

SANDON TOPICS

Spring 2018 Newsletter from Sandon Parish Council



www.sandonparishcouncil.co.uk



The 2018 Annual Assembly

The Annual Assembly of Sandon Parish Council will be held in the Main Hall of The Sandon School, Molrams Lane, CM2 7AQ on Tuesday 24th April at 19:30. You are all very welcome to attend.

This is your opportunity to ensure that your Parish Council is living up to expectations. **It is a meeting that every Sandon resident should endeavour to attend.** Members of the Parish Council will be available to chat to as well as invited local officials and service providers. These are people we feel are relevant to our community life. They should be able to brief us on developments and answer questions from the parishioners. Some of these invited individuals and organisations will have stalls/tables in the hall and can give their individual attention to residents. Of special interest this year will be the Chelmsford Local Plan and its impact on Sandon and Howe Green communities. The speaker will bring us up to date on the plans for 3,000 new homes and how this will impinge on Sandon.

Please come along and make your contribution or ask questions on matters affecting you and the parish. Last year's Assembly was well attended and all agreed that it was an interesting event.

The Sandon Cup will also be presented to a local resident. As is customary, the identity of the recipient is kept a secret until the night.

Refreshments (kindly organised by the WI) will be served. We look forward to seeing you all there!

For further information please contact the Parish Clerk.



Sandon Neighbourhood Development Plan

A group of residents in Sandon are starting the process of producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan. We enclose our questionnaire with this *Topics* where it will be delivered to every house in the Parish.

It asks for your thoughts about the Parish and about future housing which will be needed in this area to accommodate people wanting to live and work in this wonderful part of the country.

You can respond to the questionnaire using the paper version and posting it back in the stamped addressed envelope when completed, or you can respond electronically as outlined in the questionnaire.

It will give you an opportunity to share your views about where new housing should go and, for example, whether you would prefer to see one large development or several on a smaller scale.

Please take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire so that your views will be represented - **you could win a £50 prize.**

Thank you

Judy Cecil

Secretary to Neighbourhood Development Plan Group



Chairman's Message

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy 2018. It has been a rather grey, cold and damp start to the year, but trust that once Spring has arrived, things will brighten up. Enjoying seeing the snowdrops, daffodils and soon the blue bells (British not Spanish!!)

We welcomed a new Councillor to our ranks at the February meeting, Mr James Colbeck. He brings a wealth of enthusiasm to the team and we are really pleased to have filled our vacancy. However, we are happy to invite more to the team if you wish to help and make a difference to the Parish.

Congratulations to our Clerk, Ted Munt for attaining the CiLCA qualification, very well done.

Sandon is a little quieter these days which is good except for a very large muddy puddle at the end of Hall Lane just before Plumping Bridge. We are trying very hard to get this sorted but it is not going to be easy, with the need for some new pipework and getting Highways to act has proved challenging but now we have been promised it will be sorted in the next financial year. Don't forget you can report Highways items on their website too!

Thank you to the kind donors of the plants in the road narrowing flower bed on Southend Road. It will look lovely once these take root and spread out. Looking forward to seeing the flowers on the rhododendrons. We need help with the beds on Gingerbread Hill still!!

Concern has been voiced again about littering and the failure to pick up dog mess. Please be responsible and keep our Parish clean and tidy, it can be placed in the household rubbish bin, so no excuse.

We have put mirrors up at the end of Mayes Lane and at the T Junction of Butts Green and East Hanningfield Road. These help such a lot to see if any vehicles are coming, but please still be very careful at these junctions. We have also resurfaced the Howe Green car park which I think you will agree looks brilliant, and so much better than the muddy patch we did have. Shame we do not have the funds to tarmac it!

We have included in this *Topics* some items from local artists again which we hope you enjoy and an item from Western Australia regarding the Quarry as it was around 1931. Lovely to think ex residents still enjoy looking at the Council web page to see what is happening here, even from the other side of the world.

Chelmsford's pre-submission of the Local Plan is on the Parish website, Facebook page and the HGCA site, and you can make your comments to the City Council regarding this.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan community group have been having regular meetings and have produced a questionnaire for you (**included as an insert in this edition of Topics**) to let them know what you want for the Parish of Sandon. PLEASE take the time to complete it. It took a lot of effort to produce and would be soul destroying if you didn't bother to reply. They need to hear from you and to know that you care what happens in the future to our Parish.

Last, but not least, I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to Ron Robbin-Coker for his excellent work in producing the Topics once again.

Dee

All Parish Council information is available on our website including minutes of meetings at www.sandonparishcouncil.co.uk. The Council meets at 7.15 pm on the 2nd Monday of each Month at St Andrews Church meeting room and on alternate months at Howe Green Chapel. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

WE EXTEND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO ALL NEW RESIDENTS

A SANDON POET – Alan Mitchell

Hello, I am Alan Mitchell of Howe Green Sandon. Dee asked me to prepare something about my work as this edition of Sandon Topics has a 'creative' air to it. I have lived in Howe Green for 11 years, recently retired from the Police Service and have been able to return to endeavours I have always loved – writing poetry and fiction, creating and performing music and taking lots and lots of photographs.

I have been lucky enough to write for recent editions of the HGCA Newsletter and now am being inflicted upon the wider Sandon community. I have released several collections of my poetry into the wild, published some fiction into print and also have a Kindle presence in the forested world of Amazon.

Writing is much more than a hobby or pastime for me. I write every day or so in reaction to thoughts, ideas or scenes I have encountered. My fiction is more thought-based and character-led who; like the mind that creates them, surf upon a different reality curve. In late 2017 I published a first collection of short stories for the 'tween reader – 'Dances of Friendship', and my poetry collection of 2017 ('Moments in Time') will be available in print and digital formats in February.

Well, I suppose that at this stage I should share a poem with you so you can see what I mean. I believe that poetry is best endured – I mean *experienced* – when heard free on the air. So why not try reading it out when no one else will be around to worry about you? In best 'Blue Peter' tradition, here's one 'what I wrote earlier' about our house on a school day morning:

HOUSE

**The life of a house is the beat of a heart
Even cold mornings when the day has to start**

**The rooms come alive with the yawning and stretching
School clothes to find (all that looking and fetching)**

**Shoes can't be found so we rush round the places
pumping the blood to the often-hid spaces**

**Systolic reaction to the needs of the house
'til the blood empties out and it's quiet like mouse**

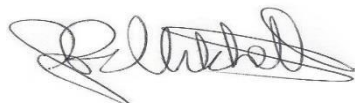
**The burst and the rhythm for that hour or so
When the lifeblood is lost and the family all go**

**and the heart is left lonely not quite dead, nor alive
'til the blood and the life all return to revive**

Home 0738
5th January 2016

I know that poetry seems not to be for everyone, but I hope that this short piece has been diverting and entertaining for you. If it has chimed with you at all, and you'd like to find out more, then why not visit my website: www.arcwriting.weebly.com as this will provide links to my Kindle Author page and will also show you how you can buy a copy of one of my books (should the mood take you!).

Well, I've probably taken up too much of your time already so until we meet again, keep on reading, stay safe and every blessing all,



Sports Club

Sandon Sports Club is well into another season of football and continues to be successful. Our new Under 7 teams are now enjoying their regular fixtures and its always lovely to see them enjoying themselves! The newly formed girls' teams are going from strength to strength and will now be playing in the Essex Girls County League from this month.

Sandon Royals have been in top 4 of Division 1 up to present. Test will be can we maintain momentum with growing injury list and players going skiing? We have cup 1/4 final on the 27th so our season will be determined over the next month.

Regretfully we have still not managed to find a cricket team to replace the team that folded. We would love to see this back up and running for the new upcoming season so if anyone can offer any support please do get in touch.

Please remember our Clubhouse is open for hot drinks and snacks on a Saturday and Sunday morning and we are always happy to see members of the village if you would like to pop in for a bacon roll after a dog walk!

Vicki Kohler, Secretary



Memories of Sandon

Living in Sandon from 1931 to 1953 I read the Council website each month to keep myself informed and noticed a comment in the 2017 Newsletter on the Quarry voids.

Known to the village then simply as Stubbins gravel pits, I watched the big aggregate Washer being built less than 100 meters opposite our Mayfield farmhouse in Mayes Lane and the subsequent growth of the voids down to some 25 meters in depth.

Commandeered by the Army in early 1940 the Southern void was deepened by army personnel for filling sandbags while the Northern void was all too frequently used by the Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal Unit to detonate bombs deemed too unsafe to defuse, shattering the peace of the village. Equally unsettling were the heavy anti aircraft guns, brought into the pits and keeping the village awake every time the sirens in Chelmsford went off. Our home town got a severe battering at times with many killed and wounded, its factories being prime targets.

Dawn one morning at the height of the invasion scare saw us watching the local Home Guard Unit conducting a noisy exercise around the pits with their blank ammo and flash grenades. Unfortunately they had failed to advise the Royal Engineers, billeted at the nearby Potash Farm on the Maldon Road, who rapidly turned up in force with real ammunition and three Bren gun carriers to fight an expected German Parachute attack!

Luckily an observant RE officer spotted a Home Guard helmet rather than a German one and nobody got killed.

Others my age may recall the Battle of Britain, fought above our heads, the sight and sound of falling planes and the many hundreds of enemy bombers, enroute to pound London, and the bombs they dumped around the countryside in their efforts to avoid the British fighters awaiting them high above, ready to jump them out of the sun.

Life had to go on nevertheless while keeping a wary eye out for low flying enemy fighter aircraft on their way home and looking out for anything moving, watching and listening for the noisy crackle of the speedy V1 unmanned flying bombs (Doodlebugs), with their deadly load in their nose, the writer well recalling the night a low flying V1 clipped all the chimneys off the Mayfield house with its wing, before crashing and exploding on Galleywood Common.

The V2 rockets came later, this time arriving before you heard them but just as devastating. As the old song goes "Memories are made of this."



Flood Prevention in Sandon

Sandon Parish Council has launched an internal project to evaluate the flood problems on the highways and surrounds in Sandon. The purpose of this exercise is to identify all the areas prone to flooding, to investigate the causes and to develop a plan to prevent or minimize this problem in the future. However, the Sandon Parish Council will not be able to implement these plans directly because it is illegal to maintain, repair or alter any part of the highway unless formally authorized. Highways matters are the legal responsibility of the Essex County Council Highways Department – who are not very good at communicating or getting things done. Of course, this does make the project more difficult, but we do also have plans to handle this handicap as well.

This work will interface with farmland drainage and it is, therefore, of interest to the local farmer, Richard Speakman, who is supportive of this initiative and has already contributed to the investigation. If there are any residents of Sandon who have an issue with flooding or drainage and would like to talk about it, please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance.



Howe Green United Reformed Church



We continue to meet together regularly on the third Sunday in each month. This is often in the form of ‘Cafe Church’, with different leaders from time to time, which makes it very interesting and enjoyable. The services are at 4.00 pm.

We are also having our usual social events this year, starting with Fairtrade Coffee Morning from 10.00 am on Saturday 3rd March followed by a Fairtrade wine and cheese evening at St. Andrews Room, Sandon from 7.30 pm on Saturday 10th March.

On Monday 23rd April we will have a St. George’s Day Tea, and our Strawberry Cream Tea on Saturday 9th June, both from 3.00 pm. Following the success of last year’s event we are planning another ‘Church Crawl’ Lunch on Saturday 30th June, from 12.00 pm so look out for the details nearer that date.



On Sunday 20th May it is our Church Anniversary (145 years) so we will be having a special service that day at 11.00 am.

Rev. Mark Meatcher is still acting as Interim Minister whilst we look for a regular Minister who we will share with Great Baddow URC and Christ Church Chelmsford. We also continue to share many occasions with St. Andrews Church, and these are shown in their Magazine.

So do come and share these events with us.

St. Andrews Church – Events



**FAIRTRADE
FORTNIGHT**

27 FEBRUARY – 12 MARCH

Saturday 3rd March: 10 00 am – 12 noon **Fair Trade Coffee morning** at Howe Green United Reform Church

Saturday 10th March: 7.30 pm – **Fair Trade Wine and Cheese evening** in St. Andrew's Room. **Please email the Rector on tgabrown@hotmail.com to reserve your place if you wish to attend this event.**

Sunday 11th March: 10.00 am – **Mothering Day Service.** **Please support this service where we remember our Mothers and children receive flowers for their mothers.**



Easter Services at St. Andrews Church

Sunday 25th March: 10 00 am – **Palm Sunday Service**

We will meet on The Green at 9.50 am and then process into church with or without the donkey!

Monday 26th March: 9.30 am – **Morning Prayer**
7.30 pm – **Stations of the Cross**

Tuesday 27th March: 9.30 am – **Holy Communion**
7.30 pm – **Come Dine with Me** (Passover Meal; please sign list in Church)

Wednesday 28th March: 9.30 am – **Morning Prayer**
7.30 pm – **Stations of the Cross**

Thursday 29th March: 9.30 am – **Celtic Morning Prayer**
(Maundy Thursday) 11.00 am – **Chrism Service in Chelmsford Cathedral**
7.30 pm – **Sung Eucharist** followed by stripping of Altars and meditation in Church. Watch until 11pm

Friday 30th March: 9.30 pm – **Morning Prayer and Stations of the Cross**
(Good Friday) 11.00 am – **United service in centre of Chelmsford**
2.00 pm – **Final hour at the Cross**

Sunday 1st April: 8.00 am – **Holy Communion**
(Easter Sunday) 8.45 am – **Easter Breakfast** (for 8.00 am & 10.00 am Congregations).
10.00 am – **Sung Eucharist followed by Easter Egg Hunt.**
4.00 pm – **Easter Sunday Tea and worship** at Howe Green URC

Sunday 15th April: 4.00 pm – **Cafe Church Service** at Howe Green URC

Saturday 21st April: 8.30 am – **Ladies Breakfast** at Butts Green Garden Centre.

Speaker Revd Suzy Edmundson Only £8.00 Book your place by ringing Janet on 01245 472997 or signing the booking sheet on the welcome table.

Monday 23rd April: 3.00 pm – **St George's Day** – Tea at Howe Green URC

Important contact details

TED MUNT – CLERK Sandon Parish Council, Recreation Ground, Rectory Chase, Sandon, Chelmsford, CM2 7SQ. Tel: 01245 477111 parishclerk@sandon.info Hours 09:30 – 12:30 Mon a.m. and Wed a.m.			
Parish Councillors		Areas of responsibility/representation	
DEE HYATT Peartree Lodge, 2 The Old Orchard, Howe Green CM2 7TX Tel: 01245 697015 dee.hyatt@virgin.net	CHAIRMAN Planning Sandon Quarry Liaison Committee Rep		
MARTIN CROSS Magrathea, East Hanningfield Road, Howe Green CM2 7TQ Tel: 01245 478910 martincross@gmail.com	VICE CHAIR Finance Sandon Village Hall Committee of Management Rep Parish Transport Committee		
CEDRIC CALMEYER 25 Hall Lane, Sandon, CM2 7RJ Tel: 01245 478900 cedhilcal@aol.com	Maintenance Allotments		
RON BULLUS Rumbolds House, Hammonds Road, Sandon CM2 7RS Tel: 01245 473633 rbullus188@btinternet.com	Sandon Sports Club Committee Rep Personnel		
ROSEMARY HOARE 3 East Hanningfield Road, Howe Green, CM2 7TJ Tel: 01245 473974 rosemaryhoare@aol.com	Parochial Church Council (PCC) Rep Personnel		
JAMES COLBECK 51 Hall Lane, Sandon, CM2 7RJ Tel: 07949849674 jameshcolbeck@gmail.com			
ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR IAN GRUNDY Tel: 01277 840737			
CITY COUNCILLORS (LITTLE BADDOW, DANBURY & SANDON)			
RICHARD AMBOR Tel: 01245 222874	2 Hay Green, Danbury, Chelmsford, CM2 4NU richard.ambor@chelmsford.gov.uk		
BOB SHEPHERD, MBE Tel: 01245 223709	2 Chase Cottages, Riffhams Chase, Little Baddow, CM3 4AU b.shepherd@chelmsford.gov.uk		
IAN WRIGHT Tel: 01245 226289	Farm Cottage, Sporhams Lane, Danbury, CM3 4AJ i.wright@chelmsford.gov.uk		
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS			
Chelmsford City Council	01245	606606	
Police	01245	491491	Ask for S Woodham Ferrers
Broomfield Hospital	01245	443673	
Citizens Advice Bureau	0845	4040506	
Neighbourhood Watch	01245	471589	
LOCAL ORGANISATIONS			
St Andrew's Church - Priest in Charge	Revd Terry Brown	01245	698988
Church Wardens	Mr M. Puffett	01245	222066
	Mrs J. Cecil	01245	224747
PCC Secretary	Ms A. Cosby	01245	475680
PCC Treasurer	Mr N. Bobeldijk	01245	471756
Bell Ringers	Mr N. Tovey	01245	472692
Women's Institute	Mrs D. Gray	01245	223609
Howe Green URC	Rev Mark Meatcher	01702	342120
Howe Green URC Elder	Mrs P. Knott	01245	471691
Village Hall Management Committee	Ms J. Fisher	01245	475976
Beavers	Mrs J. Bernades	01245	476830
Cubs	Mr Steve Eatley	07957	802898
Scouts	Miss A. Agombar	07549	206055
Village Hall Bookings www.sandonvillagehall.webs.com	Mr R. Kerslake	01245	472386
Sandon Tiny Tots/Mother and Toddler Group	Mrs A. Read	01245	474858 or 07720 718372
Chelmsford Rambling Club	Ms M. Say	01245	381262
Sandon Parish Magazine Editor	Mr R. Cecil	01245	224747
Sandon Sports Club	Mrs V. Kohler	07957	300027
Are your details correctly listed? If not, please contact the Parish Council Clerk on 01245 477111			

