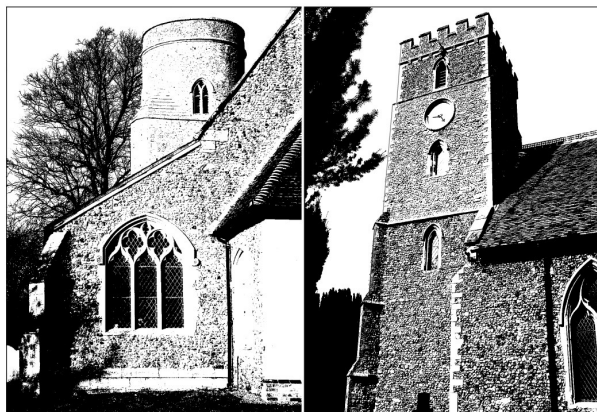


THE SALINGS MAGAZINE



DEC 2020 / JAN 2021



THE PARISH MAGAZINE FOR GREAT AND LITTLE SALING

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS



Well, it will certainly be Christmas with a difference this year!

The challenges of COVID-19 mean that we have had to make some alterations to our traditional Christmas services. On p 4, Rev Helen Pelly explains what will replace our traditional Christingle service, and the arrangements for Holy Communion on Christmas Day.

Our traditional Carol Service poses more of a problem, as singing is (rightly) not allowed under current regulations. So we have decided to follow a format similar to that used for Remembrance Sunday – in other words, we will be pre-recording a service the week before for broadcast on Sunday 18th December at 4 pm. We regret to say that you will need to supply your own mince pies and mulled wine. If anyone would like to contribute an item for the Carol Service - perhaps a poem or a song - please get in touch.

Elsewhere in the magazine you will see details of how others are coping with the pandemic. Farleigh Hospice (see p 9) is inviting you to a Light up a Life service - on YouTube. And then, if you cannot fly away to sunnier climes, why not try the Andrewsfield flight simulator – see page 8?

On a more serious note, if you are looking to do something practical to help others over the Christmas season, why not turn to the Food Bank advert on page 33, or go to the traidcraft website (see p 23) for some gift ideas.

We would like to extend a warm Thank You to all our advertisers! Without you we would not be able to produce the magazine.

To all our readers, please stay safe, look out for your neighbours and let others know if you need help.

**Contributions to the next edition by the 15th of Jan to:
SalingsMagazine@gmail.com**

FROM THE PILGRIM PARISHES MINISTRY TEAM

As I sit at my desk 'penning' this message, it is hard to begin to contemplate what Christmas will look like this year. It is certainly going to look very different from all the ones that most of us have ever known. The shops are still decorated and are once again blasting out festive tunes. We are still being bombarded with special offers and promotional discount codes. As Christmas day approaches, no doubt we will see a run of 'last chance' offers. Am I alone in thinking that somehow, this year, it all has a bit of a hollow ring? Maybe what we have all faced in 2020 is making it harder for us to get sucked in to a materialistic Christmas, particularly when so many around us are facing uncertain financial futures. I'm reminded of the quote by Dr Seuss, from 'The Grinch that stole Christmas'; The Grinch is thinking, and says: 'What if Christmas... doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas...perhaps... means a little bit more'?

This year we may be separated from those we love, so we may need to dig a little deeper beyond the tinsel and gifts in order to find meaning. Agnes Pahro asked: 'What is Christmas?' She answered her own question by saying: 'It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present and hope for the future.' Maybe this Christmas *will* be different, maybe for once it won't be driven by consumerism, maybe this year can be characterised by love in action? We may not have so many gathered around laden tables, but perhaps that will leave us a little to share with others; perhaps through the work of one of our local food banks or night shelters? Covid 19's social distancing rules may mean, that for many of us, 'there is no room at the inn', but at least we can be grateful that we are not forced to shelter next to the feed box with the animals! That first Christmas, God may not have given people what they thought they wanted, but he knows our real needs, not for entertainment and special offers, but for peace, reconciliation and hope, even in this, the darkest of years.

If this year has taught us anything, it is that, in crisis, people have pulled together, they have supported one another, they have championed those on the front line fighting this awful pandemic.

In our villages hundreds of prescriptions have been collected, shopping brought to people's doors and lonely neighbours have been comforted, all be it in a socially distanced way. You have shown your love to those around you, you have shown real resilience, and you have proved that by working together we can look forward to a future where peace and justice are possible. This I would argue is the real meaning of Christmas and one that even the Covid 19 Grinch cannot steal!

Two Christmas Events

As you may have guessed we shall not be able to have our Christmas services as we did before the onset of the Covid 19 crisis, so this year Christmas in the Salings is going to look a bit different. We are not able to hold the usual Christingle service safely and so it has been decided that we will have something completely different on Christmas Eve.

Instead of inviting you to Bardfield Saling Church at 3.30 for a Christingle service I am inviting you to

come to **Great Saling Church** between **1 p.m. and 3.30 p.m.** (please book a slot with Lydia Roe - contact details elsewhere in the magazine) and to bring with you to the crib **an angel!**

Our theme this year is '**Comfort and Joy**' and there can hardly be a more joyful message than that of the angel to the shepherds in the night sky of the hills above Bethlehem "*Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord*".

So bring your families, in your own pre-booked slot, to visit the crib this year to be reminded of the good news of the birth of Christ.

Your task is to bring an angel which you can bring in any form - there are plenty of ideas on line of how to make your own angel, draw a picture of an angel, or even bake an angel cake!

We will have more angels for you to admire in the church and we shall have something special for you to take home with you. If you would like your angel to be returned to you after Christmas just ask us when you come.

Then on **Christmas Day** we shall have a service of Family Christmas Communion at 10.30 a.m. at **Bardfield Saling Church**, once again requiring you to book your place via Lydia Roe please.

Rev. Helen Pelly, Dunmow and Stansted Area Dean

Please do continue to contact our Parish Clerk,

Cathy Carlisle: 07766 112536, salings.pc@outlook.com if you need help with shopping or the collection of prescriptions.



Here is an angel you or your children can colour in

An Inspector Calls **(with apologies to J B Priestly)**

Residents will be pleased to hear that we will shortly be experiencing our own version of this famous play – after consulting with the Parish Council, Braintree District Council (BDC) have now appointed an Inspector to examine our Regulation 16 Neighbourhood Plan.

Those of you with long memories may recall that this process started with a 'launch workshop' in the Millennium Village Hall in October 2016. By the end of May, we had completed the Regulation 14 consultation – with submissions and comments from residents and developers – modified the plan, and submitted our 'package' to BDC. Their six week consultation on the plan closed on 9th November, and is to be followed by this inspection. COVID-19 regulations mean that the referendum cannot be held until May 2021, but we would still like to advance the plan as rapidly as we can.

The Inspection will ensure that our plan has gone through a proper consultative process, is 'evidence based' and is in line with adopted national and local plans – an interesting challenge given the collapse of BDC's plans for a West of Braintree 'Garden Community'. As several of you have pointed out, the plan will need to be updated to reflect this.

The good news is that the plan (if adopted) will run to 2034, and some of its features – the green buffer, the Special Character Area for Bardfield Saling, and the design guides for new development, should serve us well for the next decade!

Richard Glead

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

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Church Service & Live Stream: to connect, go to YouTube and search for: **"Pilgrim Parishes Contingency Church"**

There are services of different styles and live at different times, including all ages.

This links to a YouTube page allowing access to all recent services as well as giving you access to be part of live streaming during the Lockdown. Please subscribe & allow notifications then you will get a message when a stream goes live.

For Revd Sue's blog article: "For some fell among thorns" See: <http://ablaze.hurleyathome.com/>

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Farleigh Hospice launches Light Up A Life

This Christmas Farleigh Hospice warmly invites the community of mid Essex to remember a loved one at the hospice's first ever online Light Up A Life service on Saturday 5th December at 2pm.

Open to anyone who would like to remember the life of a loved one, this short service will include readings and performances from representatives from across the community. To

watch the service simply join the Light Up A Life event on the Farleigh Hospice Facebook page www.facebook.com/FarleighHospice or through the hospice's YouTube Channel www.youtube.com/FarleighHospice.



The mid Essex hospice is also proud to launch a beautifully created online Light Up A Life memory page, where people can remember their loved ones by sharing memories, pictures, and thoughts. To share a memory of someone special or to make a donation to the hospice visit: ema.gives/Farleigh

As a special thank you to everyone that donates, Farleigh will send them a bespoke Light Up A Life Christmas decoration to hang on their tree.

Alison Stevens, Chief Executive of Farleigh Hospice said: "At Farleigh, we know that Christmas can be a particularly difficult time for those of us who have lost someone special. Our annual Light Up A Life service has always offered our local community the opportunity to come together, to reflect, and offer comfort and support during what can be a difficult time of the year. Due to social distancing, we have moved the service online, but we hope we can still offer the unity and togetherness these wonderful services are so well known for. This appeal is very important to us, it helps us raise awareness of the emotional and physical impact of loss and grief, and every donation helps our bereavement team to continue to provide emotional and practical support to young people and adults across mid-Essex."

For more information please visit www.farleighhospice.org/lightupalife

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

CHANNEL CLEANING

Great Saling: 11th Jan

Bardfield Saling: 11th Jan

Parish Councillor Contact Details

Mr Peter Martin	peter@pmp ltd.co	07801236461
Mr Colin Bennett	petrabennett@btinternet.com	01371 850320
Mrs Sue Baugh	susiebaugh@gmail.com	01371 850168
Mrs Kathy Jiggins	jigginsk@aol.com	07856563568
Mrs Jennifer O'Connell	Jennifer.OConnell@russellreynolds.com	07872844961
Mr Richard Aggiss	richardaggiss@outlook.com	07912177279
Clerk Cathryn Carlisle	salings.pc@outlook.com	
	07766112536	01440 731 964

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

We would like to wish the residents of The Salings a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2021.

COVID-19: Please don't forget that the Clerk still has a list of volunteers who can help with shopping, collecting prescriptions or, indeed, to have a chat with, if you need someone to talk to. If you need help, then please do get in touch with our Clerk who will organise help for you.

We continue to hold our **PC meetings via Zoom** and it seems that this will continue for the foreseeable future. Everyone is welcome to join us so please do contact the Clerk if you would like to see and hear what's going on and she will send you the link to join us.

We met with representatives from Essex Highways in October to discuss measures that could be taken to stop **speeding traffic**

through Great Saling. We are currently working on our proposals and are applying for various schemes which would help us in our efforts to slow traffic down as it passes through the village. We hope to have a positive outcome and we will keep everyone updated.

Whilst looking at the issue of speeding, it became very apparent that there is also a major **parking problem in Great Saling**. We are receiving regular complaints from residents that it is increasingly difficult to pull out into The Street because visibility is blocked by parked cars on the pavement and, indeed, on The Street itself. Furthermore, pedestrians are being forced step into the road to get around parked cars. We do need to ask you to use your own parking space, if you have one. Additionally, the Village Hall has several spaces available for residents and we would appreciate residents using these, especially if it is not possible to park on The Street in a safe manner. Blocking driver's sightlines and forcing pedestrians to step out on to the road is dangerous and could have very serious consequences. It is worth bearing in mind that the Government is currently reviewing parking legislation to bring everywhere in line with London's existing parking legislation. This would make it illegal to park on a pavement so it is sensible to do all we can to address the problem now.

We have been asked to investigate the installation of a **bench in Bardfield Saling** and are now in the process of getting permission to place this on the verge outside the Church. If you have any problems with this position, please contact us as soon as possible.

We have now received the permissions necessary to allow us to plant some **trees around Great Saling**. Many thanks to the Action Group for all the time that they have put into acquiring the young trees and getting things moving. With any luck, by the time you read this they will all have been planted and will already be enhancing the area.

You may have noticed the "**Silent Soldiers**" silhouette on The Green in Great Saling. We would like to thank Amanda Ratcliffe for donating this to the village – it certainly gave us all pause for thought as we drove past. A wreath was laid here on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of our villages.



Reverse ADVENT CALENDAR

If you would prefer to contribute via a monetary donation please see our website for more details or get in touch with us on our details below. By donating items on our reverse advent calendar you will be directly supporting us in providing some of our most needed items.

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1 Cereal Bars	2 Chocolate Bars	3 Jam	4 Sponge Puddings	5 Mash Potato (drum or packet variant)	6 Tinned Potatoes
7 Juice (1 litre variant please)	8 Rice Pudding	9 Washing up liquid	10 Cereal Bars	11 Chocolate Bars	12 Jam
13 Sponge Puddings	14 Mash Potato (drum of packet variant)	15 Washing Detergent (in a gel variant please)	16 Tinned Potatoes	17 Juice (1 litre variant please)	18 Rice Pudding
19 Washing up liquid	20 Cereal Bars	21 Chocolate Bars	22 Jam	23 Sponge Puddings	24 Washing Detergent (in a gel variant please)

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Job Vacancy Foodbank Warehouse Supervisor

We need an enthusiastic and versatile Warehouse Supervisor ideally with experience of warehouse working from 1st December 2020

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The role is based in Braintree but the ability to travel independently is essential.

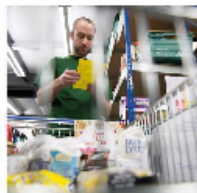
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Applications should be received at our registered office:

Unit 6, The Lakes Industrial Estate, Lower Chapel Road, Braintree CM7 3RU (post or email) by midday on Friday 20th November 2020 * Interviews will take place on Friday 27th November 2020



Braintree Area Foodbank Ltd
braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity in England & Wales No: 1148782



Paul Euesden December 2020

It seems strange writing this article in mid-November for you to read in December. At the time of writing, we're in Lockdown again, non-essential shops are closed, pubs /restaurants can only do takeaway and the Leisure Centres are closed as are the Swimming Pools. Despite this, I'm going to think positively and assume that by the time you read it, the 2nd Lockdown will be over and we will be slowly moving towards "normal" again or at least, less restrictions.

A big part of the return to normal last time was the reopening of almost everything. Pubs, restaurants and shops and the Leisure Centres and swimming pools. Within a couple of months of reopening Leisure Centres, all of the outdoor and indoor facilities were available and bookings had steadily increased and were actually up year on year. Swim School restarted on Monday 21st October with over 2000 pupils learning to swim, not quite at pre-lockdown levels but getting there. Swim Clubs were back up and running. Indoor clubs like Badminton, Squash, Dance and Karate had been invited back. Sites were starting to review opening times to see where these could be extended. Then the second lockdown meant all this was paused. I'm sure that we will see just as positive a response to this reopening as we did to the last.

I'm confident that Braintree District Council has kept all essential services running during the second lockdown and the recycling centres remain open.

Covid has not stopped work on the Town Centre Pedestrianisation, which is creating a much nicer environment to visit, the Manor Street Development, which will deliver new homes and facilities for local people and Horizon 120 continues with The Gridserve Electric forecourt opened in November, the first of its kind in Britain.

CareCo have announced plans to move to Horizon 120, as have Essex X-Ray, creating local jobs in a super environment. Also, at the time of writing 2 other large companies have moved to the contract stage with their plans to move to Horizon 120, one in manufacturing bringing jobs back from overseas, the other bringing high tech jobs. Braintree Enterprise Centre funding is also in the final stages of agreement and construction work will soon be starting. This will mean that 80% of the first phase will be allocated even before the groundworks are completed. In addition, work has started on the new i-Construct building on Springwood Drive. These developments will bring lots of job opportunities on our doorstep.

Even closer to home, the Parish Council is working on a number of initiatives to enhance the village environment for residents with planters, flowers, bulbs and additional trees throughout the parish. But they can't do it alone, they need practical help from residents with maintaining the plants /planters once installed. If you can help (even if its just an hour or two a week) or if you have ideas on where additional planting would be beneficial, please contact the Parish Council.

I will continue to keep the Parish Council updated on any developments and I know they will continue to share the information with you via their Facebook and Web site.

As I write this, Covid is very much still with us, so please continue to follow the rules and guidance to stay safe and well. Whatever changes are made in the next few months it will still be important to wash hands, wear face coverings in shops, on public transport or spaces where you can't maintain social distancing of 2 meters.

Hopefully, we are all getting ready for Christmas. The traditional Christmas lights will still be lit but this time the ceremony will be streamed on line and I'm sure that the atmosphere will still be very festive.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas, even if it's not the one you had planned. Keep safe and well and be kind to each other.

Paul Euesden

Cllr.peuesden@braintree.gov.uk



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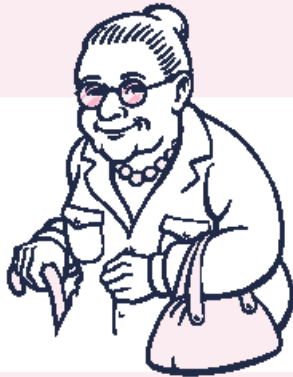
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I then met her again later and she told me she was at 18 miles.

I do hope she finished, and I hope she reads this magazine.

She was so determined and I am sure she will have the admiration of all the readers.

Carol Cooper,
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The hall is open for bookings and events!

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THE SALINGS 100 CLUB

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or email me on mayahatcher@yahoo.com.

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Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation we are slightly behind with our collections this year but we'll try and catch up before Christmas.

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Public Inquiry: STANSTED AIRPORT

The Government's Planning Inspectorate ('PINS') have rejected all calls to delay the Public Inquiry to consider the Appeal by the Manchester Airports Group ('MAG') over the refusal of its 2018 planning application to expand Stansted Airport to 43 million passengers per annum (about the same size as Gatwick).

Despite the current pandemic – and the fact that Stansted will handle only about 8 million passengers this year – PINS are insisting that the Inquiry must start at 10am on 12 January 2021.

The venue will be the Radisson Blu Hotel at Stansted Airport and the Inquiry is expected to last for 10-12 weeks until about the end of March.

SSE will be involved throughout the Public Inquiry, presenting evidence on all the main topics and, with the help of our QCs, we will be cross-examining all MAG's witnesses. The SSE team, supported by external consultants, is currently hard at work preparing its evidence.

As well as the technical evidence, it is vital for the Planning Inspectors to hear the view of local residents. Anyone can register to speak at the Public Inquiry and it is important that local voices are heard. Your statement need not be lengthy, technical or complicated. A heartfelt, personal, view from a local resident can be far more powerful than an 'expert' consultant's report.

You would not need to appear in person. Arrangements are being put in place for evidence to be given by video link, either from your own home or a designated safe venue.

Applications to make representations (i.e. to speak) at the Inquiry should be sent by email to info@programmeofficers.co.uk copied to elizabeth.humphrey@planninginspectorate.gov.uk. You should then be advised of further information about the arrangements.

SSE expects that there may be a word limit of about 1,000 words and a time limit of about 10 minutes. However, these are only 'guestimates'. PINS have yet to advise.

Please make every effort to ensure that your voice, and the voice of our community, is heard!

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The battle to change the flawed interpretation by the police of **wildlife law** and improved safeguards by planners to prevent more killing of protected reptiles following the sad incidents on a local County

Wildlife Site, despite prior warnings of their presence, is still ongoing - now four months on! I and other conservationists are forced to conclude that police/planners have instructions not to stop or slow down development for so called protected species. The current status of our natural world, nationally and globally, demands much greater protection not less! We are indeed looking at further extinctions in the very near future unless more people wake up to the scientific fact that further species loss puts our survival in grave doubt. Few people seem to be aware of this fact and so most politicians will not take protective action but instead will pamper to the majority of the electorate and commerce - in short: greed is killing our natural world!

Covid is the focus of attention globally but we must also keep the severe and growing environmental problems under review or we will emerge from the covid issue into an utterly insoluble and dangerous situation - consider the current rate of species loss and destruction of natural habitats - we postpone action at our peril!!

With only the odd exception, most species are in decline, even the odd exceptions are way down in numbers compared to say 50 years ago making a small increase in numbers noticeable and all the more so because so little habitat is left. As a young man I remember mixamotosis, a profoundly cruel disease created by man, decimating our rabbit populations and thus fuelling the decline of birds such as the Buzzard. This bird is probably the most notable success story at this time but the obvious lack of enforcement of wildlife law has already seen these being shot by Gamekeepers and Farmers with no punishment for the crime. Let us look at species that are red listed or Priority species and very obviously in severe decline and make an effort retain them wherever possible. We know that most or all farmland birds are red listed, unfortunately there is little most of us can do except lobby

politicians to tell D.E.F.R.A. who, I suspect are little more than salesmen for the big agrochemical companies, to influence farmers to reverse the trend which has rendered most agricultural land hostile to our wildlife. Many threatened species however can benefit from our help, garden birds, amphibians and reptiles, hedgehogs whose numbers have been decimated partly by ignorance and the lack of awareness of their presence and other small mammals.

I will not prolong this appeal by listing all the things you could do but simply ask readers take responsibility for the destruction our species is clearly responsible for and email me with your specific

questions about helping wildlife, I will respond and note: all my help and advice is FREE. George Millins 01787 374874 mobile 07534263629



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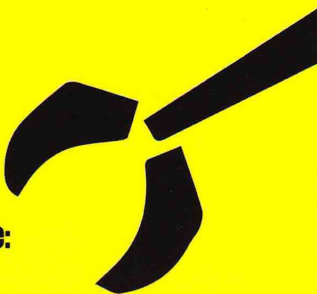
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THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

We are now starting our closed season: a time for taking stock and looking forward.

The rains of early October were welcome as the groundwater is still well down in the area, following three years of low rainfall. The Peto lilypond's water level is a good indicator: it is normally entirely dependent on rainfall as we do not have a mains water supply. We refilled it from a standpipe in March 2019 when we had cleaned the pond and it is still well below its ideal level. The rains helped the dahlias finish their season in style: tall and covered in flowers; and watered in the 1000 cuttings we took at a workshop led by Christine Walkden, one of our new Trustees.

October was particularly exciting for us, because we signed the contract to restore the balustrade around the lilypond. The work will involve replacing 91 of the 134 balusters and then rebuilding the balustrade, hopefully in time for the first full season open



day in 2021. We are now fundraising to help ensure the project doesn't completely exhaust our reserves and leave us exposed for the uncertain times we are living through. Please consider helping us: a donation of £250 will fund a new baluster but any donation, however small, would be fantastic. You can find more detail on our website: www.eastonlodge.co.uk/support-us/fundraising

Jill Goldsmith



IF YOU ARE AFFECTED BY THE
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The group is working to

- encourage crop growers to use visual deterrents
- eliminate nuisance noise pollution
- build a better understanding between crop growers and people affected by noise in and around their homes and businesses

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THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE



It has been a year like no other, hasn't it?

Last December the marsh cypress was spectacular in the sunshine and we looked forward to 2020, but the year kicked off with storms Ciara and Dennis and we lost trees and scarcely managed to open for snowdrop days. Locked down in March, we wondered when anyone would next get to enjoy the Gardens. But we were allowed to open from July and we loved welcoming visitors back, with new weekly Open Thursdays and a record number of visitors for an October Open Day to finish the season.

So, we are optimistic for 2021, despite the continuing pandemic. We know we can open the Gardens safely and provide a pick-me-up breath of fresh air in lovely surrounds for our visitors. We have been busy adding bulbs to start the coming year with a big burst of colour and will open for snowdrops on 14 and 21 February and additional Snowdrop Thursdays on 18 and 25 February; for Open Thursdays from March to November; and as usual for monthly full Open Days during the main season. Details to follow.

For the rest of the closed season we will be working on a wide range of projects: to add interest in forgotten corners of the Gardens and extend the area open to visitors. And, of course, the stonemasons will be busy turning the balusters for the restoration of the lilypond. For details of how to support our restoration project go to www.eastonlodge.co.uk/the-gardens/restoration.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and happy new year.

Jill Goldsmith

Winter Shopping List 2020 November / December / January

Thank you for your continuing support during the Coronavirus crisis.

Foodbanks within the Trussell Trust network have seen unprecedented increases across our network and by continuing to support us with your donations you are continuing to support those most in need.

We are very thankful for any donations you can give.

We currently need:

Food Items: • Cereal Bars • Chocolate Bars (Kit Kat, Penguins etc.) • Jam • Sponge Puddings • Mash Potato (Drum or Packet) • Tinned Potatoes	Food Items: • Juice (not squash, in a 1 litre variant if possible) • Rice Pudding Other Essentials: • Washing up liquid • Washing detergent (In a gel form if possible please)
--	--

Our food parcels are made up of specific food groups so that those in need have enough food for at least nine meals. **The list above shows what we are in need of as we currently have good stocks of pasta, pasta sauce, biscuits, fish, soup, baby food and baby nappies.**

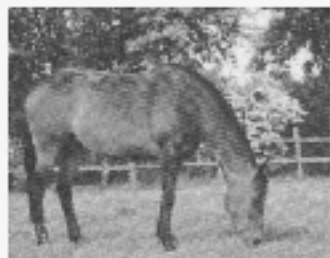
We also ask for small packs of food as larger packs do not fit in our parcels, making it difficult for our clients to carry home.

Thank you

We are grateful for your donations to the Braintree Area foodbank. However, we can only accept donations of freshly-bought, unopened and undamaged goods which are still well within their "use by" date (no less than 6 months). We cannot use items which do not meet these requirements, and the donation is wasted.

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The Hundred Parishes Society

Since March, getting out in the countryside has been greatly encouraged.

Successive generations have shaped this fertile land. They have planted hedges and cut wood from ancient, coppiced woodlands, tended animals, planted orchards and harvested honey from bees. Profiting from this productive land, many constructed beautiful buildings that reflected pride in their locality. Today, a significant number of these are listed buildings. Our rich architectural tapestry is brilliantly recorded in *The Hundred Parishes: An Introduction*. There are a few copies still available by mail order from the Society's website or from local bookshops and Tourist Information Centres.

Museum collections of assorted artefacts and documents add another dimension to the human history of the area. Saffron Walden Museum opened in 1835 and houses a real treasure trove of historical and other material relating to the local area. A recent grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund is enabling the development of plans to attract new visitors to the museum and adjacent castle.

Smaller museums hold collections of agricultural implements, local artefacts and archive material. The Grade II* building of the Forge Museum in Much Hadham houses a collection of metal tools while striking medieval wall paintings reveal details of Tudor fashion. The Ashdon Village Museum has exhibits about life in the 20th century and the curator is updating information on the family trees of seventy local residents and preparing displays in anticipation of re-opening in the future.

We look forward to the time when our museums can safely reopen. Meanwhile, we can enjoy our heritage and celebrate the past by continuing to explore outdoors. With regular additions of new walks to the Society's website, we can use these descriptive routes, some as short as 1 mile, to explore the cultural landscapes that make up the Hundred Parishes.

Tricia Moxey, Trustee. Saffron Walden Castle & Museum:





The Hundred Parishes Society

With Christmas just around the corner we are thinking of calling friends and family but not, I suspect, from a red telephone box.

In 1924 the Royal Fine Art Commission invited three architects to submit designs for new telephone kiosks. The winner was Sir Giles Gilbert Scott who also designed Liverpool Cathedral where he is buried. Scott was at the time a trustee of Sir John Soane's Museum and he topped his kiosk with a dome similar to that on the mausoleum Soane had designed for himself. It was produced in cast iron as GPO model K2, replacing the K1 concrete kiosk.

Later designs had a similar appearance. The most common, the somewhat smaller K6, was introduced for King George V's silver jubilee in 1935.

The colour red was chosen to make them easy to spot, although Scott had suggested silver. These robust and iconic survivors of the 20th century, found in almost every town and village, are worth preserving. At the last count, 51 within the Hundred Parishes had been listed.

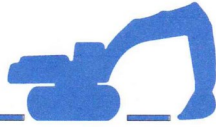
Most red phone boxes have now been decommissioned although a few, like the one in Anstey, still operate as a pay phone. Many villages have used the box to house a defibrillator; others have inventively turned them into informal book exchanges and information points. Some villages have been even more imaginative: the box in Standon has been transformed into a greenhouse full of colourful plants.

With Christmas in mind, the Society still has a limited supply of its book *The Hundred Parishes: an Introduction*. The 400-page hardback with a thousand photos is available for £25 from tourist information centres and good book shops, or by arrangement with me – 01279 813226.

The Society's trustees wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Ken McDonald, Secretary





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