



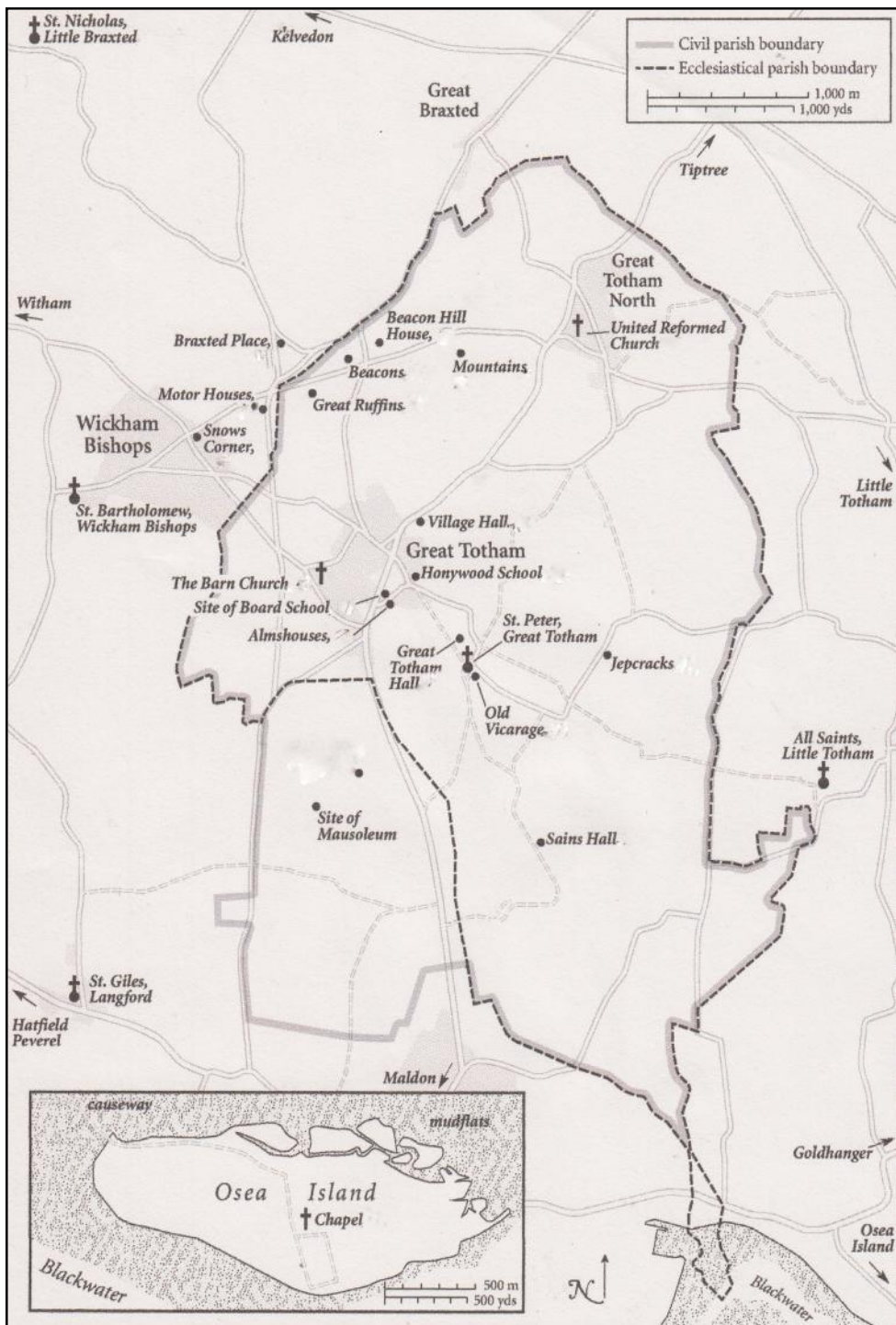
Great Totham Parish Magazine

sent to every home in Great Totham
June 2026



Inside this Edition -

Village Shop reopens
Church Annual Meeting report



Church News



Blackwater Benefice Ministry Team Message



You may have seen on the news a little while ago a rather quirky item relating to a half-marathon run in Beijing, in which there was a separate event for robots. One of them, a robot named Lightning triumphed over all other contestants in a time seven minutes faster than the current world record.

Just a piece of nonsense, you might think. But robotic science is an ever developing and important branch of science that is changing our lives.

I refer particularly to another news story a few weeks before the Beijing marathon, in which it was reported that a particularly complex medical operation on a prostate cancer victim in Gibraltar was carried out by robotic surgery being managed by a doctor who was working 1,500 miles away in London.

How wonderful! And how much God would have been pleased to see that a skill which He made available to us was being put to such good use, especially when there are so many times that we muck up.

This all seems particularly relevant as the season of Trinity begins to develop in our Christian Calendar.

It's a season in which we see Jesus rolling up His sleeves, travelling round and about, teaching, preaching, curing the sick and performing the occasional miracle. In other words He is using His skillset as a demonstration of the power of God and of the love of God.

I don't suppose for one moment that there was any overt Christianity involved in the robotic operation. But can't we just feel that the hand of God was in there somewhere, just as it was in the miracles of Jesus. It's just that people don't like to admit it these days.

“God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them,” we read in the First Letter of John, chapter 4, verse 16.

Exactly. Apart from anything else, who among us can claim that they have never forgotten about God, or cast Him aside. Or behaved irrationally while knowing full well that we are not being good and righteous Christians.

Of course we fall from time to time. We are Christians, but we are also humans. We make mistakes. We get things wrong. We say things we never should.

But the love of God remains within. God recognises our faults, He understands, and He forgives, and He does so because He understands that even in the bad times our beliefs remain and our faith is undaunted.

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Church News

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Going back to that letter of John's, this time in chapter 1, verse 9: **"If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."**

Through all the Gospel stories about the way Jesus was working in this period of Trinity, this simple message remains the underlying theme. Just imagine what hope that gave to those mainly very ordinary people who came within His compass.

And that message continues for us. God has not deserted us. Even though His presence may not seem obvious sometimes, we usually only have to look with sensitivity at what is in front of us to see that God is present in our world in one way or another. The shape of a passing cloud, a bird riding the airwaves, a summer flower in bloom.

And the performance of an operation over 1,500 miles which offers such hope not just to the patient who was treated on that occasion, but to all patients, particularly those living in isolated conditions, whose lives will benefit as the practice grows.

*Philip Smith
Little Totham*

Rotas	Church Flowers	Church Cleaning
7th June 14th June 21st June 28th June	Mary Owers Karen Tarpey Chris Kemsley Daphne Taplin	Glynis Potter and Sally Thake - Jenny Barclay and Jean Grant -

Church Extension and Kitchen Cleaning: Isobel Doubleday

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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 June First Sunday after Trinity	10am	Morning Service of the Word	Ps. 50. 7-15 Rom. 4. 13-25
	6pm	Evensong by Zoom	<i>Gospel:</i> Matt. 9. 9-13, 18-26
14th June Second Sunday after Trinity	10am	Morning Service of the Word	Exod. 19. 2-8 Rom. 5. 1-8
	6pm	Evensong by Zoom	<i>Gospel:</i> Matt. 9. 35-10. 8
21st June Third Sunday after Trinity	10am	Family Communion	Ps. 69. 8-17
	6pm	Evensong by Zoom	Rom. 6. 1-11 <i>Gospel:</i> Matt.10. 24-39
28th June Fourth Sunday after Trinity St Peter's Day	10am	Family Communion	Jer. 28. 5-9
	6pm	Evensong by Zoom	Rom.6.12-end <i>Gospel:</i> Matt. 10. 40-end

In your prayers at home this month, please include:

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

Church Registers

Funerals

29th April Peter Roast of Little Braxted
11th May Terry Jenkins of Great Totham

Coffee Morning at The Honywood



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

Sheila Allen

Church News



Benefice Worship



Visit the website or Facebook page for up to date information on services, or contact Karin Mann (01621 891215) or Karen Tarpey (01621 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.

Beacon Group of Churches Monthly Prayer Meeting: All welcome to the next meeting at 9.30am on Saturday, 6th June at St Mary's Chapel, Little Braxted

The Parish of St. Peter's Great Totham

Charity Number: XN 12862

100+ Club Draw Winners April

1st Prize: Pauline Haggerty

2nd Prize: Sandra Mackie

3rd Prize: Madge Dewing

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 30603562, reference your surname) or by cheque/cash.

Subscription Renewals

If you are already a member of St Peter's Church 100+ Club, your £12 annual subscription is due for the year commencing 1st May 2026.

Members who have a Bank Standing Order need do nothing; all others should pay by BACS (see bank details above), alternatively by cheque payable to 'St. Peters Great Totham Donations A/C', or lastly by cash to Roger Allen.

Church News

News from the Belfry



It is always pleasant to receive gifts but it is equally nice to give them. I always make the effort to buy something that I think the recipient might appreciate. It is disappointing when a beautifully wrapped gift contains something that perhaps we do not like, but it is important to remember the adage that it is the thought that counts.

In April of this year, King Charles and Queen Camilla paid a state visit to the United States. It is customary on these occasions for the host and guest to exchange gifts. On 28th April, the King and Queen attended a State Dinner at the White House. To mark the occasion, King Charles presented President Trump with a most unique and inspired gift. The King gifted the President the original bell from the submarine HMS Trump. Cast in bronze, it is inscribed with the words 'Trump' in capital letters, followed by '1944', the year of its commissioning. So far, she has been the only ship of the Royal Navy to bear the name Trump. Buckingham Palace described the bell as a "symbol of friendship". On 6th July 1976 during a visit to Philadelphia, Queen Elizabeth II, on behalf of the British people, presented the United States with the Bicentennial Bell to celebrate its 200th birthday. This six-ton bell is a replica of The Liberty Bell and both bells were cast at the Whitechapel Foundry. The Bicentennial Bell bears the inscription "For the People of the United States of America from the People of Britain 4 July 1976 Let Freedom Ring".

HMS Trump was a British submarine of the third group of the T class. She was built by Vickers Armstrong in Barrow-in-Furness, launched on 25th March 1944 and subsequently commissioned on 8th July 1944. In October of the same year, she underwent sea trials in the North Sea before sailing to Perth in Australia to join the 4th Submarine Squadron, where she was supported by the depot ship HMS Adamant. During her Far East service, HMS Trump took part in four patrols, sinking the Japanese guard boat the Shosei Maru on 13th May, a Japanese sailing vessel on 24th May and two coasters, one on 29th May and the other on 1st June. She sank a tanker on 5th June and, together with her sister submarine HMS Tiptoe, sank a Japanese cargo vessel on 9th August. On 3rd August, the Tiptoe and Trump carried out an attack on a convoy. Despite it being escorted by a Japanese patrol boat, they successfully sank the army cargo ship the Tencho Maru, with the sinking credited to HMS Tiptoe. HMS Trump survived the Second World War and continued in the service of the Royal Navy. She underwent an extensive refit and, in 1960, along with the submarines Taciturn and Tabard, joined the 4th Submarine Flotilla at Sydney. There she operated

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Church News

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with units of the Far East Fleet. HMS Trump was the last Royal Navy submarine in Australia. She departed on 10th January 1969, when the First Australian Submarine Squadron replaced the Royal Navy's Fourth Submarine Squadron. She was scrapped at Newport, Wales in August 1971. The bell was originally housed in the conning tower, which was primarily the attack and navigation centre of the submarine, as well as the station for the commanding officer.

Some years ago, my cousin had the honour, in his capacity as Mayor of Richmond, to meet the then Prince of Wales. He was impressed by his charm, great sense of humour and wit. This was evident in his speech at the State Dinner when King Charles said, when referring to the bell, "should you ever need to get hold of us, well, just give us a ring".

I must add an interesting footnote concerning the last two articles about The Swan Tower in Perth. Janice, our Tower Captain, rang the bells of St Martins-in-the-Fields before they were transported to Perth and renamed The Swan Bells.

Do you fancy learning to ring our bells? For further information please contact Janice, our Tower Captain, on 07790 354338 or visit

<https://greattothambellringers.co.uk/>

Catherine Hood

Reverend Andrew Vince



We are delighted to share the news that Reverend Andrew (Andy) Vince is to be licensed as Associate Priest in our local Ministry Team by the Bishop of Colchester. Andy has served as Assistant Curate in the Blackwater Benefice since 2021, taking on the role of Lead Minister during the recent vacancy. We are hugely grateful to Andy for his wise, gentle and good-humoured leadership in these roles and for his continued contribution as a much-valued member of our Ministry Team.

Andy's licensing as Associate Priest provides us with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for all that he has done and continues to do to serve the churches and communities of our parishes.

The licensing will take place during a special service at St. Mary's, Tollesbury on Wednesday, 10th June at 7.30pm, followed by refreshments in the Parish Rooms. We hope that a good number of people from across our parishes will join us to support and pray for Andy as he is licensed to this new role.

Jo Wood

Team Vicar Designate – The Waterside Parishes

Layer de la Haye, Salcott cum Virley, Tollesbury, Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Tolleshunt Major

Children's Page

Trooping the Colour on 13th June



First performed during the reign of Charles II (1660–1685) in 1748, it was decided that the Trooping the Colour parade should mark the Sovereign's official birthday. In 1760, after the accession of George III, it became an annual event.

This year is the first time that the Grenadier Guards will troop their colour in front of the King. 2026 marks the 370th Anniversary of the formation of the Guards.

Trooping the Colour is a ceremonial event performed on Horse Guards Parade in London. In the UK, it is the biggest event of the ceremonial calendar, and watched by millions on television, on the streets of London and in the stands at Horse Guards Parade.

Returning to Buckingham Palace, the monarch surveys a further march-past from outside the gates. Following a 41-gun salute by the King's Troop in Green Park, the royal family makes an appearance on the palace balcony for a Royal Air Force flypast.

Sourced by June Eaton

Church News



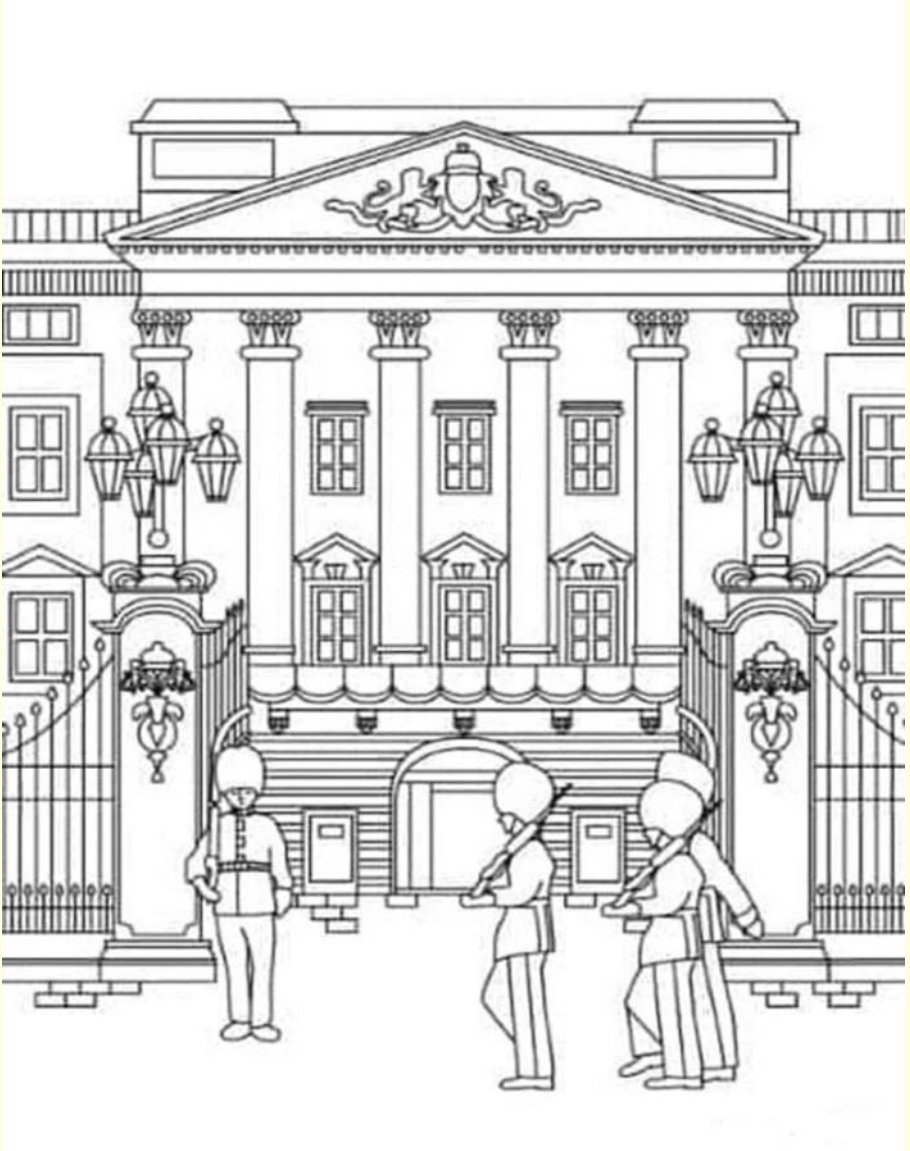
There will be no meeting of the Mothers' Union in June. Our next meeting will be on 17th July, when we will be visiting Hyde Hall for our Summer Cream Tea.

During August there will be many events for us to attend in connection with our 150th Anniversary. Watch this space.

For more information on the Mothers' Union meetings, please contact me on 01621 891315.

June Eaton

Children's Colouring Page



Sourced by June Eaton

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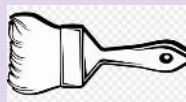
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Church News

Peter Richard Roast 12th May 1942—31st March 2026

Dad was a wonderful son, husband, brother, uncle, father and grandfather, whose family was so important to him. He had an enormously rich life, so distilling this into two pages is tough, but hopefully this gives a great picture.

Peter was born in 1942 in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. Although Peter's family hailed from London, his grandmother wanted to get out of East London at the outbreak of war to somewhere "safer." She chose Bucks, where the Royal Family went in the First World War. Peter's father, also Peter, was serving in the Welsh Regiment in North Africa when Peter was born. His mother, Ellen, used the skills she learned as a furrier to build Mosquitos. Peter had a happy upbringing. As with most children born during the war, he was brought up almost exclusively by women and may have had an easy time of it. When Peter senior eventually came home when Peter was about five years old, he suddenly had some discipline, frequently asking his mum "when was that nasty man going back to Italy!"

Post war, the family expanded with the birth of Peter's brother, John, and two sisters, Margaret and Anne. Peter was close to all of them, delighting in the growing family of 14 nephews and nieces. After the war, Peter's family returned to east London, eventually settling in Doddinghurst, Essex. Peter told us that he did well at school, passing his 11+ and attending Walthamstow Tech, then Chelmsford Tech. His school report from 1958 told a different story: "*Has no intention apparently of making really substantial efforts to improve*" (Maths). "*Very disappointing. He has done very little work this term*" (History). Neither was he the best behaved pupil, telling us stories about setting light to a girl's hair on the bus, smashing a greenhouse at Chelmsford station after pushing a lump of coal off the platform, and firing his catapult at Chelmsford Cathedral.

Like most working class children in the 50s, Peter left school at 16 and started work at a London based glass importer, Hoskins Rose, where his father was a Director. Peter did well and showed himself to be a great salesman. When Peter was in his early 20s, his father suggested starting his own business and PR Roast & Co Ltd was born, which proved very successful in the glassware and basket-ware trade. Peter senior joined the business soon after. Peter worked incredibly hard developing the business, spending a lot of time away from home, travelling in the UK, the Far East and Eastern Europe and, as a result, missing many of his children's milestones. He was delighted in later years to see so much of his grandchildren whilst living with Liz's family. Peter's brother, sisters, and brother-in-law all worked for the business for many years and Peter was very proud that it gave them all comfortable lives. Peter retired from the business at age 65 and was delighted that the business continued to thrive under the leadership of his son, Simon, and his nephew, also Peter.

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Church News

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Peter married Angela, in 1968 in Benfleet Church, after meeting her in the local music clubs. His future sister-in-law, Debbie, to whom he was always very close, was only two when he and Angela got together. On one of their first dates, they went strawberry picking, taking Debbie with them, who, of course got covered in strawberry juice. Peter and Angela initially settled in Ingatestone where Graham, Andrew and Simon were born, subsequently moving to Little Baddow where Elizabeth was born and, from there, to Little Braxted. Graham sadly passed away from cancer as a teenager, which was a very difficult time for the family, but Peter and Angela were excellent parents and we have all done well, a credit to how we were brought up. We all look back fondly on our childhoods; in particular the motor caravan holidays around the UK and northern Europe.

Angela sadly passed away in 2014 after 49 years of happy marriage and Dad, of course, missed her terribly, as do we all. We are pleased that Dad will be joining mum again in the churchyard at St Peter's. The family remains very close and Peter was delighted to see his children marry; Caroline, Jen and Rob were welcomed into the family as if they were his own children. He was a doting grandfather to his four young grandchildren, George, Finlay, Eva and Wilfred.

Peter's other main interests were music, football and freemasonry. As a child in the 50s, he was brought up on blues, jazz and rock and roll, but had a wide taste in music. He was a great pianist and accomplished organist, largely self-taught, and was organist at St Peter's for many years. He also played Christmas carol singalongs to packed audiences in the local village pubs, always finishing with Cockney knees ups.

Peter was a fan of football generally and played football to a good amateur standard when he was younger. A regular attendee at games since the 50s, he was an Arsenal fan for over 70 years, holding a season ticket for over 40 years. He even took Angela, who had no interest in football, when they were courting, as well as all his children from a young age. However, he did not see Arsenal lift a trophy until he was in his 50s. When Sid and I were kids, he would referee and run the line for our games, and came to watch us play to a very dubious standard at Great Totham Pit when we were young adults. He watched Maldon Sunday League Games and, in recent years, loved taking his mobility scooter over the fields to watch grandson George play for South Woodham Ferrers.

Peter was also a keen Freemason, a well-respected member of a number of lodges across Essex and in London. He was organist at most of these. Peter was also a Liveryman, a member of the Worshipful Company of Needle-makers, and was incredibly honoured to be installed as a Freeman of the City of London in 1989. He thoroughly enjoyed serving on the court at his Livery Company.

We remember Dad, a wonderful man, for his generosity, his unflappability, his appetite for fun, and his love for all of his family. We will miss you!

Andrew Roast

Community News



MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Your District Councillors



The latest league table of recycling rates for all 321 local authorities across England for 2024/25 has just been released. Maldon District Council has emerged as the top performer in Essex, with a recycling rate of 57.8%, which also puts it in the top 6% of councils nationally. This achievement reflects the Council's strong commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

As we move into the summer, it's a great time to go to an event in the district. Please contact events@maldon.gov.uk if you have any queries or would like to know more. Alternatively, visit the **Events Planner**, which is a working document, and details the events currently planned or to come:

<https://news.comms.maldon.gov.uk/74F713CEEC72C4E656B62B77AB5D5FF2BFC44935CE7849FDD53E6976D3E1A74C/521B7F0F4D53E01DE79E8DDD0443B81A/LE35>

The **new Welcome to Maldon District Guide 2026 has arrived!** These will be used to support our wider visitor welcome activity, helping to showcase the district, highlight key attractions, and provide useful information for both residents and visitors. We'll be sharing these across a range of locations and events over the coming months. If you have any queries, please contact tourism@maldon.gov.uk

The Skateboard Park in Promenade Park has been opened, and new lighting columns are installed. This is a great new attraction and continues with our investment in the facilities at the park.

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*

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

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Parochial Church Council of Great Totham nor can the Church guarantee the credentials or performance of any of the advertisers within this publication.

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Community News

Great Totham Village Stores



Our Village Stores is now fully refurbished and has re-opened! We wish Jenny, Lyndsey and the team good luck as they continue to develop the shop and Post Office. Focussing on stocking local, good value produce, further developments are planned, including a self-serve community café. Watch this space for more news, or visit in person to support this great local business.



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<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/summer-reading-challenge-volunteering>

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Community News



Great Totham Parish Council Report for May



This month's report is short and sweet and would, indeed, have been even shorter had we not been presented with yet another planning application for a substantial number of houses in the village. The start time for the meeting had been brought forward in case residents wished to make representation but, in the event, we were joined only by two representatives from Wickham Bishops which would also be affected should 'the Government's commitment to significantly boost the supply of housing' go ahead. Interestingly, as one member reminded us, a significant number of new local houses currently remain unsold.

Personally, I rather regret the demise of a system whereby an application was simply presented with supporting evidence and due regard for existing rules and regulations. Nowadays we are overwhelmed with screeds of non-specific information from consultees and some rather controversial claims (and omissions) regarding what is currently available by way of 'services and facilities'. I also noticed this application acknowledges that 'the proposed development conflicts with the development plan.' I am not sure those residents who worked so hard to produce a Neighbourhood Plan that would best serve our community will be reassured to read that the only negative impacts envisaged are 'the loss of a currently underdeveloped site and transport impacts'!

Following the playground inspections, Councillors discussed the refurbishment and, in some cases, the replacement of items that are showing signs of wear and tear. There is, of course, a budget for maintenance and a contingency fund for more pressing cases but it may sometimes be necessary to tape off pieces of apparatus until repairs can be made.

The May meeting being the Annual meeting of the Council, it was necessary to elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman for the Civic Year 2026/27, appoint members to serve on the various standing committees and designate contacts for Speedwatch, Maldon District Council Emergency Planning, Essex County Council Public Rights of Way and Essex County Council Public Transport. Councillor Atkinson and Councillor Adams were willing to continue in their roles of Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively and all other responsibilities were speedily agreed! If you have a query but are not sure who to consult, the Clerk will be happy to point you in the right direction.

Out and about in the village, Councillor Atkinson reported that the Speedwatch Team had carried out five checks and, out of 1,001 drivers, 41 had been reported for speeding, which is, of course, 41 too many, but compares favourably with last month. As ever, the group would welcome additional volunteers.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on 8th June at 7.30pm.

Vicky Heaviside

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Community News

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REVENGE

WRITTEN BY
JANET SHAW



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Community News

The Women's ICC T20 World Cup



This year will see the 10th Women's Cricket World Cup, incorporating the short form of the game. For those who do not know, the T20 is a cricket competition with each side having a maximum of 20 overs or a total of 120 legal balls bowled. This year's competition will be held from 12th June to 5th July in England at seven different venues between 12 international teams. A total of 33 matches are due to be played.

The initial stage of the tournament will involve two groups of six teams playing a round robin-based format with the top two teams of each group going on to play in the knockout stage.

This competition was first established for women in 2009 and is now a biennial event. Host nations have included England, West Indies, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, Australia, South Africa and the UAE. The current champions are New Zealand, who beat South Africa by 32 runs to win their first T20 World Cup title.

Of the nine tournaments to date, England has won it once (the inaugural competition), with Australia being the most successful, having won the title six times. The only other champion-winning teams have been the West Indies and New Zealand.

In this year's World Cup, the 12 competing teams will be Australia, Bangladesh, India, Netherlands, Pakistan and South Africa in Group 1, and England, Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland and Sri Lanka in Group 2. The England squad has been announced, with Nat Sciver-Brunt as captain and Amy Jones as wicket keeper. The first game of the tournament will be England against Sri Lanka at Edgbaston. This is likely to be an exciting tournament which should appeal to all cricket fans!

Chris Bingham

Congratulations

to Claire and John (Prince of Wales pub) on their recent marriage.
We wish them every happiness.

Volunteers wanted!

Many people, including those who are not regular churchgoers, undertake small tasks which help to run St Peter's Church. We're now looking for people for the following; please speak to Karen (892122) or Helen (891067) for further details:

- Joining the cleaning rota(s); training will be given and equipment provided!
- Serving refreshments after the 10am Sunday service (about once a month).
- Joining the rota of people 'meeting and greeting' those coming to services.
- Helping to deliver the Parish Magazine in Maypole Road.

Community News

Great Totham Gardening Club



On Sunday 10th May, 19 members of the Gardening Club met in Avenue Road, Witham, to visit the garden of Annie Northfield. Annie gave a brief introduction to the group, who were pleased to wander around the various beautiful growing areas before enjoying afternoon tea. Annie's style and plant knowledge was apparent in the magical woodland garden. Afternoon Tea was enjoyed in the beautiful garden.

Annie kindly donated the proceeds of the afternoon to Alzheimer's Society.

Unfortunately, Sheila's presentation on Jam Making in May had to be cancelled. We wish her a speedy recovery and will look forward to her presentation in next year's programme.



The Gardening Club's next event will be the Spud Bucket Challenge at 4.30pm on Friday, 11th September, followed by the 2026 Autumn Show on Saturday, 12th September.

It's now time to enjoy a successful summer growing season in your gardens. Take the opportunity to get out and about with your cameras, plan and produce your Floral Art, Arts and Crafts, and Cookery Exhibits, and, encourage the children to prepare their entries for the tumbling tomato competition, giving their

plants some extra TLC.

For more information, email hpmutton@gmail.com or norman.escala1@btinternet.com

Norman Wright

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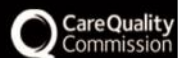
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Church News

St Peter's Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Following the 10am service on Sunday, 3rd May, led by Isobel Doubleday, 18 church members gathered for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), chaired by Karen Tarpey. This was to review the Annual Report and Financial Summary for the previous year, 2025, and elect members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) for the year to come.

In line with Church of England rules, the Electoral Roll had been revised for 2026/27 and showed 50 people eligible for inclusion in the roll and able to vote at the Annual Meeting. Others may apply as the year progresses. The Chair thanked Colin Heaviside for undertaking this task.

The meeting heard that the latest advert for the post of Team Vicar for the Beacon group of churches (Goldhanger, Great Totham, Little Totham and Wickham Bishops with Little Braxted) had not attracted any candidates. The Archdeacon will meet with PCC representatives to discuss next steps. In the meantime, Rev'd Andy Vince continues to oversee St Peter's, with the assistance of Rev'd Sue Godsmark, visiting clergy, volunteer lay readers and authorised local preachers, and our Benefice Administrator, Rosie Pollock.

The Annual Report for 2025 (copies can be found at the back of the church) detailed church activities for the year. Regular and occasional services were supported by volunteers, including the choir, bell ringers, flower arrangers and cleaners. It was gratifying to welcome large congregations to the Christingles and other Christmas services, including the Nine Lessons and Carols, which was supported by the Community Choir and hand bell ringers. During the year, there were six baptisms, three weddings, six funerals and seven burial of ashes. Church-related activities included Bible Study, led by Paul Smith, Knit and Natter, led by Sandra Smith, Sunday Club, led by a rota of volunteers, Edward Bear Club, led by Rosie Pollock, and the monthly Coffee Mornings, led by Sheila Allen. Boxes were made up by members of the congregation for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox collection, and a donation from the Christingle services was made to The Children's Society. The bi-annual Flower Festival, with the theme of 'Hobbies', and the 'Elves Workshop' Christmas Fayre organised by John Keeble, Caroline Grant, Helen Sinclair, among others, including the children, were well supported. Other reports included Buildings and Grounds (Paul Smith), Deanery Synod (John Speakman), and the 100+ Club monthly draws (Roger Allen). Thanks were given to the many people who organised and supported these events and activities, to those who donated towards church funds, and to the team who produced and distributed the magazine.

If you are interested in participating in any of these activities, contact details are to be found at the back of this magazine.

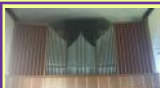
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Church News

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Nine PCC members were appointed for the year 2026/27; John Keeble, Karin Mann, Chris Munton, Helen Mutton, Mary Owers, Helen Sinclair, Paul Smith, Sandra Smith, Karen Tarpey. There were no nominations for Churchwarden and Karen Tarpey kindly continues to carry out most of this work. It was noted that, whilst we do not have a Treasurer, Philippa Hardy-King, Paul Mutton, Karen Tarpey and Adam Tarpey have undertaken this work between them. Sheila Allen and John Speakman will continue to represent St Peter's on the Deanery Synod as they were re-elected in 2025 for a period of three years.

*Helen Mutton
PCC Secretary*



Organ Recital by Michael Danes



Saturday, 13th June at 7pm

St. Nicholas Church, Tolleshunt D'Arcy

Free entry; Light refreshments; Retiring collection in aid of Tolleshunt D'Arcy Village Larder and St. Nicholas Church

*On RSCM Music Sunday
Come and sing*

Choral Evensong

**St. Luke's Church, Tiptree
June 14th 2026 at 6pm**

Choir workshop from 3pm to 5pm
Conductor: Norman Eastbrook *me*
Organist: Clive Eastbrook
Music provided (from RSCM)

Refreshment break at 5pm
- tea and coffee will be provided

*To book your place, or for further details, please contact
Norman Eastbrook on 07762 836395
or by email: nreastbrook@me.com*

... or come and be part of the congregation at 6pm.
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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

Friday, 10th/Saturday, 11th July:
WB Drama Club presents
'Revenge' at WB Village Hall

Saturday, 12th September:
Great Totham Gardening Club
Autumn Show

Saturday, 12th September:
FoECT Sponsored Ride and



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Community News



Great Totham WI



Our speaker in May was Ian Kirby, who gave an illustrated talk on The Mitford Sisters. Baron Redesdale and his wife Sydney Bowles were an aristocratic couple living in Northumberland, who became particularly well-known in the 1930s for their six daughters. The first born, Nancy, became a novelist who lived in France much of her adult life. The second daughter, Pamela, was known as the “country girl”. The third child was a son named Thomas who supported British fascism. Diana, the fourth child, left her first husband for the British fascist Leader Sir Oswald Moseley. The fifth child, Unity, had an adulation of, and friendship with, Adolf Hitler, which was widely publicised. She shot herself in the head just after Britain declared war on Germany, surviving, but with permanent brain damage. The sixth child was Jessica, who, unlike the rest of her family, was a Communist. The last child was a daughter named Deborah, who married the 11th Duke of Devonshire and managed Chatsworth House, one of the most successful stately homes in England.

Next month Rosemary Parker will be giving a talk on Reflexology.

We always like 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 e mail greattothamwi@gmail.com

Sue Pulford



Wickham Bishops WI



Our April meeting was our AGM and, after reports from our President, Secretary and Treasurer, the current President and Committee agreed to stand for a further year. Our President reminded us of our interesting year with excellent speakers, lunches and of continuing walking and craft groups. We hope to encourage new members to join us in 2026.

We then enjoyed a splendid traditional afternoon tea, including scones, jam and cream provided by Angela, a former member of Essex Crafts Committee, who now runs her own catering business. Our President, very generously, with her winnings from the Federation Flutter, treated us all to a glass of Prosecco.

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

Margaret Curtis

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



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- 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

Monday: 2pm-5.30pm
Saturday: 9am-5pm

Wednesday: 2pm-5.30pm
Telephone: 0345 6037628

Baby and Toddler Rhymetime: Mondays 2.15pm-2.45pm.
Stories and rhymes for babies and young children.

Saturday Story Time: 10.30am-11am every third Saturday of the month.
Free sessions aimed at children aged 5 and under, but everyone is welcome.

Ancestry: Wednesdays 3.30pm-4.30pm. Help to research your family history.

Code Club: Saturdays 9am-10am.
Learn how to make cool games, animations and websites.

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
WI: 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

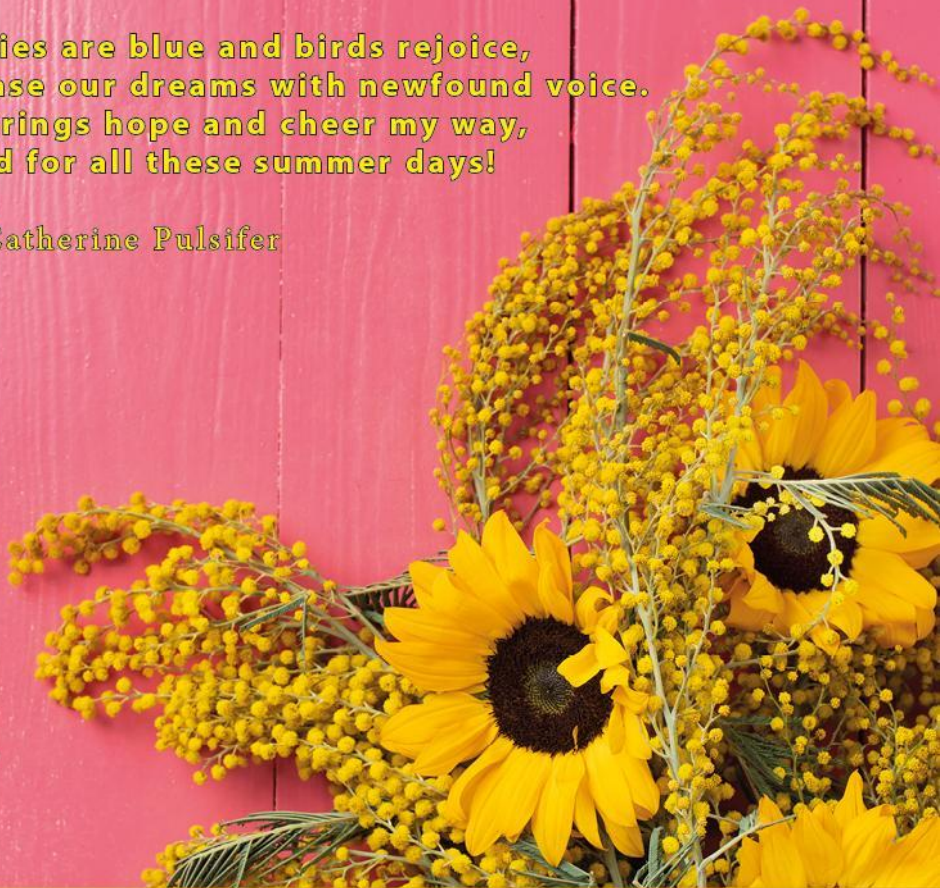
Honywood Hall Hire		Karin Mann	929866
St Peter's Church Extension Hire		Karin Mann	929866
Village Hall hire		Sue Pulford	892063
URC hall hire		Sue Bowyer	893285
St Peter's—Interment of Ashes and Iron Crosses		Chris Munton	891817
Great Totham Parish Council		Clerk: Nikki Smith	07811400803
District Councillors	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	Contact Rosie Pollock		07908 776750
Totham Barn Free Evangelical Church	Contact Danbury Mission:		01245 227428
United Reformed Church			01376 500958
Wickham Bishops St Bartholomew's Church			07544 973705
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

Halfway Through The Year

Hello June, with all your days,
Halfway through the year in warm sun rays.
Summer vacations start to shine,
The perfect time for a family wine and dine.

The skies are blue and birds rejoice,
We chase our dreams with newfound voice.
June brings hope and cheer my way,
Excited for all these summer days!

Poet: Catherine Pulsifer



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 June.

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