



Great Totham Parish Magazine

sent to every home in Great Totham
September 2025

Pets' Service

10am, Sunday, 7th September

in St Peter's Churchyard

Join us for this short service of thanksgiving
for you and your pets

Bring your pet, a photo, toy or
dress up as a pet!

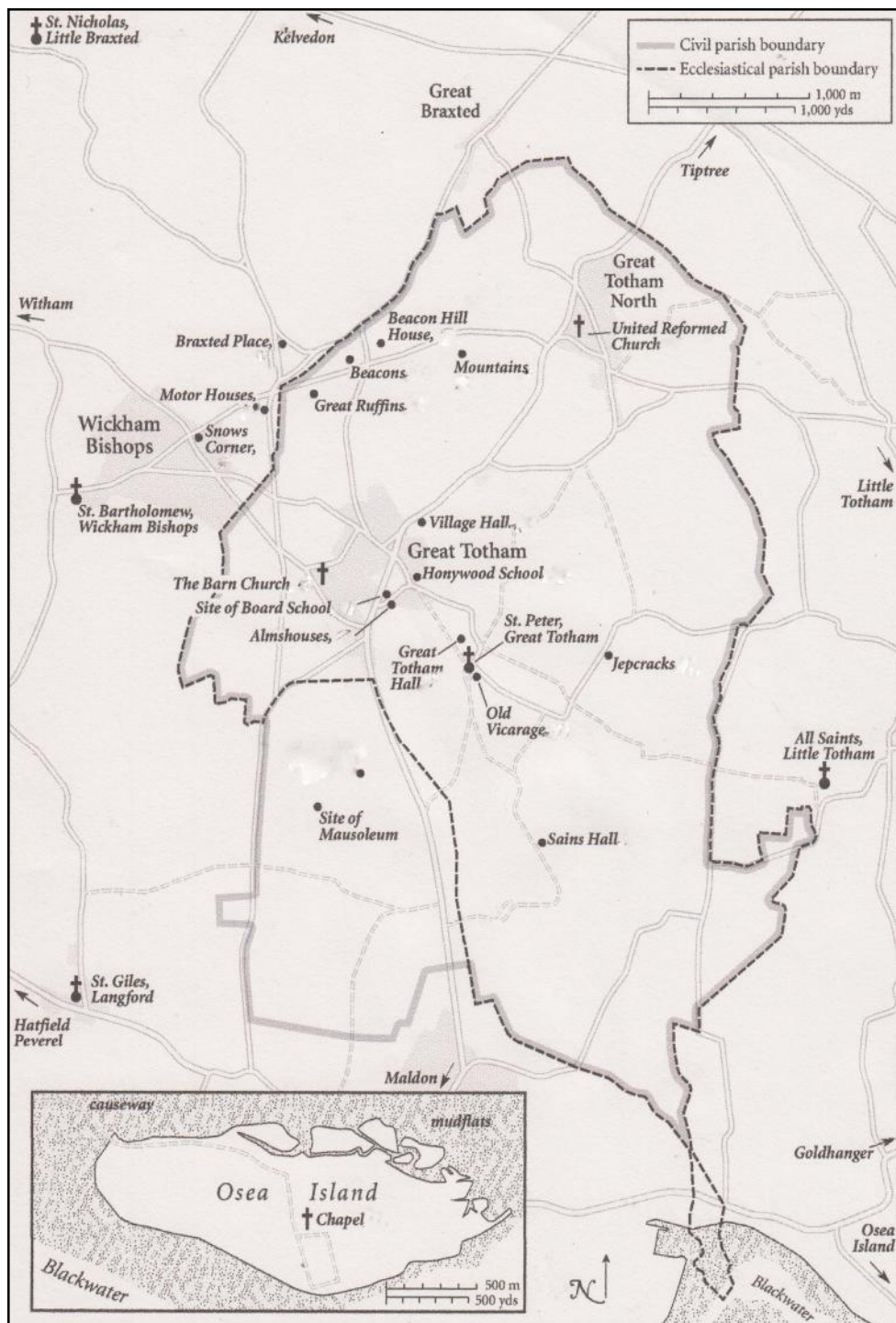
Followed by refreshments
(in the event of wet weather, the service
will be held inside)



Inside this Edition -

'You and your Faith' Survey

Village Hall: New Management Council Members



St Peter's Church Contact Details



Blackwater
Benefice



Blackwater
Benefice

Parish Contacts:

Priest in Charge (*Vacant*)

Lead Minister in the Blackwater Benefice

Andy Vince 01621 868415 / 07952 144613

Email: andrew.vince15@gmail.com

Associate Priest

Rev. Sue Godsmark 01621 891513

Email : suegodsmark@aol.com

Churchwarden (*Vacant*)

Please contact Rosie Pollock 07908 776750 with any enquiries.

Services

See pages 6 and 7 for details of services and online worship

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals

If you are considering baptism for yourself or your children, weddings, funeral arrangements, Holy Communion at home, or you would just like a visit, please contact Rosie Pollock, Benefice Administrator, 07908 776750, email office.blackwaterbenefice@gmail.com

Rosie is generally available on Tuesday and Friday mornings. Messages left at other times during the week will be responded to at regular intervals.

Magazine:

Enquiries: Helen Mutton: 01621 891067

Jackie Masterson 07951 537206

Adverts: Sue Sharp 07548 826603

Deliveries: Cheryl Knott 01621 890940

Email (for all enquiries): parishmagazinetotham@yahoo.co.uk

St Peter's Church Website:

www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6657



Photographs

On many occasions, photographs are taken of adults and children for the Parish Magazine, Church Website and Church Facebook page to record the life and work of the church in Great Totham. If at any time you would prefer that a photograph was neither kept nor used, please indicate this to the photographer who will delete the image.

Church News



Blackwater Benefice Ministry Team Message



This year so far indicates a record average high temperature in the UK.

At the time of writing, water restrictions in various parts of the country are coming into force. Abberton and West Hanningfield reservoirs in July were reported together as being 84% full. Abberton had a massive increase in capacity in a 20-year project completed in 2015. As more and more people have water meters fitted, overall usage has diminished as people are more aware of the cost. The Government have committed to build nine new reservoirs by 2050.

The early hot weather must have been a challenging time for farmers in the agricultural sector with rain in the southeast coming just in time to help save the crop. As holiday makers pray for sunny weather and farmers for rain, God has a dilemma!

This year we had two serious water leaks at the rear of our cottage, both of which were attended to efficiently by Essex & Suffolk Water who also recommended that we have a meter fitted to read usage. Most homes with just one or two inhabitants make savings.

~~~~~

The water content of the average human body is 60%. We are told to always ensure we keep hydrated, especially in hot weather, sensible advice. Importantly, water regulates our body temperature, protects and moistens the tissues and organs of the body, helps dissolve minerals and nutrients to make them accessible to the body, carries nutrients and oxygen to cells and helps the liver and kidneys to flush out waste.

~~~~~

A lovely episode recorded in the New Testament tells of Jesus, tired, dusty and thirsty, coming to a well for a drink. There he encounters a Samaritan woman whom he engages in conversation. A Jewish man would not normally converse with a female stranger, especially a despised Samaritan woman. It was midday, the hottest time of day when water would not normally be collected. He knows her background but doesn't judge her. She is convinced he is the Messiah. She leaves her water pot, anxious to return to her village to share her story there.

St John quoted Jesus as saying "If a person is thirsty let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me streams of living water will flow from within."

A wonderful metaphor for the life-giving properties of this precious resource without which life on earth would not exist!

Paul Smith
St Peters Church, Great Totham

Church News

Edward Bear



At the end of July, we had a little party to celebrate the children who are starting school in September! We had some delicious treats contributed by all the grown ups and the children played happily whilst we chatted about the new chapter for the children and parents. It has been a pleasure to have them at Edward Bear and we will miss them but wish them lots of luck on their primary school journey!

Edward Bear will be back on Thursday, 11th September at St Peter's Church, in the extension. The session runs from 10.30am-12pm in term time only. No need to book and there's no charge, but a donation towards the church or a packet of biscuits is appreciated! It's a relaxed toddler group for pre-school children and their grown ups who live in the local area, an ideal way to socialise your little ones and make friends in the village.

Rosie Pollock

Donations



To donate to St Peter's Church:

- scan the QR code;
- make a BACS payment to St Peter's Church (sort code 20-54-30, account number 20882739);
- send a cheque (payable to 'St Peter's Church, Great Totham') to:
17 Goat Lodge Road CM9 8BU

Church Registers

Wedding

12th July

Augustus Allan Xavier Brown and
Maya Lakshmi Raman Jones, both of Tonbridge

Funerals

27th June

Linda Mary Roach of Great Totham

24th July

Beverley Irving Kyffin of Great Totham

Church News

Services at St Peter's Church

St Peter's Church is open for private prayer
10am-3pm Monday to Saturday
11am-3pm on Sundays

Date	Time	Service	Readings
7th September Twelfth Sunday after Trinity	10am	Pets' Service	Deut. 30. 15-end Phil. 1-21
	6pm	Evensong by Zoom	Gospel: Luke 14. 25-33
14th September Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity	10am	Morning Service of the Word	Ps. 51. 1-11 1 Tim. 1. 12-17
	6pm	Evensong by Zoom	Gospel: Luke 15. 1-10
21st September Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity	10am	Family Communion	Amos 8. 4-7 1 Tim. 2. 1-7
	6pm	Evensong by Zoom	Gospel: Luke 16. 1-13
28th September Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity	10am	Harvest Thanksgiving	Deut. 26. 1-11 Rev. 14. 14-18
	6pm	Evensong by Zoom	Gospel: John 6. 25-35

Rotas	Church Flowers	Church Cleaning
7th September	Sue Morgan	-
14th September	Lucy Bettley	Jenny Walling
21st September	Mary Owers	-
28th September	Harvest Festival	Mr and Mrs Campbell

Church Extension and Kitchen Cleaning: Philippa Hardy-King



In July we held our Summer meeting at Hyde Hall, enjoying a cream tea and even sharing it with the many wasps that have descended on garden centres this summer.

We would like to send our deepest condolences and prayers to Jeanne Shrimpton's family at this time. She was a much loved member of our Mothers' Union branch for many years and will be missed. May God bless her and keep her safe.

Our next meeting is on Friday, 12th September at 1.45pm in the Honywood Hall. All welcome, please ring me on 01621 891315 for more details.

June Eaton

Church News



Benefice Worship



Visit the website or Facebook page for up to date information on services, or contact Rev'd Sue (891513), Karin Mann (891215) or Karen Tarpey (892122).

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6657/>

<https://www.facebook.com/StPetersChurchGreatTotham/>



For details of Evensong by Zoom contact Rev'd Sue Godsmark

Book of Common Prayer Communion Services:

10am	Wednesdays	at St. Nicholas, Tolleshunt D'Arcy
5.30pm	Saturdays	at All Saints Little Totham

Visit the website or email blackwaterbenefice@gmail.com for details of other Benefice events and activities.

The Parish of St. Peter's Great Totham

Charity Number: XN 12862

100+ Club Draw Winners

June

1st Prize: Joan Rotheram
2nd Prize: Jo Michell
3rd Prize: Roger Clark

July

Brenda Keeble
Sue Lucas
Edwin Doubleday

Over the course of a year, 50% of subscriptions is returned in prizes. For every 100 members, the prize value will be £50 per month: 1st prize £25, 2nd prize £15 and 3rd prize £10. More members means bigger prizes.

Membership runs from 1st May to 30th April the following year, although you may join at any time. If you would like to join the scheme, whose proceeds benefit the church, please contact Roger Allen, 100+ Club Administrator, on 01621 892334, email: rw_allen@yahoo.co.uk

Subscriptions (£12 per year) may be by standing order, online bank transfer (sort code 20-54-30, account number 20882739, reference "100+ Club") or by cheque/cash to: Roger Allen, "Kimlee", Burns Green, Great Totham, CM9 8UL

Coffee Mornings at The Honeywood



Our next Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday, 27th September. We look forward to seeing you then for bacon butties, tea, coffee, cake and chat, 10am to 12 noon, in The Honeywood, Hall Road.

Sheila Allen

Church News

News from the Belfry

This summer we went on a day trip to Winchester. This was in fact our second visit. Our first was back in the early 1970s when we went to a Christmas party held at the The City Mill which was then a Youth Hostel. We cycled there on a Saturday from our respective homes in West London and back home the next day, a round trip of 150 miles on a tandem. We must have been very fit in those days! The City Mill is now a visitor attraction managed by the National Trust.

The main attraction in Winchester is the beautiful cathedral, the largest of its kind in northern Europe. Its full name is the Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity, St Peter, St Paul and St Swithun, but it is popularly known simply as Winchester Cathedral. It was built between 1079 and 1532. It is noted for having a very long and very wide nave, and its overall length of 558 feet makes it the longest medieval cathedral in the world. It is also the sixth largest cathedral in the United Kingdom. It is fortunate that the cathedral is still standing today. In 1906 it was discovered that the cathedral was sinking due to inadequate foundations, causing flooding. A specialist diver, William Walker from London, was engaged to sort out the problem. He worked for six to seven hours a day in total darkness, wearing a full diving suit, plugging the water that was coming up from below with bags of cement. It took him six years to complete the task. The water could then be safely pumped away.

The bells of the cathedral have rung out since Saxon times. Over the centuries, there have been several changes to the framework in the belfry and to the bells themselves. In 1921, the peal of bells was augmented to 12 with the addition of two new treble bells cast by Gillett and Johnston of Croydon. This gave the Diocese of Winchester its first ring of 12 bells. The bells were dedicated to those who lost their lives in the First World War in Winchester. It was decided in 1936 to have the bells recast in honour of the forthcoming coronation of Edward VIII and they were subsequently removed and returned to Taylors of Loughborough. The bells were then recast between 1st and 28th September. The inscription on the tenor bell read "Edward Octavi". The bells were then returned and rehung in the cathedral. As we all know, Edward abdicated on 11th December 1936. The inscription on the bell was hurriedly scratched out and "Georgi Sexti" was etched in by hand.

In 1991 the timbers of the bell chamber were found to be rotten and urgent repairs were needed. At the same time the bells were removed. Today the tower boasts a 14 full circle ring, the only one to exist worldwide. It also has two additional tenor bells. The 1st, 2nd and 4th sharp bell were cast in 1992 by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, whilst the rest of the bells were cast in 1997 by John Taylor & Co. There is one remaining bell, the B flat bell, which was cast in 1621 by Anthony Bond. This bell was transferred to the cathedral in 1967 from the redundant church of St Lawrence in Winchester.

/continued on next page

Church News

/continued from previous page

Do you fancy joining us? It doesn't matter if you are a complete novice as full instruction will be given.

For further information, please contact Janice, our Tower Captain, on 07790 354338 or alternatively visit www.greattothambellringers.org.uk

Andrew and Catherine Hood

Bellringers' Outing



On Saturday, 31st May, Great Totham bellringers and friends ventured up to the Suffolk/Norfolk border, visiting churches at Palrave, Redgrave, Bressingham South and North Lopham and Blo' Norton.

It was a lovely sunny day to listen to the bells outside or to take advantage of the coolness inside. Lunch was at Bressingham garden centre.

Some of the towers are not often used and a rope snapped off in one. Thankfully no-one was hurt! We were fortunate to see some impressive flowers in a church where arrangements were being made for a wedding.

The day was very well organised by Janice and it was excellent practice for the more experienced ringers as well as the learners.

Vanessa Ellams

In your prayers at home this month, please include:

Our 'Friendship Church' - Bragernes Kirke, Drammen, Norway
John, Nina and Peter

Children's Page

National Teddy Bear Day 9th September

On 9th September, National Teddy Bear Day honours the history of one of childhood's favourite toys. We have all had a special cuddly teddy as a child. Some of us still have our teddy bear from our childhood. No matter what kind of teddy bear you had, the day is a perfect time to celebrate your childhood friend!

In 1902, American President Theodore Roosevelt refused to shoot a bear cub while hunting in Mississippi. The incident made national news. Clifford Berryman published a cartoon of the event in the Washington Post on 16th November 1902, and the caricature became an instant classic.

The Berryman cartoon of Teddy Roosevelt and the cub inspired New York store owner Morris Michtom. He created a new toy and even had a name in mind. Michtom wrote to President Roosevelt to ask permission to name the new toy a "Teddy Bear."

Since the advent of the Teddy Bear, a parade of famous characters followed. Big Bird from Sesame Street named his Teddy Bear Radar. The lasagne loving cat celebrated on Garfield the Cat Day armed himself with Pooky, his lovable scapegoat. The British invasion of Teddy Bears includes Winnie-the-Pooh and Paddington. In 1981, the Care Bears first became greeting cards. Not long after, they launched into television and toy history. And let's not forget the Muppet character Fozzie Bear. The lovable and comedic bear endlessly perseveres with one-liners, slapstick and musical comedy.

How to observe National Teddy Bear Day

Share some of your favourite Teddy Bear characters from a time gone by. Are they recent interpretations of the lovable creature? Or do you have an affinity for the classic Teddy Bear?

Other ways to celebrate include:

- ◆ Giving a Teddy Bear to someone you love.
- ◆ Donate Teddy Bears to a local organisation for children.
- ◆ Host a Teddy Bear tea party.
- ◆ Share your memories of Teddy Bears with others.



Who does this bear belong to?

Answer on page 19

Sourced by June Eaton

Children's Colouring Page



Sourced by June Eaton

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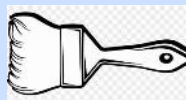
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Community News

When Norman(s) Came To Britain

So, who learnt at school that the Norman Conquest began in 1066 when William decided that he wanted to be King of England and arrived from France and immediately met King Harold at Hastings fought a battle and won? Well, the reality was a bit more complicated.

On 5th January 1066, The King of England, Edward the Confessor, died. The very next day, the Anglo-Saxon council of high ranking men called the Witan, elected Edward the Confessor's brother-in-law, Harold Godwin, to be king. This did not please William, Duke of Normandy, who claimed that Edward the Confessor had promised the crown to him and also, in 1063, had tricked Harold into supporting his claim to be King of England. So annoyed was William that he decided to invade and take the throne by force!

Whilst this was happening, Harold's brother, Tostig, joined forces with Harold Hardrada who was King of Norway and had landed his army in Yorkshire. King Harold was having none of this, so led his own army north to fight off the invaders. After a forced march from London to Tadcaster, Harold launched a surprise attack to capture a bridge at Stamford on 25th September 1066. The battle that ensued was particularly fierce and bloody, with both Tostig and Harold Hardrada being killed, but resulting in King Harold's exhausted men being victorious.

Meanwhile, William had collected together a large force from all over France, with a contingent from Brittany and also one from Flanders. These men gathered together at Saint-Valery-sur-Somme and were ready to sail across the English Channel by 12th August. The size of William's army is largely unknown, but could have been anything up to 12,000, men including 3,000 cavalry. William also obtained Pope Alexander II's blessing for the invasion, although this was more likely given after the invasion! The invasion, though, was delayed until late September due to high winds. This proved advantageous to William who, on hearing that most of Harold's men were up north fighting at Stamford Bridge, decided to invade on 28th September.

Instead of landing at Hastings, the invading force landed at Pevensey. Over the next two weeks, William's men built a wooden castle near to Hastings and spent the time raiding the local area. Harold had probably decided that he had to return south as soon as possible on hearing of William's plans to invade. However, his army was exhausted and suffering from the trauma of battle, so Harold could only lead some of his army back the 200 miles to meet William.

The march south was arduous, and Harold had to stop in London for about a week to recuperate. His plan to surprise William failed, as William's scouts spotted his army early. It is not known exactly what happened when the two forces clashed, but it is thought that William led his men towards Harold's forces, which had taken up a defensive position at Senlac Hill (now known as Battle) in East Sussex. This is about six miles from Hastings.

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Community News

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The actual battle started at about 9am on 14th October 1066. There are differing tales as to what actually happened in the battle, but we know that the fighting was savage, with the Anglo-Saxons using battle axes against the Normans using swords. The famous anecdote of King Harold dying from an arrow in his eye is probably a myth, with the depiction on the Bayeux Tapestry likely to have been an addition to comply with 12th century stories. The truth is that probably no-one even saw how Harold was killed.

You would think that this was the end of the story, but this was not the case. The Anglo-Saxons did not accept William as king and elected Edgar Aetheling as king! Many more battles and skirmishes then took place, until eventually the English surrendered at Berkhamsted, with William finally being crowned king on 25th December 1066. William stayed in the country until March 1067 before returning to Normandy, with English prisoners, including Edgar Aetheling. Of course, the Normans stayed to control the country, but faced resistance for many years, whilst William was trying to beat off invaders to his other territories in Europe. William died in 1087 at the age of 59, to be succeeded by his son William II, also known as William Rufus.

Chris Bingham



Wickham Bishops WI



The speaker at our June meeting, Angie Jones, encouraged us with her enthusiasm to walk the slow lanes of Essex. She has written books on walks in Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk full of tales and anecdotes of the places she visits. In addition, our President reported from the virtual Annual Meeting and updated us on votes and decisions that were made.

In July, we welcomed Peter Livingstone, a retired engineer, to explain the history and purpose of Remap. Founded 70 years ago, and with branches all over England, Remap is a charity run to adapt and make equipment for the disabled that is not normally made available for individual needs. Many retired engineers work in their sheds for no cost to make lives easier for many people of all ages. Well worth a visit to see what they achieve.

Discussions were held on how to remember VJ day in August; we must not forget all those who suffered in the Far East in WW2.

Our meetings are held in Wickham Bishops Church Hall on the last Thursday of the month from 2pm to 4pm. We are always happy to welcome visitors and new members. Please contact me on 01621 815161 for further information.

Margaret Curtis

Children's Page answer to 'Who does this bear belong to?':

It's Mr Bean's bear

Church News

YOU AND YOUR FAITH, TOGETHER WITH THE COMMUNITY



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Church News

ST. PETER'S CHURCH GREAT TOTHAM YOU & YOUR FAITH SURVEY

Age _____ Village _____ Faith _____

Thank you for taking the time to provide us with your valuable feedback. Your input helps us to better understand our community and to be able to better support you.

Please answer the following statements;

I regularly attend church (more once a month)

Yes

No

I go to church at Christmas/Easter

Yes

No

I would attend church more if it offered me a service that better suited me

Yes

No

Unsure

Which of the following styles of service/activity would you consider attending? (Circle as appropriate)

Holy Communion

Family Service

Gospel Singing

Quiet Prayer/Meditation

Youth Service

Confession

Counselling

Youth Club

Bible Study

Coffee & Chat

Evening Song

'Songs of praise'

Other (Please State) _____

How would you best describe your faith?

Casual

Serious

Unsure

N/A

Does Parking/Transport prevent you from being able to attend church?

No

Yes (Parking)

Yes (Transport)

Do you think the church is an important part of the local community?

Yes

No

Unsure

Are there any suggestions you would like to make? (Service types, Time of services, Alternative activities at the Church/Honywood Hall etc...) Please write in the box below

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Community News



Parish Council Reports for July and August



Traditionally, planning applications are not included in the Council Report in the Parish Magazine, but it would be disingenuous not to mention the proposed development of 170 houses at Totham South. We seldom have members of the public at the monthly Council meeting; I have in the past joked that, generally speaking, residents must be satisfied with our performance. However, it is obvious from the number of people who attended the residents' meeting on 31st July, that this particular application has raised serious concerns, ranging from the lack of infrastructure, employment, school places etc to doubts about the current status of documents such as The Neighbourhood Plan to protect the continuing viability of the community. Developers build houses, but they are not benefactors and, as one of our residents mused, even with Section 106 contributions they cannot provide what is required to safeguard the character and identity of our village. It was a very civilised meeting and Councillor Delderfield expressed appreciation for the many insightful observations. Significantly, no-one present spoke in favour of the proposal. Full reports of this meeting and the Planning meeting which followed will be published on Facebook and the Parish Council website.

Another area in which resident opinion would be welcome is that of speed limits. The Speedwatch Team and Community Protection Team continue to record incidents of speeding. Councillor Atkinson has been contacted by the Safer Essex Roads Partnership Team (SERP) to enquire whether any communities would be interested in investigating a 20mph speed limit in problematic locations. SERP does not actually implement speed limits, and one can immediately see there might be a problem in enforcing such a move, but, at this point, the group is merely investigating the level of support for lower limits. If you have a strong view either way, please contact the Clerk. (07811 400803 or www.greattothamparishcouncil.uk)

We have also received two conflicting opinions on the current use of the lay-by at Bull Green, Totham South. As I recall, there was a certain amount of controversy when the village amenity was regularised some time ago, but it was obviously intended to facilitate short term parking for those visiting the village shop and no 'conditions' were considered necessary. Councillors have been monitoring the situation, and the Clerk is to contact Essex Highways to enquire whether a 30-minute time restriction would be appropriate. She has also been chasing up contractors to attend to the trees surrounding the cricket pitch and, mindful of the recent tragedy concerning a fallen tree branch, has been charged with obtaining information from other comparable sized parish councils, as well as Maldon District Council and Essex County Council, as to how they manage their tree stock.

/continued on next page

Community News

/continued from previous page

I have to say I found the report of a fire at the Jubilee Recreation Ground rather disheartening. Councillors have spent considerable time and effort repairing apparatus and removing it to Bull Green where it is currently enjoyed by our younger residents. Councillor Gregan and his team have arranged for the 'Pit' to be tidied prior to refurbishment. He has been investigating grants, and a resident has also raised funds for new equipment, but it would be reassuring to know that the vandalism that precipitated the changes was a thing of the past so that a 'new' recreation ground could once more be appreciated and used responsibly.

As with all public bodies, procedures change and evolve, and our Clerk has been particularly efficient (and patient!) in guiding us through the many new and updated policies that Parish Councillors must now follow. In July, for example, we were presented with a Scheme of Delegation policy, a Data Retention policy, a Biodiversity policy and a Co-option policy, all of which, after discussion, were approved. We are fortunate that our new Clerk is not only experienced and conscientious but, in the tradition of our previous incumbent, a firm supporter of our community.

The September Parish Council meeting will take place at the Village Hall on Monday, 8th at 7.30pm.

Vicky Heaviside

Rainbows



We had a fun summer term at 1st Beacon Hill Rainbows, with a variety of activities including making hand puppets for the Great Totham Gardening Club Show, a scarecrow for the Wickham Bishops trail and some baking too! We also enrolled three new Rainbows and said a fond farewell to three young ladies who are moving up to Brownies in September; we wish them lots of luck! Our end of term treat was a visit to Gemma's Farm where the girls enjoyed feeding and handling a variety of animals including an Arctic fox cub!



My thanks to everyone who helps to support the unit and I look forward to the autumn term with three new joiners!

Rosie Pollock

If you are interested in signing your daughter up, please use the following link: [gohttps://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/](https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/)

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Community News



MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Your District Councillors



Over the past few months, the District Council, along with other authorities across Essex, has been working on a business case for Local Government reorganisation. This will be submitted in September to Government; I will keep you updated as this is progressed.

Maldon District Council is proud to announce the launch of a new community grants funding scheme, the 'Where Quality of Life Matters Fund', opening on 1st September 2025 and running until 30th November 2025.

This exciting new fund is designed to support Town and Parish Councils, registered voluntary, community, or charitable organisations, and registered social enterprises operating within the Maldon District. The scheme aims to empower local groups to deliver projects that enhance the wellbeing and quality of life for residents across the district.

We're putting our communities at the heart of this fund. The 'Where Quality of Life Matters Fund' is about giving local people and organisations the tools and support they need to make a real difference. Whether it's a small community event or a larger project with lasting impact, we want to hear your ideas and help bring them to life. You can find out how to apply at [Maldon.gov.uk](https://www.maldon.gov.uk)

We have also completed major refurbishment to the amphitheatre in Promenade Park, enhancing its role as a vibrant public performance space for the community. The improvements include the introduction of step-free access areas, making the venue more inclusive and accessible to all visitors. Seating areas have also been upgraded to improve comfort and usability, while additional structural works have been carried out to ensure the amphitheatre remains a safe and sustainable venue for future events. There will be events during September. If you are interested in using the space for a performance, please email, so that I can pass on your information to officers.

Jade and I are always keen to help with any ward issues, or if you have any problems or questions about the Council's services. If at any time you need to contact us, please phone 01621 890809, or email:

cllr.richard.siddall@maldon.gov.uk

cllr.jade.hughes@maldon.gov.uk

*Best wishes,
Richard*

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If you can help, please email parishmagazinetoatham@yahoo.co.uk, phone Cheryl on 01621 890940 or Helen on 01621 891067.

Published by the PCC of St Peter's Church, Great Totham

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Community News



GREAT TOTHAM VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU!!



The Village Hall Management Council needs New Members

Great Totham Village Hall is located in Great Totham (South) in the County of Essex. It is community asset which is managed, on behalf of the local community, by volunteers.

It is a focal point for the community offering a home to the Treehouse Club Day Nursery and Pre-school as well as various clubs and groups. It is also the venue for parties, quizzes and other activities.

Are you passionate about your local community?

Do you have some spare time and would like to do something worthwhile to support this community asset?

We are currently looking for a new **Treasurer** and **Vice-Treasurer** to join our management council in **2026**. If you have an understanding of simple accounts and have good communication and organisational skills, we would love to hear from you.

For an informal chat about the role please contact **Tina Finch** via greattothamvillagehall@gmail.com

As **Treasurer** you will:

- ensure the Management Council understand the Village Hall's financial position so that they can make sound financial decisions
- be responsible for the financial affairs of the Village Hall ensuring they are legal, constitutional and within accepted accounting practice; including making payments, monitoring and reporting the financial health of the Village hall, producing necessary financial reports/returns, maintaining proper records and ensuring that effective financial procedures are in place
- oversee the vice-treasurer, covering their duties when necessary

As **Vice-Treasurer** you will:

- work alongside the treasurer in ensuring the Management Council understand the Village Hall's financial position so that they can make sound financial decisions
- be responsible for ensuring all monies are received from the hirers of the Village Hall in a timely manner; including chasing booking deposits, invoicing for outstanding balances and indemnity deposits and arranging the repayment of indemnity deposits.

Community News



Great Totham Gardening Club

Autumn Show

**Saturday, 6th September
Great Totham Village Hall**



Open to everyone, particularly people new to friendly competition.

Classes for vegetables, fruit, flowers, floral art, cookery, arts and crafts, photography and children's exhibits

Remember to enter the Spud Bucket Challenge, Harvest Basket and Tallest Sunflower (for children up to 16 years of age)

Cost: 20p per entry

Entries close at 7pm on Thursday, 4th September

Bring your entries to the Village Hall between 8am and 11am

Show opens at 2.30pm

Raffle and refreshments available throughout the afternoon

Presentation of awards at 4.15pm

To obtain a schedule of classes, phone 01621 891067 or email:

hpmutton@gmail.com or norman.escala1@btinternet.com



You are invited to come and join us for yummy tea/coffee and cake at our

Knit and Natter Coffee Morning

Friday, 3rd October 10:30am – 12:30pm

at The Honeywood Hall, Hall Road, Great Totham

Contact: Sandra on 893153

In aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

Let's do whatever it takes to support people living with cancer

Community News

What's on in your Community

The Treehouse Club Pre-School

Monday to Friday, Village Hall

Rainbows

Monday, Church Extension

Carpet Bowls

630pm-830pm Tuesday, Village Hall

Baby Signage

9am Wednesday, Church Extension

Bible Study Group

1030am Wednesday, Honywood Hall

Community Choir

730pm Wednesday, Church Extension

Edward Bear Club

1030am Thursday, Church Extension

Great Totham WI

730pm 2nd Thursday, Village Hall

Wickham Bishops Gardening Club

730pm third Thursday,
St Bartholomew's Church Hall

Wickham Bishops WI

2pm last Thursday,
St Bartholomew's Church Hall

Knit and Natter

10am Friday, Honywood Hall

Bellringing Practice

745pm Friday, St Peter's Church

Mothers' Union

145pm some Fridays, Honywood Hall
Contact June Eaton 01621 891315 for dates

St Peter's Church Coffee Morning

10am 4th Saturday, Honywood Hall

URC, Great Totham North

Art Club

Monday, 2pm-4pm

Upholstery Classes

Monday, 7.30pm-9.30pm

Tuesday, 10am-12 noon;

12.30pm-2.30pm

Lunch Club

10.30am—2pm

2nd and 4th Wednesday

Craft and Chatter

1.30pm—3.30pm 2nd Thursday

Piecemakers

Patchwork and Needlework Group

1.30pm—3.30pm last Thursday

Church Coffee Morning

10am—11.30am 2nd Saturday

See page 39 for contact details

*To include your group here, email:
parishmagazinetoatham@yahoo.co.uk*

Future Events

Saturday and Sunday

25th and 26th October

**Great Totham Art Show
at the URC**

Saturday, 6th December

**St Peter's Church
Christmas Fayre**



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Community News



Great Totham WI



What a treat members and guests had at our Garden Party in July. It was so kind of James Frost, who put his beautiful garden at our disposal. We began the afternoon by walking around the garden trying to solve the answers to the quiz which Tina had devised. On return from wandering around the garden, a cream tea was served by Amanda, ably assisted by our hosts!



Once all the cakes were demolished, Paul Ayres sang for us. He included a number of hits from the West End show Jersey Boys, where he had been a cast member. The sound was wonderful in the outside setting. Following the quiz answers, where one member scored very highly, the raffle was called.

Our next meeting is on 11th September, when our speaker will be Rosemary Parker, who will be telling us more about reflexology.

We are always pleased to see new members and welcome you as a guest at any of our meetings, held on the second Thursday in the month at Great Totham Village Hall, commencing at 7.30 pm.

If you would like any more information about our group, you can find us on our website www.greattothamwi.weebly.com or email greattothamwi@gmail.com.

Sue Pulford



Beacon Hill Sports Association



The Beacon Hill Sports Association is a Charitable Trust located in Wickham Bishops, overseeing a large village hall and sports grounds. We're looking for a new Vice Chair with a view to becoming Chair in 2026 to lead our Board of Trustees. You will help shape the direction of the Trust, support the team in important community work and be a voice for sport and wellbeing. If you have experience in leadership, community work or enjoy working with people and getting things done, we would love to hear from you. This is a voluntary role for someone who would like to give back to the community.

For an informal chat about the role please contact Elizabeth Coeshall: email ejcoeshall@aol.com or for the full picture visit wickhambishopsvvenues.org

Community News

Contacting the Police

In an emergency dial 999

For non-emergencies dial 101 extension 412335 / 01245 491491

Send non-emergency police related information/intelligence to your North Blackwater Neighbourhood Policing Team at:

<http://www.essex.police.uk/> or text 07624 80010

Maldon Police

0300 333 4444 or 101

Maldon District Council Offices, Princes Road, Maldon



**Your local
update**

Visit essex.police.uk/your-area for news and updates on:

- The work of the Community and Local Policing Teams
- Crime trends
- Crime prevention



Essex Police – Colchester



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<http://www.essex.police.uk>

Great Totham Neighbourhood Watch

Visit Maldon District Neighbourhood Watch website for up to date local crime reports, non-urgent news and links to the police and national NHW websites:

<http://www.maldondistrictnhw.co.uk/index.htm>

For Totham Hill Green, phone Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, Ian Barratt, on 891949, email: ianbarratt43@gmail.com

For local crime reports, visit <https://www.police.uk/essex/28/crime/>



Wickham Bishops Library

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Wednesday: 2pm-5.30pm

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Saturday Story Time: 10.30am-11am every third Saturday of the month.
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Code Club: Saturdays 9am-10am.

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Contacts for Community Activities (See page 3 for Church Activities)

Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers		www.girlguiding.org.uk
Rainbows at St Peter's Church	Rosie Pollock	893168
Scouts, Cubs, Beavers at Prances	Brenda Heal	bjheal@btinternet.com
Great Totham Cricket Club Colts	Paul Marks	07709 793958
The Treehouse Club Pre-School	Village Hall	01621 468020
Edward Bear Club (Toddler Group)	St Peter's Church	Rosie Pollock 893168
Gardening Club	Village Hall	Pauline Wright 892855
Wl: GT Evening 2nd Thurs. 7.30pm	Village Hall	Sue Pulford 892063
GT & WB last Thurs. 2pm	St.B Church Hall	Di Mellor 892247
Day Centre Wednesdays	URC	Jean Johnstone 892293
Carpet Bowls Tues 6.30pm-8.30pm	Village Hall	Jean Cloughton 892286
Tollesbury Table Tennis Club	Paul Freeman	freemans21@hotmail.com
		862510 / 07855 204505
Maldon Croquet Club		maldoncroquetclub@gmail.com
Wickham Bishops Drama Club		www.wickhambishopsdrama.co.uk
Knit and Natter (Honywood Hall)	Sandra Smith	893153
Wickham Bishops Gardening Club	Stewart / Wendy	HortiClub@outlook.com 893360

Useful Telephone Numbers

Honywood Hall Hire	Karin Mann	929866
St Peter's Church Extension Hire	Karin Mann	929866
Village Hall hire	Sue Pulford	892063
URC hall hire	Sue Bowyer	893285
St Peter's—Interment of Ashes and Iron Crosses	Chris Munton	891817
Great Totham Parish Council	Clerk: Nikki Smith	07811400803
District Councillors	Jade Hughes	cllr.jade.hughes@maldon.gov.uk
	Richard Siddall	07979 853947 / 890809
County Councillor	Mark Durham	01245 227249 / 07850 967239
Great Totham Primary School		891091
Maldon District Council		854477
Maldon Citizens Advice	email: manager@maldoncitizensadvice.org.uk	875774
Police Community Support Officer		101
Water		01245 491234
Electricity		0845 6014516
Frank (Drugs Helpline) (free)		0300 1236600
Childline Helpline for children		0800 1111 (free)
Maldon District Health / Wellbeing advice	emily.fallon@maldon.gov.uk	
NSPCC 24 hour helpline for children		0800 800 500 (free)
The Samaritans		116 123
DIAL UK (Disability Information & Advice Line)		www.dialuk.info
Church of England, St. Peter's	Rev'd Sue Godsmark	891513
Totham Barn Free Evangelical Church	Contact Danbury Mission:	01245 227428
United Reformed Church		01376 500958
Wickham Bishops Church		
Maldon Methodist Church Office	Rev'd Clifford Newman	853423
Maldon Roman Catholic Church	Parish Priest - Fr. Jerold Savio	852259
Society of Friends (Quakers)	Clerk to the meeting - Sue Smith	854056
Salvation Army		853942
Christian Growth Centre (CGC), Maldon	Rob & Jeannie Saggs Pastors	855855



Harvest Thanksgiving

10am on Sunday, 28th September

St Peter's Church, Great Totham

Followed by refreshments

Food offerings will be donated to

Maldon Food Pantry

Great Totham Parish Magazine is published by The Parish Church to help everyone feel part of the community, recognising people's achievements and the value of community activity, and to encourage support of local businesses. Please contribute by sending us your good news, suggestions and details of any events and advertisements for the next edition by: 10th September.

Email: parishmagazinetotham@yahoo.co.uk

Disk & Paper: 17 Goat Lodge Road, Great Totham CM9 8BU.

Printed by Colt Press Ltd, Sudbury, Suffolk

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