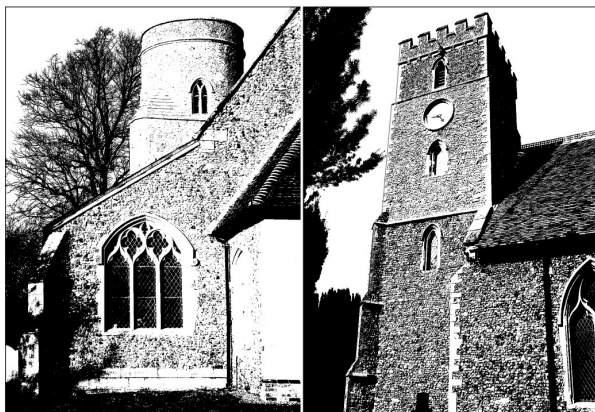


THE SALINGS MAGAZINE



JULY 2020



THE PARISH MAGAZINE FOR GREAT AND LITTLE SALING

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Well, it's certainly good to be back in print! The Diocesan Print Unit, who print our magazine, are now back in action. And we have checked with some of our distributors that they are happy to deliver - so here we are.

There is, of course, the difficulty that there is nothing much to write about – we have not been able to hold our annual Plant Sale, nor the Fete and Classic Car Display. However, we wonder if, like us, you have taken the opportunity of lockdown to explore a little more of our wonderful countryside.

We have cheated a bit, as over the last two years we have both bought e-bikes. And as well as using them to raise some money for Farleigh Hospice (see page 25), we have also been exploring some of the many leafy lanes in this part of North Essex.

As the lockdown restrictions begin to ease, some of our restaurants and pubs are starting to offer takeaways. So on a recent ride, we stopped off at Finchingfield on the way back and enjoyed a pizza from Zaffra's, sitting on the grass south of the duck pond. Sadly, it was clear that not everyone to the north of the duckpond was observing the social distancing rules.

However, as the Queen has reminded us, we will meet again. In the meantime, as Rev Sue Hurley points out in her piece on p4, we should be grateful that modern technology can keep many of us in contact with friends and family.

Please email contributions to the August edition by the 20th of July to: SalingsMagazine@gmail.com

All events at the Salings Millennium Hall remain suspended until further notice.

**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.

PILGRIM PARISHES Contingency Church

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/>

ALPHA ONLINE – starting SOON



Alpha online is a course where everyone watches a documentary-style film on an aspect of the Christian faith and then discusses it together online. If you or anyone you know would like to join please send an email to

katefgreen@gmail.com

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



I can barely believe that I am writing this for publication in July. This is one of the strangest years we have ever known, although for some, during lockdown, time, some days seems to pass so slowly, the months themselves seem to have dashed by.

Amidst the strangeness, the worry, the sorrows that this year has already bought, I have also been intensely aware of the blessings. What a truly glorious Spring we had. Without the Spring gales and hail

that sometimes batter our gardens, the blossom flourished, there was beauty in abundance, and for those of us who were able to get out and walk, we were in awe of our surroundings. Somehow the sunniest May on record was a real boost to our emotions, it made us want to get out and walk, it made us see our surroundings in a new light. Many posts on social media were photos of nature at its best. When we were only allowed out for a limited amount of time, we looked more closely, breathed deeper of the fresh air and were perhaps more thankful for simple things in life; the hedgerows in full bloom, the birds seemingly singing louder, the warmth of the sun on our faces, the kindness of a neighbour.

Yes, we may well have tempered this with the grief of losing loved ones and sadness at not being able to meet up with and hug those we love, but even our technology has been a blessing. Who knew that the village churches could produce online services? Not the same as meeting in person, but nevertheless a blessing to those looking for a service. If lockdown had happened 18 years ago, we might, at best, have been stuck at home with a Nokia 3310 with limited texts and call time and a dial up internet! What a blessing it is to be able to at least 'see' our loved ones on a screen.

Someone once said that 'sometimes blessings come in very ugly wrapping paper'. Covid 19 is awful, but amidst the darkness can you find some chinks of light? Can you discover and name your blessings?

In Jane Austen's words: 'I will only add, God bless you'

Revd Sue Hurley, Acting Priest in Charge



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

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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

CHANNEL CLEANING

Great Saling:	6 th July	6 th Oct	11 th Jan
Bardfield Saling:	7 th July	7 th Oct	11 th Jan

Parish Councillor Contact Details

Mr Peter Martin, peter@pmpltd.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 Jen O'Connell, details tbc

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

We are still holding our Parish Council meetings via Zoom.

Please **visit our website** for details of what's going on at present. We realise that it is difficult for everyone to take part via Zoom so, if you have anything that you would like to be raised in a virtual public session, please send your questions and comments to Cathy Carlisle before 9am on the day of the scheduled PC meeting.

We still have a vacancy for another Parish Councillor. Please contact Cathy Carlisle if you are interested. As mentioned in our last PC News, we would very much welcome interest from residents of Bardfield Saling in order to ensure that both villages have balanced representation.

We are pleased to welcome **Derek Monk as our village handyman**. He has a list of jobs that need doing and will shortly start carrying them out for us.

We would like to give a big "Thank you" to Colin Davidson for painting the storage shed next to the village hall.

Despite BDC asking residents to **refrain from having bonfires** in their gardens, we are still getting complaints about residents lighting bonfires in their gardens. We would ask you to be considerate to your neighbours. The green waste collections have now restarted – albeit only once a month, so please hold onto your rubbish. Recycling centres have also reopened and will accept green waste.

We are aware of nesting birds in the water tower and, having talked to representatives of the owners, we have been assured that no demolition work will start until the fledglings have flown the nest. On that note, we would like to remind everyone that it is an offence under Section 1 of the [Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981](#) to

1. Intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird.
2. Intentionally damage, destroy or take the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.
3. Intentionally destroy an egg of any wild bird.
4. Intentionally or recklessly disturb certain wild birds or their dependent young while they are nesting (including disturbance of nesting young).

The RSBP asks that people do not cut hedges or trees between the start of March and the end of July in order to protect nesting birds and mammals.

Obviously, the residents of The Salings have not been able to get together during this lockdown period (apart from the special socially distanced celebrations for VE Day) and now we can meet up with limited numbers of people outside, while keeping a social distance. However, it would be good to see pictures of what you have been up to during lockdown and how you have kept yourselves busy and occupied. Are your gardens looking amazing? Have you grown lots of fruit and veg? Have you become The Salings' answer to the Great British Bake off? Have you taken up a new hobby? Have you been volunteering for a charity? If you would like to send in pictures to be included on our Facebook page we would love to see them to share with our fellow villagers.

And following on from the above we would like to try to arrange a Salings get together. An opportunity for you to meet up with friends and neighbours who you have not been able to chat to for months. This obviously can't take place until the lockdown rules have eased but we can start planning now. Let us have some ideas of what you would like to do – a picnic, quiz evening, afternoon tea, we're sure you have lots of ideas. Please get in touch so we can all celebrate the end of lockdown together.

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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.

Whilst we are still "closed for business", last year was a very good year for us, with bookings up considerably on the previous year. We have secured several regular groups as well as the one off bookings.

Our main concern has been the state of the car park. We were able to carry out a temporary repair last year but have now secured the funds to enable us to tarmac it properly. We hope to get this completed before we open up again.

We are very lucky to have such an asset in our village and we need to keep it in a good and attractive condition. We would be very pleased to receive any offers of help – in any form. Please contact Martin Hughes if you would like to join us.

We hope that it won't be too long before we can re-open again and start meeting up with friends and neighbours.

Martin 07543 544701

Bookings: Colin 01371 850320

Anyone wishing to join in with our monthly cash prize draw, please contact Maya on 01371 810887

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Cllr. Paul Euesden

Sadly, the main topic of News is still Covid-19 and the restrictions on our daily lives. A great deal of progress in controlling the virus has been made, much of it due to Social Distancing and the Lockdown introduced towards the end of March. At the time of writing the first drug to have a positive effect on the seriously ill has been announced. Let's hope this is the breakthrough that is so badly needed. The Parish Council and BDC have both continued their work throughout lockdown with meetings being transferred to Virtual platforms.

The Green Bin collections have resumed, albeit on a 4-weekly cycle at the moment but I'm hopeful that the 2 weekly cycle will be resumed as soon as men and vehicles allow or Social Distancing rules are relaxed enough to allow 3 crew to share the cab again. In addition, the Recycling Centres have reopened, but be prepared for long queues if you visit. Thankfully, most shops are now able to open their doors following the latest relaxation of lockdown rules. By the time you read this shopping will have resumed in our town centres, hopefully some Pubs and restaurants will be open or about to open again. Gradual progress towards normal.

The main focus of BDC has been on keeping services going, dealing with the extra responsibilities given by Government as a result of the Pandemic and how we come out of the Lockdown safely. Whilst almost all services are available on line, we are trying to get as many staff back into Causeway House as Social Distancing allows, as soon as possible. We are processing grants to businesses and Business rate rebates and trying to establish safe methods to restart officer visits for pest control, food hygiene and investigation of noise/nuisance complaints.

Towards the end of May, the Planning Inspector ruled out the Garden Communities West of Braintree and at West Tey. I share the Parish Councils happiness at this result, though I have real concerns over what happens next. We must be prepared for speculative applications to be submitted. Although there is still a process to follow before we can move to section 2 of the Plan, I'm very keen to get to Section 2 as soon as possible and to make sure that it will satisfy the Inspector at first consideration, so that we can get a plan in place to help protect us from developers.

I would like to express my continued thanks to all of the volunteers who have risen to the Covid challenge and continue to help with those everyday needs like shopping, medication collection, dog walking or being someone to talk to for those isolating or shielding. Can I also add my thanks to Di Greenwood for her years of service to the Parish Council and to welcome Mrs. Jen O'Connell as a new Councillor. I'm sure she will be a valuable addition to the team. Finally, although we are making significant progress in the battle against Covid-19, we've still got a long way to go. So please be tolerant and kind to each other and Keep safe. Paul.

Email: Cllr.peuesden@braintree.gov.uk



Our current shopping list

Thank you for your continuing support during the Coronavirus crisis.

Foodbanks within the Trussell Trust network has seen an 89% increase in visitors across our foodbank network. 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:

- Tinned Corned Beef
- Tinned Spam
- Tinned Ham
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Non-Bio Washing Liquid – we are unable to accept washing powder at this time

Our food parcels are made up of specific food stuffs and we are in need of the above items. However we have good stocks of baked beans, cereals, and sweet biscuits recently. Therefore we ask that any donations are from the list above.

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.

On behalf of those who visit our centres we thank you again for your support

T: 01376330694

E: info@braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk

W: www.braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food

We follow the standards set by the Food Standards Agency. We can only accept donations of unopened and undamaged goods that are still well within their "use by" date (no less than six months if possible). Items which do not meet these requirements cannot be used and your donation may be wasted.

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The Hundred Parishes Society

Recently we have enjoyed above average hours of sunshine and walking or cycling along paths, bridleways and less busy roads has enabled us to admire the abundance of wildflowers and their insect visitors on field margins and wayside verges.

Many of these insects are the familiar pollinators such as butterflies, hoverflies and bees. For obvious reasons, observations of insect / plant interactions after dark are less well studied, especially pollination activities. Concerns about the impact of bright lights on the behaviour of night-flying moths assumed a greater importance when a report published in 2017 revealed that crop yields could be reduced by as much as 13% in well-lit areas as the pollinating moths became disorientated. Ongoing research is revealing the importance of various moths in pollinating flowers, including those of crops such as soft fruits, peas and beans.

Moths transport pollen on their tongues and undersides as they flit from flower to flower under the cover of darkness. Maintaining a wide variety of food plants for their caterpillars is a good reason for the retention of unmown verges, wildflower meadows or flower-rich gardens.

Darker nights also help our own appreciation of the wonders of the universe. Away from 'civilisation' there are many excellent locations for star gazing across the Hundred Parishes where there is little artificial light after dark. You can check the details for your own location on the online map of CPRE's 2020 star count on www.cpre.org.uk/starcountresults.

Bright lights can be intrusive and there are concerns about their impact on human health and wellbeing. Local councils can adopt policies to tackle light pollution and protect our dark skies. Minimising the use of bright lights can save money and will enable moths to keep busy with their valuable pollination services in unlit areas.

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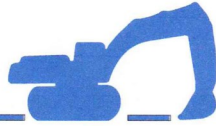
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NEWS FROM THE GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

We are now expecting to be open in July and we are keeping our fingers crossed for rain to help bring on more flowers. The Gardens will be looking lovely, but we will have social distancing arrangements in place.

For the Open Day on Sunday 19 July, there will be our usual catering fayre but no special activities. We cannot put a booking arrangement in place to keep visitor numbers down, so we will be limited by the size of the car park, with no overflow car park in operation. There will be no risk of being turned away if you arrive by bicycle or on foot.

From the beginning of July, for those local enough to be able to arrive without a car, we will also be open to visitors on our Thursday volunteering day. There will be no catering on Thursdays.

Our Facebook page and website will have further details on our opening arrangements for July onwards www.eastonlodge.co.uk

The Gardens have survived remarkably well, despite the drought conditions through April, May and June. Our volunteer gardeners are now back in force - getting back on top of the weeds and continuing with additional planting. One job which took our Trustee, Sue, a whole day was taking out duck weed from the lily pond. The lilies are spreading out now and showing the variety we have, white, yellow and a range of pinks. The lavender is flowering, providing beautiful borders for the Italian Garden and the walled kitchen garden and a good larder for our bumble bees and butterflies. Our honey bees have also made a really good start to the year with all that early sunshine and spring blossom, so we should have lots of honey available for sale at the Gardens. We are also continuing to make our vegetables and fruit available through the Isolated Shop at Little Easton Manor.

Thanks to our volunteers we have many lovely photos of the Gardens on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/thegardensofeastonlodge/> and our Instagram account <https://www.instagram.com/eastonlgardens/>.

Best wishes from us all, stay safe & see you soon.

Jill Goldsmith





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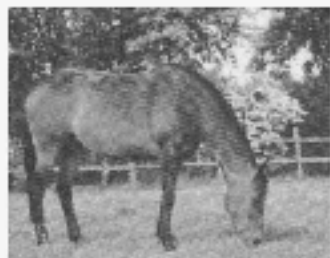
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Cycling 26km to raise £1,000 for Farleigh Hospice

The 2.6 Challenge - start on Friday 24th April, complete ride on Sunday 26th!

*Andrea
checks up on
where we
are!*



So I'm enjoying some unseasonal sunshine on Friday 24th April, sitting in our back garden reading the FT. There is a full page advert in it for the '2.6 Challenge' - the idea being to replace the London Marathon, cancelled because of COVID-19, and a big fund-raiser for charities, with any event involving 2.6, 26, or 260 of something - for example, walking 2.6 miles (easy), cycling 260km (er, no).

Looks like something we could do! Only problem - it's now Friday lunchtime, and we need to do it by Sunday, and have (at least some of) the fundraising in place. But my wife Andrea and I (she wants to come) decide it's worth a shot. We decide we should raise money for Farleigh Hospice, a charity which a number of our local friends support.

The most difficult part of the exercise turns out to be setting up the Just Giving page - but we manage that and set a target of £500 if we cycle 26km. Now it so happens we have both Ebikes and regular bikes, so as an added incentive we say we're doing it on Ebikes unless we can get pledges of £2,500 or more.



Here's the ebike ready to go.

Note the gel saddle!

Okay, so we're set up: how do we get the funds?

We edit our village magazine, which has its own Facebook page, so we posted our fundraising effort there: that scored several generous pledges.

I also tried to tap old colleagues via LinkedIn.

But the best channel turned out to be our WhatsApp groups - one for our local friends, one for friends from church, and one from old university friends

(known as the Sadgits for some reason that escapes me).

From a first post on WhatsApp at 3.02pm on Friday 24th for the cycle two days later, we ended up raising £740 plus Gift Aid. Plus lots of huffing and puffing from certain Sadgits that Ebikes were cheating (easy to fix - just give more money!).

Despite lowering the target for normal bikes to £1,000, I'm pleased to say we didn't quite make that, and so stuck to Ebikes. The Sunday was glorious, and we thoroughly enjoyed our cycle - we did 20 miles, or 32km in about two hours with stops.

Many thanks to everyone who donated.

Charities have been hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, and it was a privilege to do a small amount to help.

Richard Glead

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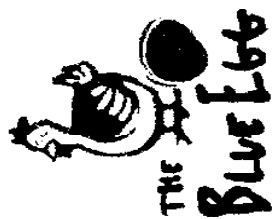
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