



SANDON TOPICS

Winter 2012 Newsletter from Sandon Parish Council

Website: www.sandon.info

SEASONS GREETINGS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

PARKING IN THE VILLAGE

We have once again been in contact with Sandon School regarding the inappropriate parking by parents collecting their children. The Head Teacher has sent out a leaflet to all parents which we hope will improve the situation. We have also notified the Police and Highways of the continuing problems and parking enforcement officers have been attending.

The parking in Brook View still remains a problem and numerous e-mails have been sent to ECC Highways, most of which have not been acknowledged or answered. We have requested site visits and urgent action to improve the situation but no attention to the problem has been given by ECC. The Parish Council will now put in a request to the newly formed joint agency Highways Panel in an attempt to force ECC to take action.

CHELMSFORD GOSPEL HALL

Residents received details from the Chelmsford Gospel Hall Trust regarding the proposed plans for their site which would dramatically increase the size of the hall and create over 200 parking spaces. A great number of parishioners attended two open evenings held at their current hall to express their views. We understand that a planning application will be lodged at which time we will respond appropriately.

FLU

As winter approaches, it's time for those at greatest risk from flu to protect themselves and their families, and get flu safe with a free flu jab. Flu is a highly contagious infection that anyone can catch and it can be a really serious illness for some. Those at greater risk from flu include people aged 65 or over, pregnant women and those with health conditions such as severe asthma, chest or heart complaints and those with Diabetes. If you are in the at risk groups or know anyone who is, the flu vaccine is completely free and is a safe way of protecting you and your family in a couple of minutes. For more information simply contact your GP practice to arrange an appointment and get your jab.

SANDON PARISH OPEN GARDENS DAY 2013

The Annual Open Gardens Day in the Parish in aid of Farleigh Hospice will be on Sunday 19th May 2013.

THE CROWN

We are delighted to welcome Simon & Deborah Dunkinson to the village as the new tenants and wish them every success.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

We now have 15 members of the Parish who have volunteered their services to conduct Community Speed Watch. We have now operated at two locations for just an hour; a total of eight vehicles have been recorded as breaking the speed limit between 40 and 45mph and these registration numbers have been passed to the Police for action. If any other resident feels they could contribute, please contact Neville Jessop on 01245 477874

ST ANDREW'S YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

FACTFILE:

- ❖ SAYF is a voluntary, self-financing group, established in 1974, with Junior and Teenage Sections.
- ❖ Member of NODA, RADIUS, NAYT and Jack Petchey Foundation Bronze Award Scheme.
- ❖ Group Leader: Peter J Ellis

Terry Catchpole (aged 8), Hall Lane

I go to Tuesday Club at Sandon Village Hall. I really enjoy going as I get to see my friends and I have made new ones. We get to play really cool games indoors or outside if the weather is nice. Also we can do colouring, make things, and play pool or table tennis. We also have a tuck shop where we can buy sweets, chocolates and drinks. Mr and Mrs Ellis, Julie and the other helpers make Tuesday Club really fun. I love going there.

Conor Hicks (aged 12), Woodhill Road

Sandon Youth Fellowship is a fun and safe place to meet old friends and make new ones. There are numerous activities for the senior club to do including table tennis, football, cricket, pool or just chatting to other people.

I will be appearing in the 2013 Pantomime of *Red Riding Hood*, playing 'Principal Boy'. Hope to see you all there!



St Andrew's Youth Fellowship is very appreciative of the financial support and interest in its work from Sandon Parish Council. The group is open to all young people and is able to accept new members now.

The Pantomime Red Riding Hood is at Sandon Village Hall 19th -23rd February at 7.30pm with a Saturday matinee at 2.30p.m. Tickets are available from the Box Office by phoning Tina 01245 604732 or email: tinaj1108 @virginmedia.com and Peter Ellis on 01245 222682.

NOTICE BOARDS

The Parish Council Notice Boards which were dilapidated at both the Village Hall and Howe Green have been replaced. These are now weather proof and lockable. Keys are held by the Parish Clerk.

We have received the following article from Australia and thought it would be of interest to residents:

MEMORIES OF SANDON (Courtesy of Alistair Woodcraft)

My name is Alistair Woodcraft and I live in Albany, a small city on the South Coast of Western Australia where I have lived since 1962. Having spent the early years of my life in the Parish until we left in 1952 to farm in Suffolk, I still retain an interest in the old village and follow its fortunes with interest through the medium of the Parish website.

Born in St Albans Hertfordshire, I arrived in Sandon in 1932 when my parents took over as tenants of Mayfield Farm in Mayes Lane. Those far off days were especially hard ones for small farmers as it was during the Great Depression and England was far from the land of benefits it is today.

Mayfield, located opposite the old gravel pits on the small rise past Mayes Farm was a small place of only 22 acres originally and had been completely run down by its previous owner. My parents were newly bankrupt from a failed business in Herts so started with nothing but a few dozen chickens, whose eggs they sold loose door to door in Chelmsford twice a week and later as the flock gradually increased, travelled over to St Albans and pedalled them likewise there. When I grew old enough I was expected to help of course and joined the 'sales' team at the tender age of six years, knocking on doors and asking for orders. This activity took place in all weathers and many's the time I sat on the bonnet of dad's old Erskine car in freezing weather in fog so thick you could not see three feet in front of you, wrapped in rugs and guiding him by hand signals along the side of the road which he could not see from inside the car. (Child abuse had not been heard of then).

Nevertheless life in the 30s' was good fun for a young lad brought up in the country in those far off days, and as the farm gradually grew and prospered, and I grew older I was taught all the old fashioned 'tricks of the trade' such as hand milking cows, feeding and handling pigs and poultry, and learning to spot their ailments early, and even ploughing behind two very large (to a lad of eight years) Clydesdale horses. Other skills that were learnt and never forgotten were thatching the hay and corn stacks (no combine harvesters then), and father even taught me how to mow around the corn field with a scythe, this being considered necessary in order not to spoil the grain when the horse and binder was brought into play.

I should add that the horse still reigned supreme in the 1930s and provided most of the power needed on the land. One of my favourite jobs as a young lad was taking the horses of the various farmers along to be shod by Dick Bush the blacksmith. The going rate for this chore was 3d per horse and sometimes I struck lucky and had two pairs in the one day. This was big money indeed.

My father, among other things, bred a few Clydesdales as a profitable sideline and it followed that I learnt how to break them into work and train them to pull the plough, the cart, the big four wheeled wooden wagons of the day, all the other agricultural implements in use on the land at that time.

The tricky bit was getting them used to all the different sounds these things made behind them for the first time in their lives, and one had to be very slow and deliberate with this part of their training otherwise they would take fright and bolt. More than once I found myself the unwilling passenger aboard a wagon careering flat out down a country lane behind a ton or so of frightened hay burner trying to slow it down enough to get the animal to realise the loud noises behind it was not going to hurt it..... Did I hear someone say country life was boring?

One of the highlights of the year was the arrival of the thrashing team. A heavy four wheel boxlike 'drum' was followed by the hay baler, a straw binder, an elevator, and sometimes a wooden caravan, all hooked together and hauled along the narrow lanes around Sandon by a huge snorting smelly 17 ton steel wheeled steam traction engine whose driver, standing on the back of the monster, not only had to steer the thing by brute force, but keep his steam pressure up by shovelling coal into the firebox at intervals as well. Watching all this paraphernalia being coaxed round tight corners and through narrow farm gates and set up in often muddy stackyards to the accompaniment of bawled directions and muttered oaths was a real education for a lad. Not to mention the vast amounts of water needed to quench the thirst of the engine while the 'drum' thrashed the corn from half a dozen big stacks during the following couple of days. Unfortunately the amazing skill that these manoeuvres required escaped me at the time, and they will never again be seen I fear.

To be continued in the next Newsletter

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

The Council meets at 7.15p.m on the 2nd Monday of each Month at Sandon Village Hall and on alternate months at Howe Green Chapel. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

IAN WRIGHT – CHAIRMAN (CITY COUNCILLOR)

Farm Cottage
Sporhams Lane
Danbury CM3 2AJ
01245 226289
i.wright@chelmsford.gov.uk

MARTIN CROSS

Magrathea
East Hanningfield Road
Howe Green CM2 7TQ
01245 478275
xfamily@nildram.co.uk

BERNARD PARMENTER

Chamberlains Farm
Sporhams Lane
Danbury CM3 4AJ
01245 221252
bernie@concisely-ltd.co.uk

SUZANNE RAMPTON

Willow Court
Butts Green Road
Sandon CM2 7RN
01245 223672
suzanne.rampton@tesco.net

SUE DOBSON - CLERK

Crack Willows, Mayes Lane
Sandon
CM2 7RP
01245 227734
parishclerk@sandon.info

DIANNE NEAL – VICE CHAIR

The Fold
Woodhill Road
Danbury CM3 4AL
01245 222330
dianne.neal@yahoo.co.uk

DAVID PEARSON

9 Chalklands
Howe Green
CM2 7TH
01245 471589
david@pearson7.plus.com

RON ROBBIN-COKER

10 St Swithins Cottages
Howe Green
CM2 7TN
01245 476808
ronrobco@aol.com

CITY COUNCILLORS

CHRIS KINGSLEY

97 Main Road
Danbury
CM3 4DL
01245 223744
c.kingsley@chelmsford.gov.uk

BOB SHEPHERD

2 Chase Cottages
Riffhams Chase
Little Baddow CM3 4AU
01245 223709
b.shepherd@chelmsford.gov.uk

IAN WRIGHT

Farm Cottage
Sporhams Lane
Danbury CM3 4AJ
01245 226289
i.wright@chelmsford.gov.uk

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Chelmsford Borough Council
Police
Broomfield Hospital
Citizens Advice Bureau
Trading Standards
Neighbourhood Watch

01245 606606
01245 491491 Ask for S Woodham Ferrers
01245 443673
0844 9938667
0845 4040506
01245 471589

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Church Warden
Church Warden
Rector
Sandon Parish Council
Bell Ringers
St Andrews Youth Fellowship
77 Youth Club
Women's Institute
Sports Club
Garden and Allotment Association
Howe Green URC
Howe Green URC Elder
Village Hall Management Committee
Guides
Brownies
Scouts
Beavers
Mother and Toddler Group
Village Hall Bookings
Parish Magazine Editor
Sandon Tiny Tots Toddler Group
Chelmsford Rambling Club
Parish Council Newsletter

Mrs J Terry	01245	472997
Mr M Puffett	01245	222066
Rev Clive Ashley	01245	243863
Mrs S Dobson	01245	227734
Mr N Tovey	01245	472692
Mr P Ellis	01245	222682
Mr P Ellis	01245	222682
Mrs A Harvey	01245	474294
Mr G Lucas	01245	283730
Mrs E Tappin	01245	476951
Rev J Sermon	01245	601662
Mrs P Knott	01245	471691
Mrs J Cecil	01245	224747
Ms J Ronaldson	07939	047987
Mrs S Little	01621	840525
Mr N Paul	01245	474891
Mrs J Bernades	01245	476830
Mrs A Read	01245	474858
Mr S Turner	01245	471575
Mr N Bobeldijk	01245	471756
Mrs A Read	01245	474858
Ms S Cutmore	01376	326327
Mrs D Neal	01245	222330