

Hatfield Peverel

Review

279 - December 2020





Hatfield Peverel Review

Hatfield Peverel Parish Council publication. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Council.

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Copy for the February issue by Friday, 15 January please.



Silent soldier at St Andrews

Nicky, Jo, Kate and Nicola Child-minding

Last year our silent soldier stood on the village green and this year at the church. As always this is a lovely sight to see and the children of Nicky's child minding made the beautiful poppies that stood around them. Lots of Facebook feedback: so many lovely comments, people of the village look forward to now seeing them

All of our children took great pride in painting poppies for such a special day

I and three other childminders decorated the phone box on The Green for Remembrance Sunday. See opposite page.

Front cover: Night-time, a snowman, and smoke in the chimney to warm a certain red-coated gentleman when he comes to visit Sleep tight. Thank you to Anna Fairburn for this Christmas scene, and children who have helped to brighten our lives with wonderful drawings and paintings in this Review

Remember the past, endure the present and hope for a better future

The moment Scrooge's hand was on the lock, a strange voice called him by name, and bade him enter. He obeyed.

It was his own room, there was no doubt about that. But it had undergone a disturbing transformation. Walls and ceiling were so hung with living green it looked a perfect grove, part of which bright gleaming berries glistened. Crisp leaves of holly, mistletoe and ivy reflected back the light, as if so many little mirrors had been scattered there, and such a mighty blaze went roaring up the chimney as that dull petrification of a hearth had never known in Scrooge's time or for many and many a winter season gone.

Heaped up on the floor, to form a kind of throne, were turkeys, geese, game, poultry, brawn, great joints of meat, sucking pigs, wreaths of sausages, mince pies, plum, puddings, barrels of oysters, hot chestnuts, cheery-cheeked apples, juicy oranges, luscious pears, immense cakes, seething bowls of punch, that made the chamber dim with the delicious steam.

On the couch sat a jolly giant with a glowing torch he held up to shed his light on Scrooge. 'Come in!' exclaimed the ghost. 'Come in, and know me better, man.'

Scrooge entered timidly and hung his head. He was not the dogged Scrooge he had been, and though its eyes were clear and kind, he did not like to meet them.

'I am the ghost of Christmas present', said the spirit. 'Look upon me!'



Our Christmas tree is on its way

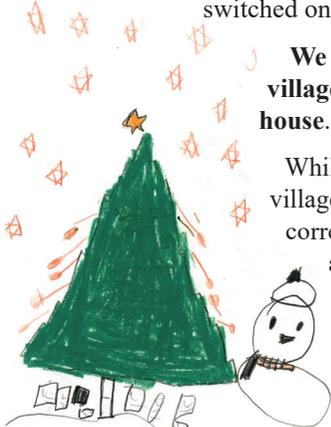
Emma Cook, Community Events Committee

Whilst we obviously cannot hold our normal Christmas Carols this year, Paul Mason has once again very kindly donated a Christmas tree. We will be putting it up soon and will video the lights being switched on to share with you on our Facebook page, Hatfield Peverel Party in the Park.

We would like to run a mini challenge this Christmas with our younger villagers to nominate (via the power of facebook) the best dressed Christmas house. Keep an eye out for the details and vote for your favourite.

Whilst we haven't been able to meet in person this year, we did manage to hold a village treasure hunt in August. Worthy winners with a full house of 44 questions correct were the Denfords. Congratulations, we hope you enjoyed your prize of afternoon tea at the Museum of Power. Thanks go also to the Empty Nesters, Emmlynnjen, the Happy Pirates and The Broken One for taking part. You all did really well and we hope you enjoyed the jaunt around our lovely village.

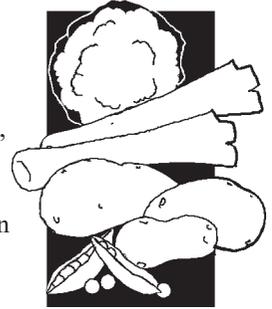
Take care, we wish you a very merry Christmas 2020, and hope we can celebrate once more with you in 2021.



Get an allotment and change your life!

Allotment and growing news, Drew Price HPAA new-site letting officer
www.hpaa.org.uk Email: chairman@hpaa.org.uk

For most everyone in the UK, a very tough year. Covid-19, lockdown, furloughs, apartment living, second lockdown and the list continues. However, for those of us with an allotment plot, it was much different. We worked our plots which provided fresh air, exercise, social distancing, good mental health, and home-grown untreated food sources. And we are all so very thankful for those opportunities.



As usual, the weather kept it interesting and was up and down like a zipper on a raincoat, keeping the complaints of too windy, too hot, too cold, too wet, flowing fast. But overall, we had a particularly good year. Notwithstanding all the challenges, people had time to work their plots and while it was not our BEST crop year, it was a great year to have a place to go for peace of mind and good health.

You with gardens probably feel much the same. While many complain, the positive ones are thankful for what they DO have. It is not what happens to us that matters but our response to what happens. And whether positive or negative, our choice becomes our truth. Try this – say “I AM” and whatever you say next is your reality.

So, we at the allotment mostly choose to feel fortunate and encourage you to embrace this outlook. We still experience boredom and frustration but then we reset, refocus, and dig in again. And all our members are healthy, safe, and well. **We shave a few starter sized plots available. Give us a call for a look round.**

As the year ends, we are preparing for a head start on next season. Some ideas for you at home.

1. Clear up rotting finished plants and leaves: Compost them into future organic matter. Fallen leaves will only invite disease or pests. Check all stored veg. crops - potatoes, carrots squash etc and remove any showing signs of decay or rot.
2. Put manure on beds early: Do this to maximise the time that manure must work on the soil and protect the ground from the harsh weather.
3. Plant fruit now: This is a good time for fruit bushes (gooseberries/blackberries), although they can be planted at any point during the winter from November to the end of March.
4. Divide and plant bulbs: Daffodils, tulips, and crocuses can go back into the soil for spring's burst of colour.
5. Check your equipment: give everything, tools, poly-tunnels, greenhouses, a once-over, and a warm soapy water clean (not in the troughs). Does anything need fixing or replacing?
6. Know when and how to harvest: pluck Brussels sprouts from the bottom up and pick parsnips only after the first frost or two because cold temperatures give them their sweet flavour by turning starches into sugars.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy, cosy winter, a special Christmas and a very happy New Year

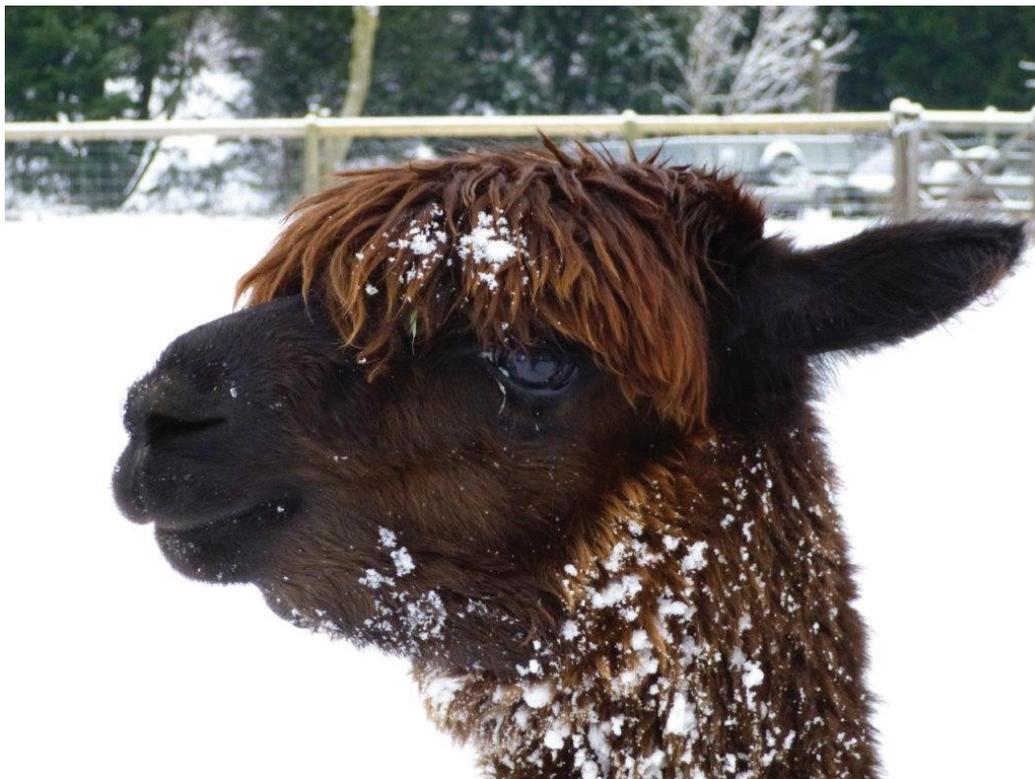
Drew Price

Think positive - 2021 is going to be a better year!

Bring back our Spring and Autumn shows, our outings and especially our five-day holiday break

The Horticultural Society would like you to know that your 2020 membership, at no cost, will be carried over for 2021: obviously schedule dates will be changed but the programme remains the same.

No excuses, you can prepare for an early start in the New Year!



Fantastic Fred, an alpaca resident in our village, is hoping for a bit more snow this Christmas

Support for residents - ECC Coronavirus advice (5 November)

New funding to support vulnerable people

We are investing £3.7 million of Covid-related funding from the government and £200,000 of our own funds to support the most vulnerable people in our communities through winter and beyond.

We plan to spend the funding on:

- * **helping families and individuals in financial crisis or hardship**
- * **providing food for children and their families during school holidays, supporting foodbanks and targeting further food support for those who need it**
- * **supporting people identified as clinically extremely vulnerable due to Covid-19**
- * **providing safe long-term homes for rough sleepers**
- * **running mental health, domestic violence, alcohol and substance misuse services**
- * **grass-roots clubs and activities for children and young people**
- * **helping vital support agencies and voluntary organisations.**

The Essex Wellbeing Service offers free support with practical tasks, mental health, feelings of loneliness, debt, housing, employment, caring responsibilities and more. Read more about our extra support for the vulnerable this winter on our Essex Wellbeing Service website or call 0300 303 9988.

Parish Council news

**Sarah Gaeta, Clerk to the Parish Council, Parish Council office,
Community Association Village Hall, Maldon Road, Hatfield Peverel CM3 2HP**



To make an appointment to see the Clerk in person

Please telephone 01235 382865 or email parishclerk@hatfieldpeverelpc.com between the hours of 9am and 1pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Parish Councillor Steve Thorpe has resigned from office. The Parish Council would like to thank him for his time and efforts on behalf of the village.

Make a change, become a Councillor

There are now two vacancies for Parish Councillors. Are you passionate about your community? Do you want to help make a long-lasting change? Do you have innovative ideas for the council? Do you have concerns about a specific issue and want to do something about it? If this is you, then we need you. We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect the community to put themselves forward. Make a change and become a Councillor. For further information or to express an interest, please contact the Clerk.

Tree Warden

The Parish Council is looking to appoint a second Tree Warden on a voluntary basis.

A Tree Warden is:

- A Parish Council volunteer – they are appointed by the Parish Council
- A person who genuinely cares for trees and the environment
- Willing to help with local tree matters
- Usually knowledgeable or at the very least willing to explore their parish or area
- Able to advise on TPO applications and report to the Parish Council as needed.

If you are interested in this position, please contact the Parish Clerk for further information.

Crime Concerns

Please remember you can call 101 for crime prevention advice or to report a crime that does not need an emergency response.

The Parish Council is working in partnership with Essex Police to recruit two Special Constables.

If you are interested in applying to be a voluntary Police Officer for the village, please see our website for further information and the answers to frequently asked questions: <https://www.hatfieldpeverelpc.com/special-constable-recruitment/>

Planning

Planning decisions are made by Braintree District Council, following consultation with residents, the Parish Council, and other agencies where necessary. For information on what planning applications have been received, granted and refused by Braintree District Council, please see the weekly planning lists which are updated daily and available to view here:

https://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200225/search_and_track_planning_applications/592/weekly_lists

Details of all planning applications discussed by the Parish Council can be found on the monthly full Council meeting minutes (published on the website). Whilst this does not detail Braintree District Council's decisions, it will indicate what applications have been received during the preceding month.

The following applications were considered on 5 October

20/01479/HH – Single-storey rear extension, two-storey side extension and internal alterations at 2 New Road. No comment.

20/00895/AGR – Prior notification for a general purpose grain store at Smallands Farm, Spring Lane, Hatfield Peverel (a Maldon District Council application). No comment.

Tree Works

20/00308/TPOCON – Worlds End Cottage, Worlds End; 20/00318/TPO – 3 The Pines; 20/00324/TPO – land rear of 21 Woodfield Way. All applications noted.

20/01329/VAR re-consultation – Land south of Stonepath Drive. A response is being prepared following a site meeting with the developer. The risk to the Scots Pine bat habitat and possible action were discussed.

The following applications were considered on 2 November

20/01259/HH – Erection of dormer window roof extension to side elevation at Gregory’s, 53 Sportsmans Lane, Hatfield Peverel. No comment.

20/01465/FUL – Erection of 7 two storey dwelling houses, accompanied with 16 dedicated parking spaces at ‘Heathers’, The Green, Hatfield Peverel. Not supported; comments made on original application still apply. It was noted that if this application is approved by Braintree District Council, a Section 106 agreement should be entered into.

20/01551/HH – Two storey side and single storey front porch extension at The Willows, Manor Road, Hatfield Peverel. No comment, other than a request for limited external lighting.

20/01742/HH – Two storey rear extension and reconstruction of existing single storey rear utility room and WC at 29 Church Road, Hatfield Peverel. No comment.

20/00347/TPO – Tree works at 19 De Vere Close, Hatfield Peverel. Noted and passed to Tree Warden.

The response to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Planning White Paper submitted on behalf of the Parish Council was noted. Thanks were expressed to the Neighbourhood Development Plan committee members for their efforts.

Braintree District Council’s decision to confirm a tree preservation order on a tree at 55 Sportsmans Lane was noted.

Braintree District Council’s revised ‘Planning Scheme of Delegation’ was discussed. The Parish Council agreed not to submit a response, but District Councillors Dervish and Bebb will take forward concerns around the future consideration of Parish Council comments.

Don’t forget you can view all Parish Council news on the website: <http://www.hatfieldpeverelpc.com>

Social Media - please follow the Parish Council on social media for news and updates:

Facebook: @hatfieldpeverelpc Twitter: @HatPevPC

The Council’s Social Media policy can be viewed on its website:

www.hatfieldpeverelpc.com/policies-and-procedures/social-media-policy/

The next meetings of the Parish Council are on Monday 11 January and Monday 1 February 2021, both held ‘virtually’ via Microsoft Teams. Public participation is welcome, please see the agenda (issued on the Wednesday prior to the meeting) for joining information. The agenda is published on the Parish Council website and on the noticeboard outside of the office (Village Hall).

Halloween Pumpkin Trail

Thank you for your entries into our Pumpkin Trail competition - we are pleased to announce we have two winners. Jack, for his wonderful costume, and Oscar for his cute smile! (see right) We hope you all enjoyed the trail.



Highland to Lowland - traversing the Grampian coast by kayak

Tony Hocking and Alison Davie take to the water again in the second part of their journey, East coast Scotland by kayak. (Apologies to Tony and Alison for not telling our readers their article was in two parts - and to you for leaving you guessing) Enjoy!

Part 2

Years of building work throughout Scotland may have toughened our bodies to the outdoors, but we were not used to life in a kayak and we slowly became accustomed to many hours at sea each day. Our good fortune at this stage was the tidal sequence, which saw favourable tides until roughly four in the afternoon. The end of each day's paddling brought the excitement and then joy of finding a place to safely land – much of the coast was sheer cliff and headland – and then to comfortably pitch our tent and cook our main meal, chosen

with care from our larder of supplies stored aft. An evening walk to stretch the legs, running repairs to equipment perhaps, and then by nine we were ready for our sleeping bags, thankful that we could check the coastal weather on our phones rather than wait for the midnight shipping forecast, first slipping in and out of consciousness as the trap known as 'Sailing Away' is sprung by the black humoured controllers of Radio



Evening camp, Stonehaven

the magnitude of your dot like existence, as it too is shrunken by the all absorbing, all-encompassing meeting place of sky, sea and land. In a winter storm hell on earth without a doubt, on a calm summer's evening a passage round its tip still leaves you almost breathless and giddy as you pull away to safer waters, silent for fear of waking the slumbering giant that must surely live here. On a rare patch of grass amongst the dunes, we ate in cheerful silence that evening and watched the now distant light turn on for the gathering dusk. Whisky never tasted sweeter.

Chattering voices had me reaching for the watch, I squinted without my glasses to see it was five in the morning. Probably lobster fishermen going to check their pots, but on opening the tent flap I could see

4. Once asleep, the dreams can begin, and I will swear to my dying day that I really did stare into the vortex of a million sea birds circling overhead, their cries a siren speeding us along on the tide and echoing through caves that pierced the summitless cliffs of another world.

Standing lonely at the junction of the Moray Firth and the east coast, our crux of Rattray Head may lack the grandeur of its rockier brethren, but as a seascape to reposition the perspective of your place in the world, it has very few contenders. The horizon is expansive; the enormous lighthouse of Stevenson fame only increases



Todhead Point, just south of Stonehaven

paddleboarders slipping out early from Stonehaven on a dawn tour, the curious silhouette of their bodies stark against the half in, half out of the sea sunrise making me blink away the sleep. The satisfying click-click woof of the lighting gas stove heralded the start of another day on the water, we ate breakfast and then chatted to a visiting friend while the tide finished its ebb to the north and then swung back in our favour. Our last few days had brought glorious conditions for kayaking, sunshine and favourable wind had helped us tantalisingly close to our goal. Our tally of wildlife spotted was impressive – along with our Otter and numerous more Dolphins, an Osprey, Pilot whales and Puffin were showing Scotland off at its best. And of course there were those Gannets too; at Troup Head we had passed the mainland’s largest colony, the sky filled with their slender graceful form before, wings folded, they plummeted javelin like into the unsuspecting shoals of fish below. That night we pulled out of the chilly wind to end a long day that took us from the granite of Aberdeenshire to the low bluffs and bays of Angus. Camping looked possible but awkward amongst the lobster pots and creels of a sleepy fishing station. When a fisherman appeared, he offered us a flat pitch for the tent and



Amongst the lobster pots, Usan fishing Station, Angus

then showed us to his bothy, complete with two running taps – one of which ran hot! Like the leaping dolphin, the silver had come again. Later, he returned with a fish for our supper, a Ling. Curious to look at, it tasted like the sea we had traversed only to meet at this lonely headland, the freshness and flavour unlike anything before.



Camping in the boatyard at Carnoustie

in the morning. On the final approach to the Ness itself, the sun rose off to our left in a fiery orange that dipped and reappeared over each swell that we then rode forward. Surf broke around us as the Tay Bar was crossed and then, turning the corner, the distant lights of the city hove into view. A few more minutes in the surf zone, and we entered the calm expanse of water as it began to flood westward into the narrowing river. Wildfowl called out across the flats and the early morning tiredness began its unstoppable creep through our bodies.....

*‘And far abune the Angus straths I saw the wild geese flee,
A lang, lang skein o’ beatin’ wings, wi’ their heids towards the sea,
And aye their cryin’ voices trailed ahint them on the air.....’*

Violet Jacob 1915

From official business to olives, AGM and Albarino

Peverel Wine Club – Vee Green, Secretary (01245 355723)

www.peverelwineclub.co.uk email peverelwineclub@hotmail.co.uk



Our autumn programme had only a few changes thanks to the miracle of Zoom. Half our members join Zoom each month, remaining members are kept in touch by regular newsletters. We have cancelled our Christmas Party but are exploring ways in which members can be involved in our festivities.

In October the Club's AGM was held virtually for the first time with a larger attendance than the previous year. Despite the nature of meetings in 2020, Treasurer Linda Fisher reported finances were in a comfortable state: membership fees will be waived in 2021 for those who paid in 2020. Chairman Graham Bushby commented on how well the club was doing despite the pandemic, and thanked his committee, particularly outgoing members Ann Riddleston, Jim Lane and Nick Shakespear, for their hard work and good ideas. Two new committee members were welcomed – Paul and Donna Boreham. Graham was challenged to complete the official business in half an hour, which he achieved. The evening finished with six volunteers presenting their Memory Wines.

Our November meeting was a virtual tasting of Iberian wines and tapas, and a packed screen of 24 members took us through the range of Spanish and Portuguese wines, red, white and rose, scoring the wines on their own and with accompanying food. Rumour has it the Iberian Food Board is worried about a potential olive shortage as so many have been purchased in the Hatfield Peverel area, not to mention other exotic offerings. Everyone made a tremendous effort, quality of the wines was high and we enjoyed an excellent evening. Highest scoring wine (10 out of 10) was a Brigando Portuguese rose at £8.50 from Laithwaites; best white a Faustino Rias Baixas Albariño, £10 from Sainsburys, and best red a tie between 2 Riojas: Campo Viejo (£8 Sainsburys) and Castillo de Albai Reserva (£7 Tesco).

If you'd like to join us for a light-hearted, inexpensive evening you would be welcome. Please ring Vee to confirm your invitation to join a Zoom session on 01245 355723. Catch up with what's been happening at the Wine Club by viewing our website. **Remember – stay well, stay cheerful, keep drinking the wine!**

Wine Club's Christmas quiz. Answers on page 22.

- A Drink made from egg yolk
- B Braintree beer named after 16th century martyr burnt at the stake by Bloody Mary
- C Apple brandy from Normandy
- D Scottish liqueur, the drink that satisfies
- E Called the Englishman's grapes
- F Strong-flavoured white grape from Italy's Campania region
- G Beer and champagne to produce Black Velvet
- H What gives beer its kick!
- I Canadian dessert wine produced from grapes frozen on the vine
- J Gin gets its distinctive flavour from this berry
- K Classification of German quality wines, usually with lower alcohol
- L What is the type of beer brewed in Belgium by spontaneous fermentation
- M Name under which Bulmers Irish Cider is sold outside Ireland
- N Big Apple Cocktail
- O Dark and nutty variety of sherry
- P What fruit was Babycham made from
- Q Ingredient in gin and tonic to treat malaria
- R Chianti subzone producing elegant and long-lived wines
- S Strong rough cider from West Country
- T The main grape of Rioja wines
- U The Gaelic word for whisky, literally the water
- V Rye-based spirit
- W High-alcohol cider discontinued in 2009 because of its association with under-age drinking.
- X With Pedro, a Spanish dessert wine grape, known just as PX
- Y Luscious, expensive wine from a French chateau in the Sauternes region.
- Z Californian grape variety now proved to be a form of the Italian Primitivo grape.



The good old days - our Pram Race in the mid 60s*

Ron Elliston

I remember the famous, original Hatfield Peverel Pram Race. I lived in Brentwood and one year in the mid 1960s two chums and I heard about it and decided to take part. The idea was to purloin a redundant pram and take part as a team of three, one riding in the pram, one pushing it and one running alongside, with regular changeovers to give everyone a break. As energetic lads of about 20 years old the pram had to bear a fair bit of weight, which it fortunately did thanks to an excellent suspension system.

It's all a bit of a blur over the intervening years but, if memory serves, we started out from the corner of the Strutt Memorial Field/Recreation Ground via a wide gate into Maldon Road (no village hall there in those days), up to The Street and then Station Road towards Terling.

There were plenty of people in Terling to cheer participants on particularly when the route turned sharply left down towards the ford/watersplash, a daunting prospect for those of us who had not anticipated it. The silt and gravel on the bed of the ford made it impossible for the pram to be pushed so the two of us who did not have the privilege of riding at that point had to drag it through, becoming thoroughly drenched in the process.

A longish return run down Terling Hall Road brought us to where works on the A12 bypass were then in progress and I recall seeing massive quantities of orange coloured clay that was still being excavated.

We arrived back at the Rec somewhat exhausted to find we were the 11th team to reach home, out of a field of just over 100, so not a bad result given our novice status over a course of around 7 miles. I believe a team from Marconi in Chelmsford took first place in quick time on that occasion.

** I've been ferreting around in back copies of the Review (first published in 1974) and found in June 1978 mention made of the twelfth Pram Race to be held on 9 September. By then it no longer went to Terling but round by Nounsley ford, not quite such an excitement.*

Christmas is upon us, but not as we know it

St Andrews

As I write, we are coming through the second national lockdown, and it has had interesting effects on people's perception of Advent and Christmas. At this time of year, (and often well before), I hear people say, 'its only ... days to Christmas!' and the follow-up, 'It's coming up to your busy time, Vicar!' This year I have heard none of these things, the only people to refer to Christmas in these terms have been the Government and Amazon! A strange reversal of the norm. Not only that, the character of this lockdown seems different. Unlike the first in summer; when roads were deserted, this has made little difference to the traffic. There is also a renewed sense of expectation now the results of various vaccine trials around the world are yielding positive results. Along with this is a sense that in the New Year we need to be prepared for mass vaccination and a new way of going about our daily business.



Hope and expectation; these are the virtues which characterize the season of Advent. I have heard from frustrated clergy that no-one takes Advent seriously anymore. The secular world of greed and commercialism has taken over. The paradox of this pandemic is that the secular world, with its talk of a 'new normal' once a vaccine is proved to be effective, is speaking of new beginnings and hope for the future. These are Advent themes and it is an extraordinary twist of priorities that has seen the secular world remind the world of faith what Advent is actually about.

On a more reflective note, in spite of lockdown and mixed messages from the Government about whether we could hold Remembrance Sunday, we did actually hold services. At All Saints, the service was outside at the War Memorial in the upper churchyard. At St Andrews we met at the Garden of Remembrance outside the North door, since our War Memorial is inside the church building. The services were not large gatherings but more intimate, reminding us that everyone who gave their lives during times of war, leaves a grieving widow, relative, friend. It reminds us of the old truth that there is no such thing as a mass of suffering, it is much better to speak in terms of a large number of suffering individuals. That is a mark of respect that recognizes each person who suffers loss will cope with that loss in their own individual way.

What is happening over December and January? With this review you should have a Christmas Card which, along with good wishes from Fr. Derek and myself, gives a programme of services that we hope to follow over the Christmas period.

Sadly, we cannot have the 'Light of the World' service on Christmas Eve because, taking into consideration the requirements of social distancing and 'track and trace', we cannot have big services. Also, the Home-start volunteers are having to work in a completely different way this year for the same reasons. However, Home-start has launched a new initiative (see article by Mrs Anna Tomlins on page ?) which will enable vulnerable families to be helped in a different way.

Sunday 13 December 3rd Sunday of Advent 8am Holy Communion (said) - **St Andrews**
10.15am All Age Service 'Joseph's Christmas Story'

Sunday 20 December 4th Sunday of Advent 9am Holy Communion with Hymns - **All Saints**
10.15am Parish Eucharist (said) - **St Andrews**
4pm A Christmas Celebration with carols and readings both sacred and secular.

For services up to and including January please refer to the Parish Magazine, the Christmas card enclosed with the Review or the website.

Finally- may I wish you a very happy and blessed Christmas and a fruitful New Year.

All Saints, Ulting



There was an enthusiastic congregation on the morning of Sunday 1 November to celebrate All Saints Day at All Saints Church. It was extra special as it isn't often the day can be celebrated here with a Sunday Morning Service. I remembered the words of Bishop Stephen when he took the Confirmation Service at All Saints over a year ago. He said we are 'All Saints', with the same human attributes and frailties the Saints in the Bible showed. Like those Saints, we have faults but need their faith to get through troubled times.

The day brought the news that, along with all other Churches, this would be the last Sunday morning worship as Services are to be suspended until at least the beginning of December as part of the restrictions due to Coronavirus. There should have been a Remembrance Sunday Service the following week and many of the congregation felt it should not go by without some acknowledgement. As a result, on the morning of Sunday 8 November a small group socially distanced around the Memorial to observe a two minute silence and remember the men of Ulting who gave their lives during the First World War. Geoff Austin read out their names with a brief account of each of them and I feel their stories should be shared with you. (*I am grateful to Geoff whose research into the men's background has brought the names on the Memorial to life*).

Frederick Barker, Essex Regiment, the son of Samuel and Harriet Barker living in Bumfords Lane, Ulting. He was wounded in Egypt and died of his wounds in England - buried in All Saints Churchyard.

Thomas French, Royal Flying Corps, son of George and Alice French who lived in Ulting Hall. He was killed in a flying accident near Bramham airfield, Leeds.

Clarence Long, Royal Sussex Regiment, and Edgar Long, Middlesex Regiment were brothers, and sons of William and Maria Long who lived in Grapnell Farm Cottage, Heybridge. Clarence was killed following the tank battle in Cambrai and Edgar was killed near Arras where he is buried.

Bertie Perrin, Yorkshire Regiment, son of George and Ellen Perrin of Brockley Cottage, Ulting.

William Wilkin served in the Northampton Regiment. He was son of Herbert and Angelina Wilkin who lived in New Cottages in Ulting. He was taken prisoner near Amiens after being wounded at La Montagne Bridge. He died whilst still in captivity.

Two pebbles have been left at the Memorial at All Saints, a single poppy is painted on one, the silhouette of a soldier in a poppy field on the other. May I thank the person who left these beautifully decorated stones. They will be kept in the Church at our Memorial Window.

The latest lockdown is due to end at the beginning of December; there is no guarantee when Churches will reopen for Services. If anyone would like access to All Saints Church for private prayer please contact me on 07860 235778 and I will arrange for the Church to be open for you. The Prayer Box in the Church porch will be checked regularly for your personal messages and I will include these in my daily prayers. I am sure there will be a general announcement about restarting regular Church Worship. When All Saints resumes Sunday Services with Holy Communion, they will be at 9am on the first, third and fifth Sundays with Morning Prayer on the second Sunday of the month.

Christmas will be different for us this year as it will bring at least some restrictions for celebrating the festive season with our loved ones. I am hoping the All Saints 9am Christmas Morning Service can go ahead if all goes well. Check All Saints website and, as they say, 'Watch This Space'!

Prayers and blessings to you all for Christmas and the New Year, Rev Derek

Hatfield Peveler Methodist and Reality Church

Our services continue online on Sundays at 9.30am with children's events on Saturday mornings at 10.30am for 'Reality Kids'. These services can be downloaded after the initial transmission at any time.

Our Sunday services continue to reflect a wide spectrum of subjects relevant to our lives today. David compared going online to the original Methodist Ministers who travelled across this county preaching to the working classes wherever they were – we can now speak to anyone indoors or outdoors and at any time of the day in a relaxed and straight forward way – not having to follow prescribed rules for worship and responding to the situations that we find ourselves in.

Recently Rev Barry reminded us we may face many problems in our lives which he illustrated as 'storms and snakes', frightening and tough to deal with but if we believe in the power of God we will not be alone.

In another Sunday Service Jeff spoke movingly of the issues around mental health which is so prominent today as we face Coronavirus and it's impact on jobs, finances and loneliness. He has found the ability to rest in God's presence by setting aside a few minutes to relax and remember God's promises very helpful. He suggested using Psalm 46 verse 10 – Be still and know that I am God- to help us.

Finally a Sunday Remembrance Day Service led by David on line who used pictures of his ancestors caught up in war, a new Poppy painting by his daughter and prayers not to repeat the mistakes of the past, help us all to share common values and bring justice where there is still conflict to bring peace to the world. We have not needed to go to war and make that ultimate sacrifice - we have been set free by God in our lives – to act in faith and love to take on the Christian roles that we have been given.

A recent Reality Kids download illustrated the parable which Jesus taught about the farmer who had too much harvest and built bigger barns to hold it instead of sharing the surplus with those around him. Jane and Eddie gave a humorous sketch for our times with cupboards filled to the brim with 'stuff' and still more to pack away. Sandie reminded us we are rich because we have the love of Jesus Christ in our lives and we should be sharing not wasting.

Stitch to Enrich

A new venture for us – a therapeutic stitch group which started in September and is held at the Duke of Wellington on the first and third Thursdays of the month (national restrictions permitting) where we focus on the joy of stitching and find friendship and the space to share in a relaxed way. No special skills or equipment required. A very happy get together.

Christmas Services will all be online

Christmas Eve at 4pm – a celebration of Christmas with songs, stories, puppets and fun alongside the wonderful Christmas story

Christmas Day Service – 9.30am – celebrating the birth of Christ

We do not know how the UK will be able to celebrate Christmas in 2020 – but we would love you to join us for these services in your own community and hope that the spirit of the Christmas message will support you in these difficult times

Look out for more details and the links to these events on the Reality Church Facebook page Methodist @HPReality Church or on Youtube: <https://tinyurl.com/hprealitychurch>.



Congratulations to our champion collector

Despite restrictions we have faced with the Poppy Appeal, the 2020 collection in the village has been fantastic

Alan Mabbott, a dedicated member of the Royal British Legion, put up a Poppy stall outside his house on Maldon Road. He wowed everyone with the display of Poppy products. Kept warm with frequent hot food provided by his wife, his daily appearances, suitably attired, was welcomed by many who enjoyed a chat.

Interviewed by BBC Essex, photographed many times and making a guest appearance on the Village Community Facebook page he raised, despite inclement weather, over £5,000 for the 2020 Poppy Appeal

A special thank you to Alan, along with Lizzie and Vanessa who made elaborate handmade poppies that went like ‘hot cakes’! And to Nicky Shelley for providing the Soldiers on the Green and at St. Andrew’s, surrounded by poppies made by her and other child-minding children, which many have appreciated.

Combined with other collections and fund raising finally brought the village total to £7,006, almost £2,000 more than last year.

Peter Archer, Poppy Appeal Organiser, writes ‘*May I thank everyone who was able to collect and to everyone who kindly donated towards the Poppy Appeal during these challenging times.*

And thank you too Peter, and your team who all do a wonderful job.

200 year birthday for Lovibond Almshouses in Maldon Road

Virginia Strange, Clerk to the Trustees

The Almshouses in Maldon Road will be 200 years old on 21 December 2020.

The building is statutorily listed Grade II and consists of four almshouses erected in 1820 for the reception of two aged married couples, and two aged single persons, either natives or very old inhabitants of this parish. They were endowed by Martha Lovibond in accordance with the wishes of her deceased daughter Harriet Catherine Lovibond under an indenture of 21 October 1820, establishing ‘The Hatfield Peverel invested Fund for aged Poor’.



Early in the 1990s the cottages were refurbished, the kitchen ranges were removed, central heating installed and the kitchens and bathrooms revamped. There was also discussion regarding the construction of further almshouses on the site.

Each cottage has one bedroom, sitting room, kitchen and a shower room. The kitchens, shower rooms and heating systems have recently been upgraded.



Hatfield Peveler St Andrew's Junior School

Becky Black, Headteacher

It has been so lovely to welcome our children and families back to school. It feels wonderful to see the school busy and full once more - the atmosphere around school is buzzing with lots of happy faces!

We have new processes and arrangements and the resilience of our St. Andrew's family has made us very proud. We have been so impressed with the way that all children have settled back into school. Their attitude and flexibility in accepting new rules and routines has been nothing short of brilliant!

We thank our families for being so supportive and helpful in making these changes so effective and have the impact that we need. Trying to socially distance at pick-up and drop-off isn't always easy, but we can see our whole school community trying to keep everyone as safe as we can. There have been one or two tweaks to some of our new processes and arrangements so we are grateful for everyone's patience.

Forest School Fun

Our children have been loving working in Forest School during the afternoons.

Watching them develop their skills of communication, negotiation, problem solving and resilience as they have tried to build dens, shelters and mastering using new tools is wonderful to watch.

Year Three

The children in Year 3 are settling so well into school – we are proud of how well they have adapted to Junior School life and are quickly learning the St. Andrew's Way.

Covid restrictions unfortunately don't allow for any trips out of school this term but our Year 4 children were really lucky to have a zoom meeting from The British Museum. The children found out what makes an object a 'treasure' which is if the object is more than 300 years old! They also used 'Kahoot' on a computer to answer a quiz which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Our Year 3 children were lucky to be immersed in their history topic with a fantastic day of 'all things Stone Age' with our Forest School Teacher (Justine) on the school site.

We learnt how to create our very own weapons, we used tools to knap 'flints' (soap) to create hand-axes and arrow-heads. Clay thumb pots were created and we used sticks and feathers to make patterns on them. We looked at art from the Stone Age and created artwork using mud and water. It was very messy but a lot of fun! In our 'Outdoor Classroom' we created dens from sticks and leaves – some were more waterproof than others!



The children's favourite activity was learning how to light a fire. The children learnt how to use a striker to create a spark, much like flint would have been used in the Stone Age. Some children were able to successfully start a fire this way, and one or two children managed the 'One Strike Challenge' and get their fire lit on the first strike!

Later this month, Year 5 will be enjoying an exciting workshop over Zoom with the astronomers from the Royal Observatory as part of their Science and Art learning.

We are adapting what we can in school so that our usual collective worships, PE and our weekly Shine Awards can still take place – albeit in a slightly different format!

A child in each class is chosen each week who has been spotted ‘shining’ in school – they will have shone in one of our core values,



Compassion, Achievement, Respect and Enjoyment. A photograph is sent home to each family as they can’t join us in person and shared via our weekly Newsletter.

We share here our ‘Shine Time Treat’ pictures that the children enjoyed at the end of half term. These ranged from pyjama and popcorn film fun, a year group quiz, freestyle art sessions and football matches!



We hope our whole community remains safe and well through the festive season and beyond. We wish you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas.



We now have a recycling bin behind the shed in our school driveway for old clothes, towels, sheets, blankets, shoes and sleeping bags. The school receives money for every item donated. Donations can be delivered to the bin on weekdays avoiding drop off (8.40-9.00am) and collection (3.00-3.15pm) times please.

Poets Corner - past and present

From Winter

*The frost is here,
And fuel is dear,
And woods are sear,
And fires burn clear,
and frost is here
And has bitten the heel of the going year.*

*Bite, frost bite!
You roll up away from the light
The blue wood-louse and the plump doormouse,
And the bees are stilled, and the flies are killed,
And you bite far into the heart of the house,
But not into mine.*

*Bite, frost bite!
The woods are all the searer,
The fuel is all the dearer,
The fires are all the clearer.*

*My spring is all the nearer,
You have bitten into the heart of the earth
But not mine.*

Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809 - 1892)

Like a beacon

*In London
every now and then
I get this craving
for my mother's food
I leave art galleries in search of plantains
salt fish/sweet potatoes*

I need this link

*I need this touch of home swinging my bag
like a beacon against the cold*

Grace Nichols (1950)

To our Hatty P supporters, a merry Christmas and Happy 2021 - xx Holly Butler, Marketing and Communication co-ordinator

As a result of the coronavirus outbreak and a second lockdown we have had to cancel many of our fundraising events, the charity will suffer a considerable loss of income. Of course Covid-19 is still at the forefront of all of our minds, but even once it has calmed down, cancer will still be there. We rely solely on donations, fundraising and money raised through our charity shops to continue operating our Support Centres.

Get into the Christmas spirit by purchasing our Helen Rollason Cancer Charity Christmas cards which are on sale now! Available in our Charity Shops, Support Centres and online. With lots of festive designs to choose from there is something to suit all tastes and at £3.95 for a pack of 10 they're a bargain too! Visit <https://www.helenrollason.org.uk/christmas-cards/> to purchase yours today! Or hopefully find them in our charity shops.

Fancy winning £500 cash while helping to support the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity?

Our Raffle draw is a fun and yet a valuable way in which to help our charity enable quality of life while living with cancer. By playing you can help secure the future of the Helen Rollason Cancer Charity. **On behalf of all our clients, therapists, volunteers, trustees and staff thank you in advance of your kind support and good luck!**

Our 2020 Winter Raffle with the chance to win fabulous prizes is so simple to play and you will be helping to enable quality of life while living with cancer.

Three exciting prizes to be won 1st prize - £500

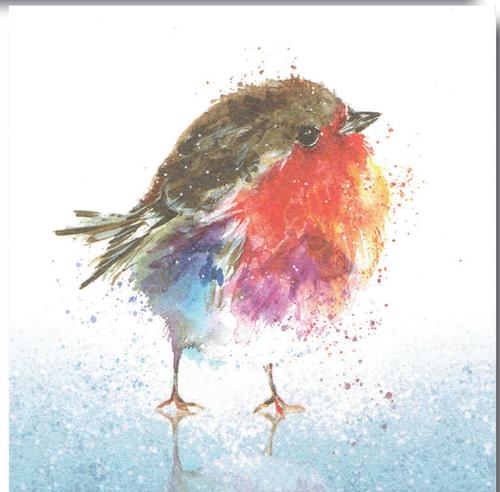
2nd prize - Private Virtual Wine Tasting (Burgundy tasting in your own home, for up to 6 people on a date in 2021 subject to availability)

3rd prize - Winter Tiptree Hamper

Tickets cost only £1 each and the closing date is Wednesday 27 January 2021.

To purchase your own tickets and be in with a chance of winning up to £500 simply visit <https://www.helenrollason.org.uk/2020/11/04/fancy-winning-500-cash-while-helping-to-support-the-charity/>. Alternatively you can pay over the phone by calling 01245 380719; lines are open 9am-5pm weekdays.

Winning tickets will be drawn at 12pm on Friday 29 January 2021 at Yvonne Stewart House, The Street, Hatfield Peverel.





**There for parents when
they need us most,
because childhood can't
wait**



Thank you for your wonderful generosity over the years in taking gifts for our Home-Start families to your Light of the World service. This is so appreciated.

This year our families need our support more than ever and yet the distribution of food and gifts for the children will be a real logistical challenge in the current pandemic situation.

Our staff and volunteers are working from home, providing support virtually and via the telephone and more recently also in outside family groups and one to one meetings outside. With the uncertainty surrounding further lockdowns we know we need to work differently this Christmas. We understand that your Light of the World service cannot take place and are asking for donations to be made in an alternative way if possible. If you would like to get involved and contribute to our Christmas donations for families, we suggest -

Gift vouchers for the following stores:
The Entertainer, Smyths Toy Stores, Waterstones or Argos
for children's gifts for Christmas
or gift vouchers for the supermarkets:
Tesco, Morrisons, Asda, Sainsburys for food for Christmas

These vouchers will either be distributed directly to families (£5, £10 and £20 being the easiest amounts for distribution) or a Home-Start Essex representative will be allocated a family to shop for and deliver any items purchased.

St Andrews Church will be open on Saturday 5th, Sunday 6th (and then Saturday 12th December in case you miss the first weekend) from 2 to 4pm for receipt of tokens and other gifts. (If you have already selected some other gift this would of course be valued). All Covid Prevention guidelines will be followed and there may simply be a box outside.

If you prefer you can post your voucher to Home-Start Essex, Unit 16D Reeds Farm Estate, Roxwell Road, Writtle, Chelmsford CM1 3ST, ideally by the 4th December 2020. If you would like to make a donation, please get in touch on 01245 847410 or email info@home-startessex.org.uk

01245 380359 or johnandanna.tomlins@btopeeworld.com for further information



THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Nursery News

This term has been an interesting one with parents leaving the children at the gate. The children have managed this really well and it has encouraged their independence.

We have had lots of new experiences this term. We celebrated Diwali by making Diya lamps and printing our own Rangoli patterns. We also enjoyed tasting Indian food for snack.

Christmas will be a little different this year, however we are looking forward to celebrating with the children.

We are now starting to prepare for Christmas. We are making Christmas calendars, Christmas cards and decorations. The children are practising their Christmas songs which I am sure they will sing to their families at home this year.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

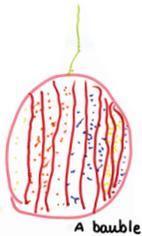
The nursery has an Ofsted rating of Good and is managed by Belinda Wakelin who has a BA Degree in Early Years and holds Early Years Professional Status with a well qualified team.

As well as nursery we run a before and after school for children up to the age of 8 years old. For availability of spaces please

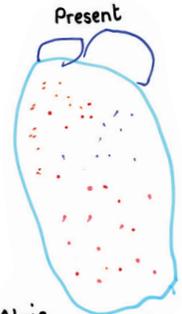
telephone 01245 382450



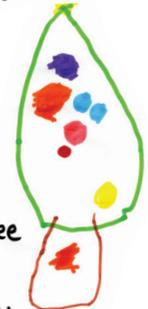
Lily



Daisy



Algie



Amelie

It's a Scarecrow Christmas

Have you noticed a great number of scarecrows around the village?: They're gathering for the Hatfield Peverel Christmas Scarecrow Trail 2020 so come and visit them between 19 and 26 December. (There are now 31 entries)

Vote for your favourite scarecrow and favourite scarecrow name. Returned votes will be entered into a prize draw to win a £10 Finley's sweet shop voucher.

Maps of where to find the scarecrows can be purchased, for £2, from 19 - 23 December, from the following addresses:
16 New Road (and from this address only 24 - 26 December)
49 New Road
5 Cutts Close.



Forever Finley is a charity set up in memory of Finley William Smith who died at 41 weeks to provide bereaved parents with 3D hand and foot castings of their angel babies free of charge.

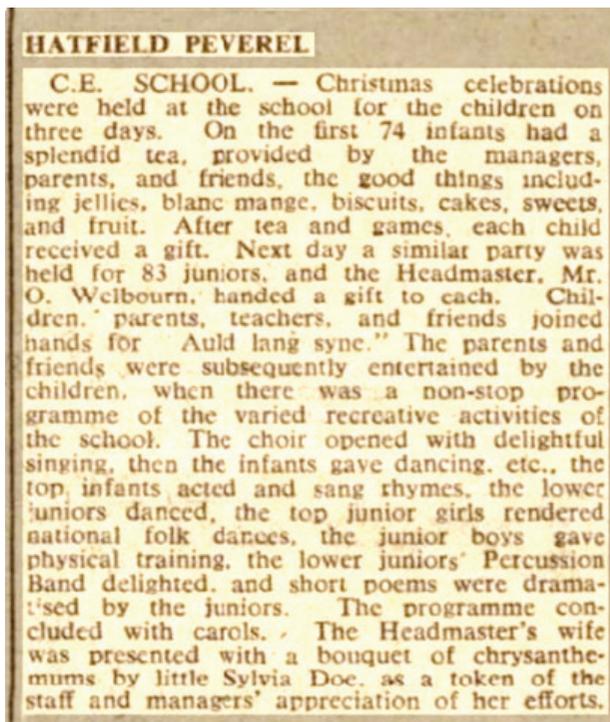


A most jolly time was had by all Christmas festivities at the village school, December 1941

by Margaret Freeman

Daily life between 1939 and 1945 was overshadowed by the Second World War. The nation was advised to 'keep calm and carry on'. Lessons continued at pace in Hatfield Peverel C of E School under the headship of Mr Oliver Welbourn. In December 1941, The Essex Newsman reported on Christmas celebrations held at the village school. A most jolly time was had by all.

Note: Newspaper article on the right is taken from The Essex Newsman, 27 December 1941, courtesy of the British Newspaper Archive. Helpful book reference is Joyce P Fitch, Hatfield Peverel School, its past with personal reflections (Hatfield Peverel, 2001) The following is the text of the article, with the majority of the report's capitalisation and punctuation marks retained.



C.E. School

"Christmas celebrations were held at the school for the children on three days. On the first 74 infants had a splendid tea, provided by the managers, parents, and friends, the good things including jellies, blanc mange, biscuits, cakes, sweets and fruit. After tea and games each child received a gift. Next day a similar party was held for 83 juniors, and the Headmaster, Mr. O. Welbourn, handed a gift to each. Children, parents, teachers, and friends joined hands for "Auld lang syne". The parents and friends were subsequently entertained by the children, when there was a non-stop programme of the varied recreative activities of the school. The choir opened with delightful singing, then the infants gave dancing, etc., the top infants acted and sang rhymes, the lower juniors danced, the top junior girls rendered traditional folk dances, the junior boys gave physical training, the lower juniors' Percussion Band delighted, and short poems were dramatised by the juniors. The programme concluded with carols. The Headmaster's wife was presented with a bouquet of chrysanthemums by little Sylvia Doe as a token of the staff and managers' as an appreciation of her efforts."

Hey Doc, have a look at this?

A mechanic was removing a cylinder head from the motor of a Honda when he spotted a well-known cardiologist in his shop. The cardiologist was waiting for the service manager to come and take a look at his car when the mechanic shouted across the garage, 'He Doc, take a look at this?'

The cardiologist, a bit surprised, walked over to where the mechanic was working.

The mechanic straitened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, 'So Doc, look at this engine. I opened its heart, took the valves out, repaired or replaced anything damaged and put everything back in. When I finished it worked just like new.. How is it that I make £20,000 a year and you £1 million when you and I are basically doing the same work?'

The cardiologist paused, leaned over and said 'Yes, try doing it when the engine is still running.'

Hatfield Peverel Parish Council

Committees and advisory groups

Community Events (C)
Community Park (CP), Environment (E)
Finance/General purposes (FGP),
Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP),
Personnel (P), Sport and Recreation (SR)
Traffic (T)

Councillors (and their advisory groups)

Planning matters are discussed at full Council

Sarah Gaeta, Parish Clerk 01245 382865
parishclerk@hatfieldpeverelpc.com

Mark Weale Chair (C/CP/FGP/P/SR) 01245 381726
cllrweale@hatfieldpeverelpc.com

David Broddle (CP/E/SR) 01245 382829
cllrbroddle@hatfieldpeverelpc.com

John Cockell (T co-opted Chair) 07940 217148
traffic@hatfieldpeverelpc.com

Charley Dervish Vice Chair (CP/P/SR/T)
cllrdervish@hatfieldpeverelpc.com 07809 687944

Marel Elliston (CP/E/P) 01245 380827
cllrelliston@hatfieldpeverelpc.com

Kevin Gallifant (CP/P/T) 01245 381850
cllrgallifant@hatfieldpeverelpc.com

Charlotte Greaves

Ted Munt (CP/E/FGP/NDP/SR) 01245 381135
cllrmunt@hatfieldpeverelpc.com

Mike Renow (NDP/CP) 01245 380071
cllrrenow@hatfieldpeverelpc.com

Linda Shaw (CP) 01245 382669
cllrshaw@hatfieldpeverelpc.com

Diane Wallace (C/CP/E/NDP/P) 01245 381485
cllrwallace@hatfieldpeverelpc.com

District Councillors

David Bebb 01245 381065
cllr.dbebb@braintree.gov.uk

Charley Dervish 07809 687944
cllr.cdervish@braintree.gov.uk

County Councillor

Derrick Louis 07967 830277
cllr.derrick.louis@essex.gov.uk



Aluminium cans collection

Many thanks to villagers and friends who have responded by taking their used aluminium drinks cans and trays to the Green Recycling bin at the Scout HQ in Church Road.

Alan has now emptied the bin three times and taken the cans to Green Recycling in Maldon to raise much needed funds for the EHAAT. Please keep them coming - but remember no food or fruit cans please, only aluminium.

It would also help with collections if you are able to crush the cans first.

Call Andy Simmonds on 01245 381020 if you have any questions.

Wine Club quiz (page 10) answers

A - Advocaat; B - Bishop Nick; C - Calvados; D - Drambuie; E - Elderberry; F - Fiano; G - Guinness; H - Hops; I - Ice wine; J - Juniper; K - Kabinett; L - Lambic; M - Magners; N - New Yorker; O - Oloroso; P - Pears; Q - Quinine; R - Rufina; S - Scrumpy; T - Tempranillo; U - Uisge-beatha; V - Vodka; W - White Lightning; X - Ximenez; Y - Yquem; Z - Zinfandel

Useful telephone numbers

Please contact the editors for additions/errors.

Age UK Essex 01245 346106

Anglian Water, 24 hours 0800 919 155

Braintree District Council 01376 552525

Clean Team ring number above and ask for

Customer Services

Witham Area Office in Witham Library

- for walk-in enquiries only

Churches

St Andrew's (C of E), vicar 01245 380958

Methodist Church, minister 01621 853423

Catholic Church, Witham, priest 01376 512219

All Saints Church, Ulting 01245 380627

Citizens Advice Bureau Witham 0344 4994719

Monday to Friday 10am - 4pm

Doctors, health services

Hatfield Peverel doctors' surgery 01245 380324

NHS - non-emergency helpline 111

Pharmacy, Hadfelda Square 01245 380130

Electricity - emergency 0800 7838838

Essex County Council 01245 492211

Essex & Suffolk Water 24 hours 0845 7820999

Gas - emergency 0800 111999

Harlequin Children's Centre 0300 2470014

Free support and services for children under 5

Home-Start 01245 847410

email info@home-startessex.org.uk

Hospitals

Broomfield (A&E); 01245 362000

St Peters, Maldon 01621 725323

Libraries (enquiry line) 0345 6037628

Hatfield Peverel

Tuesday, Thursday 1 - 5pm

Wednesday, Saturday 9am - 1pm

Witham - use enquiry line above

Police Non-emergency calls 101

Use 101 also for the local officer

Emergency calls 999

Police Stations, Braintree, Chelmsford

Opening hours, Monday - Saturday, 12.00 to 6pm

Post Office 01245 382787

Open 7am - 10pm, last collection 4.30pm

Railway Information

Greater Anglia 03456 007245

National Rail Enquiries (24 hrs) 03457 484950

Registrar of Births, Marriages & Deaths

Witham, by appointment only 03456 037632

Braintree, by appointment only 03456 037632

The Change Project 01245 258680

Personnel well-being through 08453 727701

positive change

Samaritans (24 hours - toll free) 08457 909090

Schools

St Andrew's Junior School 01245 380131

Hatfield Peverel Infant School 01245 380220

Hatfield Peverel Day Nursery 01245 382450

Charlotte Greaves 07527 763038

Social Services 0345 6037630

Community Agent for Hatfield Peverel

Jan Hawkins 07540 720605

Office 01376 574330

Village hall 01245 381481

Let us know of useful services to add to this list

Maldon Film Club

Maldon Town Hall

www.maldonfilmclub.info, or visit Maldon

Tourist Office, phone 01621 869340

The Club meets in Maldon Town Hall fortnightly on a Wednesday. Enjoy a night out watching films from best of recent English and foreign language releases. Doors open 7.15pm, wine/soft drinks from 7.30pm, films begin at 8pm.

Wednesday 19 February Stan and Ollie

English 98 minutes. Triumphant farewell tour.

Wednesday 4 March Border

Swedish 110 minutes. Drama, fantasy, romance

Wednesday 18 March Free Solo

English 100 minutes. Climber's dream is to ascent a 3,000ft rock cliff in Yosemite National Park

Wednesday 1 April Apostasy

Urdu/English 95 minutes. Drama written and directed by a former Jehovah's Witness

Hatfield Peverel Library

We would like to send best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to everyone. We hope to see you over the festive season and in coming months if things get better. If you have a query you can ring the enquiry line on 0345 6037628.

Longfield Solar Farm - right solution - wrong place?

Every household will have received a preliminary public consultation booklet from Longfield Solar Energy Farm Ltd inviting initial comments from residents regarding a proposal to install ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (pv) panels with associated battery storage, control gear and connection to the National Grid within an area of around 380 hectares (940 acres) of land lying between Boreham Road (Boreham to Great Leighs) and Terling Hall Road, extending from the A12/railway to just south of Fuller Street, predominantly in Boreham and Terling parishes, but with some in Hatfield Peverel. This would be a very large installation, one of the biggest in the country. Its purpose is to contribute to the UK's goal of achieving net zero carbon (CO₂) emissions by 2050. The science on the part that atmospheric CO₂ plays in global heating is settled: the debate is now how to achieve the 2050 goal. (Many say 2050 is too unambitious, we should be aiming for 2030!)

A local group opposed to this scheme has set up a website - <https://notolongfield.info/> in response to the concerns of a number of residents of the affected areas. It is not opposed to solar farms in general, they are part of the solution, but specifically this one because of its scale and use of prime agricultural land.

We don't have the space here to say much more at this stage. Visit the group's website for the information it gives about the scheme and the reasons for opposition to it. You are encouraged to submit your views in Longfield's consultation document, which must be with them **by 14 December**.

Note: this item does not necessarily represent the views of the parish council which is currently considering its own response.

Poet's Corner

Handbag

*My mother's old leather handbag,
crowded with letters she carried
all through the war. The smell
of my mother's handbag: mints
and lipstick and Coty powder.
The look of those letters, softened
and worn at the edges, opened,
read, and refolded so often.
Letters from my father: Odour
of leather and powder, which ever
since then has meant womanliness,
and love, and anguish and war.*

Ruth Fainlight (1931)

Love without hope

*Love without hope, as when the young bird-catcher
Swept off his hat to the Squire's own daughter,
So let the imprisoned larks escape and fly
Singing about her head, as she rode by.*

Robert Graves (1895 - 1985)

