

Herongate & Ingrave Parish Council
are hosting the spectacular

Christmas Tree Lighting Up



Saturday 2nd December @ 4:30pm
On the Cricket Green

MINCE PIES * MULLED WINE * CHILDREN'S TREATS
VISIT SANTA'S GROTTO



After the lighting up the cricket club bar will be open.



SCAN ME



Dates for your diary

Remembrance Sunday - Sunday 12th November

Christmas Wreath Afternoon - Saturday 25th November

Christmas Tree Lighting - Saturday 2nd December

Seniors Christmas Lunch - Wednesday 6th December

D-Day Celebrations - Saturday 8th June

Parish Council Meetings

Tuesday, 24th January 2023 7.30pm St Nicholas' Church Hall

Wednesday, 22nd February 2023 7.30pm St Andrew's Church Hall

Tuesday, 28th March 2023 7.30pm St Nicholas' Church Hall

Wednesday, 26th April 2023 7.30pm St Andrew's Church Hall

Tuesday, 23rd May 2023 Annual Parish Assembly 7.00pm

Annual Parish Council Meeting following immediately after St Nicholas' Church Hall

Wednesday, 28th June 2023 7.30pm St Andrew's Church Hall

Wednesday, 26th July 2023 7.30pm St Andrew's Church Hall

There is no meeting in August

Wednesday 27th September 2023 7.30pm St Andrew's Church Hall

Tuesday, 24th October 2023 7.30pm St Nicholas' Church Hall

Wednesday, 22nd November 2023 7.30pm St Andrew's Church Hall

There is no meeting in December

Note: Parish Council Meetings are held alternately at the St Andrews Methodist Church Hall, Herongate and St Nicholas Church Hall, Ingrave. Meetings begin at 7.30 pm apart from May. During the first thirty minutes questions can be put relevant to the workings and services of the Council. Questions cannot always be answered at the meeting but, if not, they will be discussed and dealt with subsequently.

If you are interested in, or concerned about, anything to do with the villages of Herongate and Ingrave – why not come along to a meeting of the Parish Council?

Your Parish Council



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Welcome from the chair



Dear Villagers,

Welcome to the Winter Edition of your Herongate & Ingrave Newsletter.

It has been a busy period with lots of activities and events, with more to come. So please take your time to read through.

Village Hall

The condition of our Village Hall remains ongoing. Two representatives from the Borough Council attended our recent Parish Council Meeting and were tasked with getting back to us with further information. Please read inside for a more in depth update. St Andrew's Church is also uppermost in our minds and is being closely monitored.

Scarecrow Competition

This was superbly supported and brought a great look to the village scene. We hope for even more participants in 2024. Photos and the winner's name can be found inside. Many thanks to Jacqueline Capps-Coe for organising.

Halloween

Our Children's Halloween Party was held at Herongate Football Club and was a great success, attended by over 100 children, who all turned out looking suitably spooky. Treats, fun and games all added to the occasion. Our thanks to the Football Club, plus special thanks to the principal organisers - Gemma and Stephanie.

Christmas Lighting Up

Our famous Lighting Up Ceremony is to take place on Saturday 2nd December at 4.30pm on the Cricket Green. This is an event not to be missed, with Santa's Grotto, plus drinks, mulled wine and snacks, all available from the Cricket Pavilion. Please be sure to arrive early to start your festive activities.

Senior Citizen Christmas Lunch

We are pleased to announce that, in conjunction with Ingrave Johnstone School, our inaugural Christmas Lunch for Senior Citizens of the Parish is to take place at the School on 6th December 2023, with the help of the Headmaster Mr Rogers, his Staff and Pupils.

Details about booking a place can be obtained on the Parish Council's Facebook page or by calling Parish Councillor Sally Piggott on 01277 810608. We hope this can lead to regular gatherings for Senior Citizens within the Parish throughout the year.

Daffodils

We have recently planted over 3,000 daffodil bulbs around the villages. These will hopefully flower in Spring 2024 and bring some colour.

Please keep your edition of this newsletter safe to hand, to keep a note of the events to come.

We should like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Graham

Meet Rachel Coles - Our New Newsletter Editor

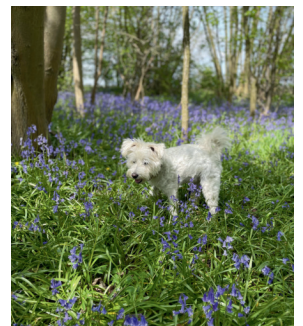
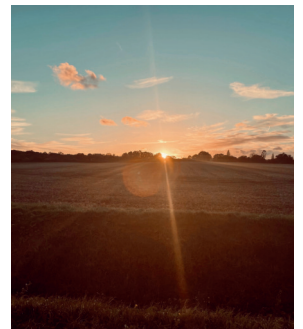
Hello there! I'm Rachel, and I'm thrilled to introduce myself as the new editor of the Herongate and Ingrave Parish Council newsletter. It's truly an honour to take on this role, and I'm excited to connect with all of you, our wonderful community members.

My roots are firmly planted here in Ingrave, where I reside on Middle Road with my lovely family. My husband, Tim, is my steadfast partner in life, and together, we're raising our adorable 2-year-old son, Dougie. Our family wouldn't be complete without our two furry companions, Freddie and Millie, our loyal dogs who add so much joy to our daily lives.

Professionally, I have been fortunate to build a career in the world of marketing. I run my very own marketing agency, and over the years, I've had the privilege of working with a diverse range of businesses. But what truly sets my heart aglow is the art of design. Unfortunately, I don't get to immerse myself in this passion as often as I'd like, but that's where this wonderful newsletter comes in – an opportunity to blend creativity and community.

I must emphasise that my connection with our local community is deeply significant to me. It was one of the driving factors that led my family and me to make the decision to move to this beautiful village. I firmly believe in the power of local engagement, in getting to know our neighbours, and in working together to make Herongate and Ingrave the best it can be.

So, if you happen to spot me around the village or at one of our community events, please don't hesitate to come over and say hi. I'm looking forward to getting to know each and every one of you, hearing your stories, and together, making this community a place we're all proud to call home.



LANDOWNERS URGED TO HELP US GET WINTER-READY

Essex Highways crews have been out on the network through the spring and summer clearing gullies. Teams have also been grass cutting and weed spraying to prevent overgrown vegetation from blocking the highway and causing flooding.

But Essex Highways needs landowners to be diligent and maintain their own hedges and ditches. This helps keep highways across Essex usable and safe. In anticipation of wetter weather over the autumn and winter, the highways team is preparing for more calls and incidents relating to flooding. Many local floods are preventable if landowners keep on top of ditch and hedge maintenance.

Landowners are responsible for maintaining trees, hedges, shrubs and ditches on their land. This applies even if they are close or next to a road or pavement. They have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent, or reduce as far as possible, the risk of injury or damage that could be caused to anyone else. Most trees and hedges by roads are on land owned by private landowners, including district councils,

city council, parish councils, housing associations and homeowners.

Examples of works that should be carried out by landowners include:

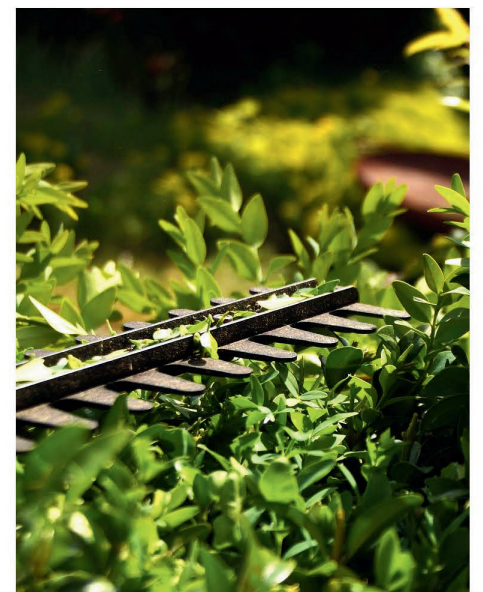
- cutting back overhanging branches, which reduce the width of or block the view of the road
- cutting back overhanging branches that reduce the height or clearance of the road for tall vehicles such as double decker school buses
- removing or trimming a damaged or diseased tree that is in danger of falling onto the road or pavement
- trimming overgrown hedges obscuring road signs or streetlights
- clearing any ditches located on private land to avoid any flooding during periods of heavy rain

Councillor Lee Scott, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport, said: "Coming into the autumn months, it's important that preventative action is taken to ensure flooding is minimised across the county.

"Essex Highways crews have been busy throughout the summer clearing

gullies and maintaining our land in preparation, but we need this work to be complemented by landowners taking action too.

"I urge landowners – whether you're a homeowner, farmer or developer – to check ditches and hedges near roads and pavements and make sure they are properly maintained."



Embrace the Magic of Winter: Exploring Ingrave and Herongate on Foot

As the days grow shorter and the air gets crisper, there's no better time to lace up your boots and embark on a winter walking adventure. And our beautiful village offers a stunning backdrop for winter strolls that will leave you enchanted by the seasonal beauty. Rachel Coles, our newsletter editor shares her favourite winter walks around the village.

Every morning, I take my dogs for their morning stroll across the fields. Starting in Middle Road, I go past Ingrave Hall and join the path looping through to the woods. My dog Freddie, loves exploring all that the woods have to offer and loves trying to chase the poor squirrels! He hasn't worked out how to climb a tree yet! This is a perfect walk to do with my toddler as well. Going into Autumn he is exploring all the leaves that are falling from the trees and loves splashing in all the puddles. We loop back round the field and pop out next to the Horse Paddock in St Nicholas Grove where we walk back to our house in Middle Road.



Living so close to Thorndon is another privilege and offers beautiful walks. Starting from Middle Road, we cross the road and walk up Thorndon Gate to join the footpath next to Thorndon Hall. Seeing Thorndon Hall first thing in the morning brings a smile to my face as I admire the beauty it has to offer. We meander through the footpath and pop out on the track. Here, we walk up to the pond and follow the path round. In Autumn, during Golden Hour, this path offers beautiful views as the sun starts to draw in and you can see a beautiful sunset across London and the country park. We then follow our same route to get back home.

When we feel adventurous, and we are not limited by daylight, we often extend the walk and carry on through to King George's where we then walk back through the fields to arrive back to Middle Road.

Ingrave and Herongate have a strong sense of community, and winter walks are a perfect way to connect with neighbours and friends. Consider organising a group walk or join local walking clubs to share the experience and build lasting memories together.

So, this winter, put on your warmest coat, grab your scarf and gloves, and discover the enchantment of Ingrave and Herongate with a heartwarming walk. Share your winter walk experiences and photos with us, and let's celebrate the beauty of our villages during this magical season.





Seniors Christmas Lunch

**HERONGATE & INGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL &
INGRAVE JOHNSTONE SCHOOL WOULD LIKE
TO INVITE SENIOR RESIDENTS OF THE PARISH
TO JOIN US FOR A FREE CHRISTMAS LUNCH
AT INGRAVE JOHNSTONE SCHOOL, INGRAVE**



**WEDNESDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2023
1:30-2:30PM IN THE SCHOOL HALL**

**MAINS: ROAST TURKEY OR A VEGETARIAN
PASTRY**

DESSERT: CHOCOLATE ORANGE CAKE

**CONTACT CLLR. SALLY PIGGOTT BY 28/11/23
01277 810608 TO REQUEST A PLACE**



**PARKING IS AVAILABLE IN THE MEADOWS AND
THORNDON APPROACH
DROP OFF AND PICK UP CAN BE ARRANGED UP TO
THE SCHOOL- PLEASE BE AWARE THAT ACCESS IS
LIMITED. WE CAN OFFER TRANSPORTATION TO AND
FROM THE VENUE, PLEASE REQUEST THIS WHEN YOU
SPEAK TO SALLY TO CHECK ON AVAILABILITY.**



A SPOOOOOKY SUCCESS!

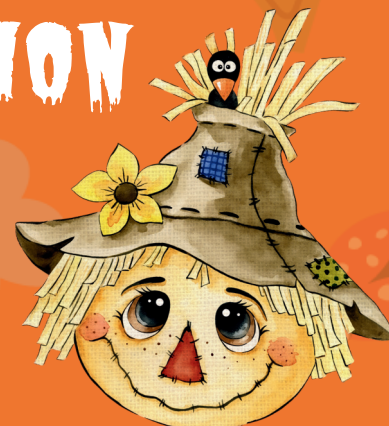
Following the success of last year's Halloween Party, Herongate Parish Council wanted to put on another party for the local families, so children can celebrate Halloween in a safe, fun environment. We made a few changes this year and had an entertainer (Gary) from Non-Stop Kids Entertainment attend to provide laughs not just for the kids. We had lots of things for the young children to celebrate with Apple bobbing, lucky dip, mini disco, face painting & arts and crafts. Parish councillors got into the spirit of the day and dressed up in fancy dress. Nearly 100 children turned up on the day in their little outfits to collect snacks and treats and join in all the fun! A BIG Thank you to all the volunteers and especially the Herongate Football Club (Bev) for hosting us again and helping with all the arrangements, such as planning and decorating the event. All the children were encouraged to take part in the games and activities with lots of prizes and sweets...

If you want to take part in local activities in the future or have some ideas, please contact Gemma Davey: cllr.g.davey@herongateandgravepc.org.uk



SCARECROW COMPETITION

**We are Scarecrow's stuffed with Hay
We are out in the village ready to play
Come find us and say hello
Seek us out we are cheeky fellows.**



From 2nd to the 9th October, Ingrave and Herongate saw over 18 Scarecrows come out to play. Residents joined in the fun, letting their imagination run wild and putting their scarecrows in their front gardens for all to see. Residents and neighbours of our community took to the streets to find the scarecrows and guess what they were. The scarecrows brought a smile to cars passing through the villages when a scarecrow was spotted.

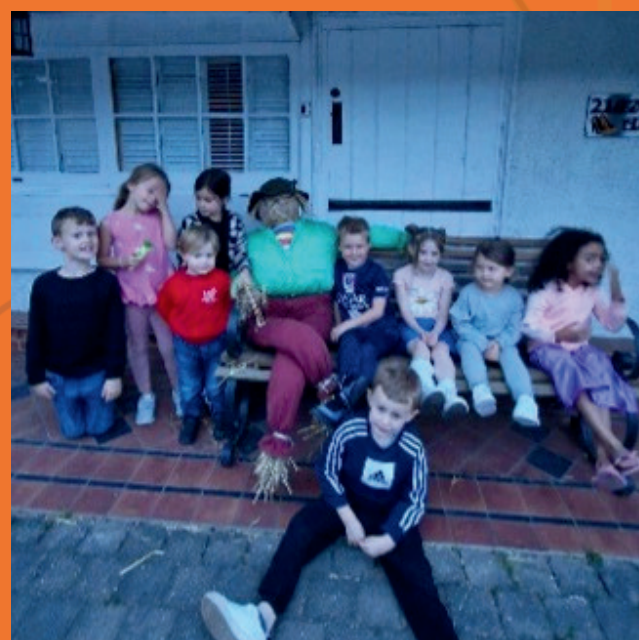
Did you spot:

The Queen of England having tea, Paddington Bear, Room on the Broom, Barbie, Maleficent, Bubble Bee, SpongeBob Squarepants, Frozen, Where's Wally, Captain Jack Sparrow, one man and his dog, Fisherman and Mermaid, Donald Trump trying to make a difference! to name just a few.

The winning scarecrow picked by the Parish Council was crowned the winner was, Clark Kent relaxing on his bench.

We hoped that everyone who took part enjoyed the fun and the buzz that it created in our village.

The scarecrows may have made hay and left but we hope that they will return next year in many different forms.





Essex Library Bus comes to visit Tiddles Childcare

This September, Essex Library Bus service paid a special visit to Tiddles Childcare. The children learnt all about Libraries and how much fun they can be. The children got to explore the bus, meet the lovely librarians and discover new books, and the way we can share books. The children were all given their own Library card, chose lots of books to take home, and some to share with their friends at Tiddles Childcare.

The children and their families returned their books to the local library to explore more books. It's a great way to support our local libraries, who also host many toddler events to encourage the love of reading.

We are hoping the Library Bus may one day return to Herongate & Ingrave for all residents to enjoy.



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Orders being taken for your Christmas Turkey

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Local Resident receives Royalty Award - Astrid Gillespie BEM

Astrid Gillespie has been awarded the honorary British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to community heritage after dealing with the aftermath of an illegal New Year's Eve rave in an isolated church building. The medal is awarded for meritorious civil or military service worthy of recognition by the Crown, and recipients are entitled to use the post-nominal letters 'BEM'. Congratulations Astrid!

Astrid has volunteered for around 13 years for the Churches Conservation Trust and looks after an unused Tudor church near where she lives – the All Saints Church of East Horndon which was built in the late 1400s (right).

Heading up the "Friends of All Saints, East Horndon" volunteering group, she opened the church to the wider community by putting on open days, concerts, theatrical productions and gardening days. Astrid also dealt with any vandalism and fundraising to cover the cost of repairs.

On New Year's Eve 2020 (in lockdown), the church was unfortunately used for an illegal rave and hundreds of people were removed by the police. It was left to Astrid and the church rector to deal with the aftermath. They quickly set up a fundraising page, did interviews for local radio and newspapers, and were even interviewed on Japanese TV about what had happened. With amazing support from the public, they raised over £22,000 in a few days to help cover the clean-up and repairs to the church, massively exceeding their £2,000 goal.

Since then, the clean-up and repairs have been carried out and more volunteers have come forward to look after the church. The churchyard is being tackled as it had become very overgrown, and more events are scheduled. There is even a security team on board including CCTV cameras, making the whole area feel safe and much more looked after.

The charity who own and maintain the church, the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT), nominated Astrid for an honorary British Empire Medal which was presented to her in October 2023 by HM Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Mrs. Jennifer Tolhurst.

Astrid was also invited to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace during the summer.





Summer Flower Show

This year's annual summer Flower show took place in the grounds and hall of St Nicholas Church Ingrave on 19th August. This year marked its 142nd anniversary.

The marquees were erected, tables delivered, the beer had rested overnight, the committee and helpers were lining the tables, putting out signs, bunting, class labels and dividers and the sun was shining. There was no rain on the weather forecast. It appeared that we were in for a perfect summer's afternoon.

At 10am the villagers started to arrive with exhibits, all had left by the allotted time, the judges started to arrive as did the peripheral gusts of storm Betty. Only an average speed of 9 or 10 mph on the BBC website. They called it a "gentle breeze", but it was enough to cause havoc. The vegetables and fruit exhibits were housed in one marquee and the flowers in another. The other exhibits were in the hall and so safe.





The gentle breeze started to knock over the carefully arranged flowers in their vases, The polystyrene plates and bowls flew off the vegetable table complete with contents in some cases. The sides of the marquee acted like a sail, so we took them down, which stopped them blowing away but did not save many of the exhibits. Many of the identification cards blew away both before and after judging. We retrieved some from the long grass behind the now removed marquee, some we could not find. Those we had cards for we could allocate prizes to. Those with lost cards we attempted to identify the owner but some we could not. We laid the flowers down on their sides to stop any more damage but many off these then wilted. we tried to reunite blown away tomatoes to the correct owners.

2pm came and the villagers arrived, the band played, the tea, beer and Pimm's flowed, the craft stalls did good business, the country fayre was busy with folks buying books, plants, homemade cakes and crumbles, the raffles and tombolas were a success, the sun shone, the wind dropped, and a very pleasant afternoon was had by all. The afternoon was a great success!

Therefore, we can only apologise if your exhibit was lost or was not in the condition you brought it, or you were not credited for a prize you won. Please forgive us – it was Betty's fault!

The winners:

- Friars Cup (greatest number of points in all classes) – Mrs. S. Helm
 - Jacks Wix Cup (most points vegetable and fruit classes) – Mrs. S. Helm
 - The Committee Award (greatest number of Firsts in vegetable classes) – Mrs. S. Helm
 - Sally Edwards Trophy (most points in the fruit classes)– Mr. P. Conrad
 - Kendal Rose Bowl (Best rose bloom) – Mrs M. Krelle
 - The Laurie Cup (most points in the flower classes)– Mrs. S. Helm
 - Sweet Pea Cup – Mrs. S. Helm
 - Rennie Quaich Cup (most outstanding exhibit flower arrangement)– Mrs. J. Channa
 - WI Jubilee Cup (most points in the housewifery classes) – Mrs V. Witchell
 - The Centenary Award (most points in the handicrafts classes) – Dorothy Givan
 - Baldock Rose Bowl (most points in the children's classes) – Sophie Good
 - Baldock Posy Bowl (judges choice vegetable creature) – Thomas Kerslake
 - Eric Savill Trophy (most pleasing garden) – Mr. I. Orwell
 - Allotment Cup (most bountiful allotment) – Matthew and Sue Dunn
- 
- 



*Ingrave and Herongate
Flower Show*

CHRISTMAS WREATH AFTERNOON



25TH NOVEMBER 2023

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH HALL
BRENTWOOD ROAD, INGRAVE

1PM TO 3PM OR
3.30PM TO 5.30PM

£10 if you bring your own wreath ring and £15 if you do not.
All materials will be supplied and all places must be prebooked.

To Book:

Please ring Jackie on 07887 365301 or Hannah on 01277 810419 or at ihfshow@btinternet.com
by 8pm 23rd November

This will be on a first come first served basis, we will not be able to add any extra people on the day.

A children's craft stall will be running for children of the wreath makers cost £5 per session.

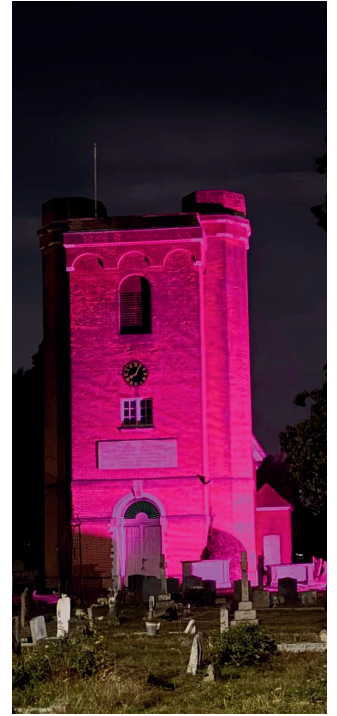
Refreshments available.



St Nicholas Church Commemorating Baby Loss Awareness Week

St. Nicholas Church, often a place of solace and spirituality, took on an even more profound role during Baby Loss Awareness Week in October. Its serene and timeless architecture became the canvas for a touching tribute to the families who have experienced the unimaginable pain of losing a baby. It is estimated that in the UK 1 in 4 pregnancies end in loss.

Baby Loss Awareness Week, as observed at St. Nicholas Church, was a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the enduring power of love, unity and community.



Planting for Spring

Following the success of the spring bulb planting project last year the Parish Council have continued with this project and now have planted a further 2500 daffodil bulbs in the villages.

The areas covered are primarily; Middle Road by the allotments, St. Nichollas Grove, The Meadows and along the A128 by the Cricket Green.

Thanks goes to our residents Gavin Kingsford and Andrew Slater who assisted the Councillors in the planting process.

Let's hope we get the same success as last year and the spring flowers brings joy and colour to our area during the spring period.

Cllr. Alan Kingsford



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Phone: 01277 810385

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-  **WANT TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE**
-  **LIVE OR WORK IN HERONGATE OR INGRAVE**
-  **ABLE TO GIVE UP SOME OF YOUR TIME TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT

Clerk@herongateandiningravepc.org.uk

Animal Aid Festival

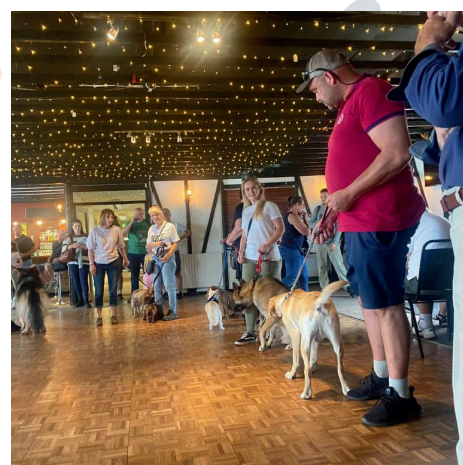
From humble beginnings some 13 years ago, Animal Aid Festival now stands in its ninth year and has grown to become a vibrant, music and fun filled event dedicated entirely to raising funds for animal rescue centres and animal related causes. This year we had an internationally acclaimed ELVIS tribute, The Brentwood BUSKERTERS, Amy Winehouse Tribute, our very popular dog competitions, live bands, craft stalls, kids rides, ARIEL The Mermaid, and so much more.

The Animal Aid organising team includes volunteers young and old from all walks of life, all passionate about the well-being of our animals and all dedicated to making the festival a continuing success. We are so very grateful to the Parish Council for their support and who also helped sponsor us this year. It was a great success with about 1000 local visitors. We managed to raise just over £2500 for the rescues after costs.

Please see below the various shelters that we have made donations to this year and previous years:

- Wanderers Haven - Brentwood, Essex
- Pussycat Lodge - Brentwood, Essex
- Remus Horse Sanctuary - Brentwood, Essex
- Wallace Kennels Rescue - Brentwood, Essex
- Hopefield Animal Sanctuary - Brentwood, Essex
- South Essex Wildlife Rescue Hospital
- West Essex German Shepherd Rescue
- Escape Animal Sanctuary & Conservation Centre, Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood
- Retired Greyhounds Owners Association, Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood
- Brentwood Greyhound Trust
- Spirit of the Dog Rescue, Burnham on Crouch
- ROLDA _ Rescuing stranded animals from Ukraine due to war
- Rescue Remedies, Horley, Reigate
- A Better Life Dog Rescue , Stanford-le-Hope
- Many Tears Animal Rescue, Wales
- Rovers Dog Rescue
- The Sache Foundation, Romania - neutering stray animals in Romania
- PETA - Against experimentation on cats dogs and primates
- Savas Safe Haven - saving and neutering stray animals in Romania
- ...plus many more over the years our festival has been in operation. We are also very proud that Animal Aid Festival has raised awareness of the plight of stray and neglected animals and the shelters that save these animals and because of our Festival, many people have now adopted pets and given them a home.

Please take a look at our website where you will see details and photos of our festivals - www.animalaidfestival.co.uk and we hope you will join us next year



Herongate and Ingrave Preservation Society (HIPS)

In this article we'll tell you about the history and work of HIPS.

Back in 1980's, and probably before then, a group of residents of Herongate and Ingrave decided that the history of our villages should be recorded, and the architectural environment protected and conserved. Trustees were gathered and HIPS was registered with the Charity Commission, residents were invited to pay an annual subscription, I think this was something like a £1 per residence a year. These funds covered printing costs and not much else. They'd already founded a museum based in what was once the Mission Hall in the yard in Heron Chase where Heron's Retreat now stands. HIPS founders included Major John Laurie as Treasurer, Jack Edwards as President, and Peter (Champion) Stevens as Vice – President.

Champion lived in Friars, formerly The Elms with his wife and their two friends Mr Lawson and his sister Miss Lawson. You can find out more of the history of The Elms, Elms Cottage and the two rooms attached to Elms Cottage that later became the museum building, in the 1984 document elsewhere in this newsletter.

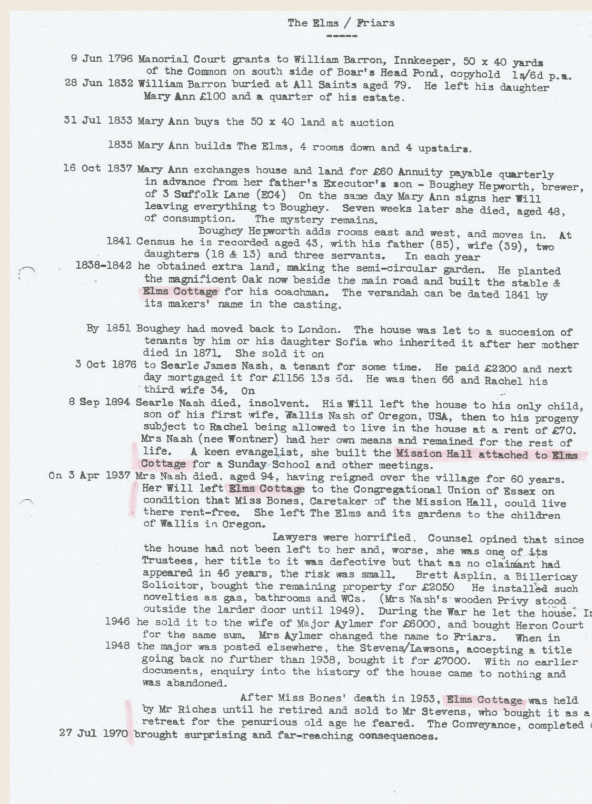
As we understand it, the two rooms were built as an extension by the schoolteacher who lived in Elms Cottage, so that she could expand the number of children taught there. The Stevens donated the two rooms of Mission Hall to HIPS for use as a village museum.

Champion was a retired lawyer and company secretary and was fastidious in collecting and collating all things relating to the history here. In those days there weren't any computers, and the museum data was catalogued on hundreds of postcards stored in a bank of old green metal filing cabinets. In these was detailed every piece of information the team could muster, from the early history of our parish to contemporary information.

Champion was one of the prime movers lobbying for the M25 to be built, reducing the relentless, intrusive rumble of articulated lorries that used to pass along the A128. If you think traffic is bad now, imagine a similar volume of traffic we currently have at rush hour, continuing all day, with loads more huge articulated vehicles. Pretty much everything that now goes along the M25 was funnelled into the road links of the A127 and A128.

Champion mustered a team of us locals to sit by the roadside, clipboards in hand, tasked with the job of writing down the numberplates of every vehicle that passed by. We did this on a rota for days and weeks: an impressive community -led initiative. Champion then collated the information which identified where the vehicles were registered and he used this data to further the cause of the M25.

Over time, the museum curators gathered artifacts of all kinds: from what was catalogued as a 'man trap', and turned out to be a large animal trap, to fragments of masonry from some of the long-gone buildings of the parish. We still have boot mender, Jack Warner's bicycle, village butcher, Ernie Gray's meat cleaver and the commemorative trowel that was used when the first spit of ground was opened in the building of our stretch of the M25.





Years passed and HIPS continued to produce a village newsletter, notify residents of planning proposals and to fight to retain and protect the most important historical features here. Later, Herongate and Ingrave got a Parish Council who took on much of the work of keeping watch on potential developments and encroachments into Green Belt as well as the role of communicating by newsletter. When the 'old guard' HIPS trustees retired or died, new people stepped in to fill their place. For the past years a small group of us have held trusteeships; to be honest, we haven't been as dedicated, nor did we have as much time as our predecessors.

But as a registered charity, HIPS continued; we would open the museum for people who were interested, occasionally people would visit from Australia or the US. Sheila Murphy continues to bring some of our old maps and photographs to village events so that everyone can see them. The museum building began to decay and with regret we realised that we had to act. Insuring the building became impossibly expensive and we battled with the damp that began to cause decay, increasing damage to the artifacts and files. We were left with no choice but to sell the museum building and pass most of the documents on loan to Essex Records Office (ERO) in Chelmsford. We tried to catalogue everything, but the collection is vast and as the sale was hurried, we boxed up all the papers and took them to their new home.

Once the museum was sold, we had a collection of artifacts that needed to be stored somewhere safe and dry, a generous local person has housed these at no cost for us for the past few years.

In 2021 two of our trustees decided to stand down, leaving just two of us, Sheila and myself Jennie Penkul. We were fortunate to bring three new trustees into HIPS: Allan Murray and Linda and John White. Linda and John have dedicated many days to visiting ERO and going through the boxes of documents in our collection. They are collating this data and digitalising it so that in the future HIPS will be able to offer a comprehensive digital museum which will be linked to the PC website. In the past few weeks, we have welcomed two new trustees to HIPS, Tim and Rachel Coles, it's great to see HIPS has some young people on the team!

Over the past couple of years, we have made a few small grants to local projects, but it became apparent we were finding it hard to know how to best spend the money from the sale of the museum building. We wanted to find a very good use of these funds; the responsibility for this lies wholly with the trustees.

After a lot of thought and discussion the trustees decided to add a further clause to the HIPS objects (this is the list of aims of the charity that were registered with the Charity Commission when HIPS was set up). These are the existing objects of HIPS:

- I) TO PROMOTE HIGH STANDARDS OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE IN OR AFFECTING THE AREA OF BENEFIT;
- II) TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC IN THE GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, NATURAL HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE OF THE AREA OF BENEFIT;
- III) TO SECURE THE PRESERVATION, PROTECTION, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF FEATURES OF HISTORIC OR PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT.

Our planned addition will enable us to support the Physical and Psychological wellbeing of all our residents. We have now taken the first steps in registering changes to the HIPS objects. Interestingly we now find that the first trustees set up a constitution which gives trustees wide ranging scope to run the charity in ways that benefit the community. We are grateful that those first trustees made some carefully thought through decisions.

At the time of writing this, HIPS is involved in a new and exciting community project – see 'The Future of St Andrews Church'.

Securing Heritage and Community Legacy for Generations - Saving St Andrew's Church

In this feature you can find out more about what is happening now that St Andrews Church will be sold.

We warmly encourage you to get involved and invite your support with this exciting and challenging project.

As we approach 2024 we stand at a crossroads where we may lose both our community meeting places. St Andrews was built by the community, for the community, we believe it is irreplaceable and that it would be a tragedy if we don't do all we can to save this landmark site.

The Methodist community at St Andrews Church ceased worshipping earlier this year. Declining numbers of locals attending the church and the impact of Covid were the main factors affecting their decision.



A group of us got together to attempt to save the church, the community garden and the allotment from potential sale to the highest bidder. We had a fantastic response to a hurriedly called village meeting back in July, when around sixty residents attended and unanimously agreed that as a community, we would try to save the church. Since then, we have been working on this project and more than twenty residents came forward to offer practical help and support.

At a meeting with the Methodists Trustees in early September we presented a comprehensive business plan that would have enabled the church to continue. Unfortunately, we realised that our fears about the future of this important site were founded, the site will be sold and there is no deal to be done, such as a lease of the property for use of our community.

HIPS trustees have stepped up from our twice yearly meetings and mobilised the planning of the St Andrews project. We've been meeting frequently, quite a change from what we'd promised our new trustees! In the background, there have been and still are, multiple twists and turns in this journey, collectively we have put in hundreds of hours to this rescue mission.

In tandem with the situation with St Andrews, the matter of the future of Herongate Village Hall has recently resurfaced. This building has been derelict for many years despite being in the custodianship of Brentwood Borough Council. But that is a whole other saga.

Sheila Murphy, our Borough Councillor, has had the Church and its site registered with Brentwood Council as a Community Asset, this gives us a few short months to gather enough money to purchase the site. Fiona Marsh, our other Borough Counsellor is also offering a lot of support to the project. We are extremely grateful for the help of so many of our residents who have offered help and already given their time to the project. The list of names would be too long to put here, but each of you know who you are – Thank you.

So what next and how can you help?



If you feel that our community should work to save the site, please let your Parish Councillors know by messaging the parish council here: <https://www.herongateandgravepc.org.uk/contact/> Or, you can find the individual contact details of our parish counsellors here: <https://www.herongateandgravepc.org.uk/parish-council/councillors/>

The more help and backing we get the better.

Now that an opportunity to buy the church has arisen, it offers us all an amazing space for many kinds of activities. Here's the vision for St Andrews.

We have a workable business plan that includes activities for the benefit of all members of our community, from young to old.

- An outstanding daycare centre for village children.
- Space for 1st Ingrave Guides and the Beavers,
- a meeting place for the parish council and home for the village museum,
- a father's and toddlers Saturday group,
- Warm Rooms and Lunch Club for older residents,
- Community Choir, art workshops, Yoga and meditation sessions,
- the Emergency Shelter,
- the Community Defibrillator,
- Evening talks and discussion groups,
- Business Networking,
- Ecumenical and community led faith services,
- a polyclinic,
- visits from Citizens Advice Bureau
- and a pop-up Post Office.

We will retain the War Memorial and the allotments. The community garden will continue and there are plans to create a nature trail. We will collaborate with the Billericay Foodbank offering horticultural classes and with the Wilderness Foundation who offer therapy in nature, who may use the garden for their outreach work. The building will be available for all residents to hire for celebrations including weddings.

This is just a flavour of the amazing opportunity the site and building offers our community,

We are about to start fundraising and taking the next steps toward saving the site in its entirety. This is complicated by the fact that we cannot know what a highest bidder will offer to purchase the site. Our fundraising plans include grant applications, government loans and gifts that would have a guaranteed return if we fail to complete the purchase.

If you would like to get involved, or find out more, or think you may be able to offer us help in this venture, please message us today at: Sheila.murphy54@icloud.com



Update on the Village Hall

Greg Campbell (Director of Policy & Delivery Brentwood Borough Council and Stuart Anderson (Facilities Manager Brentwood Borough Council) attended the parish council meeting on the 24th October 2023 to update residents on the situation with regards to the village hall and what the next steps might be.

Greg confirmed that Brentwood Borough Council have been made custodians of the village hall by the Charity Commission and as such will be the future decision maker with regards to the village hall.

The strict covenant concerning what can and cannot be done with the hall is still in place and Brentwood borough council will have to abide by the covenant.

Brentwood borough council were inviting the residents to have discussions about what they would like for the future of the hall. In reality the 2 possibilities are either to repair/rebuild the hall or to demolish it and grass the area over.

There was considerable discussion as to whether the Borough Council as custodian trustees since 1979 were in fact responsible for allowing the hall to fall into disrepair in the first place and Greg Campbell agreed to inquire about this with the council's legal department.

Greg Campbell agreed to come back and address the residents again once more information had been obtained.

	<h2>Herongate Wood</h2> <p>Woodland Cemetery & Funeral Directors</p>	
<p><i>Plan ahead & avoid those difficult questions...</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have you had the conversation with family members?• Who would you speak to if you needed to make funeral arrangements for a family member?• Does your family know your wishes regarding your funeral?• Have you or your family made any financial provisions regarding your funeral? <p>No...then book a free, no obligation appointment with one of our professional & qualified Funeral Arrangers.</p> <p>Contact us today on: Telephone: - 01277 811064 Email: - enquiries@herongatewood.co.uk</p>		
<p>Part of the Adam & Greenwood Funeral Home Family</p>		

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Clubs and Activities

Dance Fitness Class: Monday 7:30

Contact Debbie Wand 07725815134

Dance Trix—Tap, Ballet and Modern Dance

Contact: 07415067895/07734866345

Email: dancetrix@yahoo.co.uk

Exercise Movement and Dance – Ingrave Johnstone School

Contact Chris Bannister 01277

211050 or email

chrisbannister104@btinternet.com

Herongate Athletic Football Club

Graham Gibson 01277 228255

Football Club Hall bookings

Bev 07984288048

www.clubwebsite.co.uk/herongateathletic

Herongate Cricket Club Chairman

Matthew Rutland

Enquiries to: Karen Rutland

herongateandgravecc@outlook.com

Or visit

www.herongateandgravecc.com

Jackie Dartnell's Theatre School

Contact Jackie Dartnell on

01277 350746

St Andrews Church Hall Bookings

Jennie Penkul 01277 811813

St Nicholas Church Hall Bookings

Rita Hodgson 811179

Email: psh@btinternet.com

St Nicholas Church Ingrave

Main service 9.30am Sunday -

Rev Paul Hamilton - Tel: 07854214409

The Bell Ringing Group

St Nicholas Church Contact: Liz Atkins

Captain of the St Nicholas Church

Bellringers - ingrave@eacr.org.uk

Thorndon WI

For details of when and where the next meeting will be held please ring W.I Sec: 01277 811389

If you would like to have your local business added to this list, please email:

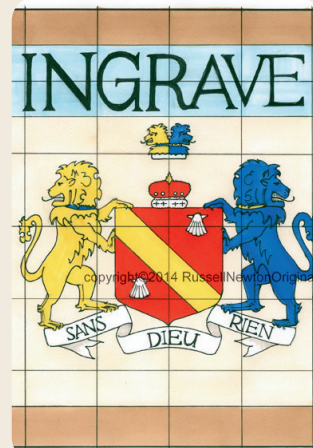
editor@herongateandgravepc.org.uk

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- We welcome any news items about forthcoming events in the villages, comments on issues that affect residents, or articles that you feel would be of interest to the residents. If you would like an article included please email editor@herongateandgravepc.org.uk
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