

Hatfield Peverel

Review

296 - December 2023





Hatfield Peverel Review

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

The editors are Jackie and Ken Earney. Contributions to 59 Willow Crescent, by email to keneaney@hotmail.com or by phoning 01245 381235.

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Front cover: Infant & Nursery Schools pumpkin competition - see page 19

Back cover: Terling Hall Road, November. Courtesy of Chris Butcher' .

The Review - its evolution

Ken Earney

Back in 1973 the new Parish Council had fresh ideas - our own newsletter separate from the church parish magazine. Martin Voysey and Bob Mountfort, with advice from Eric Windus, Catherine Voysey and others, determined its size and format, christening it The Review. Initially, with input previously gone in to the parish magazine, they sought content from other individuals and organisations in the village. Beeleigh Litho of Stepfield in Witham was chosen as printer. The first three editions were edited by the group in 1973.

After three editions they realised they needed an experienced editor. Bob Mountfort, a Marconi employee, knew Jackie was on the editorial staff of the Marconi house magazine. From that connection she came on board to edit the publication from number 4 in January to the present day.

Hot metal print technology 'out of the arc' in those days, typeset by Dave Boden, his printed proofs assembled into sheets and then photographed across the road and printed on a linotype press by Beeleigh's Alan South and Steve Willis.

I came on board as technical assistant in the early '90s. My job at Marconi's in Basildon was declared redundant in September 1992 and during a 12 week settlement period I was given free run of our training centre to acquire very basic IT skills (MS-DOS). During the subsequent 3 years in and out of work we bought a PC, I attended an office technology skills course which included desktop publishing. Then Beeligh's ownerrAlan South, by then based in the Beckingham Trading Estate in Tolleshunt Major contacted us and suggested we should start producing the Review in digital form ourselves. We did, the first home-grown edition number 130 appearing in December 1995. A nightmare, a tale too long to relate here. Subsequently, it became progressively easier, although Jackie begs to differ.

Following Alan's premature death Steve took over the company but he decided being a proprietor wasn't for him and sold the business to Kempco in Witham. Since that time, with advances in our and Kempco's technology we've had successful relationship with them. I value greatly the technical help I've had from Steve, now retired, Dave Mears and Eddie Joseph, the man at the sharp end, not forgetting Paul Gardener, the boss.

A Christmas greeting to you all

Tonight the festive season is far away, but before we completely lose the plot, we want you to know that our years on The Review have been interesting, great fun and to say the least, as now, sometimes nerve-wracking (nervewrecking?). I'm the optimist often saying I'd a good feeling that we would get it out in good time. He's a realist - nuff said. A patchy record after fifty years perhaps. Back then, three weeks from our typed pages to the printer to output returned from them 2-3 weeks later. Now, typically 2-3 days for output from Kempco.

He found my article in December's 1995 edition, our first venture into the digital world. It had been a nightmare to complete! Misguidedly I persuaded him, very much against his better nature, that we should do the typesetting and graphics on a recently acquired Pagemaker package - new technology, a foray into the 1990s. It had proved more difficult than we thought, articles cropped or left out (nothing different there).

The end of The Review - and good luck to those who follow on

Cllr Mark Weale, Chairman of Hatfield Peverel Parish Council

In this, the final edition of 'The Review', as edited by Jackie and Ken Earney, we take a moment to reflect on the remarkable journey this community magazine has embarked upon, thanks to the tireless dedication of its editors.. For half a century, this dynamic duo has been the backbone of our community, delivering stories, updates and insights that have connected us and enriched our lives.

Jackie and Ken have not just been editors; they've been our storytellers, our communicators, and our historians, weaving together the fabric of our village life through the pages of 'The Review'. Their unwavering commitment to this publication has played a pivotal role in our community's growth and cohesion.

For five decades, they have chronicled our joys and sorrows, our achievements and challenges. They have captured the spirit of Hatfield Peverel, sharing memories and nurturing our sense of belonging. Their words and photographs have painted a vivid picture of the life we value.

But what is most extraordinary about their service is that it was voluntary. Their dedication was not motivated by profit or prestige; it was fuelled by a genuine love for our community and an unwavering commitment to fostering a spirit of togetherness.

Now as they pass the baton to new generations of community storytellers, we pause to say a heartfelt 'thank you'. Your dedication, your countless hours of work, your passion, and your love for our village are immeasurable.

However, 'The Review' would not have reached every home in our village without the support of Ron and Marel Elliston, who took on the tremendous task of distributing the magazine over the years. Their tireless efforts ensured that 'The Review' reached every corner of Hatfield Peverel and Nounsley, making it a true community endeavour. We also extend our gratitude to those who have volunteered over the years, dedicating their time to ensure a copy of 'The Review' found its way to every home in the village. Your collective efforts have been essential in fostering a sense of community and connection.

This is not the end; it's a new beginning. The Parish Council will soon launch a new e-magazine in early 2024, ensuring that our community remains connected and informed. The legacy of 'The Review' will live on, but we can never replace the unique imprints left by Jackie and Ken, and all the dedicated volunteers.

So, let's take a moment to celebrate their extraordinary journey and to wish them the happiest of retirements. We will miss 'The Review', but we are eternally grateful for the gift it has been. It is a tribute to the power of the community, and the legacy of these incredible individuals will be etched in the history of Hatfield Peverel.

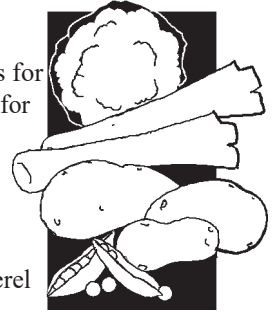
Thank you Mark for these wonderful words and to everyone else who has complimented us! We're sorry we hadn't the space to include all your messages. Quarts into pint pots!

Allotment, growing news, and a big thank you

'Autumn is the season to find contentment at home by paying attention to and giving thanks for what we already have.'

The Autumn custom of Thanksgiving. Thirteen of 195 countries or 6.5% of them specifically celebrate this concept of gratitude. Many other cultures offer thanks for crops, opportunities, families, and friends. We at the allotments (HPAA) give thanks for our harvest of home-grown, chemical-free produce every autumn.

As usual, after battles with nature, lack of time and other excuses we are shocked and surprised by a welcome bounty that our efforts have generated. Unfortunately, thieves invaded both sites and stole precious crops nurtured by our gardeners. This dreadful stain on the village's reputation has been reported to the police. Hatfield Peverel is a great village but for a tiny regrettable minority.



You may wish to experience this bounty for yourself: although allotment gardening can be frustrating and satisfying on many levels, why not give it a go. With Autumn the best time to get a head start on a new year, check our waiting list now at membermojo.co.uk/hpaa

Some tips:

1. Clean up rotting and finished plants and invasive weeds: Give yourself a clean fresh start.
2. Harvest and regenerate your compost: material composted over the summer is ready to go. Top up garden beds, lawns, or pathways – result, lovely soil for spring planting.
3. Prepare your soil for spring: dig in manure, compost, bone meal now so they will break down and begin enriching your soil. Think, Plan, Prepare, Anticipate next season.
4. Clean and sharpen tools: no time in the summer, but now – wash, remove rust, sharpen, and rub with an oiled rag to give them new life
5. Enjoy a much-needed rest from tending our gardens and dealing with Mother Nature's moods. The pastime we love so much must be put on hold as we evaluate/celebrate success and plan for better results in the coming year.

Our sincere appreciation

On behalf of the Hatfield Peverel Allotment Association, it's committee and members, we offer our thanks and congratulations to the long-time editors of the HPPC Review, Jackie and Ken Earney..Since 1974, Jackie and then Ken have invested 50 years of their lives ensuring the people of Hatfield Peverel had a bi-monthly update of all local organisations, and activities and news associated with them. 50 YEARS? Wow! What a commitment. 100 hours per year or 2 hours per week is thought to be a huge service pledge. With 3 to 5 years as time generously served. But 50 years, speaks for another level of devotion. Gave up the allotment, not so tasty veg but good weeds. For this and much more that they both did, we at the allotments offer our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to you both. Well done our good and trusted friends.

"Winter is an etching, spring a watercolour, summer an oil painting, and autumn a mosaic of them all."
and *'Fall has always been my favourite season. The time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale.'*

We at the allotments wish you readers a continued safe, healthy, and successful balance of the lovely winter season, a great and Happy Family Christmas and a resounding year in 2024!

The last of food from our garden. A handful of non-stringy runner beans - looked scruffy but tasty - and several chewed Bramley apples of all shapes and sizes. We couldn't reach them but had

lots of helpers: (not human) squirrels, jackdaws, Percy the peacock (scraps on the ground and herbs, do not love him for this or droppings!) and all smaller birds.

Wildlife champions out in force

Donna Goddard, Urban Wildlife Champion, Hatfield Peverel
Wildlife-champion@hatfieldpeverelpc.com; 01245 382550

I have been delighted to see some familiar and some new faces at our recent volunteering sessions! We have planted bluebells, wild daffodils and snowdrop bulbs in the cemetery and weeded, pruned and removed two car loads of plastic tree guards from hedging in Stonepath Meadow. We have also been modelling our fabulous new Hatfield Peverel Wildlife Champions hi-vis vests.

We meet regularly from 9am-11am on the second Saturday and the fourth Friday of each month, although we will be breaking that pattern in December when we will be planting hedging whips on the borders of Stonepath Meadow and in the Keith Bigden Memorial Ground on 12 and 13 December. The meeting place and tools required are published on the Hatfield Peverel Wildlife Champions Facebook page and on the Parish Council website at www.hatfieldpeverelpc.com/wilder-village/ or you can call or email me for details.

Come and join us working on wildlife friendly projects around the village. It's a great way to get out in the fresh air, have fun, meet people and help to make the village a little better for wildlife and for our community!

Big Wild Seed Sow

Many thanks to those villagers who collected packs of wildflower seeds from the Village Hall Coffee Lounge to take part in Essex Wildlife Trust's Big Wild Seed Sow. The scheme has finished but hopefully we will now have a few more havens for those all important pollinators in the village next summer. If you haven't yet logged your wildflower patch on the Big Wild Seed Sow map, you can still do so at www.essexwt.org.uk/get-involved/campaign/big-wild-seed-sow - I can only see three sites in Hatfield Peverel for 2023 and 40 packs of seeds were collected. **Many thanks to all for your support and enthusiasm.**

Finally a big thankyou to Jackie and Ken for their work on The Review. What a fantastic contribution you have made to the village!

Join our Horticultural Society!

Clive Emberson, vice chairman 01245 380448,
07771 539938

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new residents in the village and to introduce you to our Horticultural Society. The name may sound a little highbrow but in reality we are a group of locals who organise various garden-related events during the year: Spring and Autumn Flower Shows are open to anyone to enter - classes include flowers, fruit and vegetables, cookery, handicrafts and photography. We also organise visits to local gardens.

If this Review is out early do come to our AGM and Christmas gathering on 30 November at 8pm St Andrews church hall. It will mean refreshments!



From left - Kimberley, Luke, Marel, Linda, Ted and Pat

Our annual Year Book and Schedules for 2024 are being prepared and you can get a copy from Upsons Farm Shop in February. The Spring Show is always in April, you can get busy now.

Dreaming of Yorkshire

Our annual summer break next year on 7 July (five days, four nights) is to East Riding, based in a 4* hotel in Willoughby on the outskirts of Kingston-upon-Hull. All transport, dinner, b&b, admissions and a couple of lunches as per usual. Cost: double/twin £565, single £675. £50 deposit per person is required at time of booking. Visits will include a tour of Beverley Minster and to Hornsea Folk Museum on our way home.

For more information contact Clive on the numbers above.

Parish Council December 2023

Sarah Gaeta, Parish Clerk; Carly Truman, Assistant Clerk.

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 01245 382865 or email parishclerk@hatfieldpeverelpc.com between the hours of 9am and 1pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.



Christmas in the Park

We look forward to welcoming you all to our Christmas event on Sunday 10 December at the Village Hall from 1pm until 6pm, where you can listen to St Andrew's Junior School and Hatfield Peverel Infant School choirs, browse the craft stalls inside the hall and be entertained by the close-up magician! Face painting and children's crafts will be available too.

Why not ring Santa's bell and enjoy gin, mulled wine and hot chocolate from our outside stalls, or have a ride on the amusements! Entry is free with a small charge for Santa's Grotto (pre-booked tickets only). The bar and coffee lounge inside the hall will be open from 1pm. Follow our social media pages for further updates.

Please note that parking will only be available at the Village Hall for blue badge holders.

Village Noticeboards

If you have any community notices that you would like displayed on the Parish Council's noticeboards, please deliver them to the Parish Council office at the Village Hall where staff will arrange this. Notices that will be displayed must be of benefit or interest to the community. Commercial advertising will not be permitted, and all notices will be displayed at the discretion of the Clerk or Assistant Clerk.

Crime Concerns

Please remember you can call 101 for crime prevention advice or to report a crime that does not need an emergency response. It is very important to report crime to the Police so that they can build up a 'picture' of what is happening in the area.

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

The Parish Council considered the following applications at its October Planning Committee meeting, with no objections (unless otherwise indicated):

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 23/PG36 23/02233/FUL | Erection of detached log cabin to rear of garden to be used as a beauty salon at 18 Birkdale Rise, Hatfield Peverel. |
| 23/PG37 23/02269/LBC | Installation of secondary glazing to 9 windows at 2 The Limes, The Street, Hatfield Peverel. |
| 23/PG38 23/02236/TP | Tree works at The Ruslings, The Street, Hatfield Peverel. |
| 23/PG39 23/02239/TPO | Tree works at 53 Willow Crescent, Hatfield Peverel. |

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

X (formerly known as Twitter): @HatPevPC

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

<https://www.hatfieldpeverelpc.com/policies-and-procedures/social-media-policy/>

The next Parish Council meetings will take place on Monday 8 January and Monday 5 February 2024 in the Vic Olley Room at the Village Hall. Public participation is welcome, please see the agenda which is published on the Parish Council website and on the noticeboard outside the Parish Council office.

We wish you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and best wishes for 2024

NDP report December 2023

The six week Regulation 16 Consultation finished on Friday 3 November. Thank you to everyone who submitted comments on the reviewed Neighbourhood Development Plan. Thank you again to the Coffee Lounge and the Doctors surgery for having hard copies of the NDP documents for viewing.

Braintree District Council has advised approximately 50 comments were received which will be submitted to the Examiner along with all the reviewed documentation and evidence base.

The closing date for quotes by examiners was 17 November. BDC will consult with the Parish Council on which examiner to appoint. The examination is anticipated to be carried out relatively quickly.

A further update will be provided in due course.

A12 widening update

Ron Elliston

An enquiry held by the Examining Authority into the proposed widening application of National Highways was concluded on 12 July and on 12 October The Planning Inspectorate issued its report, to the Secretary of State, recommending approval of the scheme.

The Secretary of State now has until 12 January 2024 to consult and then issue his final decision.

The start of A12 dualling for Hatfield Peverel - a view of the dualling works in the early 1970s taken from the River Ter crossing section and looking towards the village. The nearest bridge in the view is that carrying Bury Lane over the new road. On the right, just visible beyond the lorry is the bottom gateway to Hatfield Place.

Thank you to Sheila Dawson for lending us the photograph.



Make it 'good morning, how are you today?' Help your community grow

Catherine Etheridge

You may remember some of your relatives going on a free holiday to Ilfracombe organised by myself and Barbara Jones who lived in Willow Crescent. Barbara worked for a charity in the City of London and during a break in jobs I was invited to become part of the team. I became a courier/tour manager in a few of their holidays for lonely, vulnerable older people.

I saw how loneliness and isolation affected their mental health, we had cases where it took a week to get someone to smile. When doing my Masters degree with the Open University one of the first books I had to read was 'The Uses of Literacy' by Richard Hoggart, a two part book which looked at life and culture in an area of Leeds before WW2 and changes happening after the war.



A recent meeting of EMC in the village hall. This social club meets every Wednesday from 1pm to 3pm, everyone is welcome. Refreshments are available

Communities in the thirties were close whilst in the fifties things were beginning to fall apart. Today there is even less community spirit. At the recent opening of the new recreation area in our village, the Deputy Sheriff of Essex and Fatima Whitbread both spoke of the importance of community and feeling of inclusiveness. So many older people, and indeed younger people, have become isolated and lonely as services become less and less. Some have no family nearby to call in regularly, Day centres have closed, where care is needed the visits are very brief. Opportunities for days out get less and less. They are stuck with day time TV which to say the least is pretty uninspiring for someone lonely. It doesn't take long to find the disastrous effects that isolation and loneliness can have on someone's health and wellbeing online and just how many people end up visiting their GP because of it. **TV can never replace human contact and having a cuppa and a chat.**

If you have an older neighbour you haven't seen around for while, why not give them a knock to say 'hello'. it could make someone's day and make them feel connected with the outside world. A 'good morning' and 'how are you' can make a world of difference and may help them avoid a GP visit.

On the following page there are many delights to enjoy, arranged by the lovely people in the Village Hall. There are cups of tea and coffee, cool drinks ,cakes - and lunches are a treat.

Sing Club is good for you!

Welcome to the community Sing Club now open in the Village Hall on Mondays in the Vic Olley room, just off the coffee shop, 10 - 11am.

Socialise, have fun, sing your favourite songs (themes will be chosen for the following week by club members). No regular commitment, no singing experience and nobody needs to be able

to read music. We will be carrying out some fun warm-up activities and then learn a couple of songs each week, with harmonies for those who want to have a go at them. The group is open to all regardless of age and ability. **The first session will cost £1 and following sessions will be £5.**

Next meetings 4, 11, 18 December, 8,15, 22 January 2024.. Led by David H.

Exciting times at the Village Hall – new clubs and December fun

Paul Goddard

Celebrate in December with music from Queenage (Saturday 2nd) and The ELO Encounter (Saturday 9th); Christmas in the Park with Santa's grotto on Sunday 10th; Christmas Quiz on Sunday 17th and our Panto: Cinderella on Saturday 23rd. As usual, we have Bingo on the 1st Friday of the month on 1 December.

We welcome four new groups to the hall – The Methodist Church (Sunday mornings); Stitch to Enrich (1st and 3rd Thursday 2-4pm); Sing Club (Mondays 10-11am) and Everybody Move Bootcamp (Wednesdays 6:30-7:30pm). We've also re-started the Film Club on the last Tuesday of the month from 2pm. **To find out more about these activities, go to our website at www.hatpevvhall.org and look at the clubs page for more information.**

We have a fantastic range of activities and clubs for children, Hot Steps dance; Kazen Kai Karate; Tuesday Toddler Time; Little City; New Naw; Trainmaster; and Arts and Crafts for Children with needs. There's plenty for adults too, Table Tennis; Badminton; Latin Dance; Dancercise; Dog Training; Country Dancing with the Caledonian Society and more. The Coffee Lounge is open every day from 9-5, Sundays 10-4 and has some fantastic breakfast and lunch options as well as lovely cakes, tea, coffee, and ice creams. Check out the clubs page on our website, follow our Facebook page, join the mailing list and see our weekly diary summary below.

Help us put on more activities for the community; - we'd love to run Bridge and Card games, a Youth Cub and a dining club, but need your help to get these up and running. If you can spare an hour or two each week or want to join the management committee, please get in touch with an email to secretary@hatpevvhall.org or call us on 0300 102 0473.

Thank you to the Parish Council for their recent sponsorship of the hall in terms of funding for improvements we need to make at the hall – you'll see improvements to the hall paths, lighting, and heating soon. In 2024 we plan to install solar panels, improve the hall insulation to help the heating and reduce our electricity and gas bills which went up 4-fold in 2023!

Events Diary - December

Friday 1st	Bingo
Saturday 2nd	Music: Queenage
Sunday 3rd	A Christmas Carol recital (charity event)
Saturday 9th	Music: The ELO Encounter
Sunday 10th	Christmas in the Park with Santa's Grotto
Sunday 17th	Christmas Quiz (in aid of Farleigh Hospice)
Saturday 23rd	Panto: Cinderella



We would like to thank to Ken and Jackie Earney for their 50 years of service to the community producing the Hatfield Peverel Review and wish them a happy retirement.

Information and Contacts

All details on our website (www.HatPevVHall.org), on the village hall noticeboards and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/hatfieldpeverelvillagehall.

Stay in touch by signing up to our mailing list (click the link on the website home page or scan the code above). For event tickets and room bookings, book in-person on Monday afternoons in the Community Café between 2:30 and 4:30pm (Tuesday if Monday is a bank holiday), email bookings@hatpevvhall.org or call the Box office/room bookings number 0300 102 0473.

Public footpaths - forthcoming issues

Richard Alston, footpaths@hatfieldpeverelpc.org

Three of our footpaths will be affected by work on them in the coming year.

Nounsley to Letch's Corner, Maldon Road - FP23

Actually before the end of this year, the path is scheduled for closure at the Maldon Road end for two days, 20 and 21 December, to allow UKPN to install a 3-phase electricity supply to one of the properties close to its junction with Maldon Road. During the closure the diversion will be either by Jenkins Lane or Maldon Rd. It's possible adverse weather could delay its start so be warned if you're planning to walk it over the Christmas period. Starting from the Nounsley Play area it's a lengthy round trip if you find you can't proceed beyond the kissing-gate by the Letch's Corner horse paddock.

Recreation Ground to Laburnum Way - FP18

The tender process for repairs to the path has completed (three quotations were required) and is now going through approval with BDC and ECC, with work to take place in 2024. This path will have to be closed during the work, so please look out for updates nearer the time. There are various alternative routes depending on your destination.

Scout and Guide HQ to Sportsmans Lane - FP7

The tender process for drainage work to resolve the flooding issue has completed. Again, three quotations were required, now going through approval with BDC and ECC, with work to take place in the New Year or early Spring depending on access to site. The path will be closed for the work to take place with a diversion across adjacent fields, coming out a little further along Sportsmans Lane.

There will no longer be a Review to give you updates. In the first instance contact me on the above email address or the newly appointed role of Parish Council Communications Officer in the New Year. Also visit the Parish Council website and Facebook pages; <https://www.facebook.com/hatfieldpeverelpc/>

WEA - Spring Term

Next term's course 'Disease and History' with Roger Cooke, starts on Tuesday 23 January, 10am in the Scout HQ. To enrol, go to wea.org.uk/courses. In the search box at the top use the course code - Q00012248 - or Hatfield Peverel Branch.

Until very recently we were perhaps unaware of the way diseases have changed the course of human history. The course discusses a variety of examples of diseases, how they have had an impact on society through affecting whole populations to key individuals, and moments of our past. Examples include the Black Death, the impact of Typhus on Napoleon's armies, and the death of Prince Arthur from the Sweating Sickness, all of which have a wider consequence for human society as a whole.

Overall we will look at how attitudes at the time towards disease and life in general have affected how disease was seen by those whom it affected.

Everyone is welcome, for more information, please contact Lesley Naish on 01245 380837.



We have said goodbye to tutor Bill Tamblyn and the 'Beatles', revisiting the beauty and complexity of their music and how they influenced us all. A fascinating programme. Bill covered their development after bursting onto the popular music scene in the early '60s (who now remembers Frankie Laine or Johnnie Ray, a couple of those from my schooldays?) - their influences - blues, jazz, rock and roll, rhythm and blues, the list goes on - and how they influenced others - have I missed anything? He played numerous examples of the points he was making.

We've liked their music from the start but I am ashamed to say neither of us have a single record - Bill has certainly convinced us that we ought to go out and do so. Ken Earney



Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 12 November I had the honour to have been chosen as one of the sixteen King's Scouts Working Party, to be part of the Guard of Honour at the National Act of Remembrance at the Cenotaph in Whitehall London, being the Guard of Honour to HM the King, members of the Royal Family as well as Political Leaders, Religious Leaders and Commonwealth Representatives.

I was also chosen as one of three to lay the Wreaths from the Parade to honour those who have served and died. It was an honour to be chosen and a day I will never forget. Lest we forget.

Kira Jarvis Cub Scout Team Member



Outside the Village Hall the short service on 23 October marked the beginning of the period of Remembrance. From left right, around the poppy wreath are Kevin Gallifant, Mark Weale, Alan Mabbutt and Margaret Freeman - photo Ron Elliston

News from St Andrews

It is almost Christmas. Shops are stocked, adverts playing, people are purchasing. The decorations are up down the high street, the time of excess is upon us. Many will eat too much, spend too much. The majority won't give a mince tart for spiritual reflection. But that's very different for us."

Not my words but a quote from what might be called the manual for grumpy vicars! They betray a desire to 'get back to basics as if that meant there should be no celebration. Oliver Cromwell tried to ban Christmas in the 17th century- unsuccessfully. I believe the world can actually teach us a thing or two about Christmas.

For instance, the world has been preparing for months for this season. Back in June I heard someone say, 'It's only xxxx days to Christmas.' But what we are celebrating is the coming of God into our world, so surely we should be preparing just as assiduously as anyone else.

Let us look back for a moment. Remembrance Sunday was celebrated with due solemnity in both our churches at 10.30am (see Fr. Derek's description of the All Saints observance). I would like to thank everyone who took part in the service at St Andrews, to Peter Archer and Mathais for organising it in cooperation with myself, the British Legion, and the uniformed organisations for their part in making this day a worthy tribute to those who have given (and are still giving) their lives for our country.

Looking forward, you will find service times for St Andrews and All Saints, from Advent Sunday to Christmas Day in the enclosed Christmas Card. Other events include a concert by Witham Choral on Saturday 2 December (see posters and flyers) at 6pm. It will feature well-known carols sung by the audience, some specifically choir carols, set within Haydn's St Nicholas Mass. Tickets (£12) from the Vicar) if you do not want to go online, or on the door. Our Christmas Coffee morning is the same day

Please keep the Christmas card handy and come and celebrate God's greatest gift of all; his Son Jesus Christ. Through his sharing of our human nature, he has shown that he is not a remote, disinterested God, but one who understands, who wants to draw close to us, in our joys and our sorrows. These are indeed 'tidings of great joy', something that we need to hear again in these uncertain times.

Saturday 6 January: Coffee Morning: 10am to midday.

Sunday 7 January: Mattins (Morning Prayer) at 10.15am.

Sunday 14 January: All-Age Service at 10.15am in St Andrews.

Sunday 21 January: Parish Eucharist at 10.15am.

Sunday 28 January: Parish Eucharist at 10.15am.

Braintree and Witham Foodbank – from Advent Sunday to the 17 December we are focussing our efforts on the foodbank. If you have any offerings and the church is shut, please leave them with me at the Vicarage.

Finally a happy and prosperous New Year to the people of Hatfield Peverel.



Home-Start Essex aims to give children the best possible start in life by supporting parents and caregivers to feel less isolated, develop confidence in themselves and their parenting and find ways to manage the challenges they face. Helping families to help themselves during the Early Years makes a long-lasting difference and sometimes the smallest change can make the biggest impact.

Home-Start would really appreciate monetary gifts or vouchers to spend on their families over Christmas, and gifts for children under 2 would also be helpful. These can be brought to either churches in the services during Advent or at the Light of the World Service on Christmas Eve when our offerings will be blessed. **Home-Start helps families to help themselves and we too can help.**

.... from All Saints, Ulting



All Saints was beautifully decorated for the annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service and the congregation were most generous with their donations for the food bank. We can never take for granted the food we eat when there are so many in our own area and around the world who do not proper meals every day. Harvest Thanksgiving is an appropriate occasion in the Church calendar for us to give thanks for what we have and acknowledge the needs of those less fortunate.

With this in mind, the Braintree Foodbank has particularly asked for the following:-

Tinned cold meat, nappies size 3 and 6, tinned fish, washing up liquid, tinned fruit, toothpaste, tinned tomatoes, deodorant, squash

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so generously to our Food Box.

The weather was very kind to Matthew and Rebecca for their marriage at All Saints and the rain clouds held back just about long enough for them to enjoy their special day. The church was full with their friends and family and the singing was magnificent! Prayers and blessings to Matthew and Rebecca and their family and friends.

The weather wasn't quite so accommodating for the Remembrance Sunday Service and the heavens opened just as the Service ended and the congregation walked up to the War Memorial at the top of the lane. However, the rain did not deter those who gathered round to listen to the names of the men of Ulting who died during hostilities being read out and two minutes' silence was observed before everyone walked back to the Church where some very welcome hot soup was being served up together with rolls and cakes.

Looking forward to Christmas, the annual Carols by Candlelight Service will be held on Sunday 10 December at 4pm. There will be no 9am Service that morning but everyone is welcome to come along in the afternoon to join in singing favourite carols and to hear Bible readings telling of Jesus' birth together with some poems which will reflect the spirit of Christmas. The singing will be led by the Hadfelda Singers who will also be singing some Christmas songs of their own. There will be hot refreshments served after the Service.

Everyone is also invited to join us for a Parish Communion Service on Christmas morning at 9am when you can be sure there will be more carols to begin the Christmas festivities for the day.

I cannot sign off without some words of appreciation for Jackie and Ken for their hard work producing the Review. They have kept everyone in the village informed and in touch for so many years in a way that goes far beyond the scope of modern-day social media. The Review has given us an insight into the organisations and people of Hatfield Peverel that can be found in no other way and I am especially grateful to them for spreading the word about the work of All Saints and all the Churches in the village. Thank you Jackie and Ken.

Services at All Saints are held at 9am every Sunday morning. I look forward to seeing you all at All Saints Church, Ulting. Prayers and Blessings for Christmas and the New Year, Revd Derek

St Andrews Christmas coffee morning on Saturday 2 December 10am - 12 noon

Soup and Roll - Tuesday 12 December - 12.30 to 2pm Church Hall - donations to Christian Aid

Edward Bear and Tuesday Toddler Club wish you a very happy Christmas

Edward Bear meets every Thursday (term time) for children, birth to school-age, in St Andrews Church Hall 10am - 11.30 am. Tuesday Toddlers meets in Hatfield Peverel Village Hall 9.30 - 11.30am (term time)

Hatfield Peverel Methodist Church

In our services over the past few weeks, we have been thinking about the emerging crisis in the Israeli and Palestinian territories since the initial atrocities on 7 October.

The loss of lives, injuries, housing, and livelihoods has been shocking to us all with the number of displaced persons growing daily. In addition to this we still are very aware of the concerns for our Ukrainian friends and Church members living in our village. Their families and friends remaining in Ukraine face hardships and fear of regular bombing with loss of power and water at times.

We looked at the phrases which Jesus used to show how Christians should react to aggression. The first was 'turning the other cheek', described in Mathew's gospel.

Under Roman rule a slap on the right cheek meant the soldier backhanded the Jews, which was demeaning and degrading, given to an inferior or a slave. To not break down emotionally and simply turn the other cheek meant that the soldier could not slap you again on the right cheek, The soldier would not use his left hand because it would have been considered unclean for him. The soldier's only option was to slap with the palm of his hand, and this was not the way to slap a slave - this was reserved for equals. Thus, in giving the other cheek, the degraded person asserted his humanity in a brave countermove — a humble response, yet also an act of courage against an oppressive system.

The second message from Jesus was 'Love God above all and love your neighbour as yourself.' Jesus gave us these two commandments that encapsulate all the laws and commands previously mentioned in the Old Testament and is about our bond with God and our fellow men

We experienced a modern angle of this commandment in October, a Pakistan family had just arrived in the UK to seek asylum as the wife who worked for the Catholic Church had been threatened because she was helping young girls in rural villages avoid forced marriages. Our Minister was able to help them to purchase hotel accommodation and they joined us at one of our Sunday services with their little girl. The next day they planned to travel to Edale in the Peak district where they were going to be housed - one of our members offered to drive them to their new home to save their travel costs and they are now settled there. Certainly, a modern-day Good Samaritan story.

In our discussions we had no solutions for the complex Israeli - Palestine and Ukraine - Russia issues. We hope our efforts to show compassion and love to those we meet is a local response to these commandments and we pray that Governments and national leaders will join and work tirelessly to bring peace to these war-torn areas.

Finally, a big thank you to Ken and Jackie for 50 years of service to the Village Review- it will be missed. Enjoy all the extra free time you will have!



Informal Worship for All Sundays at 9:15 am

Room 3 (access via the Coffee Lounge)
Hatfield Peverel Village Hall
Maldon Road
CM3 2HP

We look forward to meeting you

hatfield.peverel@chelmsfordcircuit.org.uk
For information and prayer requests

The **Methodist Church** 

An actor of authority and distinction among WW2 evacuees

Margaret Freeman, Heritage Warden

On the morning of 3rd September 1939, pupils of Trinity County School assembled in the playground at Wood Green, North London. The nation was on the brink of the Second World War. London County Council decided that for their safety, children had to be evacuated to the countryside.

Later that day, a bus load of Trinity scholars pulled up at the village school on The Green, Hatfield Peverel. Parishioners who volunteered to take evacuees into their homes greeted the arrivals.



Billeting the boys was tricky. The lads were unfairly frowned upon for their voracious appetites. In times of food scarcity, a growing boy had the potential to eat a rural family out of house and home. By six o'clock on 3rd September 1939, there were a dozen Trinity pupils still seeking refuge. All boys, sitting silent and forlorn in the classroom of Hatfield Peverel's village school. *(photo above, the old school Maldon Road, courtesy of Essex Record Office (ERO: D/DU 935/24)).*

One of the lingering Trinitarians was a chap from Edmonton, North London. He went by the name of James or 'Jim' Grout (1927-2012). Jim recalled how hostesses would stroll into the village school and select a child 'as if looking for kittens'. To his impalpable relief, Jim went to live with a 'dear couple', Mr & Mrs Smith of 14 New Road. He noted that his first meal at the Smith residence was 'a large piece of Cheddar Cheese and a raw onion'.

A temporary secondary school was set up at The Priory, Hatfield Peverel. Trinity staff made sure that lessons were taught in accordance with the curriculum. Jim and his classmates were educated at this fine country house on Church Road, from 1939 until 1943.



Jim Grout grew up and became an eminent actor on the stage, radio and television screens. Trained at the prestigious Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA), he had an accomplished acting career that spanned more than fifty years.

In *Inspector Morse* (1990s) Jim Grout played the part of Chief Superintendent Strange with pitch perfect characterisation *(photo left reproduced courtesy of Cinematic / Alamy Stock Photo)*. In the BBC adaptation of *All Creatures Great and Small* (1970s), Jim entertained viewers as Granville Bennett, the hospitable vet who could hold his drink.

On stage, Jim acted alongside Tommy Steele in *Half A Sixpence* (1960s) and Lauren Bacall in Tennessee Williams's *Sweet Bird of Youth* (1980s). He also trod the boards with eminent actors such as Peter O'Toole, Timothy West and Maggie Smith.

When Jim Grout died in 2012, *The Guardian* obituary column summed him up as 'a supporting actor of authority and distinction'. A few years before his passing, Jim acknowledged the role his Trinity teacher played in giving him the confidence to become a professional actor. Jim's early talent was indeed nurtured at The Priory, Hatfield Peverel against a backdrop of perilous war.

Hatfield Peverel Walkers

Graham Bushby 07484 864712

For the first time in many years, apart from adverse weather, there was no walk scheduled for October due to members being away on holiday, ill or hospitalised.



Our next walk is 30 November and anyone is welcome to join us. A short walk on 21 December will be followed by our annual Christmas meal at The Wheatsheaf 12.30 for 1pm. If you can't make the meal please let me know so I can adjust numbers accordingly. I will take your choices by email whenever you are ready.

The group meet on the last Thursday of each month starting at 10am from the Village Hall and covers around 4-5 miles around the local area. Sometimes a car share operates to start/finish a walk in a nearby village or use a local bus service.

For further information on the group please contact Graham on the number above.

Entertained by local Celebrities!

Hadfelda (Ladies Group)

Fascinating and inspiring! This was the reaction to our October speaker, Ian Twinley, who admitted his favorite subject a school was 'truancy'. However he obviously had great aspirations and from an early age found himself various jobs. On leaving school he started work with Fords but became involved with many projects over the years.

He and his wife Alison live at Crix and they own Hatfield Place, a Grade 2 listed building which they have turned into a wonderful wedding venue. Ian is involved with various charities and both properties are used to host very successful fund raising events. He is also a Deputy Lieutenant of Essex and this year was awarded an MBE for his voluntary service to Defence. A real change for November as we were entertained by Barbara Mason and the 'Hadfelda Singers.'

As the choir is made up of men and women, we decided to make this an 'Open' meeting and were very

pleased to be joined by some gentlemen visitors! A most enjoyable afternoon which had everyone singing along and tapping their feet in time to the music.

Our Christmas meeting is 13 December and we are delighted to welcome back 'Turning Heads' a Ukelele Band. Look forward to 'Festive Fun' with mince pies and other Christmas goodies!

Our meetings are held on 4th Wednesday of the month at St. Andrew's Church Hall at 2pm. We have some interesting speakers lined up for 2024:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 24 January | Stephen Northfield -The Rivals - Handel in the 1730's |
| 28 February | Jacky Lucas - Lasting Power of Attorney |
| 27 March | Charles Cope – Burma |
| 24 April | Elaine Pye – Extraordinary Knitting |
| 22 May | Tammy - Community Police Officer |
| 26 June | Dot Reed – A Decade of dolls |

We are a friendly group and visitors are always welcome!

Family History Group

Catherine Etheridge (family historian)

It is unknown how long the Library will be closed and the group will meet in the Village Hall Coffee Shop until then.

There will be no meeting in December but we will start again on 31 January and every following last Wednesday of the month starting at 10.30 am: 28 February, 27 March, 24 April

I have made the meetings 30 minutes earlier to give us more time so we don't clash with the EMC.

Hope to see you there - and don't forget you can have refreshments as well. The hot chocolate is rather good on a cold morning!

That's it, Jackie and Ken, my contribution for your last edition. You've completed a long and at times memorable journey doing the Review. Thank you for your hard voluntary work none of which is ever easy.

Peverel Wine of the Year 2023 plus superb South Africa!

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

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



A very busy autumn at the Wine Club with two excellent meetings – our AGM and Six of the Best tasting, followed in November by a tasting of South African wine and food. Annual General Meetings are not renowned for their excitement, and this was no exception, but was very enjoyable nonetheless. In Chairman Graham Bushby's absence, Steve Spearman deputized, and set himself the challenge of getting through the official business as quickly as possible, beating Graham's record of 37 minutes by 6 minutes! We were delighted to see committee members Paul and Donna Boreham re-elected, and even more delighted to welcome three new volunteers to the committee: Sarah and Stephen Roberts and Pat Hercules. Treasurer Linda Fisher reported satisfactory finances, with no need to increase annual subs or meeting fees.

The evening ended with our traditional Six of the Best tasting of the 6 highest-scoring wines of the past year, 3 whites and 3 reds on offer, as well as a wander down memory lane recalling where they were chosen. Overall winner and Peverel Wine of the Year was Morrisons The Best Gewürztraminer from Alsace, a well-made wine at special offer price of £10 (normally £11) from Morrisons, followed by the red, Domaine Bousquet Finca Lalande Organic Malbec, a red from Chile, available from Waitrose at £9.99.

November was a special evening for the Club with a wonderful tasting of South African wines presented with flair and humour by Preet Sahota from Edgmond Wines to a packed audience of 54 members and guests. This was complemented by a delicious supper of South African favourites Bobotie or Klein Karoo Chicken accompanied by sweet potatoes, green salad and mango chutney, followed by traditional South African Koeksisters to finish (these bearing a remarkable resemblance to our very British Yum Yums from Waitrose!).

We are now looking forward to our Christmas Party in the Village Hall with a 4-course supper provided by members followed by dancing to the live music of Beauty and the Beast – a fairytale evening, full of magic and enchantment. If you'd like to join us for December's meeting - any other meeting - for a light-hearted/inexpensive evening out, you would be welcome. Please give Vee a ring beforehand on 01245 355723 to ensure there is enough food and drink for all. (We normally meet on the second Wednesday of each month with some exceptions, including Christmas). Catch up with happening at the Wine Club at our website www.peverelwineclub.co.uk: We are currently finalizing next year's exciting programme.

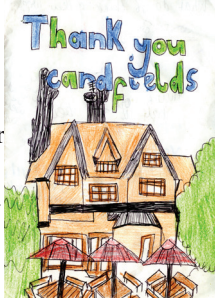
Christmas cheer at Cardfields

A warm welcome from our friends at Cardfields to start the festive season with a celebratory Christmas lunch.

**Date Friday 8 December,
12.00 for 12.30 pm lunch.**

Please book your place before 1 December -
01245 380371, Elaine.Clarke@islington.gov.uk

For help ring Elaine - number above. See you soon.



A Celebration of Christmas



*Join the Hadfelda Singers
for an evening of
Carols and Christmas Songs
Saturday 9 December 7pm
St Andrew's Church Hall*

*Donations to:
Motor Neurone Disease Charity*

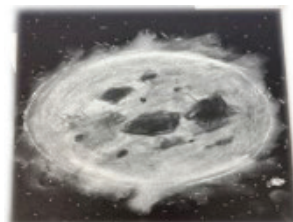
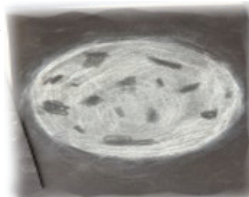
Hatfield Peverel St Andrew's Junior School

After what has been a challenging start to the new academic year, we are now we back on site and the children have been settling into new routines and adapting to our 'new' school building. We are all so proud of how they have coped with this upheaval! The staff and children were very grateful to Mr and Mrs Twinley for allowing us to use their beautiful wedding venue, Hatfield Place. The children wrote them a thank you letter which you can see below.

Some of our lower school children had a fantastic visit to Chelmsford Museum as part of their 'Stone Age to Iron Age' topic. They experienced a range of activities led by the museum staff including; handling stone age objects including tools, weapons and clothing and making guesses about their use; investigating cave paintings and drawing their own with authentic tools and natural pigments; exploring the Stone Age to Iron Age gallery to investigate major changes across the time period and recording these on I pads; practising Stone Age skills including making cord from hemp, grinding grain, weaving and using a bow drill.

Whilst in the upper school, children have been thoroughly enjoying immersing themselves into their Space topic this term - it is always a firm favourite topic every year! In Science, they have been learning about the phases of the moon and so in Art, they recreated the moon using chalk and charcoal.

Here are some pictures of their wonderful artwork and creations.



St A Book Crew

Volunteers needed - can you spend an hour or more a week?

- * It is proven that children who read daily are more likely to have accelerated progress.
- * Children learn 4,000 to 12,000 words per year through reading.
- * Children who read books often at age 10 gain higher results at age 16 than those who read less regularly.
- * Reading for 6 minutes a day reduces stress by 68%.
- * Reading enjoyment is reported as more important for children's educational success than their family's socio-economic status.

Here at St Andrew's we believe that reading is the key to everything! Sharing a book with an adult is invaluable and we want to provide EVERY child with the opportunity to develop a love for reading.

So...we are building our St A. Book Crew - a fabulous group of helpers who come in every week to support reading across all classes. They hear children read and play a big part in developing the children's skills and enjoyment of the wonderful world of books!

If you would like to volunteer, please email Mrs Smith via the school office on:
admin@hatfieldpeverel-jun.essex.sch.uk



All volunteers
will have a
DBS check
and training
provided.

Hatfield Peverel Infant and Nursery School

As I reflect on my first term so far as Headteacher, I would like to extend a heartfelt 'thank you' to parents, staff and children for their encouragement and support. We have had a busy Autumn Term! This began with the children being immersed in 'Healthy Habits'. They learnt about healthy eating, how to look after their teeth and even shared tips with their teachers about how to get a good night's sleep!

The children have enjoyed a variety of activities and assemblies, celebrating World Mental Health Day, Kindness Day and Remembrance Day. As well as selling poppies to raise money for the poppy appeal, we were fortunate to have a Remembrance assembly led by Matt Archer, Peter Archer and Paul Strong. Families and children also donated food to Braintree Food Bank where we collected 151kg of food – equivalent to 136 meals! Recently children brought in their poorly teddies and soft toys for Children In Need day, raising £166!

Our Infant and Nursery School Association (INSA) put on a pumpkin competition to raise money for the school. The children had great fun! Pumpkins were carved, painted, decorated with a range of materials, we even had pumpkin characters – witches and flamingos included! *Thank you for a wonderful front cover - Ed!*



We have had the pleasure of inviting parents into school for Afternoon Reads, Mystery Reader, phonic workshops, Year 2 class assemblies and Parent Consultation evenings.

We are looking forward to all of the Christmas activities that we have planned!

Primary school admissions opened on 6 November 2023 for parents of children who will start school in September 2024. Applications can be made via <http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions> and the closing date is 15 January 2024.

If you would like a tour of the school or nursery, or would like to volunteer to listen to children read, then please contact the school office on 01245 380220 or email office@hatfieldpeverel.essex.sch.uk

Have a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year! Mrs Zoë Fairbairn, Headteacher

Recycle your Christmas tree

Helen Rollason Cancer Charity, in partnership with JustHelping, will be recycling your Xmas trees again this year! **We will cover postcode areas: CM1, CM2, CM3 2, CM3 3, CM3 4, CM8, CM9, CO5 0, CM7, CM7 7.** You need to register your tree on our website: helenrollason.org.uk/ and go to home page.

Once the fun is over, we will take the hassle out of getting rid of your tree - leave it out the front, we collect it and recycle it for you between Friday 5 - Tuesday 9 January.

We welcome a donation and in exchange the charity's voluntary team, will do the hard work!

If you or anyone you know is interested in helping us over the festive collection weekend, please contact the fundraising team or ring 01245 380719



Christmas coffee morning Saturday 16 December

10am in our headquarters in The Street. Tasty food and a free raffle ticket.



Soundscapes from the Basque

Tony Hocking

The walk into Hatfield Peverel, along the path from The Sportsman's Arms, is one of my favourites. The steady rise and glimpses of St Andrew's lead you on, never disappointing whatever the season. Entering any village on foot, along a byway, is a lovely way to make acquaintance with your destination, seeing it gradually through the eyes of travellers who passed that way before.

This summer we crossed a clear trout stream and climbed up through a beautiful shaded passage into a small village. I was struck by how many might have trod the path before us. Today though there was no one around, and a Sunday morning silence had descended on this corner of rural Spain.

We stepped out onto the gravelly road that was the main street; somewhere nearby stood a small bar which we hoped would serve us coffee and maybe a breakfast of sorts. It didn't look hopeful - a child's bicycle lent against a low wall, but signs of life were minimal. Strange villages often have unusual surprises too, so we walked on hopefully. A loud crack, followed quickly by another, echoed out of a subterranean courtyard ahead. Laughter came after, and puzzled we looked down onto a pair of young men playing a game I did not know the name of. It reminded me of squash, but of course was Pelota. In the shade of their sunken court, the ball flashed back and forth and the speed and intensity increased as they warmed into the game. We were enthralled but rumbling stomachs drew us away, the crack of the ball echoing around the stone buildings that made up this charming village.

Our hearts sank outside a very closed looking bar, but were buoyed by the tiniest of shops on the corner of an alleyway. Taller than it was wide, it boasted a curiously extensive choice of tobaccos, tinned food and a tray of baked goods, and one way or another we managed to put together the first meal of the day. We retreated from its dark depths to a portico across the cobbled street. Glad to be out of the sun, we ate slowly while enjoying watching tiny lizards as they darted to and fro across a low wall. From behind, the gentle hum of a hymn could just be heard through stained glass, rising and falling, until exactly on the hour, the heavy wood doors opened wide and the congregation spilled out into the summer morning. Laughter and conversation filled the air all around us, children ran in all directions, released at last from the constraints of the service. Small groups peeled off and chatted, some sitting on the wall, while others headed for the bar that had sprung to life at the end of the service! We were in the right place, a few minute early. But we sat amongst the congregation and listened to the life of the village play out - if only we could understand a word!

As ever on a walking holiday, rucksacks must be donned and progress once again made. This one was ambitious and at almost three weeks long, would see us traverse from the Atlantic coast, up through the border regions of France and Spain, until our final destination in the high Pyrenees. Leaving the valley behind we climbed up and along the Basque foothills, tall grasses and ferns giving way to tangled oakwoods and finally pasture. Everywhere you looked was the Spain of Hemingway - picturesque red tiled byres set in hidden valleys, freshwater brooks, first tumbling then threading their way between grassland and wood. Everywhere perfection to the eye. I had never been here before, but his writing made it familiar.

As you pass through, all around is livestock. Cattle of course, but also sheep, or 'brebis', a tough and often dishevelled creature. Almost every one carries a small bell around its neck, which, as you settle in for the night high on a south facing escarpment, gently tinkles away across the mountain breeze until you are unsure if you are dreaming or awake. At times it seems there is really only the paper thin flysheet of your tent between man and beast, softly tearing grass as they nibble around your tent, carefree to their temporary neighbours.

I recorded the sounds on my phone, but I don't think I needed to, I will never forget it.

Higher, on the rocky cols that divide valleys, a creature soars that is both majestic and grotesque, casting an ominous shadow that flickers across the warming slopes below. I am sure they pay only scant regard to walkers but they still charge the atmosphere simply by being there. I am talking about vultures of course, quite repellant sat in their grassy roosts but majestic on the rising thermals. Mewing calls reach down into our earthbound world, an ethereal bridge between the pastoral scene around us and the upland crags and peaks.

Each day we traversed from valley to valley, leaving one world for the next, before returning as the afternoon drew to a close. The dividing border between Spain and France is far from clear in these parts, and we were never quite sure which side of it we actually were. Outside a small cafe, we stood and chatted to a farmer taking his brebis to market. We spoke French, but I was sure we were in Spain. His flock of compact animals clip-clopped into the trailer, the ramp was lifted and closed, and then we went inside for a bread and jam breakfast as soon the doors opened.



Market day had brought a handful of farmhands in early, and we sat surrounded by fast talking, coffee drinking and laughter. We caught the gist, it was too quick as always, but I don't think they were laughing at us!

No one would deny the region had been a melting pot of cultures, and yet at the same time utterly unique. With our eyes focussed on the grander peaks of the Pyrenees, we had not anticipated how much we would enjoy it. We made our way further west and the landscape became more dramatic - we were higher now, never below 1000 metres in altitude - but our hearts were still in the soft green lowlands. All around us still, the brebis tinkled

across the valleys and hills. We may have left it behind for now, but the sound of the Basque came with us.

Dark skies

Now the long dark evenings are with us we're more aware that within our residential areas, when you look up at the heavens, you don't see many stars, certainly not the Milky Way, and not the display of northern lights last weekend, if seen at all this far south. Much is due to a combination of light-coloured concrete residential road surfaces reflecting heavenwards the illumination from LED street lighting introduced in recent years.

But consider what appeared on the Letters page in our newspaper from an unnamed correspondent:

Thank you, Jacqueline Yallop, for a lovely article on light pollution. How many people have had new homeowners moving next door, igniting the night sky with blazing lights that stay on for most of the night? I know the nightingale has left my garden, the bats have gone, very few moths appear around my door, and some vegetation has gone very thin and sad. Enjoyment of the stars and occasional sightings of the northern lights are no longer possible. It is difficult to think of a resolution.

Hatfield Peverel Parish Council

Committees and advisory groups

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

Councillors (and their advisory groups)

Planning matters are discussed at full Council

Sarah Gaeta, Parish Clerk 01245 382865

parishclerk@hatfieldpeverelpc.com

Carly Truman, Assistant Clerk 01245 382865

assistantclerk@hatfieldpeverelpc.com

Mark Weale Chair (C/CP/FGP/P/SR) 07801 443733

cllrweale@hatfieldpeverelpc.com

David Broddle (CP/E/SR) 01245 382829

cllrbroddle@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

Charlotte Greaves (CP/T) 07527 763038

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Heidi Knightbridge (CP) 07803 123059

cllrknightbridge@hatfieldpeverelpc.com

Ted Munt (CP/E/FGP/NDP/SR) 01245 381135

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Mike Renow (NDP/CP) 01245 380071

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Linda Shaw (CP) 01245 382669

cllrshaw@hatfieldpeverelpc.com

Diane Wallace (CE/CP/E/NDP/P) 01245 381485

cllrwallace@hatfieldpeverelpc.com

Richard Parker (Groups TBA) TBA

cllrparker@hatfieldpeverelpc.com

John Cockell (T co-opted Chair) 07940 217148

traffic@hatfieldpeverelpc.com

District Councillors

Charley Dervish 07809 687944

cllr.cdervish@braintree.gov.uk

James Coleridge

cllr.jcoleridge@braintree.gov.uk 07534 275449

County Councillor

Derrick Louis 07967 830277

cllr.derrick.louis@essex.gov.uk

Maldon Film Club welcomes you

The Club meets at Maldon Town Hall, doors open 7.30pm and films commence 8pm sharp. Further information - www.maldonfilmclub.uk

5 December (Tues) A Man Called Otto

Language: English/Spanish 126 minutes

Otto Anderson (Tom Hanks) is a grump who gives up following the loss of his wife. Based on the novel A Man Named Ove and made into a film

19 December (Tues) Blind Ambition

Language: Shona, French 96 minute

Four friends become South Africa's top sommeliers after starvation/tyranny in their homeland Zimbabwe. They form the first wine tasting team and win 'World Wine Tasting Champions'.

3 January (Wed) Master Cheng

Language: English, Finnish 114 minutes

Following his wife's death professional chef, Cheng, travels with his son to a village in Finland to meet up with an old friend. A local café owner offers him accommodation and Cheng helps her in the kitchen. He becomes a celebrated member of the community but his visa runs out. Help!

Village games for all

Table Tennis Club (established 1981)

Home playing night Tuesdays in the Village Hall, Maldon Road. Six teams play in Chelmsford District Table Tennis League. To join one of our league teams please leave your details with Club Secretary Neil Freeman 01245 382249 or myself Club Chairman Andy Simmonds 01245 381020 or 07932 057 205. If you wish to play social table tennis, please contact Carly Truman 07591 041718.

Indoor Bowls thriving

You don't have to stop in the winter months - we are open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons.

Maldon Croquet Club

We are pleased to have croquet in our midst, now shut for the winter. If you would like information please contact Press Officer Richard Jones (MCC) on richardforbesjones@hotmail.com or telephone 01621 815159; 07867 51476.

Useful telephone numbers

Please contact the editors for additions/errors.

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

The Change Project 01245 258680

Personnel well-being through 08453 727701

positive change

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

Community Agent for Hatfield Peverel

Jan Hawkins - 07540 720605, 01376 574330

Doctors, health services

Hatfield Peverel doctors' surgery 01245 380324

NHS - non-emergency helpline 111

Boots Pharmacy 01245 380130

Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-1pm, 1.30pm-4.0pm

Electricity - emergency 0800 7838838

Essex County Council 03457 430430

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

Hospitals

Broomfield (A&E) 01245 362000

St Peters, Maldon 01621 725323

Libraries (enquiry line) 0345 6037628

Hatfield Peverel opening hours

Tuesday 2pm - 7pm

Wednesday 9am - 1pm

Saturday 9am - 5pm

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

Co-op Store (with Post Office - see below)

Open 7am - 10pm 01245 382606

Greater Anglia rail 03456 007245

National Rail Enquiries (24 hrs) 03457 484950

Hatfield Peverel ticket office/waiting room

Open 6.15am to 1.00pm, Monday to Saturday.

Registrar of Births, Marriages & Deaths

Witham, by appointment only 03456 037632

Braintree, by appointment only 03456 037632

Samaritans (24 hours - toll free) 08457 909090

Schools

St Andrew's Junior School 01245 380131

Hatfield Peverel Infant and Nursery School

01245 380220

Village Hall 01245 381481

Childminders

Kate Bryant 07796 851403

Nicky Shelley 07590 618343

Joanne Logan 07989 131249

Social Services 0345 6037630

Co-op Post Office counter times

	Morning	Afternoon	Last Royal Mail collection times
Monday	9.30 - 12.30	13.30 - 18.00	16.45
Tuesday	10.00 - 14.00		13.50
Wednesday	10.00 - 14.00		13.50
Thursday	10.00 - 14.00		13.50
Friday	9.30 - 12.30	13.30 - 17.00	16.45
Saturday	10.00 - 12.30		12.00
Sunday	Closed		

Royal Mail's information about last collecting times from our local post boxes can be found at:

<https://www.royalmail.com/services-near-you#/>

If you can't use the internet, ask a neighbour or friend who can to help.

