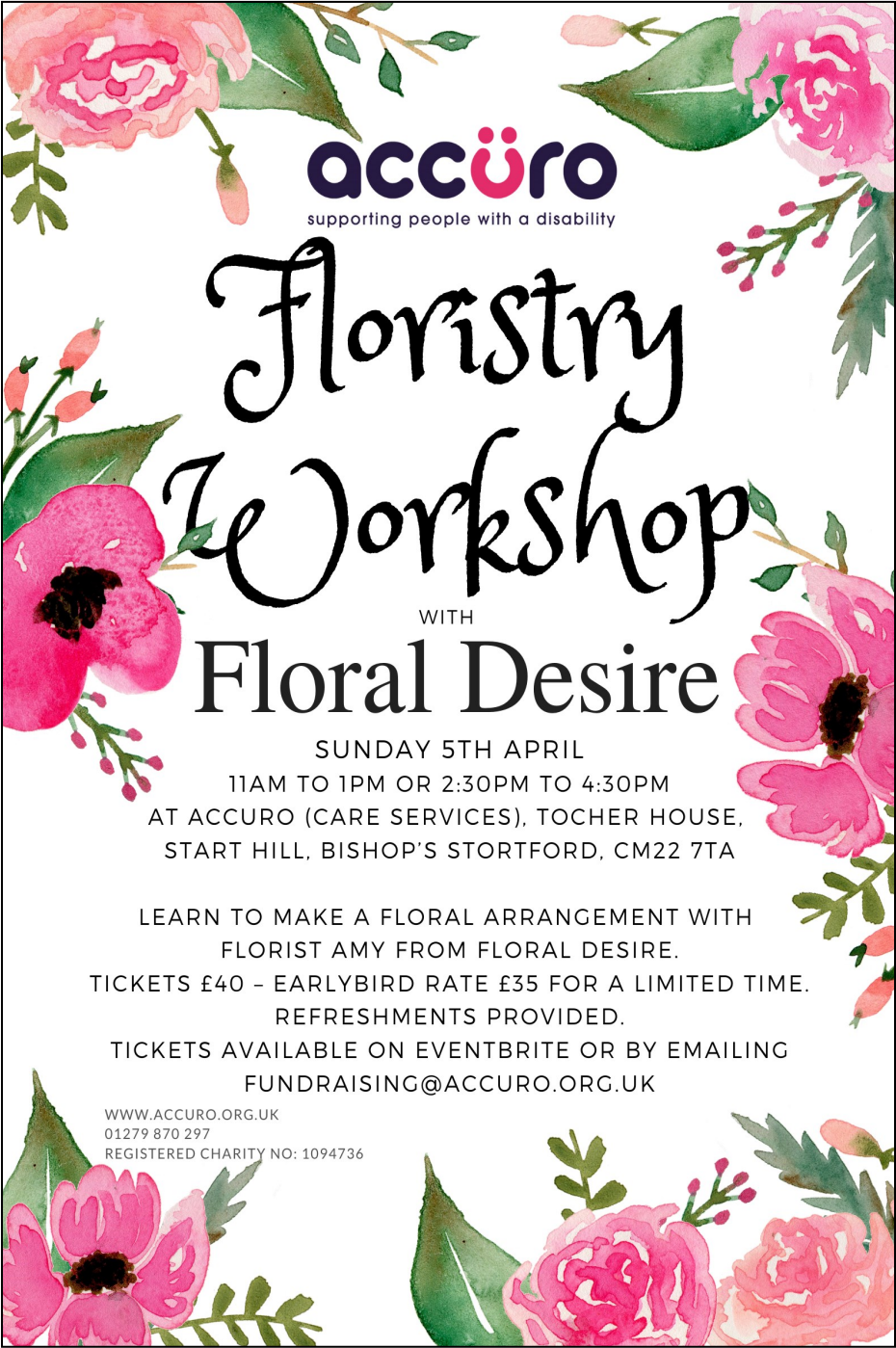
www.livewellcampaign.co.uk

The Visit Braintree District Tourism Website is now open and I encourage residents to make use of the website, whether to list community events on the "What's On" page or to advertise your businesses.

Over 200 new affordable homes have been added to the District's stock this financial year. All of the new rented homes are let to applicants on the Braintree District council housing register. There are 35 new homes included in the Manor Street regeneration and all of them are expected to be made available to local people on both Shared Ownership and/or social rent. There are full details on the Braintree District Council Website.

Finally, advance notice of a big cycle event to be held on Sunday 20th September 2020. It is estimated that 15,000 cyclists will take part. There will be road closures for the event which will pass through Braintree District. I have sent a map of the route to the Parish Council and further details will be available on the BDC website in due course.

I hope you have a good month. Cllr. Paul Euesden,
cllr.peuesden@braintree.gov.uk



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The Hundred Parishes Society

Please take another look at the new polymer £20 banknote that has just been issued. It features the British artist JMW Turner (1775 – 1851) and his painting, *The Fighting Temeraire*. The painting shows HMS Temeraire in 1838, being towed by a steam tug towards a scrapyard at Rotherhithe on the Thames. It was a sad ending for a ship that achieved considerable fame at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The Temeraire was immediately astern of Nelson's flagship, the Victory, and played a major part in the battle, her crew capturing two enemy ships while suffering heavy casualties.

The captain of the Temeraire at Trafalgar was Eliab Harvey (1758 – 1830) from Chigwell in Essex. He shared his time between naval duties and being one of the two Members of Parliament for Essex. He was later knighted and promoted to the rank of admiral. Sir Eliab's final resting place is in the Hundred Parishes, in the Harvey family crypt beneath St Andrew's Church, Hempstead. The crypt holds the coffins of around fifty members of the extended Harvey family.

An earlier family member was William Harvey (1578 – 1657), the first doctor to describe the circulation of the blood. His mortal remains are also in Hempstead Church although his body was moved in 1883 by the Royal College of Physicians from the crypt into a large sarcophagus in the chapel above the private crypt.

A print of *The Fighting Temeraire* hangs in Saffron Walden in The Temeraire, a Wetherspoon pub whose walls are richly decorated with pictures and information about local history.

The £20 note is not the first to have a local connection. The £50 note in circulation from 1994 to 2011 featured Sir John Houblon. Members of his family once owned Hatfield Forest.

Ken McDonald, Secretary





The Hundred Parishes Society



One of the delights of a woodland walk on a sunny April day is the sweet scent wafting from the massed flowers of the English bluebell. One of our best-loved wildflowers, with half of the world's population found in the UK, it is typically associated with ancient woodlands but can also occur at

the base of long-established hedgerows.

The narrow glossy leaves and flower spikes are produced from deeply rooted bulbs supported by specialised symbiotic fungi. The flowers are a deep violet-blue, but sometimes white or pink spikes occur. The flowers are narrow, tubular-bell shaped, with tips that curl backwards, and the pollen is cream-coloured. They are arranged on one side of a drooping stem. After pollination by honeybees and other insects many green capsules form which will hold large numbers of ripe black seeds. The seeds are shaken from the capsules by breezes or by animals running through the woods.

The introduced and invasive Spanish bluebell has broader leaves. Its pale blue, unscented flowers are arranged all around the upright stem and are more open revealing blue pollen. Encouragingly, recent research has found that the native species has a genetic advantage due to the sheer weight of numbers and greater fertility and so should continue to thrive.

Locations where it is possible to see carpets of bluebells include the Hertfordshire Way as it passes through Sidehill Wood and Mill Wood in Much Hadham and Howe Wood in Littlebury beside Strethall Road as it crosses over the M11 motorway.

Several walks described on our website pass through woodlands. Walk number 4 goes through a fine bluebell wood at Rickling whilst the longer walk 20 visits Mill Wood. Details of woods or nature reserves to visit can be found on these websites: www.Uttlesford-Wildlife.org.uk and www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk. Tricia Moxey, Trustee.



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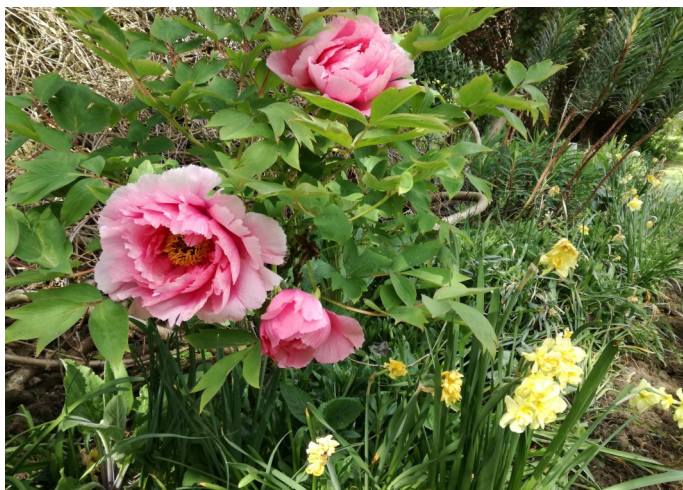
On a cold, wet March day it is lovely to look forward to April and the prospect of blue skies, some warmth, bluebells and peonies. Hopefully our April 26 Open Day will be properly spring-like, but of course in a warming world we can't be certain what flowers will be out when. For what it's worth my guess is that, unlike last year, we will not still have narcissi but we may have apple blossom and possibly our first alliums.

We are looking forward to showing visitors to our Open Day the huge amount of work we have undertaken over the winter. The Italian Garden is looking lovely with planted urns at the top of the renovated steps; the ferns in the stumpery are filling it out; the Japanese garden has new features and trees; and the last bit of the walled kitchen garden has been tamed, making space for a little orchard in addition to the fruit trees lining the walls and paths. On 26 April the gate will open at 11.30am and there will be the usual catering and the chance to meet our beekeeper and turners of our wood. Light, fun music will be provided by the Ukes of Hazard band and there will be children's activities.

If you can't wait till our Open Day to next visit us, you could join one of the Helen Rollason Rural Rambles on 18 April, which finish at the Gardens. The entry fee for the 1, 4 or 10 mile walk helps fund the work of this wonderful charity and provides for entry to the Gardens and a complimentary cream tea.

For further details, see our website: www.eastonlodge.co.uk

Jill Goldsmith





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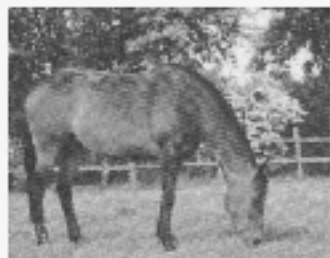
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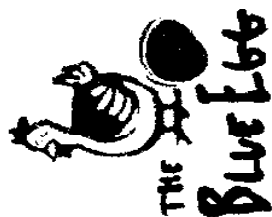
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