

# SANDON TOPICS

*Winter 2022 Newsletter from Sandon Parish Council*



[www.sandonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.sandonparishcouncil.co.uk)



## Chairman's Message



**Queen Elizabeth II** (21 April 1926 – 8 September 2022) was Queen of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth realms from 6 February 1952 until her death in 2022. She was queen regnant of 32 sovereign states during her lifetime and 15 at the time of her death. Her reign of 70 years and 214 days was the longest of any British monarch and the longest verified reign of any female monarch in history.

What an amazing matriarch. What an amazing life. What an amazing legacy to us all!

What a year we have all had, with so many highs and lows. We had to battle COVID, we celebrated the Queen's Jubilee when on 6th February Her Majesty The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth. To celebrate we had a four day UK bank holiday weekend in June. Sandon Parish Council planted five cherry trees with the help of Sandon School and the Rotary Club as part of the Queen's Green Canopy (to create a living legacy with over a million trees planted in Her Majesty's name across the nation), and lots of celebrations around the Parish.

Then on September 8<sup>th</sup> the devastating news that Her Majesty had died at the age of 96. What a shock to us all. The Parish Council erected a black gazebo on the Sandon Village Green with a picture of the Queen and where residents could leave their thoughts and flowers and just contemplate quietly. We placed books of condolence in the Church and the Chapel for residents' private messages. The flower tags, letters, and condolence pages have been sent to the Palace for safe keeping. We also had some lovely painted flint stones that we have put at the base of the Jubilee tree to remember our Queen.



## **Sandon Community Sports Centre**



Since 2016, Sandon Parish Council in conjunction with Sandon Sports Club, have been involved in designing a facility to replace the now aged accommodation on the recreation ground site, which should to a large extent serve all our future needs.

The Sports Club building is a wooden building and though it serves current needs it does not suit a growing club. The Parish Office is a temporary portacabin which is in need of replacement. The new building will provide the Sports Club with much needed changing and showering facilities, male, female and disabled toilets, a kitchen, lounge area and meeting room. The new building will be large enough to allow for additional sport and recreation activities to be held. Also included will be a new Parish Council office. It will be substantially self sustainable with multiple solar panels, ground or air source heating, storage for all the grounds maintenance equipment. There will be parking for sixty five cars, as well as parking for cycles, motorcycles, disabled drivers vehicles. In addition, there will be places for seven electric vehicle charging points.

We are in the process of registering the "Sandon Community Sports Centre" as an incorporated charity. This charity will manage the construction and running of the centre. This project is vital to our community and can be viewed as a component of our society and is for all the people who live or work in our Parish. Full scale drawings are available to view at the Parish Office.

We seek the support of all the parishioners of Sandon for this undertaking. We will be holding further consultation meetings and will be asking you all to complete a survey form in order for you to verify your support.

## **Sandon Neighbourhood Development Plan (Sandon NDP) update**

The Sandon NDP group have been making rather slow but steady progress!

1. We have a Draft Sandon NDP
2. We have heard from the Chelmsford City Council that the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations assessment (HRA) screening process is complete and the Sandon NDP does not require further SEA/HRA assessment.
3. We are now preparing for what is known as the Regulation 14 consultation. That involves sending the draft NDP to various statutory and voluntary organisations for their comments and, importantly for Topics readers, arranging a six week consultation period for residents of Sandon to offer their comments.

The Draft plan will be available to view:

- at the Parish Office
- online on the Sandon NDP website at [ndp4sandon.co.uk](http://ndp4sandon.co.uk)

This will be your opportunity to give us your opinion, so please take a few minutes to read the draft NDP and complete the questionnaire that will also be available.

We hope that the consultation will begin early in January 2023. The NDP group will then consider the comments and amend the draft plan accordingly before proceeding to the next steps. This will involve consultation with Chelmsford City Council, appointment of an examiner to review and report on the NDP, and then a local referendum after which the Sandon NDP is 'made', published and used in making local planning decisions.\* And all this must be done before the government change planning policy!

*\*In more technical terms: proceeding to Regulation 15, (sending the revised draft NDP and supporting documents to Chelmsford City Council, CCC) and Regulation 16, (the CCC planning authority arrange their consultation and an examiner is appointed. Regulation 17 follows, when the draft NDP is sent to the examiner, Regulation 18, the examiner's report is received by CCC and the result published and then the local referendum is arranged. After a good referendum result Regulation 19 allows the draft NDP to be 'made' and Regulation 20 CCC publish the made Sandon NDP.*

## **Four gas turbine engines in Sandon off Cards Road**

The planning reference for this development is 20/01720/FUL Land South West Of Cards Road. It is described as “the proposed flexible electricity generation facility with associated ancillary infrastructure, access and boundary treatment.” This proposed development will consist of four gas reciprocating engines and accompanying ancillary works.

Sandon Parish Council was very much against it and it was initially refused by Chelmsford City Council. Unfortunately, there was an appeal and it got the go-ahead. The Parish Chairman has been informed by the agents for Conrad Energy and their Construction Project Manager, that ground investigation and CBR tests (assessing the bearing limit of the subgrade soil) have been conducted to determine the design for the foundations of the projects. Note that the core development of the site will not commence until all pre-commencement conditions are discharged by Chelmsford City Council.

## **Sandon Park and Ride Price Changes Consultation**



Essex County Council is looking at changing the prices of some tickets on their Park and Ride services. These changes are designed to encourage more users on the service and reduce the number of cars in the centre of Chelmsford. The changes would see both the daily price for peak time services and weekday afternoon tickets reduced. The cost of weekend day visits to Chelmsford city centre would be in line with weekday prices at all three other Park and Ride sites.

The proposed changes to the Park and Ride charges are:

### **For Chelmsford:**

- Reduce the weekday adult ticket from £3.60 to £3.00.
- Increase the Saturday adult ticket from £1.50 to £3.00 (this will make it the same as Monday to Friday).
- Increase the current Saturday group ticket from £3.50 to £5.00 (this will make it the same as Monday to Friday). A group can be composed of up to two adults and three children.

### **For all three sites (Chelmer Valley, Sandon and Colchester):**

- Introduce a new lower adult ticket at all sites travelling between 12.00 - 15.30pm at £2.50

### **Unchanged tickets will be:**

- English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS, older person) £1.50
- Child ticket (age 5 - 18) £1.00
- Group ticket (up to 2 adults and 3 children) Monday to Friday £5.00
- ENCTS (disabled person) travel for free
- Child under 5 travel for free

[A consultation](https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/consultation-on-park-and-ride-ticket-prices) on the proposed changes is now open. It will close on December 9. Please see <https://www.essex.gov.uk/news/consultation-on-park-and-ride-ticket-prices>

All views from the consultation will be taken into account before a decision is taken.

**It is worth noting that the Park and Ride will be offering FREE travel to Chelmsford after 12:00 on each Saturday in December.**



## Riparian Law on Ditches – what is it and how does it impact many of Sandon residents?

Many of us have never heard of this law, but it is important that some residents take note. Some of our roads eg: Southend Road, East Hanningfield Road, Butts Green Road, etc., have ditches running alongside the boundaries of properties. This common law imposes a duty on the owners of land adjoining a highway to maintain these ditches. This is so that they continue to provide natural drainage for both the land and highway. **In the majority of cases, the responsibility for ditch maintenance rests with the adjacent landowner!** The diagram below gives further clarification.

**It is important that house owners do not:**

- Allow silt to build up which can reduce the capacity of, or block watercourses
- Fail to keep vegetation growth under control
- Dispose or store garden or domestic rubbish or waste on the banks of watercourses
- Fail to clear the entrances to piped watercourses
- Fail to obtain consent for any building, planting or alterations within eight metres of the bank



### Corner Green – the last strip.

Back in 2020, the Parish Council embarked on a project to clear the brambles and other overgrowth from the portion of the nominated village green from the junction of Butts Green Road/East Hanningfield Road towards Howe Green where it narrows at the entrance of the care home. This was a long strip of land which was heavily overgrown. We are now pleased to announce that this clearance has finally been completed.

Once the area is seeded and top dressed, we are certain it will look as good and inviting as the area that has already been completed. We have already received positive feedback from residents who were pleased about the site's earlier clearance.

### Nitrous Oxide (NOS) canisters

On a less happy note, our parish is being used as a dumping ground for used Nitrous Oxide (NOS) canisters. An Essex MP has called on the government to take urgent action to tackle the "blight" of people abusing nitrous oxide in her city. Anna Firth, MP for Southend West, spoke in the House of Commons, 27<sup>th</sup> October, about the dangers of using nitrous oxide - also known as NOS - which can result in death. Anna has called for an urgent debate on its dangers which can leave young people paralysed or even dying from suffocation. The MP is continuing her targeted campaign to ensure that Southend's streets are safer by wiping out nitrous oxide abuse following a summer of disruption across the seafront.

As part of her plan to make Southend safer, Anna has already taken special measures which included securing knife poles for Essex Police which can detect metal mass. These quick and transportable pieces of equipment have led to many successful operations, confiscating hundreds of industrial-use nitrous oxide canisters.

There are side effects resulting from inhaling the gas too fast, or perhaps receiving too much. These can be shivering, nausea, vomiting, excessive sweating, fatigue, and dizziness and as we see from the article above, even death. We need to ensure our youngsters are aware of this to stop this new craze.

**This appears to have come to the Parish of Sandon!** Many canisters have been found in the bin in the Chapel Car Park in Howe Green and along Maldon Road. The canisters we are finding are for the food industry and are out of date. The local tip will not take them, and they have to be properly disposed of.

## **Danbury and Villages Rotary Club/Sandon Parish Council - Crocus bulb planting Village Green, Sandon Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022**



A small group of Rotary members and Parish Councillors braved the weather to plant around 500 crocus bulbs. The ground was surprisingly hard considering all the rain, but we managed two circles of bulbs for all to enjoy on the Village Green next year..

Rotary started the campaign to eliminate polio from the world in 1985, inspired by the elimination of smallpox. After a couple of years fundraising and immunising children in accessible areas where Rotarians could participate, the WHO joined the campaign and was able to influence governments and widen the spread. Bill Gates Foundation joined up later and matched all funds raised by Rotary, which continues today. Only Afghanistan and Pakistan now have the wild polio virus affecting people and no cases reported in Pakistan for six months. Rotary must continue the programme in countries free from the virus to stop its return as well as trying to work in Afghanistan despite the dangers. One

feature of the vaccination process, is that every child treated has a purple dye painted on their little finger as identification of their treatment. Hence the purple crocus.

Thank you to the Rotary Club volunteers for their help on the day and providing the bulbs.

### **The Sandon Oak**

20 years ago, the original Sandon Oak was the subject of a special radio programme made by BBC Essex in a landmark documentary series called 'A Sense of Place'. The series explored belonging told through people's affinity with places, groups, faith, sport, and community symbols. In this year of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and Her Majesty's sad passing, the archive programme is a reminder of the sapling which became a magnificent specimen, planted for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. The documentary is now available to hear again via an internet link to the SoundCloud platform (see below).

It was produced by Anton Jarvis who went to the village to record locals' stories about the tree and their feelings towards its symbolism of Sandon and as a meeting place for generations of people. In interviews villagers described its importance to them and the community. Anton spoke to older residents, children and several village families to hear about their love for the tree, including how it was the backdrop to Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee celebrations. The story of its tragic collapse is also told. Its replacement by 3 new oak trees in a special ceremony was recorded for the end of the programme. The BBC Essex documentary is a montage, rather than being narrated and includes the voices of: Historian, Reg Bush; Linda & Michael Zabell; Chris Mann; Evelyn Ellis of the Youth Fellowship; Former Parish Council Chairman, Neville Jessop; David Edwards; Lord Braybrooke.

You can listen to the 30 minute programme via this link (type into your internet browser): <https://soundcloud.com/anton-jarvis-206182017/asop-the-sandon-oak?in=anton-jarvis-206182017/sets/a-sense-of-place>

Or scan this QR code with your phone:



The picture above dates from June 2001 and shows the original oak tree and the damage it sustained.



## **HGCA Memories (from Barbara Pearson)**

We, David and Barbara, moved to Howe Green on the day of the Queen's Silver Jubilee 1977, with our children Richard, then aged 8 and Heather aged 6. At that time the HGCA was campaigning for a much needed bypass for Howe Green. For years it was refused and we dived with death every time we had to get out of East Hanningfield Road. Ann Gaylor, who lived at No 3 Chalklands, led the campaign and, thank goodness, eventually a decision was made to build the by-pass.

The HGCA held annual garden parties which were generally well attended by residents. David became chairman of the HGCA in about 1980 and, despite efforts to retire in later years, remained chairman until 2022. He was also the secretary throughout his time in office. He produced a bi-annual newsletter which was delivered to all households. This was funded by the £3 a year family membership. The onset of the pandemic stopped any activities and the newsletter has not resumed. Another of David's achievements was the setting up of the forum which has proved invaluable through the years for disseminating information quickly to everyone in the village, selling unwanted items, finding lost cats, recommending reliable trades people etc.

The village came together some years ago to prevent land on the Southend Road being bought by travellers. Many residents donated money to enable the village to buy the land if needs be, but fortunately that did not prove necessary in the end and everyone got their money back.

Over the years, attempts have been made to encourage community activities such as theatre visits, Sunday Lunches and garden parties but not very many of the Howe Green residents got involved, so it was left to the stalwart few to keep things going!

This year things have come full circle. David finally resigned as chairman because we are moving to North Wales. Our son Richard and his wife Fiona have bought our house so there are still Pearsons in No 9.! Hopefully they will get involved in the Howe Green Association which is now under new management.

We hope the association will be well supported and thrive.

**From Cllr Dee Hyatt.**

The HGCA very much appreciate the efforts of David and Barbara and all the activities that were arranged, especially the Summer gatherings which were very well attended. We have therefore presented them with a garden bench from the HGCA to remember us when they are enjoying their new life in Wales. This lovely bench was presented to them with good wishes from all in Howe Green and the Community Association.



## **We have a Very Important Person living in our midst!**

We are very pleased to note that the new Mayor of Chelmsford is Sue Dobson ex Parish Clerk of this Council and long term resident of the parish. She was the Deputy Mayor until quite recently. She stepped up to the role following the untimely death of the previous mayor, John Galley. Her husband, Keith Dobson, will serve as her Consort.

We wish them both every success in their new roles!

## **The Christmas tree at St Andrews**

By the time you are reading this, you should have noticed the annual Christmas tree outside St Andrews. We have recently laid an electric cable to the site so the lights should be brighter than ever! Thanks should go to the W.I. Committee for their help in dressing the tree. Further thanks must go to Charfleets Fencing for their financial contribution towards the purchase, and delivery costs, of the tree.

## 2023 Sandon calendar



The Friends of Sandon Church was founded to raise funds to help maintain the fabric of St Andrews Church and its churchyard. We have put together a calendar for 2023 featuring a few of the wonderful scenes in and around Sandon. All profits from this calendar will be used to support the maintenance and repair of our village church. The cost of the A3 calendar is £10 and can be purchased by contacting any of those listed below.

- Emailing: [info@friendsofsandonchurch.co.uk](mailto:info@friendsofsandonchurch.co.uk)
- or David Farrar at 18 Gablefields, Sandon on 01245-471484
- or Janet Terry at 84 Hall Lane, Sandon on 01245-472997
- or Andy Hilton at 'Stocks', Mayes Lane, Sandon and 07885330511
- or Richard Cecil, Cottage, Butts Green, Sandon on 01245-224747
- or Rev Terry Brown on 01245-698988 and [tgabrown@hotmail.com](mailto:tgabrown@hotmail.com)
- or John Gruby on [john\\_leegruby@hotmail.com](mailto:john_leegruby@hotmail.com).
- or Cedric Callmeyer on [cclmeyer8@gmail.com](mailto:cclmeyer8@gmail.com).
- or Darren Chaplin on [drnchpln@aol.com](mailto:drnchpln@aol.com)

We will also be selling them at our forthcoming Christmas Fayre in the churchyard of St. Andrew's Church, Sandon. Calendars will also be available to purchase at our Christmas Quiz on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December. For further details please check our website: [www.friendsofsandonchurch.co.uk/events/](http://www.friendsofsandonchurch.co.uk/events/)

## Christmas Services at St. Andrew's Church

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December:** 4pm Christingle Service and lighting of the Christmas tree.

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December:** 4pm Candlelit Festival of Carols and Readings

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December;** 7pm Beer and Carols in the Crown

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve:** 4pm Crib Service. 11.30pm Candlelit Midnight Communion

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day:** 10am Christmas Morning service with Communion

## **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## Christmas Services at Howe Green URC (from Pam Knott)

As some of you will know, we recently said a fond farewell to our Minister (Rev Paul Stein) whose main Church was Christ Church in Chelmsford. He has moved to another pastorate in Hertfordshire, and of course we wish him and his family all the best. We are continuing with our monthly Sunday services which will probably be led by lay preachers. These will be held on the third Sunday of each month, and you are all welcome to join with us when you can.

We are also planning for our usual Carols by Candlelight on at 7.30 p.m. Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, when friends and neighbours come together to celebrate the Season. There will be carols, readings, mince pies etc., and everyone is welcome to come and be part of that wonderful time.

We intend to have the Coffee mornings and Tea afternoons as previously, and I will publicise the dates when they are known. Thanks and best wishes to all who continue to support us.

## IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS

CLERK MUNT – TED Sandon Parish Council, Recreation Ground, Rectory Chase, Sandon, Chelmsford, CM2 7SQ. Tel: 01245 477111 <a href="mailto:parishclerk@sandonpc.plus.com">parishclerk@sandonpc.plus.com</a> 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 <a href="mailto:cllrhyattsandonpc@gmail.com">cllrhyattsandonpc@gmail.com</a>		CHAIRMAN Planning Sandon Quarry Liaison Committee Rep HGCA Committee	
MARTIN CROSS Magrathea, East Hanningfield Road, Howe Green CM2 7TQ Tel: 01245 478910 <a href="mailto:cllrcrosssandonpc@gmail.com">cllrcrosssandonpc@gmail.com</a>		VICE CHAIR Finance Parish Transport Committee	
CEDRIC CALMEYER 25 Hall Lane, Sandon, CM2 7RJ Tel: 01245 478900 <a href="mailto:cllrcalmeversandonpc@gmail.com">cllrcalmeversandonpc@gmail.com</a>		Maintenance Allotments	
ALAN KALBFELL 4, The Tythings, Howe Green CM2 7TU Tel: 07802 762620   <a href="mailto:cllrkalbfellsandonpc@gmail.com">cllrkalbfellsandonpc@gmail.com</a>		Sandon Sports Club Committee Rep Sandon Village Hall Rep	
VIC TREW Tel: 07799 664204 <a href="mailto:cllrtrewsandonpc@gmail.com">cllrtrewsandonpc@gmail.com</a>		Personnel	
GARY NICHOLLS Tel: 07712 535313 <a href="mailto:cllrnichollssandonpc@gmail.com">cllrnichollssandonpc@gmail.com</a>		Community Hall	
JAMES COLBECK 51 Hall Lane, Sandon, CM2 7RJ Tel: 07949849674 <a href="mailto:cllrcolbecksandonpc@gmail.com">cllrcolbecksandonpc@gmail.com</a>		Parochial Church Council (PCC) Rep Personnel	
ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR IAN GRUNDY Tel: 01277 840737			
CITY COUNCILLORS (LITTLE BADDOW, DANBURY & SANDON)			
RICHARD AMBOR Tel: 01245 222874 IAN WRIGHT Tel: 01245 226289 STEPH SCOTT Tel: 01245 352872		2 Hay Green, Danbury, Chelmsford, CM2 4NU <a href="mailto:richard.ambor@chelmsford.gov.uk">richard.ambor@chelmsford.gov.uk</a> Farm Cottage, Sporhams Lane, Danbury, CM3 4AJ <a href="mailto:i.wright@chelmsford.gov.uk">i.wright@chelmsford.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:stephanie.scott@chelmsford.gov.uk">stephanie.scott@chelmsford.gov.uk</a>	
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 R. Cecil	01245	224747
	Mr A. Horn		
PCC Secretary	Mrs J. Cecil	01245	224747
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	<a href="https://www.sandonvillagehall.co.uk">https://www.sandonvillagehall.co.uk</a>		
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
Danbury and Villages Rotary	Mr M Penry (sec)	<a href="mailto:mikepenry@btinternet.com">mikepenry@btinternet.com</a>	
Chelmsford Rambling Club	Ms M Say	01245	381262
Sandon Parish Magazine Editor	Mr R. Cecil	01245	224747
Sports Club	Mr R Pegrum	07792	318844
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](http://www.sandonparishcouncil.co.uk). The Council meets at 7.15 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. We alternate between St Andrew Church Hall and the Howe Green Reformed Church. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

**WE EXTEND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO ALL NEW RESIDENTS**