

AMBO



WINTER 2015

The Village Magazine for Radwinter,
Hempstead & The Sampfords



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The Editorial

I have spent a few days in my native Cornwall recently and have been amazed at the house building that is taking place in that county. No different from a number of places but strange to me in such an area of outstanding beauty. There is so much infill building in the beautiful towns and villages of my childhood, and they are expanding at an enormous rate.

Here in Essex we live so far from the water but I have rejoiced in having lunch every day looking out to sea with the sun beating down on the waves and being able to watch the fishing trawlers unloading their catch. It certainly took me back to my birthplace overlooking St Michaels Mount.

The Government is suggesting a huge plan of house building all over the country, which I am sure is needed but I do hope it will not ruin our heritage.

We are lucky in East Anglia to have so many wonderful mediaeval towns and villages which, on the whole, remain unspoilt. Will the utilities cope with this extra increase in the population?

It is perhaps inappropriate to write about the seaside when we are approaching the Christmas season. However I will take this opportunity of wishing our readers, advertisers and all who produce AMBO a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Sue Collins, Ambo Editor

This edition's cover photograph is *Ghost Ship* by Dave Smith and shows a Thames barge under repair at Pin Mill on the Orwell. Its leeboards are removed and laid in the mud. Taken 1/11/15 at exactly mid-day! Adnams *Ghost Ship* was available in the pub beyond.

Please send us your photos of local scenes, people or events that you think would make a great Ambo cover.

Formats for Submissions to Ambo:

Advert: PDF (and source doc if edits required)

Article: any file type *except* PDF
(minimal formatting, no embedded pics)

Photo: any image format e.g. jpg
in highest resolution possible
(email via phone *may* degrade image)



Ghost Ship

Ambo Dates

Edition	Submission Deadline	Publication Date
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Pause for Thought

As you will see from lower down the page, we are moving house. There is no shortage of advice these days on the internet as to how you should set about this project, and the first thing you should do, apparently, is start decluttering. Like many people, we haven't moved for 21 years, and so we are discovering all sorts of things that we had forgotten we had, or couldn't remember why we kept!

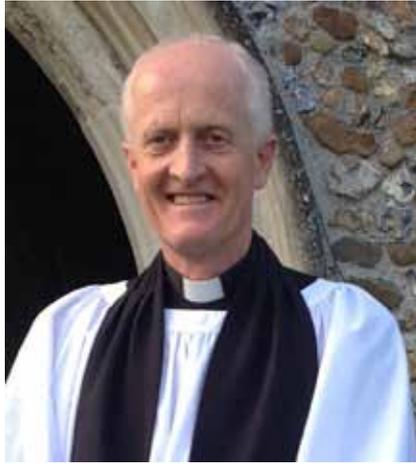
Making space

However, if you can find the time to do it, it is a strangely satisfying process, as you are forced to make decisions about whether you need something that you haven't used for years, or whether there are things that are just cluttering up your life and getting in the way.

This is physical clutter, but there can be spiritual and emotional clutter too. Things that can get in the way of what we would like to believe and how we would like to think. So it is good to have times, just like preparing to move house, when we can do some spiritual spring cleaning and the church season of Advent, which runs through December is one of those times.

Advent can be a time for weeding our spiritual paths, levelling the lumps and bumps in our attitudes and reactions, and sweeping the byways and highways of our lives; generally doing anything that we know we need to do to make ready for Christmas and the startling news of God coming into the world.

It is good to have an Advent wreath in the house and light a candle for each of the 4 weeks in the run up to Christmas. As we light each one it is a good opportunity to think about what needs to be done to de-clutter our spiritual lives, whether it is those paths that need to be straightened or levelled, relationships that need to be mended or put out in the rubbish for good.



De-cluttering our house can enable us to move on to new physical surroundings and new horizons. De-cluttering our spiritual lives can enable us to move on to new horizons too and the Christmas message is that God comes and shares our lives. Why not clear some space during Advent and welcome him in?

Joining with Thaxted

In the Autumn edition of Ambo, Graham Cook updated us on the plans for our parishes to join with Thaxted. This took another big step forward when I was licensed as Priest in Charge of Thaxted on 13 October and people may be wondering what happens next.

There will not be any obvious changes for some months. The Sunday service pattern both here and in Thaxted will remain the same, with an 8.00am and 10.00am service every Sunday. My time will of course need to be divided between here and Thaxted, but the Revd Chris Brown is an Associate Priest in the team and he will often come to these parishes when I am not able to be here.

Behind the scenes, the Church's legal and administrative wheels will turn, probably quite slowly, to merge all the parishes into one group, known as a 'United Benefice'. This could take a year or so. As part of that process we will need to find a name for the new group, or benefice, which links us all together, so those

of you who are good with words might like to get thinking about any shared connections between Thaxted, Great and Little Sampford, Radwinter and Hempstead.

We will also start to explore the things we can do together, and how we can share resources. Also how we communicate with you and let you know all that is going on.

It was thought appropriate that Elizabeth and I should live in Thaxted Vicarage and by the time you read this we should have moved in. Do drop by and see us there – the Vicarage is in Watling Lane. Please also note down the change of address on the Directory page.

*Philip Tarris, Priest in Charge
The Sampfords and
Radvinter with Hempstead*

Radwinter Defibrillator

The Radwinter Village Hall Charity has funded the installation of a defibrillator in the renovated phone kiosk, as part of its charitable commitment to the village and in partnership with the



Sue Bright with Martin Render chairman of The Community Heartbeat Trust.

District Council Jottings

I find that often people's eyes glaze over when I talk about the Local Plan, and who can blame them: even I struggle with the twists and turns of this saga. You will recall that last December the Government Inspector halted his examination of the Local Plan; primarily, because he believed that Uttlesford was not planning for enough new houses to be built. So it was back to the drawing board to try and come up with a revised plan that includes roughly an additional 5,000 house, on top of the significant number of new houses already planned for.

The development of the new Local Plan is now entering into a critical phase. As I write this article, the Council is consulting with the whole community on where we believe the new houses should be located.

The planners have set out a range of different scenarios, including the creation of one or more 'new towns', more development on the side our existing communities or a combination of both. One of the issues that concerns me most is that a number of the different scenarios put forward by the planners have identified the 20 or so larger villages across the



district as being suitable for taking some of this development. That list of larger villages identified as being 'suitable' in the planners' eyes for development includes Radwinter and Great Sampford. I know that a significant number of people will have responded to the consultation and I have asked each of the parish councils to do the same.

Almost immediately after this consultation closes, in early December the Council will be publishing the responses received to the 'call for sites'. These are the areas of land that local landowners have put forward as possible sites for development. I

have to emphasise that just because a local landowner thinks a particular site is suitable for development, does not mean the planners will feel the same way. Nevertheless, 2016 will bring with it real challenges as the whole community gets to grips with finding the right solution to this problem. I value the views of my neighbours on this issue, as I do with every issue that concerns us.

One of my earliest school reports commented 'Simon is a very serious little boy'. I am struck that every issue of Ambo is full of reports on the wonderful, fun things that go on in our villages: a celebration of the best aspects of our community ... and then you turn the page to 'Uttlesford Jottings'! My reports always seem to focus on the challenges and problems, rather than celebrate the so many things that make our communities vibrant, strong and successful. My New Year's Resolution will be to sometimes see the lighter side of life. I wish all my neighbours a very happy New Year and good luck with keeping your New Year's Resolutions also.

Simon Howell
UDC Councillor

Parish Council who took over the kiosk from BT. The idea was raised at the Village Hall AGM in 2012 and with guidance from the Community Heartbeat Trust the defibrillator is now 'live'.

The paint was donated by the BCF and Rob Anderson has restored the box to its former glory including repainting the crowns with gold paint.

Funds were raised at the recent Pop-up showing of *The Second Best Marigold Hotel*. The film was followed by a Q&A

with the screen writer Ol Parker who was raised in the village. Indian themed refreshments were provided

by the Parker family, and brothers Ol and Peter ran the bar.



A healthy queue forms waiting to have a go on the defibrillator

At the opening ceremony on 2nd October PC Chair Mark Halls expressed the hope that the defibrillator would not be needed but, "In the unfortunate event of a sudden cardiac arrest we can be assured that the chance of survival has increased considerably with the defibrillator on hand."

Over 30 people attended the training seminar which was held in the Village Hall on 12th October.

Sue Bright

The Gardening Year 2015

We were spared much in the way of winter storms over 2014/15 and with the exception of a couple of rainy days in January, the weather was very calm and without noticeable snow. Rainfall remained limited throughout Spring with only 100mm (4") falling over March, April and May.

These gentle conditions allowed all the Spring flowers to bask in full glory with daffodils being spared their usual battering of cold wind and rain. Tulips stood upright and the early garden was a sight of beauty. And without the rain came warmth, so much so that the birds nested almost two weeks earlier than usual with fledged blue tits and great tits in the trees and shrubs by late May instead of early/mid June.



Delphiniums

Of course the birds time the arrival of their young to coincide with the trees coming into leaf and the availability of caterpillars and the like. Oaks sprouted well ahead of ash this year with our huge ash tree almost undecided as to whether to bother to leaf at all. Eventually it did. And the magnolias were magnificent this year without frost to catch their unfurling flowers. I don't think I have ever seen so many blooms on them.

The ground warmed early this year but we held off planting our potatoes until the usual day of Good Friday. Whilst many now try the no-dig policy, we still dig our veg patches over, as much to get rid of the deep-rooted perennial weeds as anything,

and then the hoe can do its work for most of the growing season.

Seedlings grew well in the greenhouse with plenty of early sunshine so the coldframes were much needed once the plants were too big for the heat of the greenhouse but still in need of protection from the cold night-time temperatures. And nights did stay cold until well into June. A good dollop of rain was much appreciated on the 15th June but the following month was mostly dry and with one very hot week in particular.

I don't like to waste water by watering the garden, but I do water when it gets very hot using just enough to keep the plants alive until some rain arrives. Silver leaved plants are always more tolerant of drought but the lupins and delphiniums were glorious in May because they were ahead of the driest conditions. Roses which appeared at the end of June struggled with the heat and unless they were good varieties, the flowers only lasted a day before the petals wilted away – such brief splendour.

A plant I recommend to every garden is *Hesperis* (Sweet Rocket). A packet of seeds will produce spires of mauve and white flowers in mid Spring which give height and grace to the garden when most plants are still quite short. I leave the seed heads on mine and let them self-sow around for future years – what a great value plant.



Hanging basket

Hanging baskets benefitted from a lack of thunderstorms and hail storms to destroy them as soon as they were hung out, but after a promising start, the cold nights of early summer put paid to full development and they never fulfilled their potential. Trailing alyssum looks pretty in baskets early on, then dies off but has a second flowering in late September when the rest of the basket look shabby.

In the garden, the new range of hydrangea colours make them a fabulous addition whether you choose to grow them in large pots or in the ground. Coming from North London they were an integral part of many gardens there, often by the front door and growing so large that you could barely reach the door itself. I am delighted to see them make a comeback. And a great discovery of 2015 was *Lobelia Tupa* – not like the tiny hanging basket lobelia but a 6' tall giant for the border with red flowers climbing the spire from July-October.



Hydrangea

Of course the muntjac visited and took the top off some of my sweet peas, but as it turned out the sweet peas were not up to much anyway. This is the poorest year I have known for them and I can only put it down to cold nights in June and intermittent rain. By contrast, a standard fuchsia in a pot brought out from over-wintering in the greenhouse went beserk and nearly fell over with so many flowers.

Dahlias remain a great joy if you can be bothered to give them a frame to sit in when you first plant them out. Once established, their bright, full heads of cactus, water lily or pom-pom styles pop up above other plants in the garden and make great cutting flowers too once you've shaken the earwigs out.



Standard Fuchsia

This year's worst bug infestations came from the tiny black beetles, green fly and black fly arriving before ladybirds were about. I had clouds of the black beetles on the patio and they swarmed all over the bright orange day lilies (hemerocallis). I sprayed one flower once to see what would happen and when I tipped the flower head out the following day, the dead beetles made the same sound as rice poured from a jar, there were so many!



Hemerocallis with beetles

Our rainfall was erratic but when we did have 36mm on the 24th July and 43mm on the 26th August, it fortunately fell as steady rain over a day which was perfect for the plants. Short bursts of heavy rain do not reach deep into the ground and plants struggle in those conditions but continuous, penetrating rain produces great results and the dry periods that followed allowed flowers to stand proud with blooms open for the longest time possible.

Like Monty Don on Gardeners' World, we had mixed successes in the greenhouse with limited sizes of crops. The tomatoes were not abundant but had glorious flavour and the green peppers did well while cucumbers and melons were fairly disastrous. The fruit cage produced average crops of raspberries and currants but the veg patches needed more regular water than nature provided. None-the-less, potatoes were excellent, as were all the courgettes, runner beans and French beans. Salad crops were not so good and as usual, the muntjac had the broad beans. The vegetable stall of my neighbour

opposite offered a splendid array of produce all summer possibly due to more consistent watering than we managed.

The crab apple trees were abundant and the harvest of eating apples and pears was magnificent. And barely had we gathered the last apples than the leaves began to fall. Balmy days lingered through late September and October with flower borders still looking remarkably good before the rains set in. There is talk of this winter being a very snowy one, so spare a thought for the small birds and retain seed heads where possible and put out feeders. The flock of goldfinches that stayed through Spring this year were a delight and I hope they will return along with winter visitors such as the redstarts.

Diana Frost



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Hempstead

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Hempstead Parish Council

Play Area on the Glebe

No volunteers have come forward to help drive this project forward. I am surprised that despite the relatively large number of young families in the village, there is clearly no interest in such a facility. We will therefore remain the only village in this area without a suitable area for our younger residents.

Pond Refurbishment

We still plan to refurbish the village pond. However, we have experienced difficulties with the original scheme and now plan to remove all structures and vegetation from the site. This will make it much easier to dredge the pond and the entire area will then be returned to grass which will allow for considerably easier maintenance in the future.

Christmas Decorations

For the first time the Parish Council has decided to site a Christmas tree on the village green alongside the bus shelter. The tree will be lit by solar powered lights with a timer. We hope you enjoy it.

Sean McCarthy, Chairman

Radwinter

Stephanie Emberson
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Radwinter Parish Council

Radwinter Parish Council would like to welcome Cllr Kleber and Cllr Fitch as newly Co-opted members of the Parish Council.

Dog Poo Bins

The Parish Council has installed 2 Dog Poo Bins; one is installed at the entrance of Church Meadow with the kind permission with Sir Jonathan and Lady Parker. The other is in Water Lane near the ford.

Defibrillator

The Defibrillator has been installed in the telephone box which has been adopted by the Parish Council. The Village Hall Committee has funded the Defibrillator.

Total Transport

Essex County Council are working with Suffolk County Council and a private company called FutureGov to deliver a project which examines how transport needs of rural com-

munities can be better met in the future. The project is called Total Transport.

This project is separate from the current consultation regarding subsidised bus services, and has a much wider remit to look at local needs and how these might be met in new ways in the future. FutureGov will look at how innovative technology and new ways of communicating can improve transport availability and improve co-ordination between and commercial and subsidised bus services, community transport, home to school transport, demand responsive transport, and patient transport services.

FutureGov would like to meet you to discuss how residents in your parish travel to healthcare, education, training, employment and leisure. They will also ask you to introduce them to other residents of the parish so that they can talk to them about

their travel needs and possible solutions.

The Remembrance Service

The Parish Council will be represented at the service by, Cllr Mary, Cllr Rains, Cllr Kleber, Cllr Fitch; Cllr Duck will all attend the service.

The Village Sign

The Parish Council are looking at getting the village sign refurbished.

The New Development

Enterprise are looking to start the 1st phase of the development in the next couple of months, the first thing this to do is sort out the utilities i.e. lower the sewage pipe and electricity, once this is done they will be able to open up the entrance on the Walden Road which they will then use as their main access onto the site.

Mark Halls, Chair

The Sampfords

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01799 586535
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Sampfords' Parish Council

At the 17th September meeting of The Sampfords' Parish Council 8 members of the public were present. Concern was expressed that the Parish Council had decided to postpone going ahead with Affordable Housing because of the lack of a District Local Plan and the possibility that an application for affordable housing could lead to a much larger open-market scheme. In addition, the proposed site had attracted concern because of its hazardous access. Simon Howell, the District Councillor, mentioned that a 2013 application for 9 houses in that area had been rejected. New sites had now been requested for consideration within the Local Plan, and Simon, along with the District Deputy Head of Planning, felt that it would be inappropriate to promote a Rural Exemption Programme to supply affordable housing, and recommended waiting until the new sites have been identified. A representative from Hastoe Housing explained that Rural Exemption Sites are ones that can be given planning permission that would not otherwise be granted. She noted that a landowner had agreed to offer a site for 6 affordable houses and one open-market home. She was concerned that the delay might mean that the site could be lost. At the October 29th meeting it was reported that at a meeting of several parish councillors with Simon and a planning department officer the same recommendation was made to delay action. It must be stressed that consideration of a scheme has not been abandoned, just postponed.

A representative from County Broadband addressed the October meeting, setting out the facts and figures of installing faster broadband

in Gt. Sampford. If suitable access points were available faster broadband would improve download and upload speeds. A provisional date for installation would depend on how it was financed. If left to the company the project would go to the bottom of the list, but if a loan from the community were forthcoming it could mean only a short waiting period. Full information can be gleaned from the company's website. If the council decides to pursue it further there will be a public meeting to assess interest.

Another visitor at that meeting was Ollie, one of the pair of Youth Club members who had received a grant from the parish council towards a humanitarian visit to Nepal. With the aid of a sheet of photographs Ollie described the camaraderie experienced within the group and the youngsters they were helping, the work they did in teaching English, playing football and repairing earthquake damage, food they found to be very acceptable, and the hardworking Sherpas. Ollie is maintaining contact with one of the Nepalese with whom he worked.

Other matters discussed:

- a) a defibrillator is to be installed in Lt. Sampford Church, regular maintenance has been promised by volunteers. Training will be arranged.
- b) no further official complaints about speeding in Parsonage Lane, but there is still a persistent speeder.
- c) parking at the school is slightly improved, but some offenders persistent, to be addressed by a petition.
- d) thanks to grants, including one from the parish council, work can

start on a carpark in Gt. Sampford Churchyard; we hope this will be used by parents bringing and collecting schoolchildren.

e) footpaths booklet is partly completed; should be finished in March.

f) overgrown footpaths trimmed, some stiles replaced by kissing gates.

g) the proposed closure of Finchingfield Bridge was under discussion as some Sampford residents would be affected by the change of access to the far side of the village. Because of a collision with the bridge by a vehicle it was closed during the last week of October, probably for some weeks to follow. This was causing a huge increase in traffic along Spains Hall Road and thence along Stambourne Road, with at least one accident so far because of limited passing space. It was hoped that the authorities would start next year's planned work when the current repairs were done, so that the community is not inconvenienced for two lengthy periods.

h) the Village Hall committee had been active in recent weeks. £180 was raised for its funds by a Garage Sale which saw several homes and the Village Hall offering a wide variety of goods for sale; help had been offered to the WI at a large special meeting as time available for setting up was very limited; 5 members had helped in a variety of ways during a major cycle ride which retraced part of the 2014 Tour de France route.

i) the Play Area is in good order and a safety book is filled in weekly.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 21st January 2016 at 8pm and will begin with a public forum to answer residents' concerns.

Jane Lawrence

Radwinter Garden Show 2015

August Bank Holiday Monday was very wet for most but the entries to the garden show were spectacular. The judges made special mention of the wonderful flowers on display, particularly in view of the weather being so poor into the lead up of the event. Entries to the show were up on last year and the event attracted many visitors.

The Best in Show was awarded to Janet Bright for her covered box – such fine needlework of a frog on a tree trunk with two dragon flies on top. The reserve Best in Show was awarded to Annabel Coe who made a Junk Model computer, showing great innovation and creative detail. Congratulations to all who entered.

Sue Bright



Best in Show prize was won by Janet Bright for her Covered Box

and Radwinter Garden Show 2016!

Advance notice of schedule changes

The full schedule is available on the website: www.radwinter.org

Tarts Trophy (Men Only) -
Class 40 3 Fruit Scones (any recipe)

Domestic:

Class 54. 3 Cheese Scones (any recipe)

Class 56. Show Stopper Cake

Special class 57. Charity Item: Knitted jumper (replaces the hat)

Photographs:

Class 67: Clouds

Class 69: A flower

Class 70: A taste of Radwinter – 4 photos on an A4 sheet

Children's Section - Classes 71 to 88 (and eXclusions)

A: below school age
D: Yrs 4, 5 & 6

B: Reception/Year 1
E: Yrs 7 to 11

C: Yrs 2 & 3

In the table, X indicates that this Class *excludes* this age group

	Subject	A	B	C	D	E
71	A selection of leaves on an A4 sheet			X	X	X
72	Photograph*: Animals – max 20cm x 15cm					
73	Photograph*: Friends/Family– max 20cm x 15cm					
74	A decorated cupcake (judged on decoration only)					
75	A painted stone					
76	Any vegetable (grown by entrant)					
77	Painting or drawing: Seaside – max A4					
78	Decorate a hard boiled egg					
79	An edible necklace					
80	Vegetable creature made from vegetables/fruit					
81	Make a mask for Halloween					
82	A junk model					
83	3 muffins any recipe, any flavour					
84	3 cookies – any recipe, any flavour					
85	Design next years 2016 show schedule – A4 max					
86	Make a 20-25cm pizza (judged on appearance)	X	X	X	X	
87	Design# a tattoo or henna hand design	X	X	X	X	
88	Design# an iPhone cover	X	X	X	X	

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Rt Hon Sir Alan Haselhurst MP

Surgery Dates

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8th January 2016	The Old Armoury, Saffron Walden	19:00 - 19:45
29th January 2016	Foakes House, Dunmow	18:30 - 19:15
4th March 2016	The Guildhall, Town Street, Thaxted	17:45 - 18:30
4th March 2016	The Old Armoury, Saffron Walden	19:00 - 19:45
8th April	Foakes House, Dunmow	18:30 - 19:15



The 100 Parishes Society

On a calm, moonlit evening the restored 15th century Finchingfield Guildhall was the venue for members of the Hundred Parishes Society who had gathered for a social evening in this lovely timber-framed building. They appreciated an illustrated talk by Ken McDonald whose photographs of the agricultural landscapes, picturesque villages, fine churches and other listed buildings helped to explain the essential features that make this area so special.

The presentation was followed by the Society's Annual General Meeting, conducted by Chairman Douglas Kent. He reported an expanding membership, completion of the comprehensive introductions to each parish on our website



www.hundredparishes.org.uk and a regularly-updated *What's On* page of information about local events. The report and accounts were approved and all six trustees were re-elected.

After the formal meeting and refreshments, members enjoyed a tour of Finchingfield Guildhall whose recent restoration programme had been funded by significant grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage as well as generous support from other organisations.

Our guide, Des Fahy, explained that the restoration had revealed fascinating details of the building's construction, as well as the range of skills of the original artisans who had toiled to create this outstanding building from what we believe was a limited budget. Their modern counterparts have sympathetically rejuvenated it to be fully accessible and all can use and appreciate this Grade I-listed building.

Finchingfield's library is on the ground floor as is a small museum where modern technology enhances the presentation of Finchingfield's history. The spacious upper floor provides a venue for a programme of varied events. For details of these see www.finchingfieldguildhall.org.uk.

Tricia Moxey, Trustee

SSE's 2016 Community Calendar

The 2016 edition of Stop Stansted Expansion's Community Calendar is now on sale across the region, featuring beautiful views of homes and heritage in the shadow of Stansted Airport.

All proceeds from the sales of the calendar will be used in the continuing campaign by SSE to fight off the threat of an extra runway at Stansted.

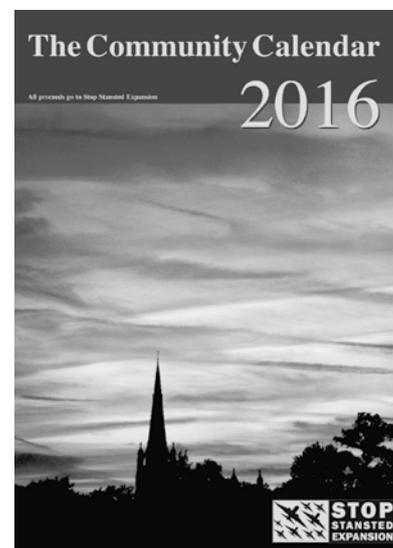
In July the Airports Commission under the chairmanship of Sir Howard Davies published its final report. It recommended there should be one extra runway in the London

area by 2030, and that it should be at Heathrow. Another runway might be needed in the UK after that and Stansted might be one of the options. The Government will respond to the Report before the end of 2015.

Meanwhile the Manchester Airports Group are arguing for increasing the throughput on the existing runway.

As in previous years, the A3 format calendars are priced at just £6 and will be on sale at some 20 shops.

<http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/calendar.html>



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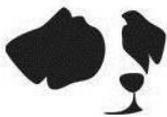
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Notes from the Registers

Baptisms

James Charles Woods and his family, Alexa Grace, Emily Ava and Joseph Conrad were all baptised on 20 September at St. Michael's, Great Sampford.

Hugh and John Renshaw were baptised at St. Mary's, Little Sampford on 18 October.

Amber and Stanley Hoar were baptised at St. Andrew's, Hempstead on 25 October.

Marriages

Alex Davidson and Stephanie Rhodes were married on 5 September at St. Mary's, Radwinter.

Paul Brown and Katy Badger were married at St. Andrew's, Hempstead on 13 September.

Funerals

Barbara Cecilia Bacon died on 18 August 2015 aged 74. Her funeral and burial was held at St. Mary's, Radwinter on 1st September.

Daphne Elizabeth Eaton, aged 93, died on 24 October. Her funeral took place at Cambridge Crematorium on 5th November.

Radwinter Post Office

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	1:00pm – 4:00pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	10:00am – 1:00pm
Friday	Closed



Mobile Library Times

Hempstead Opposite The Bluebell 09:30 – 10:00pm	Great Sampford Opposite The Red Lion 1:40 – 2:20pm	Radwinter Opposite Primary School 2:40 – 3:30pm
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The library now visits all our villages every other Friday on these dates in 2016:

December 11 th	January 8 th , 22 nd	February 5 th & 19 th	March 4 th & 18 th
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Power Cut?

In the event of a power cut contact UK Power Networks who own and maintain our electrical power network. It's worth keeping their contact details somewhere safe.



From Landline: 0800 31 63 105

From Mobile: 0333 32 32 105

Web: ukpowernetworks.co.uk/powercut

Text: POWER and your postcode to 80876

Leaf Letters

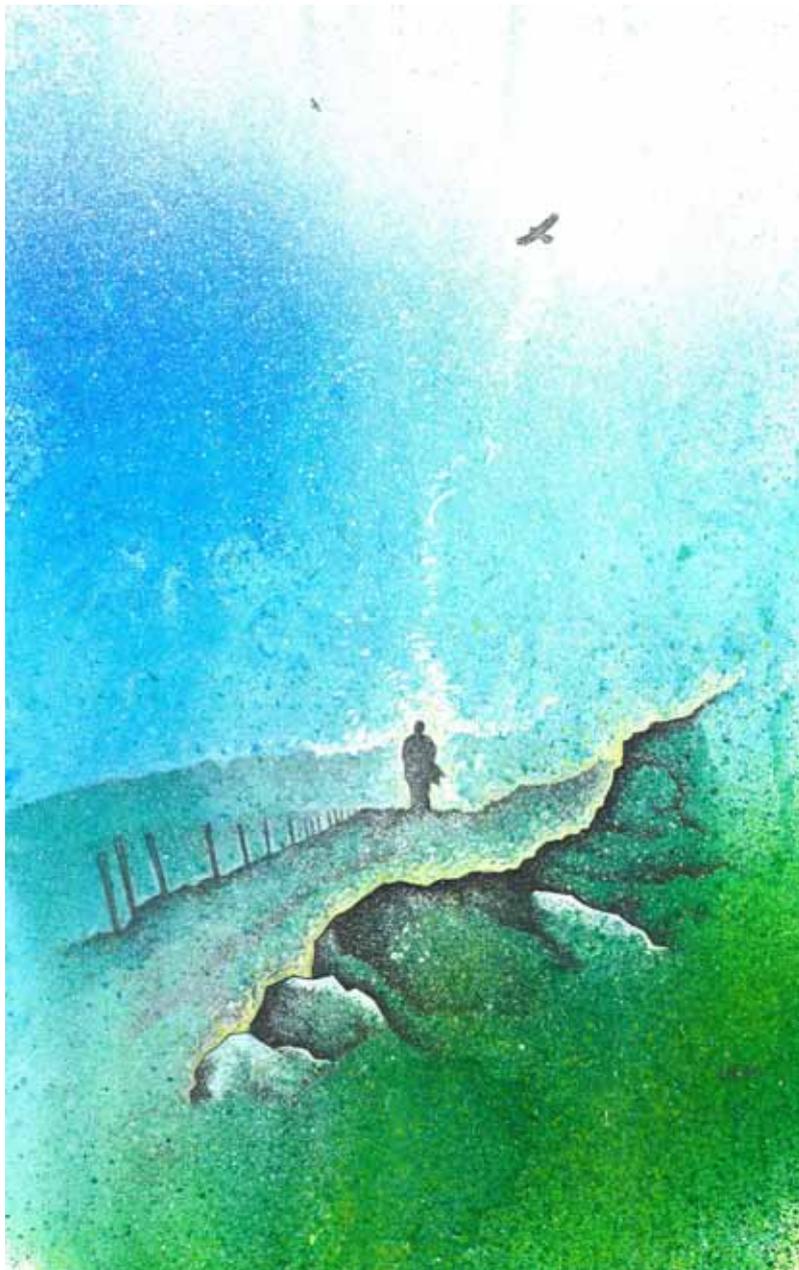
The sun has already set and the light is fading from the sky when I hear the call of the buzzard, and to me it is the sound of the mountains.

It has been a beautiful day in the garden, surrounded by mature trees resplendent in their autumn colours. Bright pools of leaves collect at their feet, mirroring the reds, yellows and golds that shimmer above them.

I know that buzzards are becoming more common now and can be found in many habitats, but as a child growing up in Birmingham it was only on holiday in Wales that I saw them, and it is in the mountains there that I have had the good fortune to observe them up close. Once while approaching the summit of Cadair Idris in low cloud, one suddenly appeared out of the surrounding swirling mists and glided overhead so close I could hear the wind rush through its feathers. They are magnificent creatures full of power and a savage beauty and wherever I hear their cries I am instantly transported back to the mountains.

A while ago I heard an interview with Dan Pearson, a gardener I greatly respect and whose beautifully simple planting schemes have always inspired me. He spoke of an epiphany he had had in the mountains of Spain; walking from

the foothills up to the snowline he observed "... plants growing in the wild in natural combinations and suddenly everything made sense". Cadair Idris is a mountain I know well, my own route up it takes me through woodland and then a bog,



Gonz and buzzards

before it finds the stone ridge that rises from the earth and carries me to its summit. From the tiny lichens and mosses to the ragged carpets of coarse golden grasses and the heather encrusted rocks that litter the landscape, it is a perfect palette with

not a leaf out of place. When asked what he thought gardens are for Dan Pearson answered "I think gardens are a place of escape, and a place of immersion. They are somewhere you can be yourself completely, and provide you with tremendous

freedom. It is the place I am happiest." For me all of this is true of the mountains themselves, and it is the place I return to again and again whenever there is opportunity.

However I find the garden is a bridge between the home and the mountain and it is a place that I can tell a story, with plants and wood and stone; a painting I can never finish. It is hard as a gardener to be still in any garden, there is always too much to do. Yet I have become aware, 'unfinished' as they are how often I find myself gazing at all of 'my' gardens, and how much pleasure they give me, lost as I am in their journeys. It is both a surprise and a joy that through no fault of my own I am able to spend my days outside.

In the garden the cries of the buzzard come from far overhead, sometimes if I look up I can see them

soaring gracefully high above; at other times they remain obscured by cloud or trees. It is a sound that never fails to uplift me, awed as I am by the natural beauty of this world. It is a good place to be a gardener.

Leaf Vigurs

Three months of Radwinter WI Activities in a Nutshell

What our members are going to do in the next 12 months:

- *Clean for the Queen* litter pick, ongoing until the weekend of 4 – 6 March 2016
- Go geocaching
- Complete our photo scrapbook
- Try out 90 new things for 90 years – *The President's Challenge*
- Decorate the WI Tree with "Carols" for the Radwinter Christmas Tree Festival
- Help to provide warm clothing for refugees by attending Joanna Eden's concert
- *Jazz at the Movies – A Swing-ing Christmas* in December
- Go on a photo walk with local photographer Celia Bartlett
- Discuss *To Kill a Mockingbird* at the WI Reading Group Meeting
- Watch *Suffragette* at Saffron Screen
- See "Singin' in the Rain" performed by SW Musical Theatre Youth Group
- Arrange (hopefully!) interesting speakers for the next 18 months
- Send our bursary winner to Denman, Oxfordshire for a course of her choice (www.denman.org.uk)

Our next meetings

include the following talks and /or demonstrations:

25 Nov – Microwaving at Christmas – Frances Harper – Bring and share Social

27 Jan – The Salvation Army – Capt Carol Baker

24 Feb – The Citizen's Advice Bureau – Kate Robson

What we've enjoyed in the last 3 months:

- Hand care and beauty tips talk and demo given by Sarah Mitchell, of Jeunesse Paris
- Competitively growing WI Geraniums
- Running the Teas Stall at Radwinter Fete
- Hearing about the Life of Opera Singer Emily Yarrow, at a Group Meeting with four other WIs
 - Knitting toys for Lifeline Romania
 - Holding a Community Tea in Radwinter to mark the National WI Centenary
 - Finding out more about the world at an "Associated Countrywomen of the World"
 - (ACWW) Fundraising Day in Dunmow



Might you be having this much fun too?

New members are always welcome.

A home-baked prize to anyone who can spot either Jam or Jerusalem in the above report. Oh, and another prize for the best caption in our Caption Competition photo – if the Publisher of AMBO hasn't already beaten us all to it!

Judith Thompson, President
599563, kentho@btinternet.com

www.twitter.com/radwinterwi

www.thewi.org.uk

- Organising our annual autumn Jumble Sale
- Finding "The secret that lies within" at Talliston House and Gardens in Dunmow and exploring the thirteen different locations set in different parts of the world at different times
- Eating, singing, modelling and dancing with former National Federation Chair Ruth Bond OBE and the members of ten other WIs, at the Saffron Walden area Centenary Party held at Saffron Walden Golf Club



Hand massage

Green nails for a green outfit



Emily Yarrow, opera singer



Emily Yarrow talks to Christina



Clean for The Queen is a campaign to clear up Britain in time for Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday, in June 2016.

When Her Majesty came to the throne litter was not the problem that it is today. Food packaging, plastic bottles, takeaway meals and cigarette butts have all contributed to a growing menace that affects our wildlife, streets, countryside and sense of pride. What better birthday present could anyone give to The Queen than to help clean up our country?

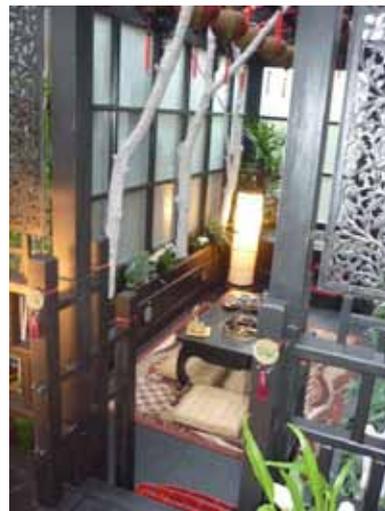
The WI initially campaigned, years back, to Keep Britain Tidy. *Clean for the Queen* is an initiative set up by that organisation in conjunction with Country Life Magazine.

Radwinter WI has registered for the campaign and invites our village community to join in. You can start now. Here's how:

- Pick up litter in the village anytime between now and the *Clean for The Queen* weekend on March 4th, 5th and 6th 2016.
- Take a photo of yourself with some or all of the litter you've collected.
- Also take a photo of any unexpected, unusual or interesting items!
- Email your photos to kentho@btinternet.com for display at the social event below
- Come along for refreshments/social (details TBC) at Radwinter Village Hall on the weekend of 4th - 6th March 2016 - probably afternoon of Saturday 5th
- Republicans as well as Monarchists are invited to join in - Radwinter WI will help you to *Clean for* (Substitute Name of your choice if you don't want to *Clean for*) *The Queen*.



Knitted toys for Romania



Futuristic Japanese Tea Room



Judith in the Cambodian Tree House



Radwinter WI performing the Y.M.C.A. routine with former National Federation Chair Ruth Bond, OBE



End of an excellent Centenary evening

Mmmm....



Radwinter C of E Primary School

As much as I adore long, warm summer days (*I'm sure we had some.....didn't we??*), I also love when the season changes and the trees peppering our beautiful countryside landscape show their autumnal hues.

This year, we decided to be more creative with our classes and held a vote among our families to nominate class names. We had suggestions of various insects, birds, animals and colours but we finally settled on *Hedgehog, Bee, Otter, Kingfisher* and *Swallow*.

The start of the autumn term in September is also a time of change, particularly for our little people who start their school journey with us in their Reception year. Only 7 weeks ago, we had 17 children in *Hedgehog* class join us at Radwinter and I have to say, they have all settled into school life magnificently. Not a 'squeak' nor a 'snuffle' (*hedgehoggy terms!*)... they really are all little stars and have made a wonderful impact on 'family Radwinter'.



Harvest Hedgehogs

Have your cake and eat it.... what else would you do with it?

Three weeks into September, we thought it was time for a party! Not quite a party but we invited the parents/carers of our *Hedgehog* class into school for a tour of the school by buddies and for a cup of tea and a cake afterwards (this was really under the guise of a presentation on phonics but the tea and cake always swings it!) It's always lovely to see how the children mature in only 3 weeks.



Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world
Martin Luther

For those of you who may remember the 1994 film *Forest Gump* there's a wonderful quote when he says "Mama always said life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get".

My interpretation of that linked to school life is you never know what you may be good at until you try and that's why I love having as many opportunities presented to the children as possible. This term, we continue to offer flute lessons, together with the re-introduction of piano lessons and the wonderful Mr Martin Wilson continues with his *Band on the Run* and orchestra ensemble on Fridays! Children at Radwinter are always willing to 'have a go' and many find a new skill or enjoyment opening up for them. The gift of music!

I've always gravitated towards opera, and the Royal Opera House is quite possibly the greatest opera house on earth -
Rufus Wainwright

We were extremely honoured to be invited in their Glass Knights opera initiative which was launched by a visit for our Year 6 children to the Royal Opera in London for a stunning performance of *The Marriage of Figaro*. This provided a wonderful taste (and yet another opportunity to explore something new) of the world of opera which is being followed this term by workshops at the Saffron Hall.

There's no such thing as impossible, Hiccup, only improbable. The only thing that limits us are the limits to our imagination -
Cressida Cowell

As well as venturing into the operatic world, Radwinter pupils were also embraced into the world of literature when our Year 4s enjoyed a presentation at SWCHs by author Cressida Cowell of *How to Train your Dragon* fame. Our wonderful PTA had bought each Y4 child one of Ms Cowell's books which she personalised and signed for them. Another "door opening" opportunity for some children who may not have ventured into Cressida's world before! We hope to have our very own budding authors now or in the future.

No-one has ever become poor by giving -
Anne Frank

Jumping back now to our summer fete in July, our Year 5/6s always organise and run stalls to raise money





to sponsor a little boy in Africa, Elijah. This enables him to have an education, helps buy resources for the school and benefits children less fortunate than our own. This year they raised a staggering **£520** for Vision Africa which will change not only Elijah's life but many others too.

Back to the present and our Year 5/6s again worked hard when they hosted a Macmillan coffee afternoon raising money for this wonderful charity. We invited parents, carers, friends, families in to join us for tea, coffee and cake in the school hall. Cakes were donated by families and friends all raising a magnificent **£636.97!** Thank you everyone (the cake was yummy too!).

It's all about the winning!
Suzanne Powell, Swallow Class

Apparently....Mrs Powell likes a bit of sport. In fact, Mrs Powell loves a lot of sport which again is another opportunity to try something new or different, work as part of a team, develop or discover a hidden talent! This term is jam packed with sporting events, some competitive, some just fun but all hugely enjoyable

allowing everyone to take part.

Football - The girls have played flying the flag for the ladies; the boys played at Herberts Farm getting through to the final but had the title "stolen" from them by a penalty shoot out! The boys also took part in the Essex small schools football tournament winning 2, drawing 1 and losing 2.

Multi-Skills – Y3/4 children at-



tended a multi-skills afternoon at Katherine Semar where they were given the opportunity to learn new skills and participate in a range of exciting sporting activities.

Dodgeball – following an immensely popular dodgeball lesson, we decided to enter our 6 children into a dodgeball tournament, again held at Friends' School with blue team coming 1st, yellow team 2nd

and everyone playing extremely well!

Cross Country – if that isn't enough, Mrs Gittins (parent/LSA) "runs" a running club Tuesday lunchtimes at school and we were invited to a cross country run against children from other local primary schools.

(With all that sport, we needn't worry about the tea and cake!).

The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence – Denis Waitley

In the spirit of sportsmanship (in the wider meaning), we have four houses at Radwinter - *Bullock, Harvey, Turpin* and *Nesfield* – whose names represent local historical figures. The start of each academic year sees a democratic vote by the children and election of House Captains and Vice Captains.

We also have School Council



representatives from Y2 upwards who attend a School Council Conference annually to share information on how to be an effective school council. This year, Mrs Boyle (ably assisted by Mrs Goodfellow) took our Y2 and Y3 representatives to Henham & Ugley Primary School.

Love only grows by sharing. You can only have more for yourself by giving it away to others"

Brian Tracy

Each term, each class will present a parents' collective worship when parents/carers, friends and families are invited into school to share in a Friday collective worship where everyone learns and shares what the children have been learning about. This half term, families enjoyed the *Kingfisher* and *Swallow* class musical production of Ancient Egypt; we

can't wait for *Otter*, *Bee* and *Hedgehog* classes after half term.

Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later
– Og Mandino

Harvest is always a wonderful



Macmillan Coffee Morning - aftermath

time of year and I think especially so when, in this area, we are fortunate enough to see the fields being harvested. Our Harvest service is always a wonderful date in the diary at St Mary's Church. We donated items collected from families at the school to the Saffron Walden Food Bank. Of course, we celebrated Harvest after the service back at school with tea and cake! Thank you to everyone who donated items

for the food bank. This year, the theme was our core Christian values: fairness, kindness, respect, service, forgiveness. Each class explained the values through singing, action, art or storytelling. I was able to show my theatrical side in full flow with *Let It Go* from Disney's *Frozen* to help with the meaning of our fifth value, 'forgiveness'.

It's impossible to explain creativity. It's like asking a bird, 'How do you fly?' You just do.

Exploring one's creative side is an adventure in itself. Clay is a perfect artistic commodity for that hidden artistic ability to escape and this half term we invited Mrs Gayle Malloes back to Radwinter Primary for clay workshops for *Otter*, *Kingfisher* and *Swallow* classes where they all created an Egyptian masterpiece.

Spooks and Sparks Disco

And here we are at the last day of the first half of autumn term, and in true Radwinter Primary style, we went out with a bang when our PTA hosted our annual *Spooks and Sparks Disco*. Witches, fairies, werewolves and monsters flew, stalked and skulked through the school hall taking part in spooky games, ghoulish dancing and thoroughly having a 'monstrous' time! Thank you PTA for all your hard work and efforts in making the end of this half term special!

One thing we're definitely known



Working with clay

for at Radwinter is our "can do" attitude to things and as a short synopsis of things to come before Christmas arrives, this is what we have in store (which may be subject to change, if anything else exciting comes up.... which it probably will!)

- Christingle at St Mary's Church, Radwinter - 2pm Friday 27th November
- Christmas Bazaar at school - 3.10pm 27th November
- Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Church, Radwinter - Saturday/Sunday 28th/29th November
- *Hedgehog* Class trip to Audley End Miniature Railway Santa Express to see Santa himself! - Wednesday 9th December
- *Cinderella* at the Cambridge Arts



Macmillan Coffee Morning



I want my mummy - Egyptian studies

Theatre whole school trip to the pantomime -
Monday 14th December

- Christmas nativity at St Mary's Church, Radwinter – 9.15am Wednesday 16th December

It is always lovely to see people from the villages at our community events (Harvest, Christingle, Nativity) as we really feel the school is part of your community.

Merry Christmas everyone and a very happy and prosperous 2016!

Kate Hockley, Headteacher



Visit to Saffron Walden Museum and the Maze

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The Sampfords' Singers

The Sampfords' Singers are a local community choir that were founded in the mid 1980's by a few musical Sampford residents. We are a very diverse choir with approximately 25 members.

We sing regularly in local churches providing the music for services, weddings and funerals. We also perform at various community events throughout the year including Radwinter Pancake evening and the Macmillan Christmas concert at Anso Corner. Each spring the singers take part in a musical at Sampford School written by Quintus Benziger.

Ali Wakelin is the current musical director and she has been in charge since November 2014. The singers are also very fortunate to have Quintus as their regular accompanist; he has written many musical arrangements for the choir as well as orchestrating the annual musical play.

The Sampfords' Singers welcome singers of all abilities: all members are encouraged and helped to improve their musical knowledge. The choir is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music and work towards the various RSCM choir awards.

For details about joining the choir or to book the choir for an event please contact me, Ali Wakelin.

Ali Wakelin
07717 125743
aliwakelin@aliwakelin.co.uk



*Back: Colin Parker, Hugh Welchman, Chris Robinson, Paul Williams, Harvey Orrock, Rev Philip Tarris
Middle: Rosie Welchman, Anne Wolstenhorne, Sarah Parker; Sandra Mikkides, Sue Lindsell, Stephanie Hughes
Front: Maureen Squires, Kerry Braithwaite, Julie Jarman, Ali Wakelin, Marilyn Edwards, Julie Smith, Emma Ure*

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Great & Little Sampford WI

In August of our 91st year we formally took the decision to change our meeting day to the last Tuesday of each month from September 2015. This, of course, entails contacting all the scheduled speakers to check on their availability for the new dates.

The WI centenary has also dominated 2015. The celebrations started last year with the baton being relayed through all the county federations, ending up at the Royal Albert Hall for the very special AGM attended by three members of the royal family, and other notable figures. During this year, and especially in September when WI Day falls, WIs nationwide have been holding their own events. Several of our members attended a WI centenary dinner at Saffron Walden Golf Club. We were greeted with Bucks Fizz, enjoyed an excellent meal. We heard from a former national chairman about her experiences during her period of office, and took part in an informal sing-song of music popular during the ten decades of WI.

During the sing-song some WI members modelled headgear of different periods of the last 100 years. Who remembers the turban of the 1940s housewife? Our own celebration took place in the Village Hall in party mode, with balloons, bunting and a banner proclaiming 100 years, and a lunch before the October meeting. The committee pulled out all the culinary stops to provide a choice of fish pie or shepherd's pie followed by a tempting array of desserts. Speaker Brian Carline offered advice for reluctant gardeners under the evocative title of *Soil sweat and tears*. Some advice was tongue-in-cheek, some useful, and some humorous. An added bonus was the prize of a plant for whoever was the first to identify unusual garden tools. Teatime on this occasion included an iced cake in honour of this special anniversary.

In August we failed, despite several attempts, to contact the speaker on Avon Cosmetics, but there was no shortage of sociable chat. Margaret Sorger explained about Samaritan's Purse, whereby shoeboxes are filled with appropriate gifts for children and sent to countries where these may be the only gifts the children receive. Members' customary generosity resulted in enough contributions brought the following month to fill 10 boxes.



Then Karen Griffiths gave a very comprehensive description of the services offered by St. Clare Hospice near Harlow. She exploded a few popular misconceptions about hospice care: it is free, it concentrates on living rather than dying, it cares for the whole family, and it offers complementary therapies. It is available to patients over 18 and of any religious faith, and funding is provided by several shops, donations, bequests, and supporters' fundraising events. Members were again generous in purchasing the goods on display.

After a year's planning, in September this WI played host to the 4 other WIs in the Oak Group. Emily Yarrow's entertained an audience of 74 with her talk about her life as a professional singer. We thoroughly enjoyed the varied programme of songs in a number of different genres. We loved the fact that after buying the top and skirt for these talks she bought another top to have made into matching shoes. The Sampford members turned up trumps with the refreshments, and other WIs shared some of the responsibilities. Much

of the large display of homemade toys was later given to a local charity Lifeline Romania.

Many complimentary comments ("the best ever" for example) were received about the meeting, and we in turn were very grateful to some members of the Village Hall committee who helped us get the hall ready in the limited time we had available.

A couple of members attended a federation event at Dunmow featuring some very different locations and promoting the work of Associated Women of the World (the WI is affiliated). The last outing of the season was to *Paycocke's* in Coggeshall and the Perrywood Garden Centre, both of which we enjoyed despite the rain. The federation lottery resulted in a second win this year for one of our syndicates, and *Flower of the Month* winners have been a white gladiolus, a red rose, and a purple campanula. Three of our Thaxted members were placed in a needlework class at the Thaxted Gardening and Craft Show, and May Barker's redesigned garden recently won a national landscaping award for the architect and contractor.

There is no meeting in December, and we are hoping to welcome the scheduled speakers for January and February (respectively Waitrose on *Looking Ahead to Fair Trade Fortnight*, and the Rev. Philip Tarris on *The Day the Queen Came to Chelmsford*). The New Year for us will begin with our 92nd birthday lunch, already being planned.

Despite the increase in next year's subscription we hope that our members will feel their WI membership is excellent value for money and will continue to enjoy our monthly get-togethers. We have welcomed several new members this year.

Jane Lawrence

A Village Childhood

My sister and I were born to very kind and loving parents who had waited fourteen years for children! They were married by special licence before Dad left to volunteer for the Army in The Great War. When he returned, having been wounded three times, he became a farm labourer and by 1930 things were very difficult. Wages were cut due to the Depression and rents for Council Houses were raised; this resulted in the family having to leave North West View and 'down size' to the small cottage opposite the school, especially as an addition was expected – ME!



Joan and Barbara at Cricksies Cottage - where they still live - in May 1932

However, ours was a very happy childhood. Simple pleasures were enjoyed and when very small, we played in the garden, building make-believe moss houses in the ditch which ran along the back.

We liked to help in the garden and had a small patch of our own land to tend. We kept a few bantams and I named the cockerel 'Peter' and the little white hen *Daisy*. The other four went unnamed, but gave us eggs!

I can remember playing soldiers, with a small wooden box as a vehicle and sitting in it, dragging it along

around the garden and brandishing a hammer as a weapon.

Before I started school, there was great consternation one day, when the next-door chimney caught fire. The roof was thatch so needed instant attention. Fortunately Dad and our Uncle, who lived in Parish Hall Cottage, were home for breakfast and a ladder was hastily found and buckets of water poured down. Mum was inside calming and comforting the lady, Mrs Porter who lived there and had raised the alarm. She had mistakenly put sugar instead of salt on the fire to calm it down, causing the opposite effect.

I was dressed up warmly and seated on a log outside at a safe distance and told not to move until all was over and the clearing-up began. No damage was caused and life returned to normal.

There was a Welfare Clinic held in the Village Hall on Tuesday afternoons, where babies were weighed and checked over for their general health. Medicines were few; for colds, Camphorated Oil was rubbed on noses and chests and Friars Balm infused in boiling water and the steam inhaled.

I had a bad attack of Whooping Cough and this was eased, particularly at night, by the application of a stocking, soaked in icy water and wound round my neck. This treatment was used subsequently over the years, when the cough re-occurred.

For toothache, a handkerchief would be warmed on the fire-guard and held to the cheek, which eased the pain.

We used to visit Mum's old friends, who always produced sweets from an apron pocket or biscuits from a tin on the mantle shelf. Of course this meant walking or riding in the push chair as they lived a little way off. There was great excitement when an aeroplane was heard above and

we would rush out to see a big plane going over.

It was wonderful one day to have a visit from an older cousin, who lived in London and brought us a home-made crystal set wireless! I can remember being fascinated to put on ear phones and hear voices coming through.

From quite an early age we accompanied Mum to Swards End to do house work etc. for her brother who lived on his own, following the death of their Aunt who he had previously lived with.

We walked, if fine, along the Green Lane past Hoys Farm and Frogs Green. It was magical. Once, when in Swards End, we were treated to a ride in a pony trap, with our Great Uncle and Aunt. It was lovely.

As we grew older we went with Dad along to Hall Farm on a Sunday afternoon to feed the horses. We went into the stable and were lifted up to sit on the fodder box and watch, but not touch the horses.



Joan and Barbara behind Cricksies with cousin Alan

Often, we would meet our uncle, coming from Swards End, cycling along with his dog, *Tip*, running along beside him, on his way to have tea with us. We enjoyed his visits, he was a great tease and very jolly.

One day we were in real trouble. The road outside was being re-surfaced and we stood at the fence watching with great interest, a workman walking along with a hand-held tar sprayer, spraying liquid tar on to the road surface, before the grit lorry followed with men shovelling and spreading the grit over the wet tar. Little did we realise that we were being sprayed too! Mum was really cross when we came in with tar on clothes and bare legs and what a job she had doing her best to remove it, with butter, from our legs. I can't remember what happened with our clothes.



Pre 1930 - the signpost on the crossroads by "The Pond" in Radwinter with directions "To Clare by Hempstead", "To Walden" and "To Cambridge by Ashdon"

The hoardings on the garage behind advertise Walbro Cycle and a Grand Fete

Before I attended School I remember being taught by my older sister, how to tell the time and how to pronounce my 'r's' properly as they always came out as 'w's'. Also learning with her the hymns she was singing at School. When I was about 14 years old, I was chosen to present a posy of flowers to a visiting lady, of some importance in the Women's Institute, of which Mum was a member. I took time at home, perfecting my curtsy and felt rather proud when all went well on the day.

Barbara Mizen

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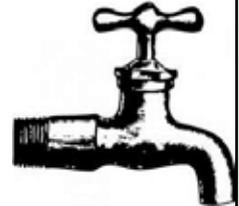
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Funding Fast Broadband

Following the recent survey of Hempstead residents, there has been enough interest to enable County Broadband to go ahead with the project for high speed wireless broadband in the village.

The question is: When? If we are simply added to the work programme for County Broadband, then it will be late 2016 before the build starts, as they have a limited budget for new investment and we have to join the queue. As the installation could take 2-3 months, we could expect to be going live in January 2017.

If there is enough interest in making superfast broadband happen sooner, then we could have it as early as the beginning of 2016, if as a community we can come up with the start-up costs for the infrastructure. This is likely to come to around £15,000 and this would best be raised in the form of an interest free loan to County Broadband, which they would repay over 3 to 5 years (exact rate dependent on the rate at which residents sign up to the service).

This would be arranged as a consortium of, say, 15 individuals or businesses all contributing £1,000, or 6 x £2,500. An alternative, if the £15,000 were put up by just one

or two (maximum) individuals, it would be regarded as an investment and this would continue to attract repayments for 5 years following repayment of the initial £15,000.

Through one of these funded routes, County Broadband would undertake to have high speed broadband up and running in Hempstead within three months of confirmation of funding, which could be early 2016 if we can reach agreement quickly.

Discussions are ongoing with the PCC regarding the possibility of using the church tower as an access point; a process of seeking diocesan permissions, akin to planning permission, would follow. I have been advised by County Broadband that this should not hold the process up should we want to support an early installation.

Please email me if you are interested in contributing to the scheme to bring County Broadband to Hempstead early in the new year, or at least would like to discuss it. There are already a few people who have declared an interest in the possibility of putting up part of the loan but we do not have enough yet.

James Nicholson
01799 586656 07854 074898
prenticesfarm@tiscali.co.uk

Radwinter Cricket Club

Radwinter Cricket Club has not organised any fixtures for the 2015 season and is unlikely to organise any fixtures for the 2016 season. We have lacked sufficient consistent membership to enable us to field eleven players on a regular basis. In 2014 we had to cancel numerous fixtures. This is unfair on opposition clubs who raise eleven players and then find Radwinter cancelling.

We do not intend to close the club as there are still a few keen cricketers in the village. We hope that a few of these younger players will, at some stage, provide the backbone for a revitalised club and we can arrange fixtures again.

In the meantime, with the permission of the Recreation Ground Committee, Swards End have been using the wicket and absorbing some of our old players. So at least some cricket is still being played on the Recreation Ground and the square is still being maintained by our players.

If anybody has any ideas as to how we can revitalise the club then please make contact with Joe Fanthorpe, Andrew Taylor, or myself.

Many thanks, Mark Fanthorpe

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Essex Castaway - Sir Jonathan Parker

Sir Jonathan Parker is an Essex lad, born in Bentfield End. He first visited Radwinter while still a schoolboy accompanying his father on shooting trips, and remembers The Grange from those early expeditions as rather overgrown, disused, but fascinatingly spooky, complete with a resident white owl. A distinguished career in the Law beckoned, and he was called to the Bar in 1962, appointed QC in 1979, later becoming a High Court Judge and a Lord Justice of Appeal.

Jonathan, together with his wife MB and a growing young family moved to The Grange permanently in 1974 and have lived there ever since. Now fully retired from the law he maintains an active and caring stewardship of the land and property in Radwinter inherited from the Bullock branch of the family, and lists his recreations as landscape painting and spoiling their 8 grandchildren.

Jonathan, thank you for letting us quiz you as our Essex Castaway, but you weren't exactly cast away here in this remote corner of Essex, you were born only ten miles away. Tell me about your early years.

Yes, I was born in 1937 in Bentfield End (now part of Stansted Mountfitchet) in a house that was called *Tuesdays*. My early childhood was spent under the shadow of the Second World War. My father was a chartered accountant, but on the outbreak of war he joined the Essex Regiment. Soon afterwards he was seconded to the Board of Trade which needed people with accountancy skills to run the rationing system.

I came to regard the war (and the accompanying shortages and rationing) to be a normal state of affairs. I imagined it would go on for ever, and I wasn't unduly worried about it.

Just before war broke out my father had bought a house in Manuden (for £2000!) but on the outbreak of war it was requisitioned as a home for unbilletee children, i.e. children evacuated from the East End of London who were too dysfunctional to be allocated to families living in the area. As a result, we didn't move in until 1945, when the war was over and the house was in a shocking state. In the meantime my mother and I followed the Board of Trade to various places around the country. I just accepted that as a fact of life.



Jonathan at home in the garden of The Grange

Soon after the war was over, when I was eight, I was sent off to a boarding preparatory school in Hampshire (which seemed to me to be the other side of the world). This was a bad experience, although with hindsight I realise that that wasn't so much the fault of the school as of my attitude towards it. I felt as if I'd been dropped in some foreign land, and I couldn't understand why.

But there were happier moments, and one of my abiding memories of



*my prep school was hearing Vera Lynn singing *Coming In On a Wing and a Prayer*.*

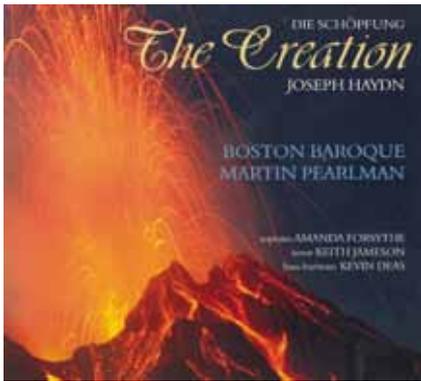
And your education continued in Hampshire, but Winchester College was a much happier period for you than prep school?

Winchester was the best thing that could have happened to me. At the age of 13, after five long years at my prep school, the shackles were loosened and I felt a wonderful sense of freedom to make choices of my own (within the bounds of what was allowed, you understand, although I probably made some other choices as well). It was a completely different atmosphere, and suddenly there was a huge amount of freedom. You could choose what you wanted to do, what sport you wanted to play, and whatever your interest or hobby was there was always some way to pursue it and learn about it.

All new arrivals at Winchester were required to undergo a voice test for the school choir. My treble voice was quite good, and I could read music reasonably well, so within a day or two I found myself a member of the choir. Although I attended the first rehearsal with a good deal of apprehension, it turned out to be a life-transforming moment.

*We were rehearsing *The wonder of his works displays the firmament* from Haydn's *Creation*. I was completely blown away by it. I had never sung in harmony with other parts before, and to do so was a fantastic experi-*

ence for me. Nor had I ever heard such wonderful music. As a result, a love of choral singing and of classical music has stayed with me all my life.



And it was while you were at Winchester College that you started to visit Radwinter with your father.

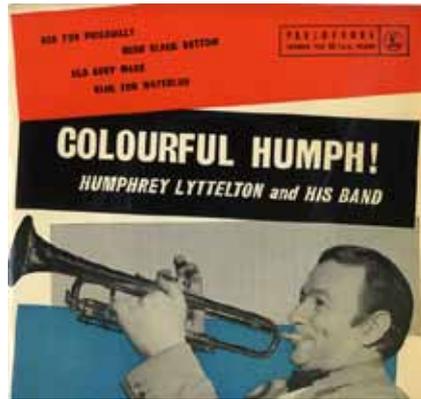
My earliest memories of Radwinter are of going rough shooting over the fields with my father and one or two of his friends. I came to regard this as a pretty gloomy sport, to say the least. We would trudge through the muddy fields for what seemed like hours on end without seeing anything at all. At about 2.30 in the afternoon a solitary pheasant would fly over. A battue would ensue, but the pheasant would happily fly on completely unscathed. A fortnight or so later we would all gather again to have another go at the pheasant, with, inevitably, the same result (sad for us, great for the pheasant).

In later years, however, I came to enjoy shooting at Radwinter. I realised that there was much more to it than I had originally thought – and many more pheasants too.

A particular memory of Radwinter in those early years is of The Grange and its farm buildings. The farm buildings had not been used for some time, and what had been the farmyard had become overgrown. I thought that the whole place had a wonderful spooky atmosphere. I remember coming face to face with a large white owl sitting on a post in the farmyard. From its expression I could tell that it obviously resented the presence of strangers.

Back to music - your third choice?

At Winchester, the craze was for traditional jazz. We were all aficionados of Louis Armstrong, Kid Ory, Muggsy Spanier and the rest; but my favourite was Humphrey Lyttelton. After leaving Winchester, I used to go regularly to hear him play at 100 Oxford Street, along with Chris Barber and Lonnie Donegan. Alcohol was not allowed, but no one missed it: the music was just too good. So my third record is of Humphrey Lyttelton playing *Blue for Waterloo*.



Did you choose your career in the Law, or did it choose you?

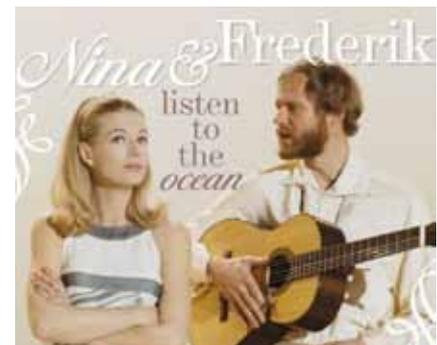
In 1956 I went to Cambridge University. To be honest I had no clear idea what I was going to do. I was eligible for National Service but failed the medical. As a result I had a gap between leaving school and going to Cambridge. My father very sensibly decided I had better start on an accountancy course, but for me it only lasted about 18 months before I could escape to Cambridge.

At Cambridge I read Law, but spent most of my time playing golf and enjoying myself. At that stage I had no particular idea of going into the law, but a number of my friends were thinking of going to the Bar, and I decided to join them. So I went to see the Master of my college, who was (among other things) an eminent QC. I thought of him as being very old (he must have been in his late fifties, if not even older). When I said I was thinking of going to the Bar, he said: "How do you think you would manage on your feet trying to present a case to a hostile judge?" I said some-

thing to the effect that I probably wouldn't do very well, to which he responded: "Well, I don't think you will be much of a success at the Bar." Despite that rather discouraging reaction, I decided to stick to my decision... and I have never regretted it.

Did University in the late 50s influence your musical tastes? It seems to have an effect on most people then and now.

In those days, traditional jazz was regarded by my University friends as hopelessly old-hat. Smoochy music and calypsos seemed to be the order of the day – so of course I went along with that. Nina and Frederik were the toast of the town (or at least the bit of it that I inhabited). So my fourth record is Nina and Frederik singing *Listen to the Ocean*.



In deciding on the Law as a career you weren't following in any family footsteps, I think. So how did you get started in your career after graduation?

Neither I nor my father had any idea how to set about getting a pupillage in a barristers' chambers. In total contrast to the situation nowadays when trying to get a pupillage in a reputable chambers is extremely difficult, in those days it was essentially a question of who you knew. I used to play quite a bit of tennis, and one of those I played with was a distinguished grey-haired man who used to rush about the court smashing the ball in all directions. I was told that he was a very senior barrister (as indeed he was). So one day, after letting him win the game, I asked him if he could help me find a pupillage.

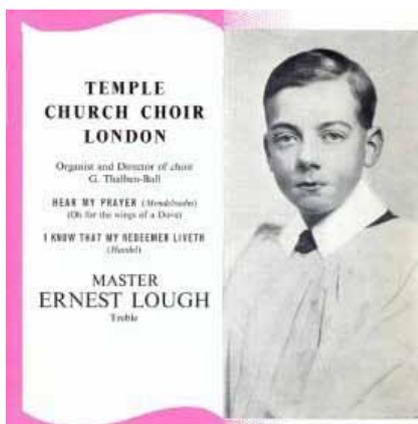
In doing so I struck lucky. He became, in effect, my mentor. He arranged a pupillage for me in Lincoln's Inn; and he introduced me to many of his barrister friends - and of course we continued to play tennis together (although by this time I felt I could win a game without risking damage to my career.)

I duly served my pupillage, and was fortunate enough to be invited to join the Chambers.

To say that my start at the Bar was slow is an understatement. I spent days doing nothing except assisting other members of Chambers to earn their living (a process euphemistically called "devilling"). I remember the first time I was asked for a legal opinion. My fee was £3. 5s. 6d. The 5s 6d went to my clerk: the £3 was mine. That was the first entry in my account book - I've still got the book here somewhere!

Before I could be called to the Bar I had to join an Inn of Court, and I had chosen to join the Inner Temple. The choir of the Temple Church has always enjoyed a wonderful reputation for choral singing, and this brings me to my next record.

This is Ernest Lough, with the Temple Church Choir, singing *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth*, from Handel's *Messiah*. The story goes that Ernest Lough had had no advance warning that he was going to be asked to sing the solo for the recording; but whether that is true or not, the recording was an immediate hit. Ernest Lough's treble voice sounds as fresh and beautiful today as it did



when the recording was originally made in 1927.

You've mentioned shooting trips in Radwinter, and many people in Radwinter are aware you suffered a serious shooting accident when you were younger. If you're alright to talk about it, how did it happen?

On Boxing Day 1964 my father and I, plus my best friend from University and others, were enjoying a day of rough shooting at Radwinter. I remember that the countryside was covered in snow. We had just crossed a field at Hill Farm and were walking in single file along the hedge on our way to the next field. My friend was walking immediately behind me. In the process of loading or unloading his 12 bore shotgun he accidentally fired it into the back of my right knee. So the day ended for me at Adenbrookes, where my right leg was amputated above the knee.

I don't know who suffered more, me or my friend. I was glad to be alive. He was completely shattered, as you would expect.

Never mind, happier times followed. He was married some two years thereafter, and I was his best man. And when I was married shortly after that, he was my best man. And we remained the best of friends.

Now, your wife MB is sitting here with us offering delicious home-made cake and cups of tea, so I think it's time to bring the family into the picture. How did you two meet?

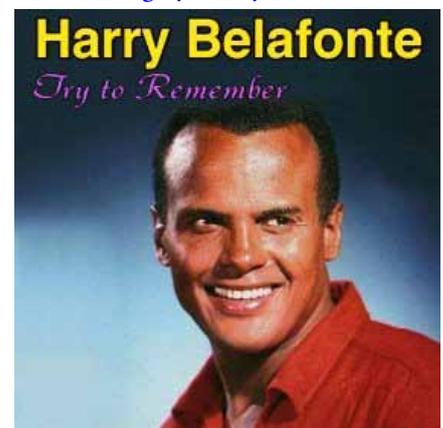
I met MB (short for Maria-Belen) in 1966 at a ball in aid of the Anglo-Spanish Society at the Grosvenor Hotel in London. MB's mother was Spanish, and MB had spent almost as much time in Madrid as she had in London. I bought a programme off her and thought how fabulous she looked. I handed over a fiver for a programme priced at £3 but she never gave me any change - and that is more or less how it has continued since. Fortunately for me, I met her properly later. In 1967 we were

married. We have four children (and 8 grandchildren) and I can't believe that our youngest child is no longer thirty-something.

My wife and my children mean more to me than anything in the world.

Do you and MB have an "our song" for the Essex Castaway collection?

We spent our honeymoon in Bermuda, and one of the songs which featured most frequently in the repertoire of the hotel dance band, while we danced the night away, was *Try To Remember*. So that's my next record, sung by Harry Belafonte.



So, the focus of your early legal career was in London, although you still visited Radwinter regularly. How did you come to live here permanently?

My connection with Radwinter comes through the Bullock family, which provided Rectors of Radwinter for a continuous period of more than 100 years. My father's mother was a Miss Bullock. My father inherited the Radwinter estate (which included The Grange) from her, and in due course I inherited it from him. Until my arrival, my side of the Bullock family had never lived in Radwinter. The various Bullock Rectors of Radwinter were cousins.

When I first knew The Grange, it was let to an elderly widower, who had lived there almost as a recluse since his wife died. He had refused to have mains water or electricity. He took his water from a well. He was a tall man who customarily wore a deerstalker and carried a hefty wooden staff when walking around the

farm. Altogether, he presented quite a daunting appearance. I recall that he kept a horse in a meadow near the house which hadn't been ridden for years and which had reverted to its wild state. All this added to the spooky atmosphere!

The Grange probably started off in the 15th Century as a Hall house, and over the years bits were added on here and there, I think it's called "vernacular". We got an expert from Cambridge to come out and have a look at one point and even he couldn't work out which bits dated from which period. We think that the chimney and first floor were stuck on in the 16th Century.

At the start of our married life we lived in Lambeth, in London, but we

used to spend weekends in Radwinter, at Cutbush Farm, at the junction of Water Lane and the Ashdon Road.

So you started massive renovations in the early 70's to turn it back into a family house?

In about 1969 The Grange became vacant, and we decided to do it up. It needed a very great deal of "doing up". By this time the farm buildings were a ruin, including a huge tithe barn, which was in danger of toppling into the farm pond. We couldn't allow the children into it for fear of timbers from the roof falling onto them. So unfortunately the tithe barn had to go. And as for the house itself, at one stage during the restoration it looked as if a gust of wind might blow the whole timber

structure over. Luckily it survived, and over the years we have been constantly trying to improve it and its environs.

Once the original restoration operation was complete, we began weekending at The Grange. In 1974 we moved out of London to live permanently at The Grange. By then our eldest child was 6 and our youngest was 1.

The decision to move to Radwinter permanently turned out to be one of the best we ever made. I was concerned whether MB would take to life in the country full-time, but I need not have worried. She took to it like a duck to water (and I recall that there was plenty of water around in our first winter in Radwinter.)

Tell me a little more about your career – when did that take off?

In the meantime, I was making some progress at the Bar. In 1979 I became a Queen's Counsel ("QC"), which meant in effect that I was recognised as a senior member of the Bar. This process is known as "taking silk", referring to the fact that it carries with it the right to wear a silk gown in court.

Soon after that, I was fortunate enough to be instructed in a case in Singapore. This led to frequent visits for us to Singapore, where I appeared in a number of cases throughout the 1980s. In the late 1980s I also used to appear regularly in cases in Hong Kong. Our visits to the Far East were a great experience for both of us.



On one of our visits to Singapore we met and became friends with Marisa Robles, the distinguished



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MAY 11	ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, GREAT SAMPFORD
JUNE 8	ST. MARY'S CHURCH, RADWINTER
JULY 13	BAPTIST CHURCH, GREAT SAMPFORD
OCTOBER 12	ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH, GREAT SAMPFORD
NOVEMBER 9	RADWINTER VILLAGE HALL
DECEMBER 14	BAPTIST CHURCH, GREAT SAMPFORD

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Spanish harpist. She was in Singapore to play Mozart's Flute and Harp Concerto with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra. She invited us to the concert, and so my 7th record is of the second movement of Mozart's Flute and Harp concerto, with Marisa Robles playing the harp.

In November 1991 I was appointed to the High Court Bench. In 1994 I became Vice-Chancellor of the County Palatine of Lancaster: a post I held for four years. Despite its sonorous title, in practice this post meant that I had supervisory responsibility for a number of civil courts in the North of England. However, it did have a most amazing ceremonial robe. (MB: Yes, it weighed a ton, and you couldn't really leave it in the car in case it was stolen, so I used to have to lug it around everywhere in a sort of body bag.) It also meant that I had to spend up to half my time staying in Judges' Lodgings. Life in Judges' Lodgings took a bit of getting used to, but once we had become used to it we enjoyed it enormously and made many friends, including fellow judges, barristers and court staff: to say nothing of successive High Sheriffs who entertained us so generously.

It was great fun being whisked up the fast lane of the M6 in the official limo with a pennant flying and a motorcycle escort two feet in front so that I could open the court proceedings at Shire Hall in Lancaster Castle, where as like as not the only case would be an old farmer who was asserting a right of way for his pigs.

In 2000 I was appointed to the Court of Appeal (and, by virtue of that appointment, became a member of the Privy Council).

Believe it or not, judges have a demanding job and they have to work very hard. I was not due to retire until age 75, but by the time I was approaching 70 I decided that I had had enough. So in January 2007 I retired from the Bench.

I have a strong feeling that, for you,

retirement doesn't involve much sitting down and snoozing in front of the fire. I suspect you put a great deal of time and effort, and derive a great deal of enjoyment from stewarding the land round here.

Well, I've busied myself with various pieces of legal work, including frequent visits to Gibraltar as a Justice of the Gibraltar Court of Appeal. However, my greatest source of pleasure, apart from my wife and family, has always been, and always will be, living in Radwinter.

It is a privilege to own land in Radwinter, and I try to make the land as accessible as possible while maintaining its privacy. It gives me huge pleasure to see people enjoying its beauty and tranquillity.



My last record has nothing in particular to do with retirement, or,

for that matter, with Radwinter, but I have chosen it simply because I love it. It's the Quartet from Verdi's Rigoletto, Bella Figlia del Amore, sung by Pavarotti and Sutherland.

As an official Essex Castaway you get to take one favourite book - which one?

I'd like a complete set of the Barseshire Chronicles, by Anthony Trollope. And if they have to be compressed into a single volume, I shall also need a magnifying glass to read them.

And a luxury of no practical use?

An unending supply of artists' materials, and of images of the English countryside. So when I am finally rescued from my desert island my rescuer will also have to rescue a whole load of would-be Constables.

Jonathan, thank you so much for being our Essex Castaway for this issue of Ambo. From all that you've said it clearly won't be any hardship for you to continue to be cast away in Radwinter.

Sir Jonathan was interviewed by Stephanie Emberson; MB supplied tea & cake, grandchild #8 supplied noises off, and Dave Smith took the portrait.



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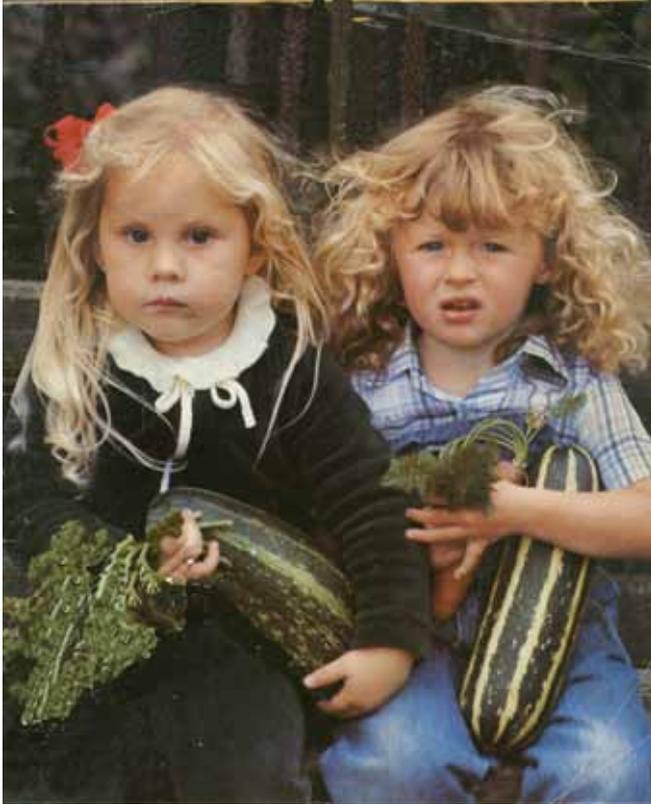







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Local Girls 1985 - by Jane Bown



Marcus Ridsdill Smith (from Radwinter but now living on Skye) recently sent me a copy of the *The Observer Magazine* dated 15th Dec 1985.

This picture, by the renowned *Observer* photographer Jane Bown, is of two local girls with their Harvest Festival marrows and was the front cover image. A little asking around has revealed that the girl on the left is Helen Hughes, whose parents still live in Radwinter. The girl on the right is Naomi Tuxworth, daughter of 'Wumf' Tuxworth, until recently of Wimbish - mother and daughter both now live in Norfolk. Their names and the photograph will be recorded in the Radwinter History database.

Jane Bown CBE (13 March 1925 – 21 December 2014) was an English photographer who worked for *The Observer* newspaper from 1949. Her portraits, primarily in black and white and using available light, received widespread critical acclaim and her work was described by Lord Snowdon as "a kind of English Cartier-Bresson."

She photographed hundreds of subjects, including Orson Welles, Samuel Beckett, Sir John Betjeman, Woody Allen, Cilla Black, Quentin Crisp, P. J. Harvey, John Lennon, Truman Capote, John Peel, Jarvis Cocker, Björk, Jayne Mansfield, Diana Dors, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Eve Arnold, Evelyn Waugh, and Margaret Thatcher, and took The Queen's 80th birthday portrait.

Michael Southgate

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Café Racers - Walden

Towards the end of summer last year, Mike Ratcliffe, a personal trainer at Lord Butler Leisure Centre, put a small advert in the *Walden Local* wondering if any like-minded bikers fancied getting together for regular meetings and perhaps forming a local bike club. Rather to his surprise, about 20 people turned up on their motorcycles in the Leisure Centre car park one evening in September 2014, and the informal group that is the Walden Bikers Club was born.

Almost instantly, however, it moved location. One of the people to turn up that first evening was Steve Todd, an ex-grasstrack racer and trials rider with a shelf-ful of about 50 cups and trophies, and a day job (now passed on to his son since Steve retired) of grass-cutting and landscaping at most of the English Heritage properties in a hundred-mile radius. One can only hope that Steve never confused the day job with the hobby.

Steve explained that he might have the perfect location for the club to meet. He owns The Old Kiora Café just outside Newport. As any fule kno, *Kia Ora* is Maori for “be well and healthy”, or just “Hi”, or for those of my age a sticky orange drink sold in 70’s cinemas in sharp rectangular plastic cartons famous for being tasteless



The 1929 Raleigh 21 500cc Single sits in Steve’s office

when freshly defrosted and acutely disgusting when it reached ambient cinema temperature. Well, the café is spelled *Kiora*, and let’s just say it means *Welcome*.

The Old Kiora hasn’t been a café since they built the M11, and you can probably work out the cause and effect without any help from me. Nowadays it’s more of miniature Beaulieu Motor Museum dedicated to two wheelers that Steve has collected mainly over the past 10 years. Upstairs and downstairs at the café there are perhaps 70 bikes, many of them are several decades old, including his grass-track machine and a Greeves trials bike. Most of them are in presentable and rideable condition



... and the 1942 Harley 45 lives in the upstairs gallery

rather than concours classics, but the fact is he does ride them and repair them; he took me through to the new wing where the most recent acquisitions were housed, and he knew intimately the state of each

one and what they need to bring them back to health.

Steve and his wife Fiona, a solicitor with her own practice, live next door to the cafe in a comfortable bungalow, and it’s no surprise that they have half a dozen bikes living in the house, the difference being that these *are* show condition classics, but drained of fluids to avoid staining the carpets. Many people wish they could do that with their own house pets.

They include a very tidy scarlet Vespa 150 scooter, a beautiful 1929 Raleigh 21 500cc single with a working (clockwork) clock in the

top of the tank, and an equally gorgeous 1942 Harley ‘45’ in the gallery at the top of the stairs. Nobody is quite sure how Steve gets all these bikes upstairs, there is no lift of any kind, so I understand he uses ingenuity, intelligence, ramps, and a winch.

Walden Bikers is an informal club, there’s no entry fee, membership forms, or any formal process. It’s also an open club with all makes of machine, and all shapes,

Bikers at The Old Kiora



Seatbelt or helmet today, sir?

sizes, genders and ages of riders made welcome. I've been to some "one-make" club meetings, and they can sometimes be a little precious with a divide between younger members with the latest hot street racers and the old lags (like me) with 35 year old bikes – there always seems to be a bit of a hierarchy and separation.

In complete contrast, one word that describes a Walden Bikers meeting is the aforementioned "Welcome"; another very good word would be "Fun". A friend of mine describes (with tongue slightly in cheek) a typical meeting as "a bunch of old gits standing around kicking tyres and talking rubbish." That may not sound like a good basis for a great night out to you, but trust me; it's a pretty good start. Rather than being attracted by a feeling of *belonging* to a club just because you bought that particular make or model of machine, or because you think you were "born to be wild",

or you want to show off, at Walden Bikers people are genuinely intrigued and delighted by what you've chosen to ride out on tonight, and it has to be said that the majority of individuals who meet up are of quite mature years.

The common factor is that we all know and share the uniquely conjoined pleasures of *lean* and *acceleration*, perpetually finessing and balancing forces via subtle inputs that connect you to the reality of the road, just down there - you can reach out and touch it with your foot, you are not cocooned and protected in the artificiality of a glass and metal cage. There is something



1960's Ford Mustang - even (rather special) cars are welcome

totally involving and visceral about riding a motorcycle that turns the machine into an extension of you, the sort of feeling that many Spitfire pilots described – an effortless symbiosis with the machine. Two book titles capture it well – *Zen and the*

Art of Motorcycle Maintenance, and *The Upper Half of the Motorcycle*.

The range of machines that people ride to a Walden Bikers Club meeting is astonishingly wide, with pre-war single cylinder classics mixing with Italian exotica like six-cylinder Benellis, rare V-twin Harley-engined lightweight Buells, huge touring Hondas with hi-fi systems built-in, one or two trikes, the latest Japanese street racers, a scooter or two and sometimes even a moped. On occasions there is a radical and rather scary road legal sidecar combination - a *kneeler*, the type you see at racing circuits where the rider kneels astride the engine rather than sitting on a

seat, while the passenger climbs all over the machine to pin the weight down in the right place. One doesn't usually envy either of them.

Just to prove we're not at all exclusive, even cars are welcome, but it helps if they are a bit special, like the candy red Mustang with Mickey and Minnie mascots on the back seat – it looks like it fell out of the film *American Graffiti*; and a cool black and incredibly narrow-bodied Chevrolet V8 powered hot-rod that looks like the one piloted by Harrison Ford in the same film.

The general cheeriness is enhanced by the fact that excellent weather has turned up on almost every evening meeting this year, and by the presence of *The Village Chippy*, a mobile fish and chip van where



Triptych of V-twins: author's Ducati 900SS Darmah, Vincent Black Shadow, Ducati 900SS



The fearsome "kneeler" road going sidecar racer

the two inhabitants are rushed off their feet serving an endless supply of excellent fish suppers to an equally endless conga of riders via the most bizarre queue numbering system ever devised by man.

As the autumn and winter evenings shorten and cool, numbers dwindle a little, but the welcoming atmosphere continues inside the old café, with Fiona brewing up the traditional biker's drink, tea (although coffee is available for non-traditionalists - well it did use to be a café) and a blazing wood-burner at one end of what has turned into a clubroom, complete with a red Royal Enfield.

In September, Walden Bikers celebrated the group's first birthday, and to everybody's astonishment, some 202 bikes were parked up outside the café, the bungalow, and in the orchard beside the railway line. The guys in *The Village Chippy* looked like spinning tops.

There's a serious side too. Everybody that rides a bike knows it can expose you to great danger every time you ride.



Two bikes - twelve cylinders: Benelli 750 and 900 sei

Many active motorcyclists are involved in training, as "blood runners" for the NHS, and often contribute generously to organisations such as St John's Ambulance. Walden Bikers have chosen to support Essex

of the biking community is incredibly varied, but invariably helpful, friendly and welcoming – real people.

Dave Smith



A few of the more than 200 bikes at Walden Bikers first birthday party in September 2015

Great Sampford Primary School

Welcome back... Once again we have been blessed with a glorious October which has, in part, made up for a rather lacklustre summer. This September we welcomed back 109 children onto our roll and 15 into our Early Years' class. We also welcomed back (if that is actually possible) a new member of staff – Mrs Booth; it was with much excitement that Miss Alderman got married over the summer break. She and her husband were blessed with some amazing weather and enjoyed a fairy tale wedding at Hedingham Castle.



Pluck it!

New lights

During the summer break the school was a hive of activity as we replaced all of the lights throughout the school with more energy efficient LEDs. These have proved



Instrumentalists "throwing shapes" in the Junk Orchestra



to be hugely popular with the staff and children not only because they are much more energy efficient but also because of the quality of light they offer; the classrooms and other learning areas are now much brighter although bizarrely the light is also less harsh. I need to express my sincere thanks to Mr Bide (an ex-parent of Great Sampford) of ArmadilloLED (armadilloled.com) for enabling this to happen. Not only did he secure us a very favourable price but he also ensured that the retrofitting was as stress free as possible.

New boilers

We have also had our old boilers stripped out and replaced in their entirety, including the oil tank, with three new units. Whilst this meant that we had to endure a summer without hot water or heating it has resulted in the school now having to face a cold winter in tip-top condition. The new state of the art boilers are reportedly 25% more efficient than the ones they replaced.

School Council

The School Council



Strum it!

for this academic year is up and running and the School Council members are already looking at ways they can improve the school. This year they have decided that they want to think carefully about how we provide additional support for charities.



The Junk Orchestra warms up

Their first big decision has been to organise a non-uniform day in aid of Operation Christmas Child. This enabled the older children to support the younger children with their



Bang it!



Making clay poppies

Shoe Box Appeal. In total, through the children's (and parents') generous support we were able to put together an additional 14 boxes. For further information on this very worthwhile charity please look at their website: www.samaritans-purse.org.uk

PTA

The PTA has rounded off the year in style having announced that they enjoyed their most successful fundraising year to-date. In total they raised in excess of £6,000, which is a huge feat and a tribute to the Chair, Sara Goggin, and her Committee's hard work throughout the year. The monies raised have been put to very good use supporting the work of the school and enhancing the children's learning. Of particular note has been the funding of a wide variety of trips and the kitting out of the Learning Lab and our Early Years' classroom.

The 'Junk' Orchestra

In Science the children in Class



Finished

1 have been exploring 'Sound and Hearing' and have had great fun not only playing real musical instruments but also creating their own from whatever they could lay their hands on. They took great delight in sharing their creations with the rest of the class before establishing

their very own 'Junk Orchestra' and played along to their seasonal poem. The instruments in their orchestra were grouped depending on how they were played: strung, plucked, banged or blown!

Working with clay

As part of their work on The Church and Remembrance (which is linked to their history and art cross-curricular topic) the children in Class 1 have been exploring the symbolic significance of the poppy. They were extremely lucky to have Liz Schwier, a renowned local potter, in to help them make a range of beautiful poppy themed night-light holders all ready to use in their upcoming very special class assembly on Remembrance Day.



Ready for glazing

Our Local Area

As part of their geography work the children in Class 1 have been studying 'Our Local Area'. As part of this work they decided to write a letter home to see how long it would take to arrive! They had a great time walking in the autumn sunshine to post their letters. Although the letter-box was a big stretch up for some of our Year Ones, the Year Twos did a superb job by helping them post their letters in. They then waited, with much anticipation, to see whose letter arrived first.

How to train a dragon

Class 2 were really excited when they visited Saffron Hall to hear a talk given by Cressida Cowell, author of the *How to Train Your Dragon* series. They have been study-



Crowdposting

ing the book as part of their literacy work in class and were enthralled to hear all about Cressida's inspiration; when she was just nine years old, she spent her summer on an island (which she refuses to name) off the west coast of Scotland. Here she had many adventures in caves and in the water which led her to create the *Isle of Berk* where the story is set. Using the most unusual creatures that exist, she merges different parts of these to invent her own dragons. The children took her ideas back to school with them and had great fun in class creating their own dragons! The children were also lucky enough to get their very own copies of the first book in the series signed by the lady herself.

1588 – Step back in time

The children in Class 2 enjoyed a brilliant day out at Kentwell Hall when they were transported back in time to 1588. They changed their spending money into groats and, having presented their 'invitation' to the Master of the Gate, fully im-



Cressida Cowell signing her books

mersed themselves in life in Tudor times. They met the alchemist who was busy searching for a formula to turn base metals into gold as well as the still-women who were finding cures and remedies for all sorts of ailments. They were trained how to use the halberd in case they were required to join the guard and also experienced an example of Tudor punishment! Everybody - including the staff and parent helpers entered into the spirit of this unique living history event and gained a true insight into how life may well have looked, smelt and felt like for the everyday Tudor.

Hazard Alley



Learning about Tudor Herbs and Spices

The children in Class 3 took a very memorable trip to Hazard Alley in Milton Keynes. Hazard Alley is a purpose built resource that specializes in developing children's understanding of risk. The children were split into smaller groups and led by a trained volunteer through a wide range of different scenarios that included: home safety, staying safe on the internet, road and cycle safety, railway safety, filling station/in-car safety, water safety, basic first aid, farm safety, petty crime/stealing and the 'Dark Alley'. The Dark Alley was many children's favourite and



Meeting the Master of the Gate



Punishment Tudor Style

was all about helping them to make good decisions based on their environment. They were also introduced to 'helping' hands and who young children can talk to if they feel threatened or in danger or unsure about a situation they are being put in. The children absolutely loved the trip and described it as "awesome... amazing...so realistic...simply brilliant and the best ever."

EYFS

Early Years have already been to Westwood for their first Forest School session this year! They created their Forest School names, discussed the boundaries and had lots of fun exploring the woods.

They took part in many activities including building dens and seesaws, finding wiggly worms and snail houses, playing hide and seek and decorating their dream catchers.

Mrs Booth and the children would like to say a big thank you to Mrs



The Tudor Kitchen

Forster for running the session and to the PTA for funding the very

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smart new Forest School suits; they keep the children very warm!

Seedlings Service

The Early Years children had a lovely time at Seedlings when they attended their first Seedlings ‘service’. They listened to ‘The Parable of the Good Samaritan’ and then took part in lots of exciting craft activities linked to the story including making fantastic calendars, doing some super colouring, writing their own prayers and decorating ‘helping-hand’ biscuits. They also took their shoe boxes (filled with lots of lovely items that they had donated) to be blessed as part of Operation Christmas Child.

Harvest Festival

All of our Key Stage 1 and 2 children were warmly welcomed into the Baptist Church by the Rev Sue Johnson who led our harvest service. Rev Johnson was as engag-



Off exploring for the first time



Hazard Alley - at the Petrol Station

ing as ever and successfully brought the subject of harvest to life for the children. The children and parents listened to readings from the gospel of Matthew about the feeding of the five thousand as well as hearing the more contemporary story about the big red tractor. The service was concluded with the blessing of our harvest boxes. Thanks to the generous support of our parent body we have managed to deliver thirty two boxes of produce to the more elderly

on the village. I know that these are very well received within the community due to the lovely letters of thanks that I subsequently receive.

School Website

We are continuing to update our new website which we hope you will find both informative and engaging. Please feel free to browse the site and leave any feedback to enable us to make it as user friendly as possible.



Thank you, PTA, for our smart new suits

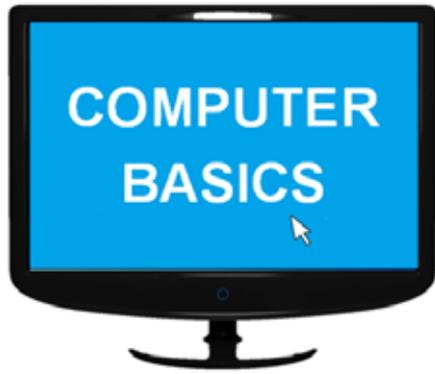
We would, as always, like to take this opportunity to thank all parents, friends and family members for their continued support and enthusiasm for the work we do at Great Sampford.

*Ian Pollard, Head Teacher
www.greatsampford.essex.sch.uk*



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Radwinter Village History

Prior to 1589 England and Scotland were almost untouched by witch persecutions until James VI of Scotland, once called 'the wisest fool in Christendom', launched his personal war on witchcraft.

The Witches of Radwinter

He had previously shown little interest in the subject until in 1589 he visited Denmark to collect his future wife, Anne of Denmark. There he encountered the ferocious witch hunt that was sweeping the continent, thousands being tortured and burnt at the stake. In France and Germany alone up to 40,000 people may have been killed as witches. The king's journey back to Scotland proved to be very stormy, one ship being lost.

Witches were blamed and accused of classic witchcraft. But the main issue as far as James was concerned was the plan to murder him, i.e. treason. In 1597, James published *Daemonology*, a handbook on how to recognise and destroy witches, the legacy of which continued throughout the 17th century leading to a series of infamous trials with the torture and execution of hundreds of women.

Between 1603 - when James also became King of England - and 1625, there were nearly 450 witchcraft trials in Scotland, half the accused being found guilty and executed. But England had a very different environment. The whole issue of demonic behaviour – the predominantly Roman Catholic witch theory – had never been readily accepted in England and James quickly lost his self-imposed 'witchcraft expert' tag. However, his book did have influence here, a number of trials taking place with James playing an often hidden role.

Quick to jump on the bandwagon was The Revd. John Montford, Rector of Radwinter from 1593 to 1603,

when Richard Cradock succeeded him. Montford believed (or made out) that his opponents had caused evil spirits to haunt the churchyard. Montford certainly had enemies and was removed, by the authorities from Radwinter. No reason was given but the patron of the living, Lord Cobham (Henry Brooke), conspired with Walter Raleigh and others in the Main Plot of 1603 to replace James I with his cousin Arabella Stewart. He was betrayed and spent most of his remaining life in the Tower of London. I think we should look no further for Montford's dismissal.

My Mate King James

Montford wrote a letter to James I couched in the conventional forms of the age and employing the accepted abbreviations. For example I was amazed to find that Montford addressed King James as 'matey' until I discovered that this was an accepted abbreviation of 'Majesty'. As the letter employed numerous repetitions and abbreviations that would not be acceptable to the modern reader, I have attempted to represent it here in modern English.

John Montford declared himself "Your majesty's dutiful and obedient subject", telling the King that Radwinter had been freely presented to him by Lord Cobham without any reward or commission, when it had become vacant by the death of the previous incumbent. He had been lawfully instituted into the benefice shortly after and had enjoyed quiet and peaceable possession for twelve years, the glebe tithes being promptly and contentedly paid.

However, some parishioners had combined together to malign and remove him. Montford named Richard Cradock, clerk, (possibly Montford's curate), Nathaniel Cradock, Francis Martyn, William Brett, William Bird, Tobias Starling, Thomas Smith, Henrie Smith, Robert Baker, Thomas Tailor, Edward Sparck, Richard Rine, Henrie Samuel, William Smith,

Obedia (?) Barker, Silvester Barker, Henry (?) Smith and Thomas Norris.

Montford goes on to say that these men had plotted to place Richard Cradock as incumbent of Radwinter church and rectory and had falsely reported that he had obtained the living by simony (buying or selling of ecclesiastical privileges), which Montford strenuously denied, accusing the men of attempting to induct Cradock to the parish in a riotous and forcible manor so as to obtain the church living and tithes for themselves. He told the King that he being in the church premises, some ten men came in armed with weapons and beat and wounded his servants and friends, attempting to obtain possession of the church. "Whether by divination, witchcraft or some device," he said, they "did procure fearful and ugly shapes and forms of evil spirits or devils to walk about the said church and churchyard visible to be seen by day and night, sometimes in the shape of a man, sometimes of a dog, cat or such like and your subjects servants were sometimes beat and shaken not knowing whence or how the blows came, thereby affrighting some and scaring them away".

Not half way through, the letter's handwriting becomes so obscure that I am unable to decipher it. It will need an expert on documents of this time to tell us more. On 22nd June 1604, Cradock's institution was revoked, and Montford was restored, remaining Rector until 1638. The case was not heard at the Star Chamber until 1606. We know that Richard Cradock was not convicted as he continued to hold livings elsewhere but the fate of the other accused parishioners is unknown as the Radwinter parish registers do not cover this period. We now know, however, the names of some Radwinter people not otherwise recorded.

*Michael Southgate, Tel 599478
radwinter.recorder@hotmail.com*

Bluebell in the Balance

Hopes of the Bluebell Inn re-opening in time for Christmas were fading as AMBO went to press. Hempstead's historic pub has been shut since the departure of Rod and Marian Stokes last February.

Its owners, a family of gems merchants in London, have at last shown signs of wanting to revive the pub but have struggled to find a tenant prepared to pay the level of rent they require.

The most likely suitor is believed to be the Saffron Brewery, a micro brewery based in Henham which is keen to expand its pub portfolio. A local brewer running our most treasured heritage pub, the birthplace of Dick Turpin, would make an ideal pairing but they too have had dif-



ficulty reaching agreement with the owner.

We understand that the Nagel family want to maximise returns from the pub by building additional facilities that would need a controversial planning application. Uttlesford Council has stated that it would strongly resist any attempt to convert the pub to residential use.

With the council's enforcement officer taking an interest in the deteriorating state of the pub's grounds, Parish Council Chairman Sean McCarthy arranged for gardeners to tackle the overgrown garden and forecourt. The appearance has been much improved. A broken and rusting truck has also been towed away.

Mr McCarthy has also been putting together a working party of volunteers to stand by for further tidying-up and interior cleaning as a gesture of goodwill from the village if landlord and tenant can agree on a re-opening date.

If they do manage to strike a deal before Christmas, it is possible that the pub would open initially as a drinks-only establishment until the kitchens are properly restored.

Paul Davies

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Hempstead Festive Plus

DIY entertainment with a Christmas flavour

Hempstead Dramatic Society is gearing up for a busy festive season. The first of our seasonal events will be a variety night - 'Festive Plus' to be held at Hempstead Village Hall on Saturday 5th December. Doors open 7.30pm.

It will be modelled on the resoundingly successful 'Pub Plus' held last April but this time with a festive flavour to include community carol singing and mince pies. As before, it will also include pre-prepared variety performances (musical items, sketches, readings, poetry recitals and audience impromptu contributions), a competition, a raffle and drinks from the licensed bar.

Our audience will be seated at tables of 6 to 8, so do come along with a group of friends and support this evening of fun and congeniality.

Tickets are available at £2.50 each from Liz Buckridge - tel: 01440 731894 or email: liz.buckridge@gmail.com

The second of our seasonal productions will be our pantomime – TREASURE ISLAND – arrgh! Rehearsals are underway with capable direction from Denise Vincent and Angela Crane. Three performances will be staged over the weekend of 5th-6th February, 2016.

Please note the dates in your diaries and keep an eye out for ticket sales which will be advertised nearer the time.

Liz Buckridge



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Hempstead 100 Club Winners

September 2015

1st	Keith Sharpe	£20
2nd	Edward Saxel	£10
3rd	Molly Hill	£5

October 2015

1st	David Haylock	£20
2nd	Matt Hamilton	£10
3rd	Brenda Badger	£5

November 2015

1st	Molly Hill	£20
2nd	Roy Robbins	£10
3rd	Edward Saxel	£5
Bonus	Ellie Sharpe	£50

We are nearly up to our first year of the 100 Club! It's been a great success but we still need more applicants.

For those of you who are unsure how it works....

For an annual payment of £20 you will be allocated a number, this is entered into a monthly draw.

Prizes: 1st.£20, 2nd £10, 3rd £5.

November has the added bonus prize of £50!

This is a great way of raising money for our church. If we get 100 contributors the lottery income will come to £2000. After the monthly draw the church will receive £1,530.

Anyone over the age of 16 can buy one or more numbers.

For those would like to apply or reapply for next year please call Julie 599454 or drop your subscription of £20 addressed to Julie Jarman, Old Quail farm, next to the church .with your name, address and telephone number.

Thankyou so much, Hempstead PCC

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Sampford 100 Club Winners

August 2015

- 69 Mr G Mills £20
86 Mrs Brenda Bennett £20
22 Mr Chris Robinson £20

September 2015

- 93 Mrs Caroline Walshe £20
50 Mr Robin Lee £20
58 Mrs Marilyn Edwards £20
Bonus £50 winner:
9 Mr Graham Cook £50

October 2015

- 46 Mrs Gloria Meredew £20
39 Mrs Iris Jones £20
12 Mrs Liza Bickerton £20

Down on the Farm

Memories of harvest, although more drawn out than usual, are fading as life on arable farms slows down for the winter months, with minimal land work going on. However, the pace for farmers in the livestock sector never ceases, and the winter months can be particularly hard.

Sheep, pigs, cattle, whatever it is still needs caring for every day – often several times a day. Dark mornings and afternoons do not make the job any easier, so over the forthcoming holiday season spare a thought for not just for those three shepherds who put in an appearance at this time of the year, but for all livestock farmers.

Hopefully 2016 will bring stronger pricing, reflecting the work that goes into the industry, not least for the dairy sector. It would be hoped that the lobbying and protests will bring some positive results.

Environmental schemes continue to be a part, some would say core, within the farm strategy.

Communication with the wider rural community is important as we try to get a balanced approach to both environmental and biodiversity schemes. These issues attract public interest, i.e. the impact of the neonicotinoid ban.

Farming demands patience, and balancing business interests with the green lobby is a key challenge. Putting the right schemes in the right place at the right time *and* managing them is time consuming and results are often not seen for some time. These are crucial links between consumers and farmers, but the message is also “if you take away our tools of production” we will not be able to compete and farming will inevitably decline.

Giles

Washing Disaster

Last weekend we enjoyed an Indian summer such as we used to get when the children were small. Letitia came to stay. We reminisced about many August days spent at Frinton with fretful children who had wanted to swim in the blue sea only to find themselves turning much the same colour after two or three minutes in the brine. We would restore their colour by vigorous rubbing with towels that had an added a body-scrub of sand. It often happened, we agreed, that as soon as the little darlings were back at their studies, the sun would shine, the rain would stop, and mothers would be able to hang out the morning's washing in the certain expectation of gathering up the sweet-smelling clothes that same evening.

Letitia is very helpful by nature. While I boiled up crab apple jelly, she wrote labels in italicised script.

Together we bottled and capped the preserve. While our ruby treasure was cooling, the fine weather enthused me to do a load of washing. This was then hung up to dry in the sun.



I did not notice Letitia put another load in the machine.

I did not notice the discreet warning light when that load was finished. In fact I did not notice anything amiss until I came to empty

the machine of a load of table linen the following Monday morning.

I am not best pleased. My two best table cloths, my half dozen damask napkins, and all the white underwear that I had put on the hottest wash and fiercest spin, expecting to find all bleached to perfection, were dragged out of the machine a miserable shade of near-Airforce blue - horrible! I know she was only trying to be helpful, but my black work trousers, and summer-weight blouses don't survive high temperatures and long spins. They are now all shrunk and crinkled - only fit for Sue Bright's rag bag! Still that's a good cause, and, as Letitia's Great Aunt Sally used to say, “One player's missed save is the other team's winning goal!” As for the table linen: it will be sent away to Saffron Laundry for proper professional processing!

Suzanne Walker

Sampfords Cricket Club

Following last quarter's look back over the history of the club I will now summarise the ups and downs of the 2015 season.

The season's opening match was again the away fixture at Furneaux Pelham. Batting first the home side set an interesting target of 154 for 8. Sampfords in reply managed to pass this total by the skin of their teeth, nine wickets down with just 3 overs remaining.

The fortunes were very different in the following game when our visitors were Castle Hedingham. The visitors amassed an imposing 225 for 7. Sampfords in reply could only manage 83 all out in 26.5 overs.

The greatest winning margin of the season took place when we visited Cornish Hall End. Inspired batting by Simon Hughes and Chris Wisbey took Sampford to 293 for 9 in their 40 overs. Sadly Cornish in

reply could only manage 36 in 19.5 overs.

Once again the Millenium side turned up to challenge the home side (I note from the score book they are now called 'the Old Crows!'). Nevertheless they managed to score a useful 155 for 3 from their 30 overs. Unfortunately this was not enough as 50s from Andrew Wisbey and Nick Hopkinson saw the home side win with more than 7 overs to spare.

Another of the favourite fixtures with the membership is the annual encounter with Ed Maidment's XI. This year the village were victorious by overhauling the 187 for 7 set by the visitors. Several batsmen made useful contributions, Nick Saych being top scorer with 60. As always we are extremely grateful to the Maidment family for their generous hospitality shown to everyone on this day.

Parallel to the previous fixture in popularity is, of course, the Vice President's match, so kindly sponsored by the Squire family. Despite numbers being somewhat depleted this year a match was contrived and enjoyed by all participants. This game has a history going back some 40 years and hopefully will continue for many more.

Unfortunately some matches towards the end of the season could not be played due to the lack of available players. This affected our team as well as some opposing sides. If there are any readers who would like to join us and enjoy playing cricket in the 2016 season please contact either of our captains (James Smith on 07900806770 or Steve Thrower on 07583076983). Many thanks.

Brian Gypps, Chairman

The table shows the results and outstanding performances for the remainder of the season

16th May	SCC	141 for 7	Bures	143 for 0	Lost	E. Byford	61
17th May	SCC	293 for 9	Cornish Hall End	36	Won	S. Hughes C. Wisbey	112 120
23rd May	Lindsell	196 for 9	SCC	101	Lost		
7th June	SCC	167 for 9	Wickham St. Paul	105	Won		
14th June	SCC	169 for 7	Furneaux Pelham	170 for 6	Lost		
20th June	SCC	212 for 1	Judd S. Tigers	170 for 7	Won	S. Hughes M. Sellars	108 no 74
27th June	Chapple & Wakes Colne	192 for 9	SCC	196 for 3	Won		
28th June	SCC	219 for 7	Wethersfield	209		C. Sparrow E. Maidment	68 57
4th July	SCC	177	Wickham St. Paul	178 for 3	Lost	J. Wisbey	100
18th July	Lindsell	229 for 9	SCC	232 for 5	Won	R. Webster	140 no
19th July	Eastons	259 for 7	SCC	106	Lost		
25th July	SCC	295 for 9	Lodi	165	Won	R. Webster J. Wisbey	136 55
8th Aug	SCC	211 for 4	Castle Hedingham	175	Won	R. Webster E. Maidment	77 91 no
9th Aug	Sewards End	196	SCC	191	Lost		
15th Aug	SCC	172 for 6	Canfield	89	Won		
16th Aug	SCC	220 for 4	Harlequins	159 for 8	Won	G. Banks	77
19th Sept	SCC	149 for 7	Red Lion	150 for 7	Lost		
20th Sept	Bures	148 for 7	SCC	139 for 9	Lost		
26th Sept	Wethersfield	215 for 7	SCC	79 for 7	Lost		
27th Sept	Young Sampfordians	123	Old Sampfordians	100	Win	for Young S.	

The Sampfords Society

Over the last few months the Sampfords Society has held several events, some of which were successful, others unfortunately not so. The Gardening Group's visit to Snares Hill Cottage in Stebbing was well attended, but sadly the subsequent visits to *Spencers* at Gt. Yeldham and Rayne Hatch Farm attracted only a small number (we can blame the rain for the latter). A large attendance of members and friends gathered in Michelle Nixon's kitchen in September for the long-awaited talk on *From humble beginnings*. Sadly this became a non-event as Mark Ropkins failed to appear for the second time (there won't be a third opportunity!) and we were left feeling very disappointed. Now that Michelle has left the Society through pressure of other commitments the group will be led by Chris Knight. At the next meeting on December 2nd at *Monks Corner* we will plan next year's programme and discuss members' garden related photographs.

The History Group has held a couple of meetings and as Ken Neale is now playing a smaller role, Steve Horne and Martin Cross will lead a re-vamp of the group.

The last few walks have been rather disappointingly - in fact none at all turned up for the September one! Are we getting lazier, or is age catching up with us? So we have decided to put walks in abeyance for a while unless or until there is renewed interest. Remember that they do finish with tea!!

The second Social Evening at *Tewes*, held on September 4th, turned out to be extremely interesting. While gathered outside, about 20 of us heard from Steve Horne about the history of the house and various points of architectural note. We continued the tour indoors where we admired the ornate panelling, marvelled at the massive beams, and noted the whimsical

paintings on a bedroom wall created by a former owner. Edible offerings brought by the guests accompanied the ensuing chat.

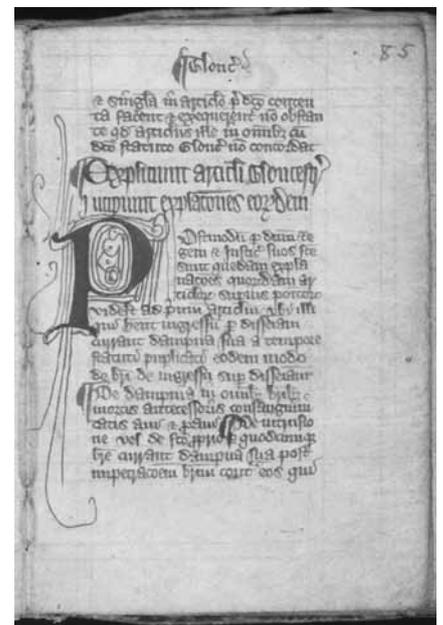
"M" for melody, music and even Emma (Emma Ure, the soprano soloist) was the theme for our annual treat at *Cabbages*, when Quintus Benziger and Ann Holloway presented an evening's entertainment. We are always eager to see and hear the different soloists featured each year. The audience, about 20 of us, enjoyed a programme of works with titles beginning with "M" or by composers beginning with "M", covering a variety of styles and periods. The pieces included minuets, a mazurka and a madrigal, extracts from four musicals, a Billy Mayerl piano piece (*Marigold*), Mancini's *Moon River*, the Emmerdale theme, an arrangement of the traditional *Mango Walk* and an extract from Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Ann's contribution was readings of prose and poems, namely Richard Stilgoe's comic *Mrs. Beamish*, Hilaire Belloc's cautionary tale about Matilda and her lies, Keats' *Meg Merrilies* and Lewis Carroll's *Mouse's Tale*.

The programme ended in the usual manner: words set to a well-known piece of music. Quintus chose Schubert's *Marche Militaire* to compose *Market Medley* - a ditty about the various comestibles (beginning with M) sold by the Man at the Market. Eleven were listed, and the audience sang about them lustily, with an encore. The wide variety of instruments engaged our interest: piano, harpsichord, recorder, tambourine and keyboard. As always at these events, the performance is laced with nuggets of information. Quintus' ingenuity and wide knowledge never fail to entertain, and this most pleasant event drew to a close with refreshments and general socialising.

As always, refreshments also punctuated the AGM on October 9th.

The finances continue to be healthy, and we are purchasing and erecting a new *Kingfisher Lodge* at *Tewes* to store archive material. Steve Horne is taking over the responsibility for the society's publications following the retirement of Michelle Nixon. We also need a volunteer to continue compiling the yearly Journals now that Jan McLaren has moved away.

Katharine Schofield from the Essex Record Office spoke on the subject of *Essex and Magna Carta*.



She discussed the family roots and the interaction of the Essex barons who had several castles in the county, including Saffron Walden, Hedingham and Stansted Mountfitchet. Magna Carta was agreed between King John and the barons on 15th June 1215 in a Runnymede meadow. Only 4 of the original copies survive, but it was re-issued several times until it became part of the law of England in 1297. It was not until 1217 that it was called by this name, in an attempt to distinguish it from another charter about forests. It contains 63 separate clauses of which only 4 remain in legal force today. Two of these, *the right of free-men to not be imprisoned or stripped*

continued on page 57

Christmas in our 4 Churches



During Advent and Christmas we have four main festival services to which you are very welcome:

Advent Carol Service

Sunday 29 November, 6.00pm, St Andrews Hempstead

An atmospheric and moving service by candlelight of hymns, carols and readings, with the Sampford Singers

9 Lessons and Carols

Sunday 20 December, 6.00pm, St Mary's Little Sampford

A traditional service of Christmas carols and readings, with the Sampford Singers

Midnight Holy Communion

Thursday 24 December - Christmas Eve, 11.30pm St Mary's Radwinter

A beautiful midnight service as Christmas arrives, with the Sampford Singers

Holy Communion on Christmas Day

Friday 25 December – Christmas Day, 10.00am, St Michael's Great Sampford

A service for all the family to celebrate the birth of Jesus

In addition to these festival services we have two other important services to tell you about...

Calling all children and parents!....Crib Service

Thursday 24 December – Christmas Eve, 4.00pm, St Mary's Radwinter

Start your Christmas with the traditional nativity story on Christmas Eve

Hempstead Village Carol Service

Thursday 24 December – Christmas Eve, 6.30pm, St Andrew's Hempstead

The annual carol service so popular with everyone in the village

Please note that we may add an additional service on Christmas morning.

Look at the village websites and the newsletters for further details.

What else do we do?

Approximately once a month we provide a Sunday club for children of primary school age with stories and activities. We call this 'Churchtastic' – a name coined by the children themselves.

For the under 5's we run, jointly with the Baptist Church, a relaxed service on a weekday at 1.30pm, with a story, song, prayer, craft and refreshments. This is called 'Seedlings'.

If there is a fifth Sunday in a month we often arrange something different for our main Sunday service which is advertised separately.

continued from page 55

of their rights or possessions and Justice nor Right are not to be sold, denied, or deferred to any man, are seen today as cornerstones of liberty in this country and have been incorporated into the constitutions of other countries and into declarations of human rights. Katharine Schofield has written an article for the *Essex Journal* which is published in the spring and autumn.

The next important date to note is Saturday January 30th (7 for 7.30 pm) for The Society's New Year Event in the Village Hall. The theme is Birds, and we hope that there will be many offers of entertaining items on this subject: singing, dancing, reciting, reading, etc. Past years have always produced a very varied programme, whatever the theme, so get thinking what you can do this time. A two-course meal will be served and tickets are £12 for members and £15 for non-members. Contact Margaret 01799 586356.

Jane Lawrence

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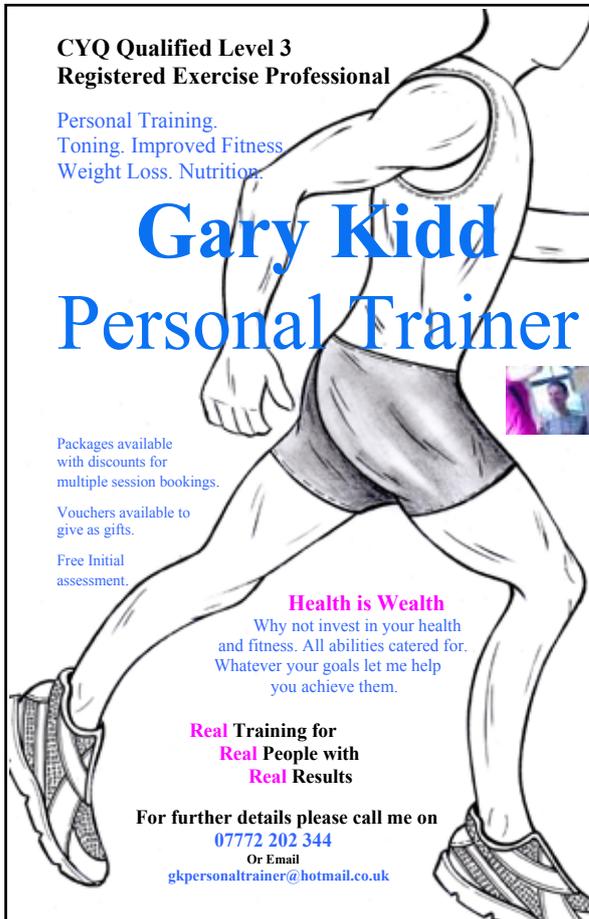
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Dad's Drawers - Part 3

The Fat Nude and the Sea of Bubble Wrap

Since 2012 Radwinter resident Julie has been publishing an online blog about the contents of the cornucopian drawers of treasure or junk that her compulsive collector father Fred left behind when he departed this life aged 92.

The story continues with Part 3...we are in December 2012. Arrangements and photos by Julie.

This is the story of The Fat Nude (with the uneven knees) ...and how I ended up in Christie's Auction House surrounded by a sea of bubble wrap, with a fit of the giggles.

The Fat Nude (my title, not the artist's) is a pen drawing measuring approximately 100 x 60 cm framed. It was drawn by an Indian artist called Francis Newton Souza in 1962 and it has spent much of the last half century face against a wall.

This isn't the best photograph, but I had to take it through the glass to avoid any risk of damaging the picture. Actually, at one point I nearly ruined the picture and the story. It's really difficult to take a photograph through glass without getting a reflection of yourself, lights or windows. I carried the picture around from room to room to find a light place with the least reflections and finally settled on my bedroom. The room was light and there was a white duvet cover. There I was standing (wobbling may be a more accurate description) on the bed, one foot either side of the picture (remember its size) so that I could get a shot directly from above. My camera slipped from my hand and with a fine tuned, ninja move I caught it only to come perilously close to landing in the centre of the 'work of art'. All that effort and you can still make out the shadow of my arm holding the camera above the picture.

So, some background first.....

Dad fancied himself as a bit of an artist and the house and the garden were full of his creations and



Poor woman appears to have some terrible deformity in her left calf

sculptures. Following his waste-not-want-not philosophy, all of these sculptures were made out of re-used materials. Nothing ever went to the rubbish tip from our house, in fact other people's rubbish seem to find its way there. In the garden were upturned washing machine drums with items placed strategically on top. Attached to the ends of old curtain rails that were stuck into the ground were plastic dolls heads, skulls (usually animal), pieces of flint and the ever useful two-pint plastic milk bottles. In fact walking in the garden in high winds could be a hazard without a hard hat as the curtain rails would waver quite violently from side to side throwing off their chosen adornment.

Inside the house there would be creations made from polystyrene

packaging, stones, bits of wood, plastic lids, old CDs and yet more two-pint plastic milk bottles.

These creations would be pinned to the notice board, suspended from the ceiling and glued to the walls, as well as filling any gap or free surface in the house. Now, even I recognised that there was a limit to how much of dad's stuff I could keep so, sad to say, many of the creations from plastic and polystyrene were duly recycled. All that remain now are a few small items dotted around the house and some of the metal structures in the garden.

Some time in the early seventies my dad organised a Bring-and-Buy sale to sell some of his sculptures and raise money for charity. As was the tradition with these sales (many years before charity shops took off and well before boot sales), people who attended these events also brought with them



I don't think this one, made from old plug pins, would look particularly out of place alongside the Carl Andre's Bricks or Marcel Duchamp's Urinal (Fountain) in the Tate Modern

things to donate for sale.... and that was how I came to have the Fat Nude.



Dad's poster, that I found amongst his papers (I told you he didn't throw anything away) was duplicated in foolscap on the school Gestetner. Anyone under 50 will probably not remember foolscap-size paper or duplicating machines. Foolscap was the irritatingly-sized paper that was too big for A4 ring binders, so at school you ended up with a bit of your sheet sticking out of either end of your folder and it eventually became so dog-eared it was useless. Duplicating machines (Gestetners) were what we had to use before photocopiers were widely available. I can't remember exactly, but there was something pink involved and you had to type on a special bit of paper which was attached to the duplicating machine. You then turned a handle and your copies came out of the other side like magic – oh yes we really knew how to live in the seventies!

Bob Cobbing was one of dad's old friends who had made the journey up from North London. He brought with him the eponymous drawing, as well as some of his own works, to donate to the sale. I only recently discovered, when trying to find some

link between Bob and the drawing, that he was one of the movers and shakers of the London poetry, writing and arts scene in sixties London and quite probably rubbed shoulders with Souza. Dad had met Bob through a writing group which was run under the umbrella of the Hendon Experimental Arts Group and later led to the formation of the Writer's Forum. Among dad's papers I found a programme from a play that had been put on by the group and in which my dad had appeared.

Christie's have a page on their website where you can upload a photograph of an item and request a free valuation. I have to say I wasn't expecting much of a response; I had previously sent them details of a pair of binoculars and they had not considered them to be of any value. That's another story, but I eventually exchanged them in a museum car park for over £1000, so what did they know?

Anyway, they were apparently Souza experts, having sold a large portion of the Souza estate some years previously and they were really interested in seeing the picture.

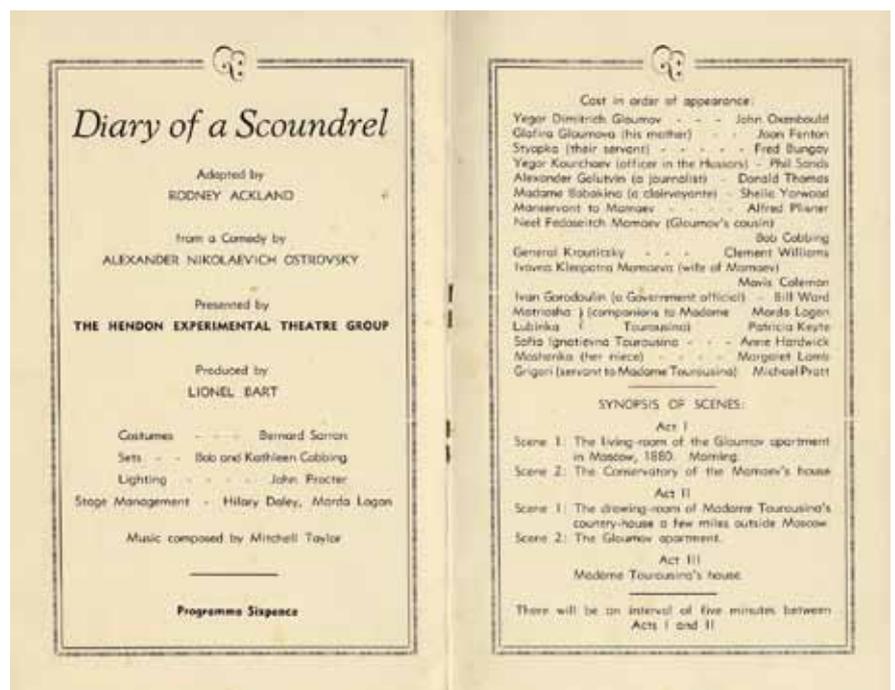
So, that is how Paul and I came to be sitting in Christie's in London; drowning in a sea of bubble wrap

and brown tape, and not taking proceedings with the seriousness befitting of such a grand place. (Yes, we were giggling like schoolchildren).

As yet another aside to this story, I have to tell you about the bubble wrap.

This bubble wrap represented a hoarder's success. A few years ago, much to my mum's horror Dad had gone for a browse around Staples and had exited carrying a roll of bubble wrap that was nearly as big as him (not too hard when you are only 4ft 11ins). "It will come in useful one day," he told her. The roll then remained in the living room of the house for several months, unsuccessfully blending in with the furniture and not having come in useful on any occasion so far. Eventually when mum could stand it there no longer, I agreed to take it away to store in my garage "until they needed it". Needless to say it had sat in my garage for several more years again without ever "coming in useful".

It was while I was rolling out metres and metres of the stuff onto my hall floor to wrap the picture ready for its journey to London, that I had to smile and say out loud "You were right dad, it did come in useful."



Diary of a Scoundrel programme - Check out the Producer!

Christie's is one of these places that when you enter through the doors that have been held open by the doorman, you feel like you have stepped from reality into an alternative universe. Objects of desire are sold for vast prices, by people from privileged backgrounds to people from privileged backgrounds. It felt somewhat surreal and vaguely comical. Here we were with our bubbled-wrapped fat nude, sitting in the lobby watching projected images of paintings that had been sold for millions of pounds. By the time Anastasia and Damien had escorted us into a room to unpeel the numerous layers of bubble wrap and enthuse about the drawing, the giggles could be suppressed no longer. They clearly hadn't spotted the deformed calf when they gave us a guide price of £3 - 6,000 and I wasn't going to be the one point it out.



Another set of Dad's Drawers and a collection of Pull handles



I leave you with my Christmas card photo which is made up of an assortment from Dad's Drawers. Anyone visiting the house over the last few weeks would have found it laid out on the floor of the conservatory with a rather complicated ladder structure to enable me to get the best aerial image possible. Don't tell Paul, but I was up a ladder when nobody else was in the house and there was lots of leaning involved. (I am not allowed a chain saw either.)

I will leave you to play *I Spy* the *Ban the Bomb* badge, the razor blades, the farthing and the florin...

Oh, and just to keep you posted. Gun number four was found yesterday. Fortunately, it has *Starting Pistol* written on the handle so no panic!

Julie Haines



Happy Christmas 2015... from 2012



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Radwinter Pre-School

We have had yet another busy term at Radwinter Pre-school. We started in September with our two new members of staff (Maria, manager



and Amanda, deputy manager) and ten children and over the course of the half term welcomed four new

children and another staff member. Welcome to Cordelia, Emily, Oliver and Tilly, we hope they enjoy their time with us at pre-school. And welcome to Roni Coggins, our new pre-school assistant. Although Roni has not been with us long she has already made a big difference and we wish her a long and happy employment with us. A big thank you to all parents/carers and children for making our new staff feel so welcome.

Our theme for this half term has been Autumn and seasonal changes. We have been involved in lots of exciting activities. We read the story of The Little Red Hen and made resources for role playing the story line. We also we had a visit from a real hen! We went on nature walks and collected natural objects that we used to make Autumn collages and salt dough leaf impressions. We are very lucky to have a yoga teacher



Radwinter Pre-School

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- Highly qualified and experienced staff
- Strong links to our local primary schools and community
- A rural setting with outside play area
- Forest School and yoga sessions
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www.radwinterpreschool.co.uk

come into pre-school on a regular basis, the children really enjoy taking part in the yoga sessions. These are just a few of the activities and experiences we offer our children at pre-school. We plan our activities around the children's interests ensuring that the children have fun learning in a secure and stimulating environment.



Who are you calling chicken?

Radwinter Primary School has once again kindly lent us the use of their facilities and we have held our first forest school session in the grounds of the school (led by school staff member Mrs Hibbs).

The children have had a lovely time being "Radwinter rabbits" and splashing in puddles, digging for worms, slugs and snails, making dens, climbing, swinging in a hammock, having hot chocolate and biscuits and generally being able to experience learning in the outdoor environment. Our forest school



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sessions enable us to support the children within our setting to take risks and explore. We have more sessions booked at the school but we are also keen to set-up our own Forest School on the Glebe behind the village hall and are investigating the practicalities.

Susie Diggons, the Saffron Walden Tesco Community Champion has been to visit again. Susie came laden with resources to celebrate Halloween. The children enjoyed apple bobbing, hunting for sweets in flour and of course pumpkin carving. Thank you again Susie and Tesco.

Our intention this year is to remodel and renovate our outside area. We would like to resurface and install a mud kitchen and water wall. All our fundraising efforts this year will be in aid of this and our first exciting event is on 3 December. Jayson Norris (one of our children's dads and very talented musician) will be playing at the village hall from 8p.m. Tickets cost £8 in advance and £10 on the door with nibbles provided (bring your own drinks and glasses). A fun auction of items will also be held. Please join us to help us raise as much money as possible or if you are able to lend a hand or provide sponsorship for our project, please email us on info@radwinterpreschool.co.uk.

And while on the subject of sponsorship, a HUGE thank you to Sarah Swain of Hempstead Hounds for sponsoring our new staff uniforms.

Although we have increased the number of children we have on register, we do have limited spaces available so if you have a pre-school age child and would like to arrange a visit, please call us on 01799 599 797 (during pre-school hours) or email info@radwinterpreschool.co.uk. For more information, please visit our website www.radwinterpreschool.co.uk

*Maria Powell (Manager) and
Melanie du Plessis (Co-Chair,
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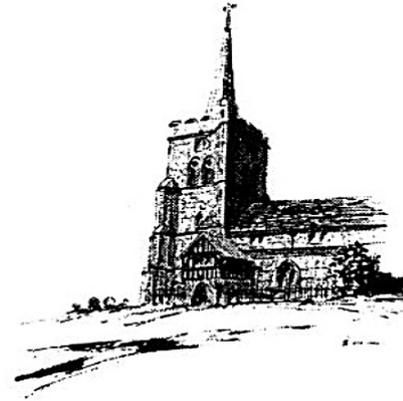
RANGE
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St Mary the Virgin, Radwinter

I am sitting at my computer thinking about how quickly this year has gone as it is time to start preparing for the Christmas Tree Festival, which, of course, may be over before you read this edition of Ambo (see page 70). It always seems to get the Christmas season started so I do hope you came and enjoyed it. A big thank you to those who helped with the trees, the stalls and the refreshments.

You may have noticed that there has been much activity in the churchyard. The long grass has been cut and graves tidied up and work has been done on the exterior of the historic little Zeta house. Take a walk past the Bullock graves ('Rectors' Row') down to the Zeta house and see the improvement. With the Autumn flowering cyclamen in that corner it looks delightful. Most of this activity has been funded by the Friends of Radwinter Church, and Jonathan Parker himself, for which the PCC is very grateful. We are also always pleased to see Andy Jarvis



mowing the grass around the church and Terry, the gardener keeping the flower beds tidy.

The harvest is now over and it was good to have the children celebrating this in the church. They got over their messages of sharing and respect for all so well, and collected a wonderful amount of tins for food banks.

As they did last year, the school is holding its Christingle Service on the Friday of the Christmas Tree Festival. It is always a joy to see the children's faces in the candlelight

with the decorated Christmas trees all around.

The Music at the Crossroads concert in September was brilliant – I love the Big Band sound and the *Blue Skies Big Band* was really good. If you have never been to one of the MatC concerts do try one – the atmosphere (and beer!) is always great.

The third Sunday in October was Friends' Day and this year we welcomed quite a few of our 'old' friends, including Rev. Brian Macdonald-Milne to take the service. Thanks to MB Parker who, as usual, produced an excellent meal following the service and the AGM. It is the generosity of these Friends that helps with the care of artifacts and, as this season, the churchyard.

Lastly, please remember that St Mary's Church is part of your community – you are always welcome at the services and other events and if you want to go in at other times for any reason, just get in touch.

Wendy Rowley

St Andrew's Church, Hempstead

Hempstead church now has a splendid new organ, thanks to Tim Norris.

Tim is a very talented man, who can not only play organs, but also build them. He came to play for us one Sunday and commented that our existing organ, an early electronic device, was a bit long in the tooth and that the technology had advanced considerably since it was made. He then offered to build us a new organ at no cost: an offer we could not refuse!

Tim was as good as his word, and made an instrument in two parts, a keyboard and a control unit (are they still called systems boxes?). The controls consist of switches and indicator lamps to equate with the



stops of a pipe organ. One of our organists, confused by the array of lights, thought it looked like the flight engineer's panel on an airliner, so Tim built a control unit with wooden pull-out handles, all named as on an old-fashioned instrument, so our organists can literally "Pull out all the stops."

Our sincere thanks are due to this wonderful man. Now we had better get a faculty to legalise the latest

acquisition. Tim has also built an organ for Great Sampford.

The service to licence and install Philip Tarris as vicar of Thaxted was a superb affair, very well attended, and very enjoyable. Now he is responsible for five parishes so will need all the support the rest of us can give him.

Over the past few months we have had one Wedding and two Baptisms, but thankfully no funerals.

Now we look forward to Christmas, with the Advent carol service on 29th November at 6.p.m. our usual nine lessons and carols on Christmas Eve, but no service this year on Christmas Day.

Alan Weedon

St Michael the Archangel, Gt Sampford

A quieter time actually at St Michaels but there has been plenty happening in our Benefice with the amalgamation of our churches with Thaxted. Following many months of talks at all levels Philip was offered the job of being Priest in Charge of Thaxted as well as our four churches. In due course a new Benefice will be created of the five churches. This is a massive job, but I know he will rise to the challenge.

On October 13th Philip was duly licensed by the Bishop of Colchester in Thaxted Church attended by over 200 people. It was a superb service with many stirring hymns and a lovely anthem sung by the Sampford Singers and Elizabeth Tarris read



the lesson. It is the most beautiful church for a big occasion and there was a very friendly atmosphere over the wine and refreshments.

Graham Cook has been appointed as Lay Canon of the Cathedral for all his work as Lay Chair of the Deanery. Some of us went to Chelmsford Cathedral for the Installation Service which was magnificent and presided over by Bishop

Stephen. We do congratulate him on this honour, which is well deserved.

We have plans to make the small area north of the church into a parking area which should alleviate the congestion outside the churchyard. Reinforced Mesh will be used and then it will be seeded with grass so will not look very different, but will give a firm base. We are grateful to the Sampfords Parish Council and Uttlesford Community Grant scheme for their grants and will welcome the parents to use it at school times.

The Christmas services are being planned and we hope to see you all over the holiday period at one of the services across our 4 churches.

Sue Collins

St Mary the Virgin, Lt Sampford

It is with much pleasure that St Mary's is to hold the Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday 20th December 2015 at 6.00pm. We have not had this service for seven years and we are delighted to be hosting it again. We look forward to inviting you to this very special service in our beautiful candlelit church. Please do try to come; it is a wonderful way to enjoy the magnificent start of the festival of Christmas.

However, I must inform you that our planned spring flower festival which was to be held during the last weekend of February has been cancelled. The Parochial Church Council felt it was unsuitable to have a flower festival in Lent. I am extremely grateful to all of you who have shown interest and offered to help.



Our first fund raising supper was held on 26th October. Sixteen of us enjoyed the supper and fellowship. We were delighted to welcome some people from Thaxted, as we get to know one another informally. The evening raised £140 to be split equally between St Mary's and Cancer Research in memory of Elizabeth Huddleston. We hope to continue with one or two more suppers in the future and look forward to welcoming you.

*Roberta Hayward
Churchwarden*

Radwinter Bridge Club? (or whist)

A month ago one of our (Radwinter WI) members asked how she might find out if there was anyone in the village who was interested in playing Bridge or Whist. The WI has the equipment needed i.e. several packs of cards. An email sent out to the very effective Radwinter Google group has uncovered two more interested people.

So far, this is not really enough people, but it's likely that there are other local residents who have not signed up to the Google group but who might like to help start up a club. If so, please email your contact details to kentho@btinternet.com or call 01799 599563 leaving your name and contact details.

I am happy to act as initial coordinator and to put you in touch with one another.

Judith Thompson

Great Sampford Baptist Church

I like this time of year because of the autumnal colours and the looking forward to the time of Advent and then the joy of Christmas as we celebrate once again the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

That's what Christmas is all about just in case anyone has forgotten. Without the birth of Jesus there would be no Christmas, no Nativity service, no carol singing, no Christmas tree, no presents and no hope for the future. Now you may well want to copy Charles Dickens' character Scrooge from 'A Christmas Carol' and say 'Bah Humbug' but whether we like it or not Christmas tends to affect all of us in one way or another.



So my hope and prayer for each one of you reading this article is that Christmas will be a very positive and happy time for you this year and maybe even one where you discover or re-discover Jesus in the hustle and bustle of the festivities.

God bless, Sue

*Rev Sue Johnston
01799 586164*

www.greatsampfordbaptistchurch.co.uk

Baptist Church Programme **Weekly**

Sunday Morning Worship at 10.30am - mix of traditional & cafe style services for children and adults.

Wednesday morning - Babies & Toddlers 10am-12 in term time.

Wednesday Enquirers/question time 7.15pm beginning 9th September – check with Sue for venue. Thursday the church is open from 10am to pop in and see me.

Thursday coffee mornings in school term time, we will be serving coffee/tea in the church hall from 8.45 till 10am for everyone but especially the parents/carers who drop the children off at school in the morning, come and meet your friends for a chat and grab a coffee/tea at the same time.

Thursday 7.15pm Sampford Singers meet in the church to practise, any new singers very welcome, male or female.

Monthly

Coffee mornings 2nd Sat 10 – 12

Christmas Services

Morning Carol Service Sunday 20th December 10.30am (if you would like us to sing a particular carol please let me by the 10th Dec.

Christmas Eve Service Thursday 24th December 6pm – we are asking folk including children to make a decoration for the Christmas tree (knitted, sewn or glued etc) and bring it along to put on our tree during the service.

Christmas Day Service Friday 25th December 10am – informal service – bring one of your Christmas presents to show us if you like. Come along and share some cake and have a cuppa, join us as we celebrate Jesus' birthday and give thanks to God.

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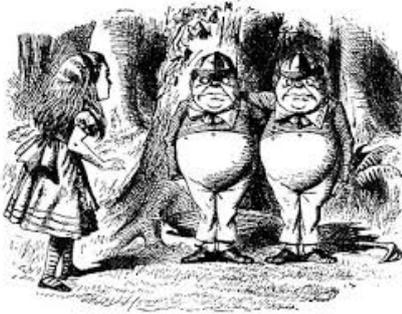
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Cabbages and Kings



Following last year's successful production of *Please Mr Perks*, there will be another musical play by Quintus Benziger in Great Sampford in March 2016.

Based on *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, *Cabbages & Kings* is played out as a game of chess, and it includes Lewis Carroll's well-loved characters such as Tweedledum and Tweedledee and the Red Queen. The 32 Chess pieces will be played by local adults and children from the Sampford area.

A wide range of music has been used for the singing and dancing and Bess Parker directs the production, as she has done for the previous three Sampfords musicals.

Cabbages and Kings will be performed in Great Sampford Village Hall on Saturday 12th March at 7.30 with a matinee on Sunday 13th March at 2.30.

Cabbages & Kings

a musical play by
Quintus Benziger

c	a	b	b	a	g	e	s
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based on the book
Through the Looking Glass
by Lewis Carroll



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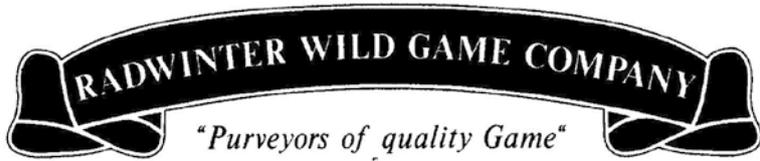
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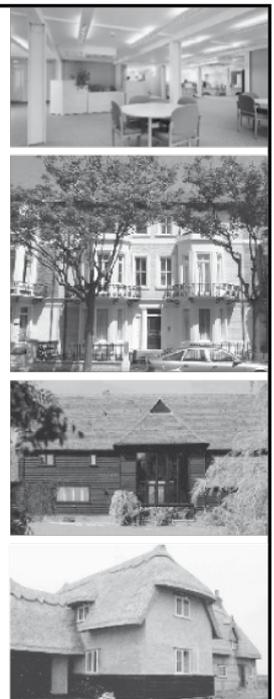
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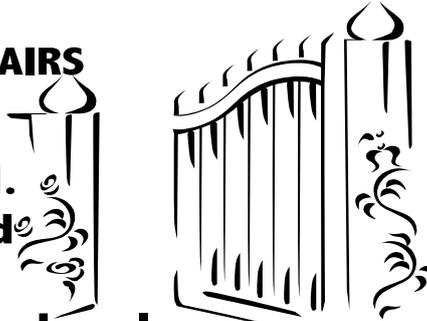
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Lots of Fun at Hempstead Auction

You thought you had to be wealthy as well as brave to bid at an auction? You had visions of being trapped into buying an old master because you scratched your nose at the wrong moment? There were no such anxieties at the Hempstead Home and Garden auction on September 12 where happy buyers picked up bargains by the dozen - most for under a fiver!



Ben Boreham eyes up the lot of the day, a ride-on mower - it went for £300

The auction was to raise funds for the upkeep of the Village Hall. As this is the venue of Radwinter Pre-School where children attend from Radwinter, Hempstead & The Sampfords, keeping the building in good order is high on our agenda in the village.

Goods offered for sale were taken in on the Friday night and Saturday morning. Wisely most people deliv-



Auctioneer Richard Crane assisted by John Sladen

ered on the Friday night as Essex Highways took it upon themselves to close the road (delayed from the previous weekend) from Radwinter to Hempstead for the weekend. But those who really wanted to be there for the Auction made it and had loads of fun bidding against each other for some fabulous home products, many of which were brand new or barely used.

At bumper bargain prices people took home golf clubs, glass chandeliers and lamps, casserole dishes, jam-making equipment, paintings, bookcases and shelves, mirrors, a rattan suite, bicycles for all the family, birdbaths, garden benches and much more. And while children were not allowed to bid, six-year-old Felix McCarthy accidentally became the proud owner of a golf bag at one point!



Deb and Alex Knibbs have their eye on rock albums from the '70s

Richard Crane was our excellent auctioneer, assisted by John Sladen making sure that all transactions were recorded correctly, and the Admin/Finance team of Claire Dittrich and Helen Midgley did an amazing job with their spreadsheet system to run the auction smoothly and take the money, which came to £1,050 for the Hall. Sophie Boreham, Russ Wide and Robert Boreham managed the assembly of purchases and the filling of cars afterwards.

Everyone who came left with a triumphant smile on their face. Punt-



Jelena, Orla and Ciaran Mone look for kitchenware bargains

ers couldn't go wrong with many prices starting at £1 - and what safer environment to trial an auction than in a Village Hall?

The star item, a ride-on lawn mower, was saved until last. Thank you to the donor who gave 100% of the proceeds to the cause and thank you to those who came with the deliberate aim of being financially generous.

If we do hold another one, we hope many more of you will come and have fun and support the Hall.

Diana Frost



Organiser Diana Frost and her assistant Caroline Peate demonstrate a luxury parasol

A Little Arsenic Goes a Long Way

The first in a new series of interviews with some of the local small businesses that advertise in Ambo

Few branches of medicine attract more controversy than homeopathy, a system developed over 200 years ago and based on a theory that “like cures like” – a substance that causes the symptoms of a disease in healthy people can cure similar symptoms in sick people.

Although some of the remedies are highly toxic in their natural state, in homeopathy they are diluted to such an extent that they barely exist in the preparation given to the patient. For instance, a glass of tap water contains more arsenic than a homeopathic remedy using arsenic.

While many orthodox medics dismiss homeopathy as implausible, the Queen’s physician, no less, as recently as last July called for it to be taken more seriously. Dr Peter Fisher said that alternative therapies were often misunderstood and he questioned research which suggested they only work through a placebo effect.

We have locally a specialist in the subject, Daniela Karsten, who is celebrating ten years of homeopathic practice in Hempstead. Daniela also writes regular articles on a range of family health subjects in the local “Salad Days” magazine. Here she tells us about her belief in treatments that, by conventional theory, should have no effect.

Tell us a little about yourself.

I’m married with three children and a Registered Homeopath with a passion for my profession. We have lived happily in Hempstead for ten years. I’ve no doubt our lives have been positively shaped and enriched by the village and its surroundings.

What started your interest in homeopathy?

I was looking for a more natural and sustainable solution to treatment for chronic eczema and common childhood illnesses, for myself and my family. The pivotal moment came when I successfully used homeopathic remedies during and after childbirth, including a period of post-natal depression.

My experience working in the slums of Calcutta cemented my belief in homeopathy’s popularity, its efficacy, and its role in a wide range of acute, chronic and complex disease pictures. I also admired how the medical and homeopathic doctors worked in collaborative partnership for the ultimate benefit of the patient.

What training was involved?

I graduated with a Diploma from the internationally renowned Allen College of Homeopathy in 2012, after four years of study and training. I continue to improve my knowledge by post-graduate study.

How do you answer sceptics who say homeopathic medicines cannot have any effect because they are so dilute?

There is a lot of very good quality international research to support the positive impact of homeopathic medicines, much of it conducted and recorded by the Homeopathic Research Institute or Society of Homeopaths. Some answers to how homeopathic remedies work can be found in the realm of now commonly accepted theories around sub-atomic

particle physics, nanomedicine and immunotherapy.

Is there more to homeopathy than prescribing pills and potions?

It is rare in today’s healthcare system to find someone who can give you the time to focus on yourself, and the issues that affect your life and health. Your homeopath consultation lasts between 40 and 90 minutes, during which time I take a detailed 360° look at you and your symptoms, with the aim of selecting a perfectly suited remedy. The long term holistic care and support of patients is of prime importance. Many clients often get back in touch, asking for homeopathic help, as and when the need arises.



L'Etape Cycle Event

What improvements can you claim among your patients? Do you have any particular areas of success?

In a recent Personal Practice Audit, I was delighted to record a significant success rate for most conditions. For example, with respect to asthma, following a homeopathic prescription and a personalized treatment plan, 62% of my patients report complete relief of symptoms, 23% reported 90-95% improvement of symptoms with remaining patients recording occasional or mild symptoms, kept under control with the use of natural broncho-dilators. In the case of hay fever 50% of my patients reported complete relief of hay fever symptoms, with the other 50% experiencing significant relief (70-90% improvement) and no side effects.

Is it a replacement for conventional medical treatment?

In certain cases homeopathic remedies can effectively replace conventional treatment. However, in many cases I work alongside conventional medicine with a view to working safely towards the best outcome for each patient.

Have you used it on your own family?

Almost exclusively; by opting for homeopathy as a first port of call, we have stayed an "antibiotics free zone" for the last 15 years.

To mark her ten years in practice at Hempstead, Daniela is holding an Open Day on Friday 22 January 2016, 10am-3pm at Bellropes, High Street, Hempstead, where she will be happy to discuss any aspect of homeopathy, show her extensive range of preparations and give away homeopathic goody bags. She can be contacted on www.danielakarsten.co.uk, Facebook, or 07715 538501.

Daniela was interviewed by Paul Davies

On Sunday September 27th The Sampfords were once again on the cycling map, when the inaugural 2015 L'Etape London, offering 3 different routes, started and ended at the Lea Valley Velo Park. With the 117 mile longest route retracing much of the Essex stage of last year's Tour de France, *Human Race*, the organisers, booked The Sampfords' Village Hall as one of the feeding stations for the expected 1900 riders, and 5 committee members volunteered to help out.

The car park resembled an outdoor food warehouse with crates and boxes stacked tidily by the hedge, tables were laden with sustaining and energising goodies - pains au chocolat, olive bread, flapjacks, Jaffa Cakes, chocolate covered raisins, mini-Cheddars, new potatoes (cold, and with no butter!), energy bars, sweets, and bananas, many of which, I fear, were green. Our job was to keep the plates fully charged, so there was a great deal of packet opening, slicing of bread, and halving of bananas. Some items were almost ignored, but we had trouble keeping up with the demand for flapjacks and jelly babies. There were some very healthy appetites, and all available spaces were packed with stuff to see the riders through the 34km till the next feeding station. One thing to consider for next time: "Is there any Lancashire Hotpot?" I was wistfully asked.

The first riders had set off at 7.30am and by 10.45 the Hall car park was a seething mass of lycra

which lasted for a good hour or more. Numbers tailed off gradually, although some stragglers from a shorter route who had taken the wrong turning needed to stoke up in preparation for the longer than expected ride home. By 2 pm it seemed that clearing up could start, but what to do with all the leftover food? Non-perishables were retained, the afternoon cricket match received a certain amount, and some local pigs must have thought it was Christmas - banana-flavoured pork, anyone?

It isn't until you get involved in an event that you realise how much planning goes into it. The organisers had thought of pretty well everything: advertising banners, tables, wet weather cover, black bin liners for rubbish (and tape for securing them to tables), builders' vast skip bags for the discarded packaging, a portable loo, and a huge water container which was in constant demand. There was a broom for clearing away the food debris, a mechanic to deal with bike problems, and a first aid tent. Also to be thought about is the massive shopping expedition for enough food to supply all the feeding stations on the routes, and ferrying it there in good time for the first arrivals.

The Sampfords team can feel proud, and we look forward to doing it all again next year - the Village Hall funds will certainly benefit!

Jane Lawrence

Photo by Judith Thompson





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December 2015



Date	Time	Title & (Cert)
Tue 1 st	7:30pm	Goya: Visions of Flesh & Blood - National Gallery (12A)
Thu 3 rd	7:20pm	The Mikado – English National Opera (12 A as live)
Fri 4 th	8:00pm	Sicario (15)
Sat 5 th	2:00pm	Hotel Transylvania 2 (U)
Sat 5 th	5:00pm	Pan (PG)
Sat 5 th	8:00pm	Sicario (15)
Sun 6 th	10:00am	The Polar Express (U) Autism-friendly
Sun 6 th	3:00pm	The Lady of the Camellias – Bolshoi (12A as live)
Sun 6 th	8:00pm	Under Milk Wood (15)
Mon 7 th	8:00pm	Red Army (15)
Thu 10 th	7:15pm	Cavalleria Rusticana : Pagliacci – ROH (12A as live)
Fri 11 th	8:00pm	The Program (15)
Sat 12 th	2:00pm	Pan (PG)
Sat 12 th	5:00pm	Suffragette (12A)
Sat 12 th	8:00pm	The Program (15)
Sun 13 th	3:00pm	Jane Eyre – National Theatre (12A as live)
Sun 13 th	8:00pm	The Lobster (15)
Mon 14 th	8:00pm	The Lobster (15)
Wed 16 th	7:15pm	The Nutcracker – ROH (12A as live)
Fri 18 th	8:00pm	Spectre (12A)
Sat 19 th	3:00pm	A Christmas Star (U)
Sat 19 th	8:00pm	Spectre (12A)
Sun 20 th	3:00pm	A Christmas Star (U)
Sun 20 th	8:00pm	Spectre (12A)
Mon 21 st	3:00pm	Spectre (12A)
Mon 21 st	8:00pm	The Music Box / Block-Heads (U)
Tue 22 nd	3:00pm	Pan (PG)
Tue 22 nd	8:00pm	Suffragette (12A)
Wed 23 rd	3:00pm	Pan (PG)
Wed 23 rd	8:00pm	Suffragette (12A)
Thu 24 th to Sat 26 th		Cinema closed – Happy Christmas
Sun 27 th	2:00pm	The Nutcracker – ROH (12A as live)
Sun 27 th	8:00pm	The Lady in the Van
Mon 28 th	3:00pm	Spectre (12A)
Mon 28 th	8:00pm	The Lady in the Van
Tue 29 th	3:00pm	Spectre (12A)
Tue 29 th	8:00pm	The Lady in the Van
Wed 30 th	3:00pm	Spectre (12A) – Subtitled for the hard of hearing
Wed 30 th	7:30pm	The Winter's Tale – Garrick Theatre (12A as live)
Thu 31 st	3:00pm	Spectre (12A)
JANUARY		
Fri 1 st	3:00pm	Speedy (U)
Fri 1 st	8:00pm	Speedy (U)
Sat 2 nd	2:00pm	Maya the Bee (U)
Sat 2 nd	5:00pm	The Lady in the Van (12A)
Sat 2 nd	8:00pm	Spectre (12A)
Sun 3 rd	2:00pm	Maya the Bee (U)
Sun 3 rd	5:00pm	The Lady in the Van (12A)
Sun 3 rd	8:00pm	Spectre (12A)
Sat 4 th	8:00pm	Taxi Tehran (12A)



Sicario



Pan



The Program



Suffragette



Spectre



The Lady in the Van

Tickets: Eve: Full price £7.50, 65 & over £6.70; Other Adult conc: £5.70, 18 & under: £5.40 (£4 on Mondays)
Day: Full price £6.50, 65 & over £5.60; Other Adult conc: £5.00, 18 & under: £4.20
Special Events: See our website for prices

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Harvey Orrock (Deputy) 599236

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Hugh Nicholson 599354

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Treasurer Brendan O'Brien 599571
Secretary Wendy Rowley 599753

Hempstead

Vice Chairman Alan Weedon 599366
Treasurer vacancy
Secretary Zoe Hoar 599466

Rural Dean Rev'd David Tomlinson 500947

The Sampfords

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Treasurer Graham Cook 586343
Secretary Anthea McMyn 01371 810850

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Baptist Church, Great Sampford

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Secretary Beryl Kemp 586432
Treasurer Ann Wolstenholme 586480

Parish Councils

Radwinter www.radwinter.org radwinterparishcouncil@gmail.com

Chairman	Mark Halls	Trees & Footpaths, Rec Ground, Village Dev/Planning	599537
Vice Chair	Eileen Duck	Planning, Highways, Env't, Youth, Village Development	599691
Councillor	Victoria Boyden	Trees & Footpaths	599537
Councillor	Jill Mary	Environment, Public Transport, Publicity	599667
Councillor	Rob Rains	Village Development, Recreation Ground	07773 353755
Councillor	Paul Kleber	tbc	599824
Councillor	Pete Fitch	tbc	599565
Parish Clerk	Cathryn Carlisle	Clerk to the Council	01440 731964

Sampfords www.sampfords.org.uk

Chairman	Christopher Robinson	Finance	586276
Vice Chairman	William Burton	Planning, Highways, Footpaths & Litter pick	586779
Councillor	Jane Lawrence	Publicity	586286
Councillor	Graham Keen	Grasscutting and Trees	586486
Councillor	Kath Thompson	Play Area and Youth, Transport & Village Assets	586623
Councillor	George Smith	Play Area and Youth, Sport and Broadband	586511
Councillor	Kay Adye	Sport and Broadband, Play Area and Youth	586845
Councillor	Gordon Deuce	Planning, Highways, Footpaths	586766
Councillor	Rhiannon Chappell	Website, Events, Liaison with village organisations	586819
Parish Clerk	Sarah Parker		586327

NB: If there are any errors or omissions, please let us know before the next edition

WINTER 2015

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Councillor	David Drane	Highways and Public Rights of Way	599397
Councillor	Niki McNeil	Website	598074
Councillor	Sara Scott	Tree Warden and Neighbourhood Watch	599178
Councillor	John Sladen	Emergency Planning and Village Hall Rep	586429
Councillor	Alan Weedon	Environmental Issues	599366
Councillor	Mark Welbourn	Legal and Traffic Issues	598113
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Essex County Councillor	Simon Walsh	01371 870334
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Village Activities

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Hempstead Bellringers	Stephen Spencer	01440 730343
Hempstead Village Hall	Bookings Sally Rowden	599257
Hempstead 100 Club	Contact Julie Jarman	599454
Hempstead Dramatic Society	Chairman Liz Buckridge	01440 731894
Radwinter Google Group	Chair Julie Haines	plisner.haines@btinternet.com
Radwinter Pre-School	Manager Maria Powell	(info@radwinterpreschool.co.uk) 599797
Radwinter Recreation Ground	Hon. Sec. Janina Vigurs	599631
Radwinter Neighbourhood Watch	James Briggs	599352
Radwinter Bellringers	Linda Bullough	599339
Radwinter Cricket Club	Secretary Mark Fanthorpe	07770 393571
Radwinter Football Club	Manager Mark Jeffs	radwinterfc@gmail.com
Radwinter Pavilion Fund Raising	Coordinator Julie Haines	599764
Radwinter Village Hall	Bookings Wendy Rowley	07852 954162
Radwinter WI	President Judith Thompson	599563
Radwinter Bowls Club	Secretary Brian Hyett	501616
Radwinter Lectures	Sue Bright	599396
Radwinter Cubs - Radwinter Sch. (Weds 6.30-8.00pm)	Julie Pledger	599493
Radwinter Friendship Group	Chairlady Diane Redfern	599365
Radwinter Pavilion & fence padlocks	Julie Haines/Janina Vigurs	599764
Sampfords Church Youth Club	Leader Martin Boughtwood	586440
Sampfords Cricket Club	Secretary Simon Green	07718 626092
	Cpts. James Smith/Steve Thrower	586511 / 07779 168214
Sampfords Flower Show	Secretary Fay Stalley	586397
Sampfords Baby & Toddler	Chair Sue Johnston	586164
Sampfords Hand Bell Ringers	Margaret Sorger	586356
Sampfords Signal (weekly email update)	Contact email:	sampfordssignal@gmail.com
Sampford Singers	Ali Wakelin	07717 125743
The Sampfords Society	Chair Steve Horne	586237
Sampfords Primary School PTA	Chair Sara Goggin	586287
	Secretary Nicola Robertson	586932
Sampfords Tennis Club	Chair Mike Lindsell	586586
	Membership Joan Lyon	586543
Sampfords WI	Secretary Yvonne Whitely	01371 832908
Gt. Sampford Fitness Club	Organiser Edna Banks	586409
Gt. Sampford Baptist Hall	Bookings Beryl Kemp	586432
Gt. Sampford Village Hall	Bookings Wendy Peacock (wend92@me.com)	586065
Baptist Sunday School	Ann Wolstenholme	586480
Seedlings Service	Sarah Kidd	586576
Sampfords Footpath Representative	Clare Watkins	586311
Sampfords 100 Club	Steve Ketteridge	586519
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To advertise in Ambo, contact Frank Bannister

Telephone 07850 199447

or 01799 598150

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