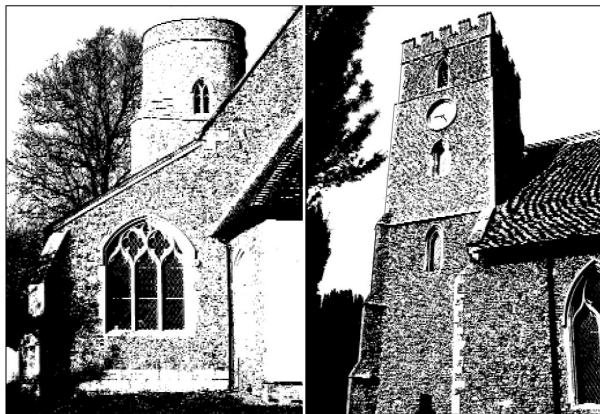


THE SALINGS MAGAZINE



MARCH 2021



THE PARISH MAGAZINE FOR GREAT AND LITTLE SALING

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

This month, we are pleased to say that, despite COVID-19 restrictions limiting local events, we have a full 44 pages to keep you amused and provide some alternative to the Radio and the TV. While we cannot claim to be as titivating as Bridgerton on Netflix, we are doing our best!



Change is of course afoot in the village - the Water Tower is no more, but at the opposite end of the playing field, Charmaine Beckett (with the help of the Salings Wildlife Group) has ordered and planted a wonderful array native bluebells - thank you Charmaine and friends.

Change is also afoot on the church front - this month we can report both new flooring for the pews in St James and a new priest in charge for the benefice! We are delighted about both, but we should start by congratulating Rev Sue Hurley on succeeding Rev Tim Goodbody as Priest in Charge of our two churches - see the article on page 6. And on behalf of the community, we should also thank Rev Helen Pelly for her continuing work in the Salings - her name is always mentioned when church affairs come up.

Clinton Cornish writes about the work on the flooring at St James on page 26 - plus an intriguing question of history and the question of a time capsule for future generations.

Elsewhere there is an invitation to the Women's World Day of Prayer on p5 - this year from Vanuatu (you will have to work out where that is). Plus news of the Creamer Fund Easter Raffle (p12).

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 March to:
SalingsMagazine@gmail.com**

The Pilgrim Parishes

**Written this month by Jeff Hayward,
Member of the Pilgrim Parishes Ministry
Team**



My Dear Friends

Leaving a Legacy!

Relax! This is not an appeal for the month's good cause.

It is a reflection on what we might be remembered for and what we might leave in our tracks.

Many tributes have been paid to people who have died as a result of contact with the current pandemic. Many of those tributes are both moving and emotional.



None are perhaps as striking as the words used to describe the final year in the life of Captain Sir Tom Moore. The fact that I do not need to remind you of who he is speaks volumes!

What exactly has he left behind? He will not be remembered as a captain of industry, building a business empire that will survive for generations to come. So far as I am aware he was not a great academic, inventor or philosopher. Nor will he be remembered for creating great personal wealth. Through a simple individual decision and the determination to follow it through, he raised a great deal of money that is destined to benefit all who work within the NHS.

Perhaps it is not even the huge amount of money he raised that will mark his life and legacy. Above all, he will be remembered as a truly inspirational figure. A modest man who made a mark upon the lives of others that will be recalled with admiration long after the pandemic has faded. His life has inspired others both before and after his death.

What do you and I want to leave behind? A good name; a good reputation or some money and property to be handed on to the next generation? Have we ever thought about our legacy or just dismissed it as wishful thinking?



I am a Christian because of a legacy! Jesus touched the lives of many people in his life and the impact of his life on the world since his death is beyond measure.

His legacy is not just his inspirational teaching through The Sermon on The Mount, but the demonstration of his love on the cross, to be followed by his glorious resurrection.

In prayer and worship, and knowing the presence of God in daily life, Christians enter into a rich legacy.

Jesus has left us a legacy of salvation, forgiveness, kindness, humility and love. A legacy that we can receive and enjoy and pass on to others.

With every blessing to you all.

Jeff



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.

Churches remain open for Private Prayer. Please contact Lydia Roe to book:
E: lydia.bucknell@btinternet.com

Please 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.**

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

2021 Women's World Day of Prayer

The Women's World Day of Prayer is being held via Zoom from the Salings this year at 2pm Friday 5th March. This is a worldwide wave of prayer prepared by and for the women of Vanuatu. All are welcome – men & women from all denominations, faiths and those without.



With black and white sandy beaches, beautiful coral reefs, tropical coloured fish, forests full of lovely birds, abundant flora and fauna, and spectacular cascades **VANUATU** are wonderful islands.

There are no large mammals, poisonous snakes or poisonous spiders. The climate is temperate and the soil fruitful, but this region is prone to natural disasters including earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and many destructive cyclones in the hot and humid season from November to March.

To the Ni-Vanuatu, the people of Vanuatu, land is very important. It is not viewed as a thing to be owned, but as vital to the existence of humans as a mother is to a child. The traditional Vanuatu family took care of each other and was self-sustaining, and respect was shown for the environment. Modern technology is changing life – although the internet is scarcely available in the outer islands, mobile phones are almost universal. But the islands, which vary greatly in songs, dances and customs, are proud of their cultural identity. **The people** of Vanuatu are mostly Melanesian, with a Polynesian minority. The population is around 300,000.

113 languages and numerous dialects were spoken until recently – more languages than anywhere else in the world. **Education** is not compulsory or free. Most families can only afford to educate their firstborn child, and boys get priority. However, in the past 20 years there have been changes and the gender gap in literacy and education has narrowed. **Health** of women and children are key national priorities of the government.

Malnutrition is a growing problem, accounting for most of the deaths in children under 5. Malnutrition has been aggravated by the introduction of processed, western foods. **Violence**, physical and/or sexual, affect approximately 60% of women and girls. **Safe drinking water** and adequate sanitation facilities are major concerns. In rural areas people may have to walk up to an hour to find water.

Please let Lydia know if you would like to join:

lydia.bucknell@btinternet.com

Appointment of the Reverend Sue Hurley

Announcement by the church wardens of The Pilgrim Parishes

Sunday, 14th February 2021

We are delighted to announce the appointment of the Reverend Sue Hurley as our new Priest-in-Charge of The Pilgrim Parishes, effective as soon as the Bishop is able to license Sue in this new role.

This follows a rigorous process and a lengthy interview by a panel which included representatives from all the parishes that make up the Pilgrim Parishes, a representative from the Church Pastoral Aid Society, as our patrons, as well as our Area Dean, Lay Chair and Archdeacon.



I am pleased to report that the panel voted unanimously to appoint Sue.

Not all of us will know Sue well, given that as the Curate for Stebbing, appointed by Reverend Tim Goodbody, her focus has been mainly on this part of the Pilgrim Parishes.

As our new Priest-in Charge Sue is now looking forward to getting to know us all better. With 8 churches and a Church of England Primary school amongst her new responsibilities Sue will need all our support as well as the help of the Ministry team.

Please welcome Sue and her husband Andy as she assumes this new and important role. Sue and Andy are pleased to continue to live in The Rectory in Little Easton and look forward to supporting the annual Countess of Warwick Country Show which takes place around the Rectory on August Bank Holiday weekend.

We look forward to welcoming Sue to The Salings and she is looking forward very much to getting to know us all.

We pray that God will anoint and bless her afresh in furthering the Kingdom of God in the Pilgrim Parishes.

Please pray for Sue as she enthusiastically assumes this new role. With very best wishes to Sue and Andy, Lydia, Robert, Helen and Debs. (churchwardens Gt and Bardfield Saling)

A simple bunting pattern for all you knitters.



Abbreviations:

yo – put the yarn at the front of the work before you knit the next stitch (this creates a hole and an extra stitch)

k2tog – knit the next 2 stitches together as if one stitch
(decreases by 1 stitch)

Using 4 mm needles, cast on 41 stitches

Row 1. Knit

Row 2 Eyelet holes row. K1, *yo, k2tog, repeat from * to end

Rows 3 & 4 knit

Row 5. K4, k2tog, knit to last 6 stitches, k2tog, k4

Rows 6 & 7 knit

Repeat rows 5 – 7 until 11 stitches remain, ending with a row 7 row

Tip shaping:

Row 1. K3, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k3 (9)

Rows 2 & 3 knit

Row 4. K2, k2tog, k1, k2tog, k2 (7)

Rows 5 & 6. Knit

Row 7 (k1, k2tog) twice, k1 (5)

Rows 8 & 9. Knit

Row 10. K2tog, k1, k2tog (3)

Rows 11 & 12. Knit

Row 13 k2tog, k1 (2)

Row 14 k2tog.

Break off yarn, weave in ends, decorate if you fancy, string up
and smile!



Parish Council News

Councillors

Mr. Richard Aggiss	richardaggiss@outlook.com	07912 177279
Mrs. Sue Baugh	susiebaugh@gmail.com	0317 850168
Mr Colin Bennett	petrabennett@btinternet.com	01371 850320
Mrs Kathy Jiggins	jigginsk@aol.com	07856 563568
Mr Peter Martin	peter@pmpltd.co	07801 236461
Mrs. Jennifer O'Connell	Jennifer.OConnell@russellreynolds.com	07872 844961

Clerk to the Council

Mrs. Cathryn Carlisle	salings.pc@outlook.com	07766 112536 01440 731964
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Website: [Salings Parish Council \(salings-pc.gov.uk\)](http://salings-pc.gov.uk)

Thank you to all our "Village Knitters". We have dropped off wool and needles to a few people who are now (hopefully) busily knitting poppies, flowers, bugs, beatles and bunting to decorate the villages later in the year. We still have more wool so if anyone else would like to have a go please get in touch and we will get some to you.



We have done a lot of work around the village during lockdown. The play area is now clean and tidy and ready for painting when the sun comes out and things dry up a bit. A group of volunteers, kindly led by Charmaine, have cleared the overgrown area opposite the play area and planted bluebells. There are already several clumps of snowdrops here and other woodland plants will be added over time. Thanks to all involved, this area will look lovely in years to come.

We are desperately looking for volunteers to help with a speed watch in Great Saling. We would like to carry this out when the weather improves a bit. The information gathered will support our efforts to put measures in place to stop this issue which affects everyone's lives. Volunteers would need to sign up for a simple training course and then they would be ready to go. Please contact us and we will book you on.



We are aware of the problems with the builders working on the water tower development. We have contacted BDC's Planning Enforcement Team about these issues and they are monitoring the situation. We all know that building work does lead to some disruption but the mess experienced during the wet weather of the last couple of months is totally unacceptable. Please continue to let us know of any other problems relating to this work.



We have reported several issues to Essex Highways over the last few months and continue to chase them up. Could we ask for your help with this? If you see any potholes, missing way markers, litter etc, please could you report it to Essex Highways via their website www.essexhighways.org. The more complaints they receive, the more likely it is that they will respond.



census
2021

Be a part of Census 2021

Census day is 21 March 2021.

By taking part and encouraging others to do the same, you'll help make sure your community gets the services it needs.



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www.census.gov.uk

AA6IP1

Graham Butland
County Councillor
Three Fields with Great Notley Division

On Thursday 6 May 2021, residents in Essex will go to the polls to have their say on who represents them, with elections for all 75 seats on Essex County Council taking place.

These elections are an opportunity to have a say on who represents residents on issues that directly affect day-to-day life in the county.

Ahead of the elections, Essex County Council is asking residents to 'Vote safe' by registering for postal voting in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Even though there are a number of ways to vote, including in a polling station, the safest way to vote as the situation stands, is by staying at home and voting by post.

Do you need a postal vote for the May elections?

Did you know that you can apply for a postal vote for local or general elections - or indeed for our forthcoming referendum on the Salings Neighbourhood Plan?

The form can be applied for or downloaded from the website link below (or just type 'Braintree postal vote' into your browser):

<https://www.braintree.gov.uk/voting-elections/postal-proxy-votes?documentId=12&categoryId=20012>

The deadline for receiving postal vote applications is 5pm Tuesday 20 April 2021.

CREAMER Fund EASTER Raffle

(Registered Charity Number 1095414)

The CREAMER Fund is a local charity founded over 30 years ago by donations made in the memory of three patients of the Freshwell Health Centre in Finchingfield. It has since grown with generous donations from patients, families and friends.

The purpose of the CREAMER Fund is, and has always been, to provide and assist in the provision of facilities, support services and equipment not normally provided by the statutory authorities. We work for all the community, not just patients of Freshwell.



The CREAMER Fund provides funding for community projects such as the installation of over 20 defibrillators in local villages which have already proved life saving for visitors and villagers alike. We are pleased to confirm that two new defibrillators are on order for installation at second sites in Stebbing and Shalford. The CREAMER Fund also provides funding for local medical services based at the Freshwell Health Centre in Finchingfield where patients can benefit from local x-rays and ultrasound scans, entirely funded by The CREAMER Fund, as well as numerous other diagnostic and medical equipment purchased through donations.

The CREAMER Fund relies totally on donations and fundraising to be able to carry on supporting local communities in this way. The CREAMER Fund contributes over £40,000 per annum to run the local x-ray and ultrasound facilities, and the installation of each defibrillator costs over £1,900. However our ability to fund raise is very limited in these COVID restricted times. Once again COVID restrictions have prevented our annual fundraising Easter Raffle which has been cancelled, as indeed was our 2020 Christmas Raffle. With ongoing COVID restrictions limiting our fund raising, the Trustees of The CREAMER Fund would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the CREAMER Fund is still working hard to support local communities.



If you can help at all with a donation, however small, we and the local communities would be extremely grateful. If you are able, please complete the Gift Aid Mandate below and by returning this with your donation we will be able to claim a further 25% on your donation via the Government Gift Aid Scheme.

Please have a look at our Facebook Page or website (creamersfund.co.uk) for further information on our projects and forthcoming activities, where you will also find further information on Gift Aid and a printable mandate.

Happy Easter !-----

If you would like to make a donation, please complete and return this form to the
Freshwell Health Centre, Wethersfield Road, Finchingfield CM7 4BQ

☐ I enclose a cheque /cash of £ Please make cheques payable to The CREAMER Fund
☐ I give a single/monthly donation of £ Via bank transfer to Lloyds Bank
Via bank transfer to Lloyds Bank Sort Code 30-91-14 Account 07072348

Make your donation worth 25 % more at no extra cost!

☐ I would like to Gift Aid my donation

(please complete details below)

NAME: -----

ADDRESS: -----

POST CODE: -----

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying donations made today/in the future (please delete). I understand that the Charity will be able to claim 25p of tax for every £1 that I give in the current, and if applicable, future years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

SIGNATURE: ----- DATE: -----

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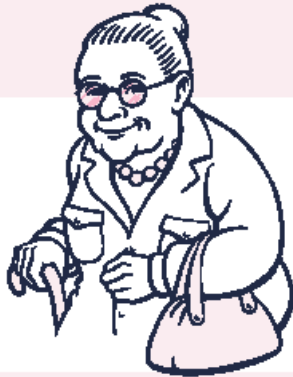
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COMMUNITY
360

Together
We Thrive

Chocolate bird nest cakes for Easter.



Ingredients

50g butter

100g milk or dark chocolate, broken into chunks

3 tbsp golden syrup

100g cornflakes

1 pack of mini eggs

STEP 1

Put the butter, broken up chocolate and the golden syrup into a saucepan and heat gently until everything has melted together.

Alternatively put ingredients into a microwaveable dish and heat briefly in the microwave.

STEP 2

Put the cornflakes into another large bowl

STEP 3

Once the melted ingredients have cooled slightly stir them into the cornflakes and mix together gently using a wooden spoon.

Spoon the mixture into 12 cupcake cases arranged on a muffin tray (or baking sheet, if you don't have one) and make a small dent in the top.

Put in the fridge to set. Once set put 3 mini eggs into the dips in each cake and enjoy



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Going Going Bang. The Water tower

(There is a lot of noise being made by the demolition as they drop, from a great height, huge pieces of metal)



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Email: petrabennett@btinternet.com

NO BOOKINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

THE SALINGS 100 CLUB

As we are in a lockdown I am having to postpone the monthly draws until it is safe to do them. Stay safe and well. Maya Hatcher

01371 810887 - mayahatcher@yahoo.com.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Following on from last months article, it has now been agreed that we will be locking the gates to the hall car park between 7pm and 7am until further notice. Vehicle access will therefore be restricted to daylight hours. The bottle bank will still be available during the day.

We would kindly ask that If you arrive at the hall and the gates are locked, you access the recycling bins via the pedestrian entrance to the left of the gate. Please do not leave bags or boxes of bottles by the gate. We realise that the overnight closure may slightly inconvenience some residents and thank you for your patience and support.

The large commercial bin has also been removed as we have cancelled the waste collection contract with Braintree district council . With the hall being closed, we are not producing any rubbish with the only waste going into the bin being from fly tippers. This decision will save us £150 per month at a time when we are not earning any income.
(cont. next page)

During the the closure further work has taken place to improve the car park area. Weeds have been removed from the edges, the newly created parking space by the bins has had another dressing of stones and sleepers have been laid to clearly mark out the space.

The materials and labour were once again supplied by Robert Bucknall and Colin Monk and we would like to thank them again for their time and efforts.

The next project will be to remove the Ivy which has totally overwhelmed the trees to the left of the gate. Once cleared, we will assess the condition of the trees and decide if further work such as coppicing or replacement is required.

Martin Hughes, Martinahughes@btinternet.com

A little reminder of the snow we had just recently....





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- Animals and outdoor play area.

You may be surprised to see an article here about the Uttlesford Local Plan, but since it presents a nice example of community engagement, it is worth sharing.

The following is from their website.

Community Stakeholder Forum



The Community Stakeholder Forum has been established to complement and enhance the consultation process by providing a platform for discussion amongst the community.

During the first consultation, local representatives from a range of backgrounds will liaise with others and bring different perspectives to a discussion around each of the themes.

Further details on these local representatives can be found [here](#).

The Forum's meetings will take place every two weeks, they will be live-streamed for anyone to watch and recordings will be uploaded to our YouTube channel so people can catch up afterwards.

When a new theme is introduced to the Forum, information will appear under the relevant heading below and a four-week mini consultation will start. Comments received after the deadline will not be discussed by the Forum but, provided they are received before the end of the final mini consultation, we will still take them into account when we prepare a first draft of the Local Plan.

Be
Fraud
Smart!

essex.police.uk/
befraudsmart



Essex Police Fraud Alert System

21

8th January 2021

FAKE NHS VACCINE TEXT WARNING

Another fraudulent text message is circulating claiming to be from the NHS, encouraging people to 'apply' for their COVID vaccine.

The text message contains a link that takes recipients to a very convincing website which proceeds to ask for personal and payment details.

This should be an immediate red flag, along with bad grammar and spelling mistakes, one of which can be seen highlighted in the images below.

Remember: the COVID-19 is free via the NHS only.

It is not possible to purchase the vaccine or obtain via other methods.

NHS: We have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine. For more information and to apply, follow here :

[https://nhs.uk/apply-for-covid-vaccine](#)

NHS Menu Q

< [Coronavirus vaccination](#)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine

Application at foot of page

Read before applying

Please take the necessary time to read over our information on the vaccine. It is important your choice is informed as some parties may not be recommended to take the vaccine currently.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine is safe and effective. It gives you the best protection against coronavirus.

Who can get the COVID-19

NHS Menu Q

We will now ask some questions

We'll ask for some information about you, including your:

- Name
- Date of birth
- Address
- A payment card (to check billing)
- Proof of address

We ask this so we can:

- Get the right mix of different people taking the vaccine
- Confirm identity
- Confirm **ownership** of address

Continue

If you are not in one of the priority groups, and are not expecting contact regarding the vaccine, **report these messages to Action Fraud.**

If you wish to confirm, contact your GP on a trusted number.



If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call **Essex Police** on 101. Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting **Action Fraud** at actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

Keep up to date with fraud and
do **even more** Online at essex.police.uk



Paul Euesden

Although Covid and the restrictions are still very much with us, there are some really encouraging signs that the latest lockdown is starting to work, alongside the vaccination rollout. New case rates are dropping across the Braintree district. The new case rate for our district last week (4th February) was 211 per 100,000 people, down from over 1000 per 100,000 a month ago. I'm sure that once the effects of the vaccination programme work their way through the figures will drop further along with the pressure on the NHS and we can look forward to a gradual return to normal. I know that the Parish Council keep you updated on the local village issues so I thought I would give some brief updates on what's happening in the District.

Affordable Housing update.

179 new affordable homes have been delivered this year so far with a further 40+ expected before the end of March across various sites in the District. These properties will all be let to people on our Housing Waiting List.

Development updates.

Braintree town centre pedestrianisation, Victoria Square, Horizon 120 and iConstruct are all progressing well. All of these will provide new jobs for residents going forward.

Covid Grants.

So far, since March 2020, BDC have issued £35 million to more than 2,600 local businesses. More information on the grants and support available to businesses can be found here: www.braintree.gov.uk/helpforbusinesses (figures correct as of 03/02/2021).

Community Support

- BDC teams, including Community Transport, continue to work with Community 360 and voluntary sector partners to help vulnerable people who are shielding or need support. The Test and Trace Support Payment is still in place. Low-income households may be entitled to a one-off payment of £500 through the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme if they are required to stay at home and self-isolate. Eligible Braintree District residents can apply by visiting www.braintree.gov.uk/coronavirus.

Local Plan.

Section 1 of the Local plan is expected to be adopted this month (February) with the examination of Section 2 likely to start in the summer. It's hoped that it won't be necessary to invite nominations for new sites.

Elections.

Elections for ECC, Police and Crime commissioner and some bi-elections seem to be back on again in May in a Covid secure way, including bringing your own pen!

Health and Wellbeing.

Due to Covid restrictions our Leisure Centres remain closed. However, they continue to be maintained so that they're ready to reopen quickly. BDC allocated £752,000 towards renewing the artificial grass pitch at Halstead, offset by grants from the Football Foundation and local Section 106 contributions.

Active Essex launched Keep Essex Active streaming a variety of online exercise classes that you can watch online in your own time. The classes are for a variety of different abilities, so you're sure to find something that works for you. There are also sessions for meditation and mindfulness. Fusion Leisure has also launched Fusion at Home with a range of exercise classes to take part in for all ages and abilities.

Finally, some good news for Council Tax payers. BDC's Cabinet has decided to freeze its share of council tax for the year 2021/22 in recognition of the financial challenges some residents are experiencing due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Keep safe and well and be kind to each other. Cllr. Paul Euesden

cldr.peuesden@braintree.gov.uk



Paddy McKeown



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Essential works being carried out in Great Saling Church

During this recent lockdown we have taken the opportunity of carrying out some necessary work in the Church. I hope you will forgive the inconvenience of the occasional Church closures.

Some of the flooring under the pews, and indeed the pews themselves have, over time, succumbed to the ravages of time, especially where the seating had contact with the wall. Extensive repairs have been made and the floor has been renewed. During the work, certain historical features were discovered. Immediately behind the pulpit we found an inscribed stone, marked RS 1647, who would have been one of the craftsman renovating the Church at that time.

1647, the days of the English Civil War. Remember the "Roundheads" and "Cavaliers" ! Two years later King Charles 1 would be beheaded for treason.



The second photograph shows one of the support legs from a pew, signed by Jim Hand (I think) Dec 13, 1869, which had been installed to support the seats accommodating the newly laid heating pipes.

We could not imagine that the heating and radiators could have been that old. And in this year, Joseph Whitaker started his Almanack, R D Blackmore wrote Lorna Doone and Sainsbury's opened their first store in London.

Additional photographs taken by Mick Harvey, our marvellous carpenter, thank you Mick, will be available in the church in the near future.

That is not all the work being carried out this year. Starting in March the church will be closed again whilst urgent electrical re-wiring is carried out, with some necessary lime washing on the walls, which will indeed brighten up the Chancel and Altar.

We will keep you informed of future work proposed including, hopefully, the electrification of the Church Clock.

We do look forward to welcoming you back to Church when this pandemic is in a better place and we have all had our inoculations.

Just prior to laying the last new timber, Mick Harvey left a brief message about this alteration we were making in February 2021, for the future craftsmen to discover.

There may be another opportunity to leave a message under the other pews. Would you like to be involved in leaving a time capsule? What would you include?

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THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

My optimism last month has been dashed – as you will appreciate, covid restrictions meant we were not able to open the Gardens in February to let visitors enjoy the snowdrops. The upside of this was not worrying about hundreds of people tramping over grass that has struggled with the record amount of rainfall in recent months and this year's Beast from the East. But it was so sad not to be able to share the joy of the snowdrops looking better than ever: pooled under trees at the front of the Gardens; covering the banks at the side of the glade; and colonising the grass in the walled kitchen garden.

It is not yet clear what will be possible in March. Last year I was naïve about the looming impact of the pandemic and we didn't start getting volunteers back into the Gardens until May, with visitors first allowed in July. This year, we remain hopeful that the roll-out of the vaccine will mean we will be well ahead of those dates, but you will need to keep an eye on our website or Facebook pages to get the up to date news on when we will be open. You will also find there our latest pictures of the Gardens.

In the meantime, we have managed to get a little essential winter work done, between the storms, and by March the early spring should be lifting our spirits. We should have finished our planting of new fruit trees in the walled kitchen garden and the pruning of the older apples and pears; the blossom should be coming out on the peaches and nectarines; and the bees should be settling into their new home. We should also have the stonemasons on site, restoring the balustrade in the Italian garden. And of course we will have a host of daffodils in the lime walk and the glade.

So, we keep on smiling and hope you can too!

Jill Goldsmith



40p for 40 days – Give. Don't Give Up



Lent is a time when people have traditionally given something up for 40 days leading up to Easter, but this year we are asking people to give rather than give up. All you need to do is to put aside 40p each day and then make your donation once you have collected a total of £16* at the end of Lent

For us to provide help to those who are in food poverty, it costs approximately £50,000 year to run the **Foodbank** and you can help us to continue our mission.

- Without your support we would not be able to cover the running costs for our van, leaving us unable to continue collecting your donations or distribute food to our centres.
- Without your donations we would not be able to maintain our warehouse which sorts, stores and boxes up your donations.

Without your help we would not be able to pay our rent or our utilities. Vanessa Green, Foodbank spokesperson stated "In the 21st century we should not need foodbanks but unfortunately the demands of our services are growing in the current climate, with over 6,247 people within the last 12 months. Like all charities during the pandemic, donations are as important to us as we support those in food poverty. With the rate of growth in visitors unlikely to reduce, any donation will help."

Your donation will really make a difference and we are very grateful.

Thank you

How do I make a monetary donation?

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Send a cheque. Please make it payable to **Braintree Area Foodbank Ltd** and send it to:

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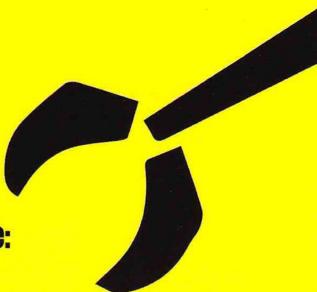
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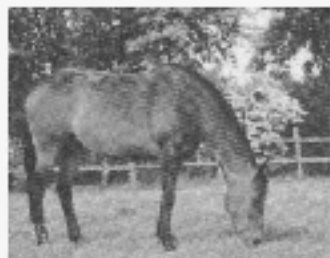
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Artist creates cartoon book to lift our spirits during lockdown

Artist Kevin Butters has created a book from his food-inspired cartoons in aid of Farleigh Hospice.

'What's in the Lockdown Kitchen?' is a collection of 50 humorous cartoons based on everyday food items. The drawings are a play on words of the name of the food. In the book you will meet characters such as 'Granny Smith' an Apple portrayed as a grandmother and 'Prawn Cocktail' the cockerel with a prawn in place of his tail feathers.

Prior to the pandemic, Kevin volunteered at the hospice, teaching arts and crafts to patients for many years. Aware of the fundraising challenges that COVID-19 presented, Kevin decided to create the book and sell it to raise money. To date, the book has raised a total of £635 for Farleigh Hospice, a figure that is set to grow with future sales.

Speaking of his inspiration for his book, Kevin said: "Once I stopped teaching arts and crafts at Farleigh, I found myself wondering if there was anything more I could do to contribute to their cause. I've had a passion for creating cartoons since I was a child, in fact they form a significant part of my work.

"The pandemic has reignited a passion for cooking for many of us. Necessity has caused us to get more creative in the kitchen because we're eating at home more than ever before. My aim with the cartoons was simply to make people smile in these rather strange times.

I started sending them to family and friends. When some suggested they might be turned into a book, I thought that it might be a great way of raising money for Farleigh. So far, I have been very pleased with the outcome."

Alison Stevens, Chief Executive of Farleigh Hospice comments: "Kevin's book is such a novel idea and we really appreciate his fundraising efforts. It's heart-warming to know that in addition to volunteering his time in the past, he asked 'what more can I do to help?'

"We are truly grateful for the money he has as raised with his book. The food cartoons really do make you smile and we hope it will provide some cheer during this lockdown and beyond. Donors like Kevin make it possible for Farleigh to continue our work in providing

care and support to those with a life-limiting illness during these unprecedented times.”

A former Economics and Business studies teacher, Kevin has no formal art training, just natural talent, which is evident in his established portfolio. He exhibits at a variety of locations in London and Essex and has a permanent display space in the Art and Craft Centre in Dedham.

Kevin works in pen and ink, watercolour, oil, pastels and pencil. His subject matters range from portraits, still life, cityscapes and buildings to cartoons and caricatures. Kevin is currently working on some similar food-related sketches that, he says, he may use for a second book to raise even more funds for Farleigh Hospice.

You can order a copy of Kevin’s book by emailing kbutters@sky.com providing your postal address. Kevin asks that you donate an amount of your choice via the ‘donate’ option on the Farleigh Hospice website [<https://www.farleighhospice.org/donate/donate-online>]. On the ‘reason for donation’ section, please select ‘other’ and then state ‘Purchase of Lockdown Kitchen cartoon book’.

If you would like to fundraise for Farleigh Hospice visit our fundraising page [insert link: www.farleighhospice.org/fundraise] or call 01245 457411.

**Images from: What’s in the Lockdown Kitchen?
courtesy of Kevin Butters.**



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The Hundred Parishes Society

At this difficult time, we are fortunate to live in such a lovely area where we can take exercise close to home in attractive and interesting surroundings. One of the local delights is the number of thatched buildings.

Thatch was once the roofing choice of the poor as it was locally sourced, inexpensive and sustainable; now it seems that only the better-off can afford the necessary regular servicing and replacement. Most roofs are thatched with long wheat straw and many are topped out with a decorative straw feature on the apex. These are called straw finials.

Pheasants and foxes are still among the favourites for this tradition that goes back centuries. These finials may once have been installed to keep away birds or even witches, while some may have been the trademark of the individual thatcher. Today, they are more likely chosen by the customer from an online catalogue. They seem to be more abundant and varied than ever.

I have spotted some fine examples around The Hundred Parishes such as the two running hares on a cottage at Ashdon. In Finchingfield and Radwinter you may find families of ducks and there is a large thatched cow on the barn of the Red Cow pub at Chrishall.



You may see a hare on Dick Turpin's Cottage at Hempstead or a galloping horse at Great Bardfield. High Roding has a delightful cat stretching up the chimney stack and a fox chases a hare in Brent Pelham. An eagle has landed in Aythorpe Roding and there is a flying pig in Ugley.

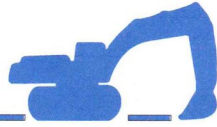


The 16th-century Thatchers pub at Hatfield

Heath is appropriately situated on a road that was once part of the route for horse-drawn cartage of wheat from Suffolk to London. Do keep looking up!

Ken McDonald, Secretary.





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