

Theydon Bois Issue 121 Sept 2023 Village News

Theydon Bois Village Hall



Frank Retires & Alan Takes Over
See page 16

Theydon Bois Parish Council - Chairman's Report

I am very pleased to report that our Village has the honour to host an important civic event next Month.

As part of the activities to celebrate the King's Coronation, a number of locations across the UK have been chosen where a new Oak Tree will be planted to commemorate the occasion. The location chosen in Essex is Theydon Bois. The planting ceremony will be attended by a number of high-ranking dignitaries including the Lord Mayor of London. The ceremony will take place on the lower green on the morning of 14th October, followed by a formal luncheon in the Village Hall. The event is being coordinated by the City of London.

Amongst other news, the Parish council has been successful in obtaining a grant through Epping Forest District Council to make improvements to the Cemetery along the Abridge Road. The Grant will help fund a long term project to bring into use a piece of land at the rear of the Cemetery which was purchased from the Woodland Trust a number of years ago.

The Highways & Environment Committee led by Cllr Anthony Purkiss has again been active in arranging for the worst of the potholes in the Village to be repaired, although this often seems to be a never ending task! Discussions are continuing with Essex County Council and Essex Highways for further improvement works to be carried out in the Village, which we hope will come to fruition soon.

The busiest Committee of the Council is probably the Planning Committee, who review and assess all the Planning Applications in the Village. The Committee strives to protect the Green Belt surrounding the Village and also to ensure that any applications maintain the character of the street scenes and where necessary protect the amenity of neighbouring properties. If you have any concerns over planning applications near you, we would urge you to contact the Parish Council so your concerns can be taken into account.

Theydon Bois is a special place in which we live and I feel we have a duty to look after it. I would therefore like to thank the small group of volunteers who regularly turn up for the monthly litter picks which are organized by the Council and meet at the Village Hall. New volunteers are always welcome so look out for further information as to when the next litter pick is taking place.

Finally, a reminder that the Parish Council meets in the Village Hall on the last Thursday of the month (except August and December) and these meetings are open to the public. These meetings provide an opportunity for Villagers to hear about current news and initiatives within the Village as well as providing an opportunity to raise any issues you may have regarding Village life.

Details of forthcoming Council meetings can be found on the Parish Council website via the following link: <https://theydonbois-pc.gov.uk/>



Councillor Peter Gooch
Chairman Theydon Bois Parish Council



Theydon Bois Parish Council

Bus Shelter Repaired - A local landmark has been given a makeover thanks to the Parish Council and the master craftsmen of the Theydon Bois Repair Café. After a local resident reported that the Perspex windows on the Coppice Row bus shelter were broken, the Parish Council contacted the Repair Café for help. They measured up and ordered the new Perspex windows and then replaced them. The Parish Council would like to thank the Repair Café for giving their time and expertise to help repair this valuable community asset.



Parish Council continues to resolve pothole issues - The Parish Council's contractors Harrington Brothers have been in the village recently filling in many of the smaller potholes in local roads.



Theydon Repair Cafe

Our small team of volunteers has been running monthly sessions of the Repair Cafe since January, with an enthusiastic response from members of the community who bring in between 15 and 25 items per session.

We successfully repair about 80% of the items brought in which vary from vacuum cleaners, garden power tools, radios & battery window vacs to ornaments, chairs, stools, picture frames, clocks, toys, small sewing repairs etc.

We are very grateful for the support of St Mary's Church in allowing the use of the back room at the Church Hall, and for grants received from EFDC and the Parish Council to cover insurance costs, consumables and small tool purchases.



The Repair Cafe runs in conjunction with Community Cuppa on the last Wednesday of every month (except August) at St Mary's Church Hall from 10am to 12 noon. There is no charge for inspecting an item or for labour in carrying out a repair. Theydon Repair Cafe has a Facebook page.



Very much part of the village...



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News from our District Councillors

There has not been a great deal of Council business specifically related to Theydon Bois during the past quarter. The main areas of public interest relate to planning applications. The most significant application that attracted a lot of public interest was the proposed demolition of one of the Victorian villas on Piercing Hill and the replacement with a new dwelling.

Following the presentation of the proposal by a Planning Officer, objectors to the proposal and the applicant's agent were allowed to put forward their arguments and it was then debated by the councillors. Planning permission was refused by a vote of twelve votes to seven.

Incidentally, if a planning application is filed and you have an objection to it, you should contact the planning department with your objections. If it is placed before a planning committee and you wish to address the committee, you should contact Democratic Services and they could make arrangements for you to do so.

You would then be given three minutes to voice your objections, as would other objectors, before the councillors debate it. If, for example, there were six identical objections, then only one is likely to be given this opportunity.

Anyone can attend and observe the meetings, or you can watch them online as most are webcast. Even if you cannot make the time of the meeting and still want to see what is said, the recordings are archived and can be watched when convenient. There has been some reduction in the number of meetings that are webcast, but even then, these are recorded and can be watched subsequently.

The District Development Management Committee (DDMC), on which I sit this year, is the parent body of the three planning sub-committees. It deals with planning applications that are referred to it by the sub-committees and also with proposed major developments. It recently held one of the shortest meetings that it had held in a long time, which lasted eighteen minutes. This related to substituting two words in a legal agreement. For technical financial reasons the development of the new sports centre that is to replace the existing centre in Hemnall Street, Epping, was in danger of being delayed.

This project is financially linked to the development of long vacant land in St John's Road, Epping and the legal agreement said that the sports centre could not be commenced until the development of the St John's Road site was substantially complete, but this is not the case. So, the DDMC was asked to approve a change to the agreement so that the sports centre development could commence if there was a clear commitment to develop the St John's Road site.

Having received an assurance that there was evidence of this commitment, the committee unanimously voted for the change. It should now be possible, once the multi-storey car park opens, which should be late September, for the existing car park to be closed and for work to commence on that site to build the sports centre. Although this does not specifically relate to Theydon Bois, no doubt many of our residents will be looking forward to using the new centre.

Although I have received one or two complaints about the refuse collection service, it seems to be much better now and most of the previous problems have been overcome.

I have taken up various matters, on behalf of residents, with fellow councillors and officers that have been brought to my attention and if you have any areas of concern, please do not hesitate to contact me.



News from our District Councillors *(continued)*

I am writing this column at the end of August, and summer is traditionally a relatively quiet time at the Council. Indeed, throughout August the public meetings are primarily those of a regulatory nature, planning and licensing. However, a lot of preparatory work still continues, especially for my Cabinet colleagues and me. I already know that, just like all of us at home, the economic situation is providing significant challenges in controlling spending this year and is making it challenging when looking at the budget for next year. The budget will not come to Council until next February, but I am already working with the finance team to identify the scale of savings that will be needed.

One of the key areas of expense will be in the provision of our waste services. The current contract with Biffa comes to an end in November next year. We have done a lot of work with our officer and specialists looking at how best to provide this service. I mentioned in the last column that the budget provided funding to add resilience to the service, which involved allocations for a vehicle depot at North Weald and acquisition of our own refuse lorries. The cost is in the region of fifteen million pounds. In July, having considered all possible options, the decision was made to create an organisation to deliver all the necessary waste collection services and therefore take responsibility for our waste management. This also gives us much more control over the performance of the service and should allow us to avoid, in the future, problems like those we experienced around the Christmas period.

As part of my portfolio, the Economic Development team is using some of the Shared Prosperity Fund, that I talked about last time, to launch a new App for the district. The Discover App, which is available in your phone's App Store, will be a source of information about the whole of the EFDC area. Discover is essentially a 'whole of place' app which means it will showcase everything there is to shop, eat and do in a place. It will show you where to get that coffee you've been craving or which gym to go to burn off last night's gourmet burger & fries. It is designed to guide you through your district, pointing out things you didn't know existed and taking you to places it thinks you will love. In addition, it can also show you offers & promotions from local businesses. The aim is that the Discover App will be there with you the whole way, guiding you through everywhere to shop, eat, do & discover.

I hope you have a good autumn and I look forward to speaking with many of you over the coming weeks. Feel free to contact me on any subject.

<p>John Philip Councillor 812473</p>	
	

Mobile Library Service - use it or Lose it!

Dates for Mobile Library - V Hall Car Park - Every 3 weeks - 12.10 to 12.40pm

- ⦿ 19 Sept
- ⦿ 10 Oct
- ⦿ 31 Oct
- ⦿ 21 Nov
- ⦿ 12 Dec



Candles and Conkers

This article was written for the 2020 edition of the Theydon Bois Rural Preservation Society Newsletter which was not printed and distributed because of the Covid pandemic. The writer is a plant scientist who has lived in the village for 62 years.

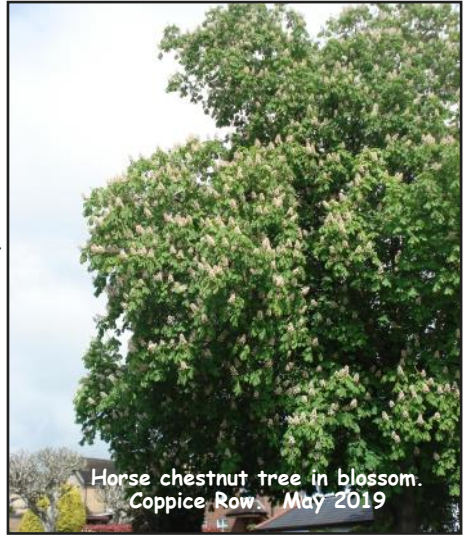
The horse chestnut tree (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), a native of the Balkans, was introduced to Britain in the late 16th C. It is a large wide-spreading tree which can reach up to 38m in height. At first it was planted in the grounds of big houses with chestnut avenues surviving to this day; but it is now a familiar sight in town parks, churchyards and village greens as well as by roadsides and in waste ground. As stated by Richard Mabey in his *Flora Britannica* the 'spreading chestnut tree' has become a symbol of village tranquility as well as the theme of music-hall songs and dances. A feature of the tree is its sticky winter buds which burst in spring to reveal the large digitate leaves each with 5 to 7 leaflets.

The word 'horse' in the name probably signifies that its 'nuts' are inferior to those of the unrelated and more palatable sweet or Spanish chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) the original holder of the name 'chestnut'. However, the tree is called 'horse chestnut' in Turkey where its seeds have long been used as food and medicine for horses suggesting another reason for the name. There is also a 'horse sign' in the tree: when the leaves fall in autumn they leave behind a horse-shoe shaped scar with small nail-like marks.

Flowers, produced from mid April to mid May, have five fringed petals which are white with a blotch of red or yellow at the base. They are grouped in stiffly erect conical inflorescences often referred to as 'candles'. There was an old tradition of Chestnut Sunday when people had picnics under the blossom laden trees. This was revived by enthusiasts in 1977 to be held on the nearest Sunday to 11th May.



Horse chestnut candles (inflorescences).



Horse chestnut tree in blossom.
Coppice Row May 2019

The fruits which eventually develop are green and globular, about 6cm in diameter with short, sharp and flexible spines. When ready to fall in September they split to release one large globular seed (or sometimes 2 or 3 seeds with flattened sides). These glossy red-brown seeds are the 'conkers', the material for the most widely played children's game involving plants. They are the origin of the colour 'chestnut' used to describe both hair and horses. Although frequently referred to as nuts they are strictly speaking seeds, a nut being a single-seeded fruit with a hard covering. The edible chestnuts from the sweet chestnut tree are true nuts. Conkers are usually gathered from the ground or those higher up the tree knocked down with sticks or stones. A hole is made through the conker with a skewer and threaded on to a knotted string. Two players have alternate strikes at each other's conker with the winner being the one who breaks his or her opponents 'nut' so

Candles and Conkers (continued)

that no pieces remain on the string. If both conkers were new ones then the winner becomes a 'one-er'. If, for example, a two-er were to defeat a tenner it would become a twelver. Perhaps unsportingly, some conkers were hardened by baking in an oven or soaking in vinegar. According to Richard Mabey a World Conker Championship has been held since 1965 at the village of Ashton in Northamptonshire. The first record of the game of conkers was in 1848 but in earlier centuries children were playing 'conquerors' with hazel nuts and snail shells.



Conkers: large seeds of horse chestnut. Collected near Greensted Church early Oct

Conkers are mildly poisonous but there are no records of children suffering ill effects from nibbling the hard bitter flesh. Conkers contain soap-like chemicals called *saponins* which have sometimes been used in shampoos, In Victorian times there were recipes for making a 'flour' by grinding the conkers and leaching out the bitterness with hot water. More recently scientists have discovered that *aesoin* extracted from the seeds is an effective remedy for sprains and bruising.



Horse chestnut fruits in August. Note browning of leaves damaged by leaf-mining

In summer whitish patches often appear on leaves; these turn brown making the tree look as if autumn has come early. This browning of the leaves is caused by a tiny alien species of leaf-mining moth (*Cameraria ohridella*) whose caterpillars eat the leaves from the inside. This is not in itself fatal to the tree but does weaken it and make it susceptible to a bacterial disease called 'bleeding canker'. The pathogen (*Pseudomonas syringae aesculi*) can overwinter in the soil and spread to the bark of the tree by wind and rain. This relatively new disease has increased rapidly in the UK since 2003 and now half of our horse chestnuts are infected. Research is underway to

develop treatments for infected trees (eg heat treatments by Wageningen Plant Research in The Netherlands) as well as management procedures to reduce the risk of infection.

There are several species in the genus *Aesculus* many of which occur in eastern North America. Most are called horse chestnuts but some are known as buckeye trees because the large seed resembles the eye of a deer. An example is the American or Ohio buckeye (*A glabra*). The 'spreading chestnut tree' of Longfellow's famous 1842 poem *The Village Blacksmith* is probably the American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), a relative of the sweet chestnut; this has been devastated by the spread of the fungal disease 'chestnut blight'. The red horse chestnut (*A x carnea*) often grown in parks in the UK is a hybrid of the European horse chestnut (*A hippocastanum*) and the American red buckeye (*A pavia*).

Theydon Bois Drama Society - A Brief History

As the Society's last production was covered in June's Village News, we invited the Society to tell our readers a little about their history in this edition. Theydon Bois is an active and thriving community, and one of the many organisations based in our fine Village Hall is Theydon Bois Drama Society, which will soon celebrate its centenary.

The Society was founded in 1925, and our earliest plays were performed at one of the Epping Forest Retreats – possibly Gray's Retreat, which provided refreshments for the Forest's many visitors, some of whom travelled by the LNER steam railway which ran from Liverpool Street to Ongar. Gray's Retreat probably proved inadequate for amateur theatre, and the Society soon relocated to the old Scout Hut on Loughton Lane. This venue was also the home of The Foresters Drama Group, which existed from 1949 until 1958, when it merged with TBDS.

The Scout Hut served as Theydon's Village Hall in those days, but in 1966 a proper Village Hall opened on Coppice Row, on the site of the present car park. This building served the community for 34 years and 136 TBDS shows were staged there, but it was a relatively modest venue. In the late 1990s the Parish Council decided to construct a much bigger, multi-purpose Village Hall, which duly opened in 2000. As the new Hall was built alongside the old one, the Society was able to continue presenting its productions without needing temporarily to go elsewhere.

The new Hall offered vastly improved facilities for the Society and the comfort of its audiences. As well as the stage and auditorium, it has extensive internal and external storage areas for costumes, props and scenery, rooms that can be used for rehearsals and meetings, and scope for high quality lighting and sound. Earlier this year, for the first time ever, TBDS staged an outdoor production in the grounds of the Hall. Appropriately, it was Scenes from A Midsummer Night's Dream.

To date we have presented 282 productions, ranging from dramas to comedies, thrillers, pantomimes, musicals, variety shows and even monologues. Last year, there was another first for the Society with the staging of three of Alan Bennett's much-loved Talking Heads single-handers.

TBDS is a strongly committed member of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) which represents over 2000 British societies. Our shows have received numerous nominations for NODA Regional Awards, and two of the most notable overall wins were for The Roses of Eyam in 2005 and By Jeeves! in 2009.

Still providing live entertainment for local people after 98 years, TBDS currently presents three shows a year. We are always looking to welcome new members, whether acting or backstage, and we are a friendly and sociable group. If you'd like to join us, complete the contact form on our website - or email theydonboisdramasociety@gmail.com.

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Theydon Bois Village Hall

on 19th, 20th (8 o'clock start) 21st (7 o'clock start) October 2023
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Theydon Bois Drama Society - A Snapshot over the Years



39 Steps - 2019



Allo Allo - 2012



Macbeth - 2012



Billy Liar - 2014



Hound of the Baskervilles - 2017



Cinderella - 2018



Robin Hood - 2023



Lock Up Your Daughters - 2016

Historic September - Some Events From The Past

1 Sept.	1159	<i>The death of the only English Pope Adrian IV (Nicholas Breakspere).</i>
2 Sept.	1666	<i>The Great Fire of London begins in Pudding Lane and rages for 5 days, but kills only 9 people.</i>
3 Sept.	1939	<i>Britain and France declare war on Germany.</i>
4 Sept.	1962	<i>The Beatles start their first recording session at EMI's Abbey Road Studios, London.</i>
6 Sept.	1620	<i>The Mayflower sets sail from Plymouth, Devon, carrying the Pilgrim Fathers to America.</i>
7 Sept.	1533	<i>Birth of Queen Elizabeth I, daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn.</i>
8 Sept.	1944	<i>The first V2 flying bombs kill 3 people in London.</i>
9 Sept.	1513	<i>James IV of Scotland is killed at the Battle of Flodden.</i>
10 Sept.	1771	<i>Birth of Mungo Park, Scottish explorer who published his 'Travels in the Interior of Africa' in 1799.</i>
11 Sept.	1915	<i>Britain's first Women's Institute opens in Wales.</i>
12 Sept.	1908	<i>Marriage of Winston Churchill to Clementine Hozier.</i>
13 Sept	1902	<i>Harry Jackson becomes the first person in Britain to be convicted on fingerprint evidence.</i>
14 Sept.	1752	<i>The first day of the Gregorian calendar in Britain.</i>
16 Sept.	1400	<i>Owain Glyndwr proclaimed Prince of Wales.</i>
17 Sept.	1701	<i>King James II of England died whilst in exile in France.</i>
18 Sept.	1709	<i>Birth of Samuel Johnson, compiler of the first English dictionary.</i>
21 Sept.	1327	<i>Death of Edward II, murdered with a red hot poker by his jailers.</i>
22 Sept.	1735	<i>Britain's first Prime Minister, Sir Robert Walpole moves in to 10 Downing Street.</i>
23 Sept.	1848	<i>Chewing gum is produced commercially for the first time.</i>
25 Sept.	1818	<i>First transfusion of human blood is performed at Guy's Hospital, London.</i>
26 Sept	1984	<i>Britain agreed to allow Hong Kong to revert to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.</i>
27 Sept.	1888	<i>First use of the name, 'Jack the Ripper' in an anonymous letter to the central news agency.</i>
28 Sept.	1745	<i>'God Save the King' is sung for the first time at London's Drury Lane Theatre.</i>
30 Sept	1938	<i>British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain returned to England declaring there would be "peace in our time," after signing the Munich Pact with Adolf Hitler.</i>

Historic September - Village News Content From 10 years Ago



Before the annual Parish Council meeting Chairman John Philip announced Martin Oliver as the Villager of the Year. Martin is a major contributor to the village: he is the Chairman of the Village Association which operates the Village Hall, a focal point for many village activities. He is also one of the leading lights of the Drama Society and one of our band of distributors for the Village News a member of the litter picking team has served as a Councillor on the Parish Council.



St. Marys Church opened its doors for three days over the August Bank Holiday, inviting the community to enjoy the nineteen imaginative floral arrangements in a Flower Festival. Visitors to the Church were entertained by talented musicians Emma Wallace and Krista Kaspersz and the Davenant Community Choir. Visitors also had the opportunity to relax with home-made refreshments after visiting the well-stocked stalls.



Tree Wardens, Sue Warren & Jan Turner talked about the roles of Tree Wardens in the EFDC district as well as the regular meetings to ensure that any pressing matters are properly addressed in a timely manner.

They explained that they remove the suckers on the street trees each year (which helps sight lines), check ties and report any substantial damage. When new trees are planted they try to give the nearest householder a watering guide. They gave details of how to apply to become a tree warden, by contacting the Parish Office or either Sue or Jane. Previous experience was not needed – just a willing hand and an interest in our trees which play an important part in the character of our village.

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Theydon's dental practice had some changes with new owners Dr. Mamta Gupta BDS and Dr. Ekta Wadhwa, BDS, MFDS RCS (Glasgow) following on from Dr. Chris Fourie who is going back to his native South Africa.

Chris (*pictured with Mamta and Ekta*) told Village News that it was a privilege to work in Theydon Bois and he will miss all his patients, their families and of course his staff.

Mamta said “*We are proud to be taking over the reins of a practice that has been serving the people of Theydon Bois successfully for some time. “Luckily we have inherited a great team and lovely patients.”*”

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Patricia Anne Elizabeth Haslehurst - An Appreciation

Tricia as she was known was born in Miri Sarawak Malaysia following her dad's posting there in 1949 for Shell Oil. The family returned to the UK in the early 50's and moved to Grays in Essex close to the Shell Oil Terminal on the Thames. Following high school education, she went to teachers training college in London and qualified as a teacher. She married Geoffrey on 29/7/72 and they moved to Theydon Bois 01/09/76.

Then started 46 years of helping in the community. She started working in the village primary school for several years until a family came along, Andrew & Catherine. She continued teaching on and off for many years locally and finally at Oak View School in Loughton. Realising that very young children were very vulnerable on the roads she set up and ran the local "Tufty Club" to teach children road safety.

Once the children reached school other things followed such as the cubs and scouts. Although not a leader she helped in many ways specifically in the annual cub camp run by Gill Smith which she adored. Alongside this were many other activities such as being on the Horticultural Society committee for over 20 years and running the country dance club in the Village Hall for many years. However, redundancy called and she was persuaded to go back to art. Following a few courses, she joined many local art clubs and spent many happy hours painting and chatting. Over the years she has sold many pictures but mostly she was noted for doing "quirky" pictures which made you smile.

And then there were the bees. Tricia used to suffer badly from hay fever so almost on a whim she decided to keep bees so she could eat and drink local honey which is supposed to help, and it did. She did a course with Epping beekeepers and later took her exam to be qualified. She loved it. Keeping the bees in the garden was an eyepener as you could watch them all the time. Then came the wax candle making. She was quite clever really.

Alongside this the grandchildren came along, Gemma and Owen. Tricia adored them and whenever time allowed, we looked after them. Gemma learned various painting techniques and Andrew enjoyed helping Grandad with his railways. There was also Jack who came into our lives with Catherine & Steve and Tricia being a teacher she got on well with him painting and going with him to West Ham stadium to watch a match for the very first time.

And another project helping with the U3A where she used to organise the teas for the monthly meetings. We also thoroughly enjoyed the wine club meetings and the 10-pin bowling for a little exercise.

Oh, by the way she helped run an allotment for about 45 years. All the home-grown fruit and veg was cooked expertly by her as a superb cook..... **What a busy Bee.**



Theydon Bois Village Association



Hall Manager Frank Retires - Hall Manager, Frank Bell, has retired after 17 years in the job. During that time, while reporting to the Trustees, he has been responsible for the day to day management of the

hall, supervising two Caretakers, two Cleaners and the hall's Booking Manager. His responsibilities have included security of the hall, accessing and monitoring the CCTV System, health and safety for users and staff, monitoring and management of maintenance for the hall, arranging repairs and negotiating costs when necessary, dealing with and distribution of hall mail, and showing prospective hirers around the hall.

He has always maintained a good working relationship with all users and the Trustees, with a cheery and affable personality. He has dedicated himself to the Association while enjoying his season ticket support for West Ham and considerable time on the golf course. We wish him well in his retirement.

Alan Takes Over - Introducing Alan Ali who will be replacing Frank on the 1st of October as the new Hall Manager. Having recently decided to retire, we believe he has the necessary skill set to embrace the role with energy and dedication. Alan is a local man who many of you may recognise and has lived in the village with his partner for the past eight years. He feels the Village Hall is vital to our community and looks forward to meeting and getting to know end users. With the support of the team, he aims to maintain the hall to the highest standard.



Village Hall Sewer Problems - On the day before the Horticultural Society Show on 21st July when it was anticipated hundreds of people would attend, we had major problems with sewage starting to flood the Village Hall car park from some of the manhole covers situated there. There was also a strong smell of sewage in the toilets. Speedy action was needed as the Trustees would have had to close the toilets and Hall because of the health and safety risks. With difficulty a company was found who was able to attend that afternoon and they were able to do a temporary repair. We were able to keep the Hall open for the show and other events that weekend but we were advised that the problem required proper investigation and repair.

A lot of the blockage and damage has been caused by items other than toilet paper being flushed down the toilets. These are not soluble. New notices and bins have now been placed in all the toilets for items other than toilet paper. Will Hall users please follow this guidance and not flush anything other than the toilet paper provided down the Hall toilets.

Two further days of work were required starting on the Monday to clear the entire system. Further major works are required to replace most of the pipe work. This will be a very expensive job, taking at least 8 days.

Theydon Bois Village Association (continued)



How can we keep the Village Hall warm this winter without breaking the bank? We are seeking feedback or other suggestions from the general public and hall users about keeping the hall warm and saving money in the process.

What's the problem?

- Energy prices (gas & electricity) are at record highs. While this might begin to change in the short term, it is impossible to predict what might happen in the future...
- Burning fossil gas for heating is contributing to climate change.
- There is a need to ensure the hall stays prepared and relevant to all current and future users.



What have we done?



Trustees of the village hall organised participation in the *HeatHack* energy efficiency program



Six person focus group:

Trustees and hall users followed a programme developed by HeatHack and the Royal Academy of Engineering (led by an engineer) to explore how to:

- Improve the energy efficiency of the hall
- Reduce carbon emissions
- Save money on energy bills



Lots of ideas:

The group considered lots of energy saving measures, and have presented some of the most promising ones in thought bubbles (on the right).

Recommendations for Theydon Bois Village Hall

Reduce electricity consumption:

- Upgrade electrical equipment
- Sensors / timers on electronics
- Discussed how to heat the hall more efficiently

Upgrade heating technology:

- Improved heating controls (remotely operated thermostats)
- Air Source Heat Pump
- Cleaning & maintaining radiators

Energy self-sufficiency:

- Generate electricity - solar panels
- Store energy in batteries for flexible (and cheaper) energy use

We would love your feedback, or any suggestions/questions. Get in touch in writing at the village hall or:

Email: energyefficiencysurvey@gmail.com

Online form: <https://forms.gle/bFqYJaMDguGKb81M8>

St. Mary's - View from the Vicarage

On 4th May in addition to being Vicar of the Theydon Parishes, I was licensed by the Bishop of Barking to serve as part time Interim Cathedral Missioner in Chelmsford Cathedral until the end of 2023. It is for this reason, that I have not been around in the parishes as much as usual, and my thanks go to the Rev Carol Newnham, and the churchwardens, Mary Gill and Andrew Crook in particular for maintaining the life and witness of St Mary's Theydon Bois during this time.



One of the joys (and challenges) of this season is praying in the cathedral. Each day, at 7.45am Morning Prayer is said in the Mildmay Chapel, and broadcast on the Chelmsford Cathedral Facebook page. The chapel takes its name from the memorial to Benjamin Mildmay, a resident of Chelmsford who died in 1756. The central window of the chapel depicts St. Alban and St. Cedd who brought Christianity to East Anglia in the 7th century. Cedd travelled a great distance to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the people who live in this part of the world which now forms a significant part of the Diocese of Chelmsford, and such was his impact on the development of fledgling Christian communities that his story is recalled to this day. In the North Transept of the cathedral, alongside traditional icons of Christ, St Mary and St Peter, the icon of St Cedd is written afresh as he holds Bradwell chapel in his hands, this being the location where his boat landed. These saints of the past are to me a reminder that when Christian people pray today, they stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before, and also that as each of them lived out their faith, so St Mary's in Theydon Bois stands a place in the village, reminding us through the prayers and services which take place there of all that the Christian faith teaches and the hope that so many have found and continue to find through believing in Jesus Christ.

Forthcoming special services at St Mary's Theydon Bois

Sunday 1st October – 10.30am; Harvest Celebration for All Ages with Girlguiding groups church parade.

Sunday 5th November - 4pm; Remembering those we have loved – a service of prayer, readings and hymns with the opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one.

Sunday 12th November – 10.45am; Remembrance Sunday service, beginning around the War Memorial in the churchyard.



Rev. John Fry

Vicar of the Theydon Parishes (St. Mary's Theydon Bois, All Saints Theydon Garnon, St Mary's Stapleford Tawney with St Michael's Theydon Mount)



Gardening Tips from the Horticultural Society



Cornflowers flower for months

Late September and October is the perfect time to sow seeds of hardy annuals which will over-winter and then grow away quickly in the Spring making bigger and earlier flowering plants. Just find the gaps in your borders, make shallow drills and sow the seeds about 5 to 7cm apart, cover with soil and water. Hardy annuals include poppies, cornflowers, nigella, larkspur, marigolds and ammi magus but NOT cosmos, nicotiana, or zinnias which are only half hardy and have to be sown in Spring.

If not all your tomatoes have ripened this summer, placing banana skins nearby will speed up the process as bananas produce ethylene, a hormone associated with the ripening of fruit. Once temperatures start to drop, you should harvest all your tomatoes and bring them inside. You can put the tomatoes in a drawer or a paper bag with a banana and it will help to speed up the ripening process. If you place bananas on the soil under the plant, then as they break down, amongst other things they provide potassium and calcium for the plants. Lack of calcium contributes to blossom rot, a common tomato problem.



Marigolds may self-seed



Opium Poppies save seed 4 next year

It is also the beginning of the bulb planting season so be sure to visit your nearest garden centre or nursery as soon as you can to get the best choice. If you can't plant them immediately, then keep them somewhere cool and dark meanwhile. Plant your daffodils, hyacinths, snowdrops and crocus as soon as you can. Tulips and alliums will wait a little longer. If you're pestered with squirrels digging up and eating your crocus and tulip bulbs then, apart from covering them with chicken wire to physically stop them, you should try to disguise the sites where you have buried them by covering them with fallen leaves and other debris.

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"Thank you for everything you have done, we made the right decision putting our dreams in your hands, you have all been amazing. Please pass our thanks to your whole team"

Mr & Mrs H, Theydon Bois

"Not coming from Theydon Bois (I live in Gloucester), but having to sell a relations house there on her behalf I was fortunate enough to pick Neil King (and the team who work there). They could not have done better!!"

The service they provided was the best I have ever experienced (and I have moved a lot). At all times they were on top of things and were there to help and when I was worrying, help me chill out.

They are fantastic and cannot find fault with any aspect of the first class service they provide. Laura King set the standard that others need to follow - fantastic!!!"

Paul Brewster, Theydon Bois

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Tippy's Topics - Theydon Bois Facebook Groups



Hi to all readers and welcome to Tippy's Topics As we are witnessing the finale to what has been a glorious and on occasion, extremely wet last couple of months, it suddenly became that time of year again for my regular round up of events, debates, news and views from the All Things Theydon Bois (ATTB) and Theydon Bois Villagers Only (TBVO) Facebook pages. Anyone with an interest in our village can join ATTB however the TBVO site is strictly for Villagers Only. All those wishing to join will need to answer a couple of questions and will then be good to go! On top of those pages I also started a Free Items in Theydon Bois page which now has over 1700 members. This is also easy to join after a couple of questions are answered. It was designed to reduce waste, help the environment and allow users to virtually shop without the need for cash! A win-win solution for many, please feel free to join.

Sadly I'm beginning my round up with disappointing news. There has been a deluge of complaints regarding the Post Office, its opening hours and the service received. As many of you are aware, I worked as the manager for fifteen years, so this news is particularly upsetting. The Post Office has always been a hub for residents to chat, to share, to be welcomed. It's a heart of the community and somewhere central for easy access. Hopefully the initiative put in place by Tesco head office will come into fruition at some point and all of the complaints received by them will be dealt with as effectively and rapidly as possible.



Sadly we have lost Nona Lia, previously Bonhommie, the restaurant was not in operation for a long period although Villagers complimented the food and service. The building is currently being refurbished and anticipation is growing as to what the establishment will become, speculation is rife although a number of hints have been dropped. We the villagers wish the new owners every success with their venture,

which will hopefully get a big Theydon Welcome!

The Donkey Derby was a rip-roaring success as per usual! Thousands descended on the village, to spend a great day supporting the event in the sunshine. Feedback was requested by one of the organisers and it was a resounding positive with a number of ideas shared. Well done to all involved in this prestigious annual event that brings so much joy to many.

I gave a massive thankyou to the staff at the Limes surgery in Thrifts Mead who dealt with a family emergency with pure class, lightning speed and absolute professionalism. On occasions the surgery has received a bad press in relation to appointments and long waiting times for telephone calls, however on this occasion they were life savers

Recently it was shared by www.essexlive that Ben Shephard (the Good Morning Britain and Tipping Point star et al) has a favourite restaurant in the village - the Balti House in Station Road! Villagers congratulated Attik and Kahled on receiving such praise. Well done guys! As others quipped we are blessed to have such special Indian eateries on our doorsteps.

Tippy's Topics - Theydon Bois Facebook Groups *(continued)*

Villagers and customers from The Vic rushed to say their "goodbyes" to the wonderful Jack Schmidt, who has "hung up" his beer glass, removed his "coaster" and gone off to pastures new. Jack was the manager of the Vic in Coppice Row, he brought a fun persona, a positive attitude and a community vibe to the pub, he has been involved in many events in the time he was manager and he will be sorely missed! Good luck with the future Jack, we will miss you!

Security again! A number of cars have been stolen - please use Faraday bags for your keys and do not leave valuables in your vehicle, especially on show. I know I repeat this message every edition but I am also aware that sadly we still hear from angry and frustrated people who have their personal belongings stolen.

Finally, a really sad story that we can reflect on, I certainly did. A villager reported that she spotted her neighbour sitting on a bench in the village. When she approached her, she found out that her neighbour had actually been sitting in the same spot for two hours! The worrying thing is that the lady is 97 years old and in the time that she was there, not a single person had spoken to her, asked how she was or even just said hello. She was on her way back from Epping and had been unable to progress any further from the bench. I was distraught on hearing this, as were many others. We may not realise that an individual is in trouble or feel lonely, just want a chat. Sometimes maybe a simple hello could often be just the tonic someone needs.

Hope you've enjoyed my round up as much as I have enjoyed writing it.

Lots of love – Tippy



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Theydon Bois & District Rural Preservation Society

Society AGM and Free Talk:

Over 30 people attended and enjoyed our free talk “The Boys: Holocaust Survivors in the Epping Forest” by Catherine Hammond, Heritage Officer EFDC Museum and there were many questions for Catherine at the end that she spent some time answering. Her talk was followed by refreshments and the AGM proper. Our Secretary Jim Watts has had to stand down for health reasons, but still remains a committee member. All the other officers and committee members were re-elected for the coming year. We still have to fill the role of Secretary and this is being shared out at present. We are still short of committee members to carry all the Society’s commitments. We realise the impact of the pandemic has had adverse effects on all of Theydon’s Societies, but if our Society is to continue in its present form helping to protect our village and its surrounding Greenbelt as it has done since 1943 then please consider joining our committee. Meetings are only 6 times in a year. If you are unable to join our committee then please help us by re-joining. Subscriptions are £5 per household. Membership will also entitle you to a vote at our AGM. Payments can be remitted by bank transfer or by cheque. See our new website (address below) for full details including payment.



Our stand at the Donkey Derby

Events:

The June Free Footpath Walk to Theydon Garnon Church to coincide with the Hog Roast and fete at Theydon Garnon was well supported and all enjoyed the food and drink at the fete. Our stand at the Donkey Derby on 9th July worked well with many children participating in the craft events. Our Scavenger Hunt prize was won by a team of boy scouts who managed to complete all the clues in an amazingly quick time. Our Free Footpath Walk to Ambresbury Banks on Sunday 23rd July 2.00pm also saw a good turnout of keen walkers.

We are still hoping to have visits to the Deer Sanctuary this year in association with The City of London. At present the City of London Epping Forest Committee is being reorganised so we are still awaiting an update from them, but it seems unlikely now for this year.

Our next Free Talk will be on 13th October about Dick Turpin (of the old village Sixteen Spring Jack pub fame) and will be given by Georgina Green. See our website for details on this and our other walks, talks and events in 2023.

Planning - Theydon Applications Update:

There have been 18 Planning Applications. We have raised objections to 6 of these including a further revised application for the Land at the end of Forest Drive where we failed to get a response from EFDC to our last objection made in June. We have concerns that, now EFDC Planning Officers seem to be working mainly from home, that there is an unacceptable delay in dealing with objections from the public. This new Forest Drive amendment is still unacceptable as proposed.

<https://www.tbruralpres.org.uk>

Epping Forest Citizens Advice

Do you, or someone you know, have a disability which has a real impact on the way they live? Then they may be entitled to a disability benefit. This is an outline of what is available and what might be involved in claiming.



There are three main benefits. People over pension age can get Attendance Allowance; people of working age can get Personal Independence Payment; and children can get Disability Living Allowance. The criteria differ but the three benefits all have three things in common: they are not means-tested. That means that the amount of money you get depends solely on your degree of disability, not on any other income or savings you may have. Nor does it make a difference whether you can work or not. And the disability can be physical or mental or both.

For all these benefits you will have to fill in a detailed form. Decisions on Attendance Allowance and Disability Living Allowance are usually made on the basis of the form and any other written medical evidence you have. Personal Independence Payments claimants usually have an assessment by a health professional. We can help you with the forms, and with advice and assistance if you are not successful.

Are you receiving tax credits? Child tax credits and working tax credits are being phased out. If you receive one or both of them, and do not receive housing benefit as well, the Department for Work and Pensions will in the next few months tell you that your tax credits are coming to an end and invite you to apply for Universal Credit instead. You shouldn't be any worse-off on Universal Credit and you may be better-off but check with us if you have any concerns. If you need help to apply for Universal Credit phone our free "Help to Claim" number: 0800 144 8444.

Just a reminder about how to contact us at Epping Forest Citizens Advice. You can phone, for free, on 0808 278 7855 between 9.30 and 2.30, Tuesday to Thursday. We are very busy at the moment so if you can't get through try again. Tuesday is our busiest day. There is also an Essex-wide phone service between 4 and 8 on weekdays and 9 and 1 on Saturdays. Call 0808 250 5724.

If you want to talk to someone face-to-face we have advisers at the Hub at the Civic Offices in Epping every Thursday between 10 and 2. It's first come, first served, so get there early if you can.

If you just want information try our national website: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>.

Theydon Bois United Charities - small grants available

The Theydon Bois United Charities is a small charity formed in the early 1950's when various historic funds which supported those in need in the parish were combined. The Charities are still active today, and have a small income which can be distributed to persons in need, through small grants each year around Christmas.

In previous years, nominations have been sought from local organisations such as Theydon Bois Primary School, and the churches, but the Trustees are keen to widen access to the support they can offer. To express an interest in nominating a resident or making an application for a grant, please email office@theydonparishes.org

Donkey Derby - Sunday 9th July 2023

This year's Donkey Derby drew an impressive crowd and could be the busiest one ever known. Despite being in the wettest July on record the weather managed to stay dry for the whole event.



As well as the usual donkey races, ferris wheel, bouncy castles and assorted other stalls there were some new attractions. Notably the Local Craft Area where people who live in the village and make crafts could show off their wares. There was also a climbing wall for the children, bungee trampolines and zorbs to make the event a bit different.

However the committee tried to keep to the old-fashioned theme and there were the usual swing boats, coconut shy and the ever-popular "smash the crocks". In the arena was the British motorcycles display with some impressive vintage machines being shown off in style. And the Time To Shine dance show was a real hit with the crowd too. The scouts created a Beat the Buzzer game which a couple of people managed to do (to win themselves a tidy £100) and there was also the Beat the Bar challenge that they made for last year.

Chair of the Donkey Derby committee, Nik O'Flynn said: "It really seemed to be the busiest one we have ever had as the crowds did not start to thin out until at least 3pm. We were so lucky with the weather as it was due to rain at 4pm - our clearing up time - which is always our worst nightmare as no one wants to be trying to dry out wet marquees! A huge thank you to all that turned up to enjoy the day and also a massive thank you to the legion of volunteers who once again gave their time to make it an enjoyable day for all. We could not do it without you."



Donkey Derby - Sunday 9th July 2023 (continued)



Theydon Bois Horticultural Society

Show on 22nd July - We had an excellent show on the 22nd July with plenty of entries in a number of the classes. Unfortunately, the wet weather did not suit the tortoises so the races had to be moved into the hall. The cups were awarded as follows with some of the winners pictured on the opposite page.

- **The Gazette Challenge Bowl** - best fruit or vegetable exhibit - Liz McGuire.
- **The Gerald Buxton Cup** - the best flower or plant exhibit - Shirley Weetch.
- **The Frank and Josie Way Memorial Cup** - the best Fuchsia exhibit - Lee Anderson.
- **The Ronnie Roast Salver** for best beetroot - T Ewing
- **The William Way Cup** - most successful exhibitor in both the fruit and vegetable section and the flower and plant section - Shirley Weetch.
- **The Elcee Cup** - most successful exhibitor in the Handicraft section - Linda Tilling.
- **The Committee Cup** - the most successful exhibitor in the Photographic section - Ray Crick.
- **The Keswick Cup** - most successful exhibitor in the Cookery section - Heather Howland.
- **The Miniature Flower Arrangement Cup** -arrangement in a shell - S Heather.
- **The Secretary's Cup** -most successful exhibitor overall - Shirley Weetch.
- **The Banksian Medal** - most successful exhibitor overall. This award cannot be given to the same exhibitor for two consecutive years - Shirley Weetch.
- **The Garden News Shield** -most successful exhibitor in the Junior section - Ray Bruce-Jaya.



Theydon Bois Horticultural Society (continued)



Linda Tilling



Lee Anderson



Liz McGuire



Ray Crick



Shirley Weetch



Our Trip on 25th August -The weather was perfect, Ham House is impressive and the walled garden has a wide range of plants including a cutting garden as well as fruit and vegetables. There is also a beautiful garden just of box cones and lavender - stunning simplicity. Marble Hill has recently opened after completion of major renovations. They've done a wonderful job and it's delightful, and the setting on the river is lovely.

We have two more talks arranged:

- *Soil, Sweat & Tears*, a talk which includes a quiz with plants as prizes, by Brian Carline on Wednesday 22nd November at 7.30pm. This will be followed by the AGM.
- *Get that Exotic Look* by Nina Lewis on Wednesday 7th February 2024 at 2.30pm.



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Theydon Bois Action Group

Local Planning Matters

EPF/0292/21 Land at Forest Drive: Still 'under consultation'. This third consultation is for yet more changes. TBAG still object to the 'Private Estate' nature of the development, which, inter alia, will not be a continuation of Forest Drive, as it is not proposed to be adopted by Essex Highways, has no pedestrian pavements by the road, and could ultimately become a gated community. Further, it bears no connection to the vernacular housing surrounding the site. TBAG duly inspected the documents and was shocked at the poor quality of the information presented to the public. Over and over anomalies were discovered throughout all the documents, to the extent that it appeared something of a joke to expect anyone to give any meaningful comments. We have seen before where similar administrative errors at EFDC Planning have resulted in, for example, buildings being retained in the Green Belt that should have been demolished, and other planning details 'slip under the radar' due to EFDC not rejecting poorly presented applications.

Another point of concern, noted from TBAG's attendance at the Parish Council Planning meeting when this application was considered, was that those residents who submitted comments to the second iteration of this application WERE NOT consulted or alerted by EFDC when this third re-submission was made. TBAG have therefore submitted a further Strong Objection and have made a point of drawing to EFDC's attention the farcical condition of this application as it currently exists. TBAG consider something is very wrong at EFDC for even allowing this application's documents to be published in this condition, and it is hoped that they will hear and act on TBAG's comments. The public must have confidence that planning proposals put before them and into the public realm by the local authority are not merely 'smoke and mirrors' on the part of the developer, designed to confuse and leave their options open, but that all documents have been properly examined and validated before publication and consultation.

EPF/2728/22 Blunts Farm, Erection of new storage buildings etc: Still under consideration.

EPF/0830/23 and **EPF/0831/23** Blunts Farm, two alleged flats: Still under consideration. TBAG understand both application forms have had to be re-submitted because it has come to light that there is a business connection with an EFDC District Councillor which was not initially declared by the applicant!

EPF/0034/23 28 Piercing Hill, Replacement of existing dwelling: Refused at Area Planning Sub-Committee East. EFDC considered this would have meant the loss of a heritage asset of local significance being part of a group of villas in Piercing Hill known as Manor Villas and be contrary to several local planning policies. They felt it would fail to relate positively to the street scene and was contrary to local planning policy & guidance given within the NPPF.

TBAG are aware that during the consultation process of the Local Plan 2011-33 independent heritage consultants DPP Heritage recommended to EFDC that 93 buildings within the district be added to the Local List of historic buildings, including the addition of 28 Piercing Hill plus nine other Manor Villas. DPP also recommended a Conservation Area be established for Theydon Bois which included Manor Villas. It is unfortunate that because the local plan was rushed to adoption, with a replacement planning inspector, these additions to the Local List and Conservation Area were never made. We look to our Local and District Councillors to hasten the implementation of this Heritage Asset Review so as to avoid the loss of heritage assets in the village.

Days Out From Theydon - Tour of the Albert Hall

Lovers of Classical Music will probably have visited the Royal Albert Hall for a concert at some time and at this time of year with the Proms season just finished we can see the venue on TV daily. The RAH has a unique and fascinating history and is so much more than the place for classical concerts - as we found out when we joined a tour recently.



The Hall (originally to be called the *Central Hall of Arts and Sciences*) was planned to be part of the development of the South Kensington area – promoted by Queen Victoria’s husband, Prince Albert – following the success of the Great Exhibition in 1851. He died in 1861 but the project, including a memorial to Prince Albert, continued. After overspending on the elaborate and heavily gilded memorial statue money was short and the project was partly funded by selling 999 year leases on 1,200 of the 5,272 seats. On laying the foundation stone in 1867 the Queen named the building “the Royal Albert Hall”.

The design was heavily influenced by Greek and Roman amphitheatres and is built in red brick with terracotta decoration. The iconic glazed dome was a source of concern as the architects were afraid that the weight would be too great – when it was put in place the building sank – by 7.9 mm! The RAH is one of our most iconic and distinctive buildings. It is held in trust for the nation and managed by a registered charity which receives no government funding. It has a seating capacity of 5,272 people. The original cost of the building was £200,000 and it was opened in 1871.

Days Out From Theydon - Tour of the Albert Hall (continued)

The design of the auditorium means that every seat gets a good view – best, of course is the Royal Box (below) which is twice the size of the other boxes. As well as the box we were shown the Royal Entrance (originally for horses and carriages – now for limousines) and the retiring room where royal parties can enjoy refreshments in the interval – on the walls are portraits and photographs of all the monarchs since Queen Victoria although they are still waiting for King Charles' photograph.



The Hall is Grade One Listed which means that its structure and interior cannot be altered so the auditorium is virtually the same as when it was built. We wondered how – since it hosts such a wide range of events they managed the limitations and was told that there were 5 storeys built beneath the auditorium!

When built, the Hall was notorious for its poor acoustics – because of the echo it was said that it was the only place where a composer could be sure of hearing his music twice. Various remedies were tried but the problem was only solved in 1969 by the installation of “flying saucers” – large sound diffusing discs hung from the ceiling.



Most people will know about the Proms – classical concerts which are hosted at the Hall every summer. For this event seats are removed from the stalls area and tickets are sold at £8.00 for those who are prepared to stand (they are referred to as Promers). The Proms have been held at the Hall since the end of WW2 and the “Last Night of the Proms” is always a highly sought after ticket.

Days Out From Theydon - Tour of the Albert Hall (continued)



However, one of the most interesting aspects of the tour was the vast scope of events which have been featured at the RAH – far more than we had ever imagined. As well as Classical Music, Opera, and Ballet the Hall has hosted many of the famous groups and artists including Eric Clapton, Elton John, Shirley Bassey, Pink Floyd, Adele, Phil Collins, Sarah Brightman, Sting etc. and has hosted major events including the Eurovision Song Contest and Miss World, the BAFTAs and the Royal Variety performance and has also featured Sporting events including Boxing and Wrestling, Tennis, Badminton, Squash and Judo and many other forms of entertainment.

As well as the “Front of House” tour we went on there are a small number of “Behind the Scenes Tours” which can only run on the rare occasions when the venue is not busy – information can be found online at www.royalalberthall.com. There are plenty of places to eat and drink at the Hall and locally with Knightsbridge, Kensington Gardens, The V&A and the Natural History Museum all close by.

Theydon Bois Lawn Tennis Club

TBLTC is a friendly and welcoming place in the heart of the village. With members of all ages, from juniors, through to seniors and vets, you will find people to play with of all abilities. Those looking to join a team can play matches in ladies, mens or mixed teams in a variety of Essex leagues. Team practices are held throughout the year, winter, and summer. Social tennis sessions are thriving at the club; on Wednesdays and Saturdays, members enjoy playing with a variety of people and stay afterwards to have a drink at the bar. On summer evenings, members often come together to organise a buffet for players to enjoy together after the tennis. The atmosphere is informal and fun, so if you're new to the game, or if you have played in the past and feel a little rusty, you'll find a welcoming atmosphere and plenty of people willing to have a game with you.



See our website <https://linktr.ee/TheydonBoisLTC> or contact the membership team if you would like to find out more. THEYDONTENNISMEMBERSHIP@GMAIL.COM



Summer Social Buffet Evenings



Under 12s winning Div 2 Essex League

It's time for Macmillan Coffee Morning/Light Lunch at Theydon Bois Tennis Club on 3rd October



YOU'RE INVITED! Come along to our fund raising event at Theydon Bois Tennis Club with home made cakes, sandwiches, quiches and savouries to raise money for the Macmillan nurses. There is no tennis competition, we are just doing a fund raising event for Macmillan cancer nurses. It will be in our clubhouse from 12 noon until approximately 2.30pm (or when the food runs out!). There is also a competition to win a Colin the Caterpillar cake.

**Just come along or contact
Jo Toal - 07960 220350 or Sharon Greenleaf 07773 775080
if you need more information**

Theydon Bois Golf Club

Introducing Frank Thornton, our Assistant Professional.



Frank Thornton, 22, took up the role of Assistant Golf Professional at the club in October 2022. He tells us that he ‘caught the bug’ during the pandemic and he still has it! Thankfully, it’s just the infectious game of golf he’s referring to because the speed at which his life has changed is quite remarkable.



While at school Frank’s sporting interests lay in football and rugby and admits that about age 16 he had to be dragged along to Cheshunt Golf Club just to keep his dad company.

In October 2019 an old school friend who happened to be a very accomplished ‘scratch’ golfer invited him to the driving range and it being obvious to him that Frank had great potential encouraged him to continue playing. At the time Frank was making his living fitting shutters and shop fronts, but the furlough scheme left him with plenty of time on his hands which he took full advantage of.

With golf courses being one of the few venues open he became a member at Cheshunt and found himself playing two rounds of golf a day, six days a week. His first handicap was as low as 6. Any golfer will tell you that that takes some doing. By April 2022 he had found himself a job working in the pro shop and was taking lessons.

In July he learned that his handicap was low enough to apply to become a professional. Most people will be aware of the high earning ‘Tour professionals’ we see on television, but there are thousands of other ‘club professionals’ who play a very important role in the life of a golf club. Qualification as a ‘pro’ with the Professional Golfers’ Association (PGA) requires a three-year Foundation Degree in Golf Studies which Frank is currently immersed in and fits his study around his working day.

Work starts at 10am, although Frank can usually be found on the course honing his skills before then. Once he arrives in the club shop it’s all go. His duties include serving members and visitors, repairing clubs, making arrangements for groups of visiting golfers (known as ‘societies’), giving lessons.

His work is supervised by our Head Professional, Kevin Delaney who has achieved ‘AA’ PGA Status. Like Kevin, Frank’s passion is coaching and really enjoys seeing the progress of his students. We are not sure if they will all progress in golf quite as quickly as Frank has, but that’s certainly his aim.

St Clare Hospice Quiz Saturday 14th October

7.30 for 8.00 start

Theydon Bois Village Hall

BYO Food and Drink

Tickets £10 - Tables of 8 - Please call 01992 812042



Theydon Bois Cricket Club

Another Successful Year for the Cricket Club

With another cricket season drawing to a close, the Cricket Club are ready to celebrate another successful season both on and off the field. At the time of writing both the 1st and 2nd XI's are in a strong position to win promotion from their respective divisions in the T Rippon Mid Essex Cricket League.

The Junior Section of the Club have also enjoyed another successful season. The U15 team won their league, while the U13's finished 3rd and the U11's finished 2nd in their respective leagues. The Club was also pleased to host the U15's West Essex vs South Essex match on the 1st August.



Essex Over 50's Cricket Team in action against Middlesex Over 50's

The Club are able to offer some excellent playing facilities, a fact noted by the management of the Essex Over 50 Cricket Team. The Club was asked to host matches against Staffordshire and Middlesex in the County Championship Play Offs. The Essex players obviously enjoyed the facilities winning both games comfortably. Further games will be scheduled to be played at the ground next season.

If you are interested in joining the Cricket Club or would like further information, then please visit the Club's website www.tbcc.co.uk

Theydon Bois Open Gardens

Sunday 18th June was forecast to be heavy rain and storms **BUT LUCKILY** the sun shone with only occasional clouds and a short shower at the end of the afternoon so visitors were able to enjoy looking around the lovely gardens which were open. And they were lovely!

It was such an enjoyable friendly day, everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves and, despite the fact that the Underground was closed and it was Fathers' Day, we still raised £2,000 for St Clare Hospice which was a great result.

Our next Open Gardens will be on **SUNDAY 30th JUNE 2024** so book the date now if you were unable to join in last time.

If you would like any information on Open Gardens please contact Carol James at grahamandcarol.james@btinternet.com or ring 01992 812250

News, Comments & Notices

u3a Roding Valley

Retired? Meet new people

Share interests & hobbies

New members welcome



For more information
call 07968174388 or
Visit our website - search
"Roding Valley u3a"



www.u3asites.org.uk/rodingvalley

Roding Valley u3a - A New Member's Story

18 months ago I decided to retire. I had no plans, just a very empty diary. A friend said I should join her Cryptic Crossword Club. She said that the club was part of "Roding Valley u3a", so I would have to join Roding Valley u3a first.

She explained that the u3a is a nationwide network of groups aimed at encouraging people no longer in full time work to share their knowledge, skills, and interests in a friendly environment.

There are no exams and no homework, just regular activities, and interest groups. It sounded worth investigating, so I duly paid my subscription of £16. That was the start of my new life and how Theydon Bois became my second home.

I enjoyed the Crossword Club so much, I joined RV u3a Book Club and I started to attend their talks on the third Monday of each month. I also joined a Yoga Class and am thinking about joining the World History Group. All these activities take place at Theydon Bois Village Hall. I had never been in the hall before and was surprised at all the facilities and loved the free parking.

Monthly Meetings & Interest Groups including:

- Gardening
- Bridge
- Family History
- World History
- Keep Fit
- Book Club
- Creative Writing
- Theatre & Concerts
- Outings & Walks
- Current Affairs
- Jazz Appreciation
- Pub Lunches
-and many more

Now that I am in Theydon on a regular basis, I have started to explore the village. I had no idea that there was so much going on in the parish and what a fantastic community spirit there was. It feels like stepping back in time.

Not everything takes place in the Hall. Some groups meet in people homes (discussion, science, family history ...). RV u3a also organise theatre visits, outings, walks and pub lunches. There is never a dull moment.

I have met so many interesting people at RV u3a. Some are newly retired, like me, and are looking to keep their minds and bodies active.

I would encourage anyone who is not in full time work, to join. We are a great bunch of people, in a superb location, doing a whole range of interesting things.

You do not need to live in Theydon to join, but it might become a second home. **Just email RVu3a@hotmail.com if you want more information.**

News, Comments & Notices



THEYDON BOIS SINGERS

Welcomes New Members



We are a small friendly SATB choir and we rehearse on Monday evenings at the village hall from 7.30 – 9.30pm. Lawrence, our conductor is

talented and very enthusiastic and makes rehearsals fun. We are lucky to have a very accomplished pianist, Paul. We put on three concerts a year. Our spring concert, this year, was held in the church and we performed Faure's 'Requiem' and Vivaldi's 'Gloria'. In July, our concert featured more modern music including 'Love Changes Everything', 'Goldfinger' and 'Hallelujah'.

We welcome new members - there is no need to audition - so why not come along on a Monday and give us a try. Remember, singing can boost your mood, beat stress, improve your memory and enhance your well being.

The Autumn term starts on Monday 11th September. If you would like more details ring Barbara on 01992574892 You can also follow us on Facebook.

Our next concert is on Tuesday 12th December at 7.30pm in the Village Hall when we will perform Christmas music and carols.

ST MARY'S CHURCH - HOPBIT RAILINGS PROJECT

St Mary's Parochial Church Council is pleased to report that the reinstatement of railings separating the churchyard from the "Hoppit" has been completed. Undergrowth and fallen trees were cleared by a City of London arborist team to enable the work to take place and the view of the churchyard from Coppice Row has been greatly enhanced.



Sincere thanks go to all those who generously contributed to the cost of the railings, including the Rural Preservation Society, the Parish Council, church members and village residents. The balance of the cost was met from legacies to the church.

We should like to express our appreciation to Neil Wood, our fabricator, who has carried out the work with care and skill, installing 47 sections of railings.

Some work remains to be carried out on the railings at the church car park entrance and on the path through the churchyard to the "Hoppit" gate. A future project could be reinstatement of the railings around the church car park as funds allow. If you would like to sponsor a section of railings at £200 or make a contribution towards this work, please contact **Rev John Fry**, vicar@theydonparishes.org.

Mary Gill, Churchwarden

News, Comments & Notices



CARING COMPANY CELEBRATES A DECADE OF DEDICATION

Home Instead Epping Forest is celebrating reaching a decade of providing tailored support to older people in the local area, helping them remain in their own homes, where they are happiest. Victoria Rigby, owner of the award-winning home care company, has led the business to considerable success and popularity, creating a strong reputation for caring for older people across Epping Forest since its launch in 2013. Ten years on and Home Instead Epping Forest has supported 951 clients, providing 70,000 hours of care in the last year alone and achieved an ‘Outstanding’ rating by the Care Quality Commission, the highest award possible.

The company’s services are tailored to the individual needs of each client and range from companionship, meal preparation, light housekeeping, personal care, dementia care and live in care. The caring company also has the community at heart and runs monthly events including a Memory Lane Café afternoon and a Singing for the Brain morning. They are soon to be

expanding their community spirit by adding a DanceSing afternoon which will involve a combination of chair-based dance movements and singing.

Home Instead celebrated their ten years of success with an afternoon reception for staff, clients and their families plus individuals from the network. Dame Eleanor Laing MP made a very fitting return to cut the cake, having cut the ribbon ten years earlier to celebrate the opening of the business. Victoria commented: “I’d like to thank all the guests for attending and of course, our fantastic care professionals and staff, who continue to provide phenomenal support to all of our clients. It was one of my proudest moments seeing everyone celebrate what we have achieved over the last ten years.”

To find out more about Home Instead Epping Forest, please call 01992 666777 or visit www.homeinstead.co.uk/epping-forest or email victoria.rigby@homeinstead.co.uk

Theydon Bois Women's Institute



20th Sept	“My Life on the Amateur Stage” Mrs Ruth Newman
18th Oct	“Swinging London” - Mr Nick Dobson
15th Nov	“Pets As Therapy” - Mrs Helen Beard
13th Dec	“Sing a Song of Christmas” Miss Danielle Barnett

News, Comments & Notices



The Autumn Programme

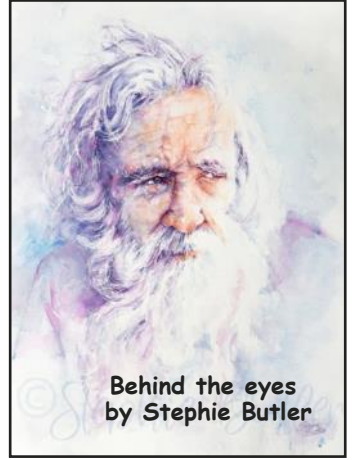
kicks off with a step-by-step session by Stephie Butler demonstrating her delightful ethereal approach to watercolour.

Friday 27th October in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

Everyone welcome. Entry for non-members £5.00. Members and Associates free..

For more information about this demonstration plus other upcoming events, see www.theydonartgroup.co.uk.

Pictures from Our Exhibition on 9th June



Behind the eyes
by Stephie Butler



Roding Rotary Club's Xmas Fair

Sunday 26th Nov at Theydon Bois Village Hall



**2-5pm Afternoon Tea
Craft & Gift Stalls
& Santa**



**The Rotary Club of Roding meets on Monday evenings at
The Queen Victoria pub at 6.30pm
*Raising Money for Local Charities***

News, Comments & Notices

FAIRLOP BRASS at THE VILLAGE HALL

Fairlop Brass will be staging two concerts at the Village Hall this winter, and look forward to your continued excellent support.

**Sunday 5th November - @ 2pm – BIG BAND BRASS**

The Band present their most popular themed concert as they play music from Glen Miller right through to Robbie Williams. Big Bands had a heyday during and post the Second World War, and this music has again become popular following exposure to the Dave Archer Band on Strictly Come Dancing. The Hall will be arranged with seating around tables, and you are encouraged to bring your own food and drink. The concert is starting at 2pm to give everyone time to enjoy the afternoon and get home for any Guy Fawkes celebrations.

Tuesday 19th December – @ 7.30pm - Christmas Crackers

This concert has become a firm favourite with both the Band's regular supporters and those from within the Village. Again, the hall will be arranged with seating around tables to enable you to enjoy your own food and drink, whilst listening to an evening of Festive Music, and joining in the Carols (song sheets provided).

Tickets: Tickets for both concerts are priced as follows:-

Adults - £10 - Under 16's - £5 - Under 12's - £1

The BIG BAND BRASS tickets can be purchased in advance via the Band's Ticket Office - www.fairlopbrass.co.uk/ticket-office.html or at the door on the night by cash or card. Advance tickets for CHRISTMAS CRACKERS will be available from early September.

We expect these concerts to be very popular, so to avoid disappointment make sure you get your tickets early. Further details about the Band can be found on the website www.Fairlopbrass.co.uk

News, Comments & Notices

EPPING - EPPINGEN TWINNING NEWS



The Association continues to enjoy a warm friendship with the people of Eppingen. In June a large group travelled to Eppingen in Germany where the 40th anniversary of the association was celebrated once again German style. We arrived late on a Friday evening and were quickly taken to our accommodation.

On Saturday morning an introductory guided tour was organised for those that had not previously visited the town. The beautiful old timbered buildings and the lake area looked their best in the warm sunshine. For others a craft market in the old town made an interesting distraction. After a leisurely lunch with our hosts there was a little time to relax before the main event.



Late afternoon members of both associations gathered in the Stadthalle where we were welcomed with Sekt and canapés. A more formal welcome by the town mayor followed; the town twinning document promising continued friendship between the two towns was signed by both associations. A wonderful meal followed. During a number of intervals awards were handed out to members who had made a special contribution to the partnership; there was also musical entertainment by the Stadt Kapelle who played a medley of songs by Abba. The evening was rounded off by songs and music from an amazing local singer Christian Engel. Many joined in with his entertainment and danced to his music.

We gathered on Sunday ready for our wonderful trip to Trifels castle situated near Anweiler in the Rheinland Pfalz area. This is a most impressive castle where once Richard the Lionheart was imprisoned. From the turrets there were breath taking views. Descending to the pretty village of Anweiler we were taken to a facility which produced wine from several of the local vineyards. We found ourselves sampling a number of these wines and received interesting information of how various climate conditions affected the taste. A traditional tasty meal followed before returning to Eppingen.

We were travelling home on the Monday but our hosts were keen to fill every moment of our weekend. We travelled to Baden-Baden where we took the longest funicular railway in Europe to climb above the town to the summit of the Merkur mountain. There we had spectacular views of the Black Forest. There was time to relax and enjoy our surroundings before descending once more to the town below. Baden Baden is a beautiful town where many rich people reside. There was time to wander through the wonderful rose gardens, take a look at the opulent casino and Kur house or window shop in the array of elegant shops.

Finally we had to make fond farewells to our old and new friends and depart for home. After such a wonderful weekend we are now planning a English language course for a group of Germans who will be visiting at the end of September. Members will have opportunities to join them on a number of cultural visits which will also take place.

WHY NOT THINK about joining the association and making some new friendships. There is no need to speak German. We also run a number of social events throughout the year. If interested and you would like to learn more phone **Joy 01279 428622 or 07944570917**

Village Activities 2023

The information, opinions and views presented in Village News and on the Village Website reflect the views of the authors and contributors of the articles and publication of articles, advertisements or product/services information does not constitute endorsement or approval by Village News or the Parish Council.

3 Oct	Macmillan Coffee Morning/Light Lunch at the Tennis Club - see page 35
12 Oct	Toy & Train Collectors Fair - Village Hall
13 Oct	Rural Preservation Society talk - Village Hall - see page 24
14 Oct	St Clare Quiz at the Village Hall - 7.30 for 8pm - see page 36
19-21 Oct	Drama Society - "Vicar of Dibley" - Village Hall - see page 10
27 Oct	Theydon Art Group - Autumn Programme - Village Hall 7.30 pm - see page 41
5 Nov	Fairlop Brass at the Village Hall - "Big Band Brass" - 2pm - see page 42
22 Nov	Horticultural Society Talk - Village Hall at 7.30pm - see page 29
24 Nov	Theydon Bois Christmas Market
26th Nov	Rotary Club of Roding Xmas Fair at Village Hall 2-5pm
7 Dec	Toy & Train Collectors Fair - Village Hall
12 Dec	Theydon Bois Singers Christmas Concert - Village Hall - 7.30pm
19 Dec	Fairlop Brass at the Village Hall - "Christmas Crackers" - 7.30pm - see page 42
Various	Rural Preservation Society Activities - see page 24
Various	Mobile Library at the Village Hall - see page 7 Womens Institute - see page 40
Various	Parish Council Meetings - see website at www.theydonbois-pc.gov.uk



Copy for Village News - email the editor Tony Ames at

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or send to c/o Parish Clerk, Parish Office as below



Theydon Bois Parish Council

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Website - <https://theydonbois-pc.gov.uk/>



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NEXT VILLAGE NEWS COPY DEADLINE - 26th November 2023