

SANDON TOPICS

Winter 2020 Newsletter from Sandon Parish Council



www.sandonparishcouncil.co.uk



Chairman's Message

Autumn is here already, the trees are changing colour and dropping their leaves, and acorns are raining on our heads. More acorns than I can ever remember!

What a strange year we have had. COVID19 reigning terror onto our peaceful land, a beautifully warm and sunny summer, so that even when we had to stay at home we could at least enjoy our gardens and get those outdoor jobs done that we had ignored.... Then summer abruptly ended with wind and rain. Hey ho. It is England after all. I do hope most of you managed to stay free of germs, and have remained safe and healthy. Very sorry if you were, or are, affected and trust you are coping. If you need any help from the Parish Council, then please do not hesitate to contact us. Our details are on the last page. We can assist with all manner of things if needed.

The proposed developments north of Sandon are beginning. Presentations via Zoom have been made. You can see the information on Redrow Homes 3b, c and d and Hopkins Homes 3c on their web sites. The Redrow presentation was very slick showing full layouts of housing, paths, roads etc. Hopkins Homes have only addressed the Parkland (Sandford Park) behind the development and running down to the lakes. Quite a few questions were asked at these presentations by locals, addressing bridleways, traffic, infrastructure and lakes etc. We expect the planning applications from Redrow Homes at the end of the year when we will all have an opportunity to have our say. We have had a virtual meeting with residents of Molrams Lane who wished to voice their concerns over the Redrow Homes 3c proposals, which was very informative and useful.

The Parish Council are pleased to announce, and welcome, Jodie O'Driscoll as our new Parish Councillor. She is a resident of Sandon with a young family and is welcomed with open arms. It is lovely to have a younger member of the team who will no doubt bring a new dynamic to the mix. This brings our team of Councillors to the full complement of seven.

Halloween has come and gone with some residents putting on a very decorative display. I am sharing a few of these lovely works of art with you to enjoy too



Sandon Neighbourhood Development Plan (SNDP)

During 2020 the Sandon Neighbourhood Development plan group have been meeting monthly and making slow but noticeable progress. We had a break after our March meeting, during lockdown, getting together again monthly since June, via zoom. Our meeting minutes are available on the SNDP website at ndp4sandon.co.uk

There is now a draft SNDP, based on evidence from the resident's questionnaire, Sandon school questionnaire, a business survey and some engagement with local groups as well as a good deal of informal discussion with residents at village events such as the Parish Council Annual Assembly, Church Summer Fete and 'Tea on the Green'. There are also supporting documents which we will submit, including the Village Design Statement of a few years back and some paperwork detailing road safety and traffic issues and the local environment.

We are now looking to engage with a planning consultant to check that we are 'going along the right road', and before pressing on to complete the documents. The government acknowledge that a group of volunteers will need help to produce documents which are in an acceptable format and use the correct planning language, so there are grants available.

It is becoming more urgent to complete the SNDP. As you will have already read, Redrow developers are moving on with their plans to build around 100 houses on the land behind Sandon school on the land facing Molrams Lane and the A414, as well another 50 houses near to the Park and Ride. The SNDP will give us opportunity to have a say in aspects of these developments and to have input into any future plans for housing in this still relatively peaceful rural area. Hopefully the SNDP will soon progress to a local consultation, submission to Chelmsford City Council for comments then an independent examination and finally a local referendum before adoption of the plan during 2021

Community Governance Review

Chelmsford CC have been in touch regarding a Community Governance Review, looking at certain areas e.g.

- whether you wish to make changes to existing ward arrangements or create new wards in your parish area
- whether you wish to create a group of parish councils
- **whether you wish to change the name of your parish**
- whether you wish to change the style of your parish/town council (eg community, village or neighbourhood councils)
- whether to increase or decrease the number of seats at your council (every parish council must have at least five councillors and guidance would help inform any review if you feel that would be helpful)
- changes to parish boundaries

We had no appetite for most of these but did wonder whether our Parish name ‘Sandon’ suited our Parish as it includes three areas, with Howe Green, Butts Green and Sandon. It is stated in Reg Bush’s book (a fascinating read) that between AD50 and AD400, Sandon paid its dues to Rome and enjoyed relative peace in the Roman Empire with cultivated land, agriculture, tanning and textile making and creative iron working. Showing that Sandon has been in existence for a very long time, and therefore should we really change it? If you have a strong view and or a very fitting new name for our Parish, perhaps you could let us know via the Clerk - details on last page.

What’s in our hedgerows

This is not a feature on the best of what nature has to offer at this time of year but sadly, a focus on what nasties are to be found lurking on our verges and in the hedgerows.

My husband and I (Cllr Williamson writes) took a sack and a litter picker with us and within fifteen minutes of starting the walk from our front door, the sack was full. This was only a distance of some one hundred yards along East Hanningfield Road. We could have filled four times that number of sacks.

It is possible that some of this rubbish is scatter from our recycling and bin collections but this feature is a plea to you all – take a look and keep it clear!

If we all do our bit to make sure that anything floating off from our recycling or rubbish is gathered up quickly and we keep on top of any thoughtless cast offs, we can make sure that our verges and hedgerows are kept as nature intended and not a rubbish bin.

If you would like a free litter picker, please contact our Parish Clerk; limited numbers – first come first served.

Let’s make Sandon Parish a litter free zone!

Thank you!

Before

And after, safely bagged!



Resurfacing of St Andrews Church Car Park

The St Andrews Church car park has been in need of repair for some time and we are pleased to announce that this work has now been completed. In a joint effort between the Parish Council and the Church, the car park has been resurfaced. Although the car park belongs to the Church, the Church kindly allows its use free of charge to the benefit of the community for which many parishioners are thankful. The Parish Council therefore agreed to support the work to enable it to be completed before the worst of the winter weather created more holes in the surface. This would have become increasingly a nuisance and a danger to the users of the car park.

The finished result!



Sandon Village Hall

The Sandon Village Hall, like many other establishments, was closed during the first lockdown period due to COVID-19 restrictions and then began to reopen in September 2020 when a slow trickle of organisations returned, plus two new groups joining. The second vulnerable dementia carers group were able to resume meaning that for two days a week we have been able to offer them very valuable support. The first group returned in July.

Unfortunately as a result of the one month lockdown in November the majority of the groups have not been able to meet. We look forward to welcoming them all back in December.

We have suffered a loss of income but we are still financially secure.

The SVH Committee of Management have not been idle and have been able to finish a number of cleaning and decorating jobs and organise the kitchen refurbishment in August. All necessary safety checks and electrical work have continued. It has been a difficult time for the SVHCM Officers who have worked tirelessly and are all volunteers.

We feel sure that people will understand that we are NOT taking any private hires for the time being because of the problems with restrictions constantly changing.

For full updates and hire enquiries please visit our website www.sandonvillagehall.webs.com

Discontinuation of the two village Yahoo Groups

As you are all no doubt aware, Yahoo has decided that they will be shutting down their Yahoo Groups from 15th December 2020. There are two separate groups in the village, managed independently from the Parish Council. One geared towards Sandon, the other for Howe Green residents only. It is very likely that Sandon will follow Howe Green and use the google group facility. For the record, the Howe Green group can be contacted via email on dsp2026@gmail.com. You can ask the administrator to add you to the circulation list.

Note that there is already a Sandon Parish Council facebook page. This is run by the Parish Council.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sandonparishcouncil>

You could sign into this as well. However, we do understand that there are some residents who do not wish to engage with facebook.

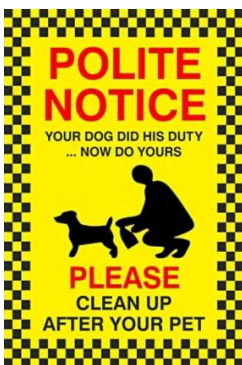
Dog Fouling



Dog Fouling is a serious worry for many people. According to reliable estimates, there are around 8 million dogs in the UK and our furry friends produce over 1,000 tonnes of faeces each day. Chelmsford City Council recently announced that the Public Spaces Protection Order prohibiting dog fouling in the Chelmsford City Council area is to be extended for a further three years to November 2023. This order is made under national Anti-Social Behaviour legislation and allows the council to take action against individuals who allow their dogs to foul on public land and do not remove it. This item is therefore a timely reminder why dog fouling is such a major issue in local communities and why it causes such an outcry.

Dog faeces are unsightly and unpleasant and can lead to Canine Parvovirus (Parvo), which is a potentially fatal disease for unvaccinated dogs but a more serious health issue with dog faeces is that it can lead to Toxocariasis in humans. Toxocariasis can cause serious illness and can even lead to blindness. It is caused by a parasite, known as Toxocara Canis, also commonly referred to as Roundworm. Dogs act as hosts for the parasite and the eggs they produce are released via the infected dog's faeces. These eggs can remain active in the soil for many years, long after the dog mess has been washed away by the rain. If the eggs are then ingested by someone, for example a small child, they may hatch into larvae and thus lead to toxocariasis. Soil which had dog faeces on it many years ago may still contain active eggs. Toxocariasis most commonly affects children between the ages of one and four years old. They are also the age group least likely to wash their hands properly, if at all, after playing outside or picking up something they shouldn't. The symptoms of toxocariasis can be particularly nasty. They can include seizures, stomach upsets, sore throats, breathing difficulties such as asthma, and eye problems. If the eyes are affected and the condition remains untreated, it can lead to permanent blindness. The best way to prevent toxocariasis is to pick up and dispose of your dog's faeces immediately. It isn't just non-dog owners that get upset by dog mess in public places. Most dog owners are responsible and clean up after their dog, and so find it very frustrating when other dog owners do not do so, as it gives all dog owners a bad name.

Whether a bag is used to pick up the mess or a scooper, it should be placed in a bin. Responsible owners don't hang it on a tree, leave it on the pathway or throw it over the fence or hedge. Sandon Parish Council have provided bins especially for dog mess in areas where fouling has been highlighted. In areas without a dedicated dog bin - you can use any public bin. However, if there is not one nearby, that is not an excuse or a reason not to pick up the dog mess – it should be picked up, taken home and disposed of it in a domestic bin.



Just a word of caution, when disposing of dog waste at home, make sure it doesn't go in a garden waste recycling bin as the eggs could still be active in the product that is created from your recycled garden waste. Local councils have a duty to keep public areas such as parks, playgrounds and pavements clear of dog mess. This means that local authorities have to spend millions of pounds of tax payers' money which could be used to finance other essential frontline services.

If you are aware of a problem area for dog fouling then you should report it to Chelmsford City Council, letting them know when and where the problem occurs and as much detail and relevant information as possible so that they can deal with the problem. You are not advised to approach irresponsible dog owners directly. The Chelmsford City Council website has a whole section dedicated to dogs, the link to report dog fouling is reproduced below.

<https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/environment-and-public-health/dogs/report-dog-fouling/>

Councils can issue fixed penalty orders in relation to dog control orders. Persistent and serious offenders may face a criminal prosecution in a Magistrates Court which carries a maximum penalty of £1000.

Essex Forest Initiative

Would you be interested in supporting this initiative? Do you have time to offer to help with planting the saplings (subject to any COVID-19 guidance)? Can you identify an area within the Parish that might be suitable for additional planting?



Essex County Council have launched this initiative to plant 375,000 trees across Essex within five years (launched in October 2019). They are now looking ahead to the next planting season: November 2021 to March 2022.

It is an initiative primarily aimed at Parish Councils but as your counsellors, we have not been able to identify any areas of parish owned land that would benefit in our Parish. Do tell us if you think differently!

The scheme is also open to “voluntary sector partners” and “private landowners”. Please note Essex County Council will only supply the trees: the rest is up to you! If you have an area of land well suited to this you will need to be able to recruit enough volunteers for planting and be committed to look after them.

If you are interested, then please contact our parish Clerk for more details.

Butts Green green

During April this year, the Parish Council decided to clear the area, of designated village green, at the junction of Butts Green road and East Hanningfield road, of the brambles and overgrowth that was choking the area. There are three drainage ditches that cross the field which, because of the overgrowth, could not be cleared and cleaned. All the trees that could be saved were, and then trimmed to permit access. After clearing, the area was rotovated and grass seeded.

Before the work was carried out.



And after, much better visibility when coming out of Butts Green Road!



As the area is a village green, it needs a name in order to identify its location and value. Please let us know, via the Clerk or any of the Councillors, your thoughts for a name for this valuable piece of your Parish (contact details on the last page)

Note that further work is needed. The drainage ditch in the direction of Howe Green is in a poor state of repair. As this area is designated a village green, then the Parish Council are obliged to carry out restoration work on this ditch. This is considered to be remedial and is necessary work to prevent further flooding of nearby properties. The work will be undertaken during November and December.

St Clere's Solar Farm

We have also been approached by a British-owned investment and asset management company regarding a proposed St Clere's Solar Farm between the Hammonds Farm fields and Danbury Quarry. Although this is not in our Parish, we were given a presentation. We are very aware for the need for renewable energy. The following explains their proposals in a little more detail.

Low Carbon is introducing proposals for a new solar farm, situated west of the town of Danbury, to be known as St Clere's Solar Farm. The solar farm will be sited within the Parish of Danbury and will produce approx 25mw of clean renewable energy. See map for more information



The site extends to approx 35 hectares (86 acres) and is effectively split into two distinct landholdings either side of the Aggregate Industries quarry complex to the north of Main Road. The western site comprises two large flat arable fields surrounded to the north and east by mature woodland. The majority of the site has a Grade 3b agricultural land classification, with 9 ha being Grade 4. Important statistics include:

25 MW solar farm capacity

8,307 homes powered each year

5,616 tonnes of CO2 saved each year

2,593 cars taken off the road.

If you have further queries in relation to this project, either access their engagement platform <https://stcleressolarfarm.commonplace.is> or contact the project team direct. Their details are below:

Email them at: stcleres@pegasusgroup.co.uk, quoting St Clere's Solar Farm

Call their Freephone information line: **0800 047 8957** (Monday-Friday, 9am—5pm)

Write to them at: **Freepost LOW CARBON UK SOLAR DEVELOPMENT**

Howe Green picnic August 30th 2020

At 1pm on Bank Holiday weekend Sunday 30th August, 23 intrepid Howe Green residents met for a socially distanced picnic by kind invitation of Gilly Longhurst, in her lovely garden. Everyone turned up in coats but despite the unseasonably cold weather we had a lovely time catching up with friends and neighbours who we hadn't seen for many months. There was no preparation required as everyone brought their own picnic which made a pleasant change for the committee and regular helpers. We would like to say a big thank you to Gilly for hosting a very enjoyable get together which was appreciated by all who attended.



The Middle Green, Hall Lane

The middle green in Sandon Village has long been an open, safe area for all the community. The Parish Council took over the area from CCC and has spent considerable time and effort into making the area a neat and tidy place for public enjoyment. Following repeated damage to the green by Council vehicles, CCC decided that the only long term solution would be to install a line of bollards along the edge of the green. It was agreed by both Councils that the Parish would supply the materials and the City would carry the costs of installation. The work was completed in September.

The damage



Now protected



“SANDON, A VILLAGE HISTORY” BY REG BUSH –what a fantastic Christmas gift for your nearest and dearest!

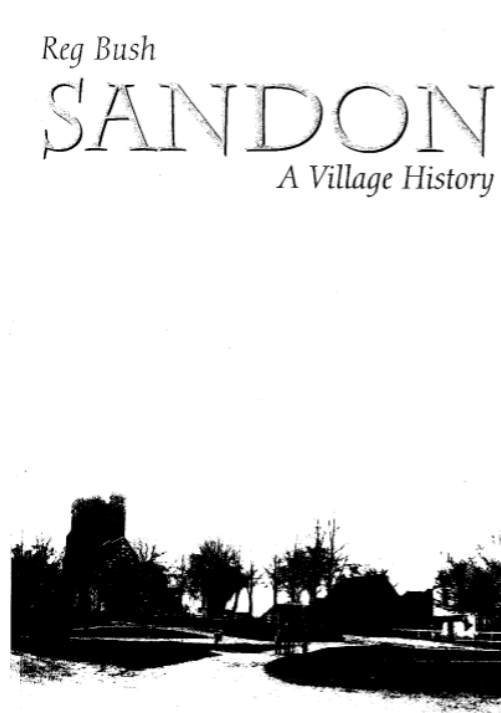
We have all had to hunker down and isolate ourselves at various times during this year. We have to hope that 2021 will be better. However, if those games of Happy Families, or Monopoly, or repeated viewings of your box sets, have started to pall, then how about a bit of light reading? Fortunately for you, we can provide an answer to all of your problems – the Reg Bush book “Sandon, a village history.”

This is a fascinating read which covers the history of the village from its earliest known origins up to the end of the twentieth century. Do you think you know everything about where you live? This book will certainly help fill in some of the gaps. What better way to understand the history of village and learn more about some of the fascinating characters that populated our parish.

Copies are available for sale from the Parish Council. They cost £10 each and can be ordered from the Clerk. He can be contacted in person either at the Parish Office, by phone 01245 477111, or by email parishclerk@sandon.info. If you live in the parish, then the book could even be hand delivered to your door.

Note that all profits from this wonderful and interesting book will go to “The Friends of St. Andrews”.

Order a copy NOW and remind yourself about the history of the Parish, as well as supporting the upkeep of the church



The author was born at Sandon in February 1911 and educated at Great Baddow. In 1926 he joined the staff of the County Council at the Shire Hall, Chelmsford, and ten years later was made responsible for the preparation of the Electors' Lists and the Jurors Book for Essex and for the conduct of parliamentary elections in the eight County Constituencies.

When elections were suspended at the outbreak of war in 1939 the Home Office offered him the appointment of Clerk to the Government Referees on Evacuation. After two years in that office he joined the Royal Navy and while serving in the Mediterranean as a Lieutenant-Commander in May 1945 he was urgently summoned home to supervise, in Essex, the forthcoming general election.

Retiring in 1974, he was recalled in the following year to work with the Home Office in planning the Referendum, and then to organise and conduct the Referendum and the count for the whole of Essex.

Elected to Sandon Parochial Church Council on the 5th March 1929, he has now completed seventy years as a member.

In 1950 he married Margaret (Peggy) Mott and they took up residence at Graces Cross, where they spent the next thirty-three years. They have two children, Anthony (John) and Diana, and four grandchildren.

STOP PRESS

At the time of this going to the printers, we have been made aware of a proposed development of 4 gas reciprocating engines and ancillary plant in the southwest corner of the field at the end of Cards Road. The Parish Council is against this development as its location is completely inappropriate. We will be listing our objections on the Chelmsford City Council Planning portal and we would encourage the residents to put their concerns onto this site as well. You will need to hurry as the closing date for comments is 30th November. However, they may accept further views after this date, so do not let this stop you from contacting them. You can find the webpage by following these links from the Chelmsford City Council Home page [Home](#) > [Planning and building control](#) > [View or comment on planning applications](#) > View or comment online. The reference number for this plan is 20/01720/FUL. Contact the Clerk, or a Councillor, if you need help accessing this.

IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS

TED MUNT – CLERK Sandon Parish Council, Recreation Ground, Rectory Chase, Sandon, Chelmsford, CM2 7SQ. Tel: 01245 477111 parishclerk@sandonpc.plus.com 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 763744 cllrhyattsandonpc@gmail.com		CHAIRMAN Planning Sandon Quarry Liaison Committee Rep	
MARTIN CROSS Magrathea, East Hanningfield Road, Howe Green CM2 7TQ Tel: 01245 478910 cllrcrosssandonpc@gmail.com		VICE CHAIR Finance Parish Transport Committee	
CEDRIC CALMEYER 25 Hall Lane, Sandon, CM2 7RJ Tel: 01245 478900 cllrcalmeyersandonpc@gmail.com		Maintenance Allotments	
ALAN KALBFELL 4, The Tythings, Howe Green CM2 7TU Tel: 07802 762620 cllrkalbfellsandonpc@gmail.com		Sandon Sports Club Committee Rep Sandon Village Hall Rep	
ELAINE WILLIAMSON cllrewilliamsonsandonpc@gmail.com		Personnel	
JODIE O'DRISCOLL Contact the Clerk			
JAMES COLBECK 51 Hall Lane, Sandon, CM2 7RJ Tel: 07949849674 cllrcolbecksandonpc@gmail.com		Parochial Church Council (PCC) Rep	
ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR IAN GRUNDY Tel: 01277 840737			
CITY COUNCILLORS (LITTLE BADDOW, DANBURY & SANDON)			
RICHARD AMBOR 2 Hay Green, Danbury, Chelmsford, CM2 4NU Tel: 01245 222874 richard.ambor@chelmsford.gov.uk BOB SHEPHERD, MBE 2 Chase Cottages, Riffhams Chase, Little Baddow, CM3 4AU Tel: 01245 223709 b.shepherd@chelmsford.gov.uk IAN WRIGHT Farm Cottage, Sporhams Lane, Danbury, CM3 4AJ Tel: 01245 226289 i.wright@chelmsford.gov.uk			
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS			
Chelmsford City Council	01245	606606	
Police	01245	491491 or ring 101	
Broomfield Hospital	01245	443673	
Citizens Advice Bureau	01245	205605	For U.C. 0800 1448444
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	Dr M. Worboys	01245	224612
PCC Treasurer	Mr N. Bobeldijk	01245	471756
Bell Ringers	Dr M. Worboys	01245	224612
Women's Institute	Mrs D. Gray	01245	223609
Howe Green URC	Rev Paul Stein	07810	396410
Howe Green URC Elder	Mrs P Knott	01245	471691
Village Hall Management Committee	Ms J. Fisher	01245	475976
Village Hall Bookings www.sandonvillagehall.webs.com			
Cubs	Mr Steve Eatley	07957	802898
Scouts	Ms J. Blake	07956	580404
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			

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. Currently, these are virtual meetings only. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Please contact the Clerk on the day of the meeting

WE EXTEND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO ALL NEW RESIDENTS