The Coronavirus Chronicle

Littlebury Parish News – w/c 11th May 2020

Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of VE Day—Lockdown Style.
Prize for the best bunting goes to Charlotte in Peggy's Walk (see bottom right!)







Just a few of the wonderful photos of your 'at home' celebrations for the 75th anniversary of VE Day. We hope to include many more in our Littlebury 2020 Album. If you haven't yet committed your thoughts on living in Littlebury during Lockdown to paper—PLEASE DO! Email them to littleburylockdown@gmail.com together with some images of your family, home and garden (landscape is best please). If you don't have digital images or would like someone to take down your thoughts over the telephone, please call Jo on 01799 520469.



8 May 2020 at Goodwins Close - Photo Gordon Ridgewell





Prize for the best bunting goes to Charlotte in Peggy's Walk!











75

VE DAY

75TH ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

8-10 MAY 2020











It was wonderful to hear the Church bells toll for the first time in seven weeks. Thanks to the Page family for ringing bells, both large and small, to mark the occasion.



Littlebury's VE Day celebration tea in Mulberry Cottage's garden in 1995



All the children lined up and dressed as if for WW2.



Brian Sanders, who was a little boy at the time, remembers VE Day with dancing in the Market Square. He is towards the back, sitting on a soldier's shoulders in this image from his book,

Evacuee
A Wartime Childhood.

If you don't already own a copy of this beautifully written and illustrated memoir, they are available to purchase from Saffron Walden Tourist Information once they reopen.

Katie Fraser writes:



This is my grandfather, Hans Geiser. He arrived in the UK on 16th May 1939 as a newly qualified doctor and political refugee, fleeing his German home-land. He was classed as an 'enemy alien,' and had to report to the police every week until he was allowed to enlist in the Royal Army Medical Corps. His younger brother, Helmut, was a member of 'X Troop', a group of specialist commandos, mostly Jews and German socialists, who fought for the British army behind enemy lines. Most of what they did is classified and Helmut was a quiet man, who never spoke about it.

They'd come to Britain with their family, all German socialists descended from a line of left-wing politicians, who'd spoken up publicly against the Nazis. They were taken in by the British government, to whom they remained deeply grateful to for the rest of their lives.

Today, as we remember the jubilant scenes of V.E. Day in 1945, we should also remember that this wasn't a victory for Britain; it was a victory for Europe. It wasn't about the conquering of one nation over another, it was the triumph of peace over turmoil and the a gateway to a new, united continent.

At the end of the war, when my great-grandfather was back in Germany, he wrote an essay entitled 'Are all Germans guilty?' It ends like this: 'When the day of deliverance dawns for the German people - when the veil is lifted and the silence of the grave now covering Germany is broken, then - I am convinced - the world will hear of numberless heroic actions of courageous men and women, who sacrificed themselves to free their country and the world from the curse and shame of Nazism'.

In this hour of the deepest sorrow and humiliation of the German Anti-Nazis, I wish to raise my voice for these enslaved and unhappy Germans who themselves must be the creators of the new Germany within the new Eu-rope.'Through their courage, fortitude and progressive thinking, they did indeed create a new Europe. I hope that our generation won't go on to feel that same sense of collective shame at ripping apart all that our ancestors fought so hard to achieve.#strongertogether



We are organising Music Bingo based on the best selling tracks of the 1980's.

The date is the **15th May** and we plan to open the 'meeting' at **19:00** and start the game at around **19:30**.

To play you will need to do a couple of things.

You will need to use 'Zoom' on your device or computer to join in the fun.

You will need to download and print out the Chart that will convert the track we play to a number.

You will also need a Traditional Bingo card, these can be picked up from Martyn
or delivered physically or electronically to you.

I will use the VH's Bingo machine to run the game but instead of calling the number I will play
the song that reached that number in the Chart and you will then mark your card in the traditional way.

Our resident expert on all things 80's Mr Laurence Ball will entertain with facts and figures on each
of the tracks played.

We will play for **all four corners** (that is the furthest Left and Right on your top and bottom line)
A line across (any of the three lines)
and finally **a Full house**.

Please feel free to dance along, 'dress up' and although the music will be limited to around
30 seconds for each track I hope we can have some fun.

Perhaps you could help a neighbour join in the fun by getting a card for them
and shouting the numbers to them?

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87230519456

Meeting ID: 872 3051 9456

If you need any help to get yourself organised please let us know.

Email: mail@martynporter.co.uk Telephone : 07973112616

Dear Friends,

This week I've been watching Race Across the World, which you can find on BBC iPlayer.

The idea is for five pairs to get across parts of the world using only land or water with just enough money for what would have been the flight only. They have to spend this cash on all their food, travel and board. The first couple to reach the final checkpoint wins £20 000. The current series saw the couples travel from Mexico City to Ushuaia in Argentina.

It is ironic to watch people travel across the world when we can't travel at all at the moment but what has struck me is the kindness of the strangers that the competitors meet. These range from offering directions or a lift to providing a meal and a bed for the night.

In Mathew's gospel Jesus talks about welcoming the stranger. He says 'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me....Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

It is always humbling when a stranger shows us hospitality or kindness because there is not always a reason for them to do it. You might have some recent examples where strangers have shown you kindness in these strange and troubling times.

When we finally come out of lockdown we will have the opportunity to re-connect with people we know and a chance to engage with strangers once again. I think this could be an opportunity to show the love of God in new and exciting ways. It is an opportunity to open ourselves up and see Jesus in the stranger.

Personally, I have missed face to face contact in ways that I never expected . I have missed being present in people's lives and it is something I hope never to take for granted again.

Reconnecting with one another will be a gift when it comes. When we show love for one another, we show love for Jesus and we therefore bring light into their lives.

Let's not waste one minute of it.

With love Alex.

Littlebury Ladies

Sadly, our May meeting—a talk and tasting of local wines by Saffron Grange—will have to be rescheduled.

As a (poor) alternative there will be a picture quiz available for anyone that would like to take part. Five rounds will be emailed to everyone on the Littlebury Ladies email group and posted on the Littlebury Facebook Group on Wednesday evening, with the answers following at 9pm. You can take part individually, or in teams via phone or zoom, as you wish. If you are don't have email and would like a copy of the quiz delivered to your door, please call Jo on 520469. There may even be a small prize for the winners!

Littlebury Support Group

If you need help with shopping, posting of mail, prescription collections, dog walking or anything else, just call one of these numbers and they will put you in touch with a volunteer from our community. If you would like someone to call you every day or every few days to check if you need anything, or just for a chat, please let one of us know. To join the 'News and Banter' or 'Littlebury 999' group, send a WhatsApp message to Keith Winter .

Paul Fennelly	07970 707978
Laura Webster	07863 204637
Tom Ewart	07810 207901
Lindsey Coyne	07764 301032
Andy Figge	07814 189916
Keith Winter	07980 210463
Jean Cowell	01799 524072 jean.cowell@littlebury.org.uk
Joanna Hancock	01799 520469 joannacl.hancock@gmail.com

Extra Educational Expenses?

Jane Bradbury's Educational Foundation is a long-established local charity which provides grants to young people under the age of 25 for education-related activities and expenses. Grants, generally between £50 and £300 depending on demand and what is being applied for, are available to those living in Littlebury, Littlebury Green and Catmere End.

Next closing date for applications is 31st May. If you think we can help you, do get in touch –

Louise Johnson (chair) 01799 522999, lou62johnson@gmail.com
or Jane Appleby (clerk to the trustees) 01799523066, jane.appleby@btconnect.com

Find us on Facebook @littleburygrants or at www.littlebury.org.uk/community

Keep a one-day diary for Mass Observation on 12 May

On 12 May the Mass Observation Archive - part of the University of Sussex's Special Collections at The Keep - will be repeating its annual call for day diaries, capturing the everyday lives of people across the UK.

In 1937 Mass Observation called for people from all parts of the UK to record everything they did from when they woke up in the morning to when they went to sleep at night on 12 May. This was the day of George VI's Coronation. The resulting diaries provide a wonderful glimpse into the everyday lives of people across Britain, and have become an invaluable resource for those researching countless aspects of the era. Now you can add your diary from 12 May to the 1937 documents:

- Write as much as you can about what you do, what you talk about, what you eat and drink, what you buy or sell, what you are working on, the places you visit, the people you meet, the things you read, see and hear around you, how you are feeling and, of course, what you yourself think
- Include a brief self portrait: your age, where you live, your relationship status, your present job or occupation if you are working, and any other information that you think is important to record. If 12 May was a typical day for you, please say so. If not, please say why it wasn't. Any reflections on the day and on how you felt while keeping the diary are welcome.

For full details on how to take part, go to http://www.massobs.org.uk/write-for-us/12th-may

My Chelsea Garden



The RHS and The One Show are calling on amateur gardeners across the nation to share images of their green spaces and growing efforts, in search of the very best. Anyone over the age of 18 can submit an entry whatever the shape or size of your garden, whether an outdoor space, windowsill, balcony or collection of houseplants. If you are under the age of 18 please ask a parent or guardian to make the nomination on your behalf. There are four categories to choose from: Back Garden, Front Garden, Indoor Garden and Kids' Corner Garden, but you can only enter one image in one of the categories. Pictures must be of people's own indoor or outdoor gardens and must be taken between Friday 1 May and Monday 18 May 2020. The best gardens will be shortlisted by a team of researchers and horticultural experts and selected to go before a panel of judges based on their suitability and the information supplied by the nominee. A winner from each of the four categories will be selected and will win four tickets to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2021 and a special RHS Award commending their garden. Entries open at 7pm on Friday 1st May and close at midnight on Monday 18th May. The winners will be revealed on The One Show and across RHS social platforms and their website on Friday 22nd May. How to Apply—You can submit a current image of your garden into your chosen category using this link: https://www.bbc.co.uk/send/u46629406 You will also be asked to tell us in up to 250 words how your garden is helping you at this moment in time.

GREAT CHESTERFORD & DISTRICT GARDENING SOCIETY

The Society, covering local villages including the Chesterfords, Littlebury, Littlebury Green, Strethall and Catmere End, organises meetings, talks, outings and events for people interested in gardens & gardening. New members (including novice gardeners) and visitors are always welcome....from anywhere in the locality!

Due to the current situation there will be no Garden Society meetings until further notice. Hopefully we can restart sooner rather than later. Membership renewal is normally during the month of April …. This will now be held over until we are able to resume our Wednesday monthly meetings at Ickleton Village Hall.

Springwell Nursery, R & R Saggers at Newport & Beeches Nursery at Ashdon are all providing a click & collect service for garden plants and essentials. Most of us are lucky enough to have a garden where we can spend time in the fresh air & even briefly forget about the current situation, and the Spring sunshine has been a huge tonic! In the meantime, please take care & keep well. If you would like further information about the society please contact Chair, Mrs Pauline Gale 01799-525543

Shelford Deli For over 20 years the Deli has been the home of good food where taste and provenance are essentials. Order + collect your customised weekly grocery box of all your joyous favourite things, from Monmouth coffee, Grainculture bread, fresh vegetables + artisan cheese to Jacks Gelato! ....all packed up and (for now) sold to you at the open front door of the shop, times collections also available!

E: shelforddeli@outlook.com T: 01223 846129 Stocklist link here : https://www.shelforddelicatessen.co.uk//

From our District Councillors

This newsletter marks the end of our first year as district councillors. May of 2019 seems a lifetime ago! It has been a rollercoaster twelve months. To say there has been change is an under statement, most of it good, some of it frustrating and of course, the totally unexpected.

70% of UDC councillors are now independent of Westminster party politics. In our opinion this is a wonderful thing. From the outset we have said councillors should work solely for the benefit of the community, not party loyalty or vested interests. The first action of the new council was to declare a climate change & ecological emergency. Every member except one (who abstained) voted for this. Care for our environment will define responsible government at every level for many years to come.

In January, after several months of intense scrutiny and review, the Planning Committee overturned the vote made prior to the elections to allow Stansted airport to expand to the size of Gatwick. Also in January, the Planning Inspectorate recommended withdrawal of the draft Local Plan as created by the previous administration. There was widespread disillusionment with the plan and the way it had been forced through council ahead of the elections.

And then along came Covid-19 to turn life upside down. We shan't know the full impact of the pandemic crisis on Uttlesford District Council for several months yet. It has fallen on UDC to manage an enhanced safety net of social care and community support while also striving to maintain its other services. Everyone at the council has risen to the challenge magnificently as have local volunteers throughout the district.

What next?

The pandemic lockdown has taken a heavy toll on UDC's income and finances. The signal from central Govt is that local authorities (and ultimately that means our communities) will have to "share the pain," which suggests councils will not be fully compensated.

Meantime there is a sizeable workload at UDC, not least shaping a new Local Plan, fighting greedy developers, protecting our countryside, evolving the council's strategy on climate change and biodiversity, and developing a new budget to reflect the impact of the pandemic.

In our ward there are some distinct challenges. First, there is pressure from housing developers. For the most part this will affect communities along the main roads (B184 and B1383). Everyone in the ward will suffer if schools and healthcare resources are overloaded as a result. It makes getting a new and meaningful Local Plan in place all the more important and we will be working flat out to ensure a just and reasonable outcome.

School transport came to a head last autumn. We led the fight to get parents concerns properly recognised by Essex County Council and we have been working closely with cabinet members in the UDC administration to try and achieve a lasting solution. However the pandemic has cast a long shadow. We wait to see how many bus operators are still in business and willing to take on the education contract.

To read more on these and other topics go to our website http://proudlyindependent.uk/

It's been a tough few months for everyone but what has been heartening is the way residents have responded and supported each other. We are fortunate to live in wonderful communities. Give yourselves a big round of applause!

Neil Gregory is chair of the Scrutiny Committee and a member of the Standards Committee. Richard Pavitt is a member of the Planning Committee and deputy chair of the Energy & Climate Change working group.

Essex Rural Strategy consultation

If you live in the rural areas around Uttlesford and want a say in how organisations deal with rural issues, have you completed the Essex Rural Strategy consultation? This **four year strategy collated by the Essex Rural Partnership**, brings together the public, private and voluntary sectors to co-ordinate action on the major challenges facing the County's rural areas, and this is not restricted just to Policing issues but deals with a much wider range such as farming, housing, tourism, access to services and so on.

The consultation has been extended until the 29th May 2020 so that more people can take part. It can be accessed via this link: https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/essex-rural-strategy-2020-consultation/

Comments on Addenbrookes Hospital?

The councillor now responsible for health in Essex, Councillor John Moran is inviting comments on Addenbrooke's Hospital. Cllr John Moran, who represents Saffron Walden on Essex County Council, said: "I am honoured to be able to take up this post during these challenging times. I have been asked to lead on the county council's relationships with and support for the NHS, including input into the future plans for Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, which is the main hospital for the West of Essex. These plans already have government funding. They will be decided on over the next two years and completed by 2026. I am also trying to establish regular input into the decision making processes of Addenbrooke's Hospital, the place where many of us who live in North West Essex are treated, Anybody with thoughts on this and other health matters is welcome to email me at cllr.john.moran@essex.gov.uk

Saffron Hall

As we prepare to hear Boris Johnson's statement about the beginnings of a return to a "new normal" life, we are all busy preparing for some kind of normality at Saffron Hall. The Hall will remain closed until the end of June. With the greatest will in the world, the situation for July and August is simply impossible to predict at the moment with regard to edicts on public gatherings and guidance on social distancing, so we will be in touch with news about those concerts as soon as things are clearer in the next few weeks. We have the most fantastic season of concerts planned for the Autumn; however, it is not currently clear whether overseas artists will be allowed to travel, or indeed exactly when orchestras will be allowed to play together again. For these reasons and after a lot of agonising, we feel the most sensible and responsible course of action is to hold back our September-November concerts for the moment. Please be assured, they are all "on ice" and waiting to go on sale! Looking further ahead, and hoping the situation will have eased in time, we will soon be launching our concerts from 1 December through to the end of March 2021. This will include new concerts alongside some that have been rescheduled from Spring 2020.

All these decisions have been extremely complex and difficult; our priority is and will remain the safety and well-being of our audiences, performers and staff. We are all dealing with many unknowns at the moment, but I would like to reassure you that should any of our concerts be cancelled or fundamentally changed, we will continue to offer full refunds. I hope this gives you the confidence to continue to book your tickets for the new season.

Thank you again to everyone that has donated their ticket monies for cancelled concerts back to Saffron Hall and to those who are continuing to support us via our membership scheme. Our membership is the only regular support that Saffron Hall receives and if you are not already a member, I would ask you to consider joining now, if you are in a position to do so. The scheme is more crucial now to us than it has ever been, and there are a number of benefits including priority booking.

Our new season will be on sale to members from 18 May and to the general public from 26 May, but I can give you a few highlights now - and hopefully raise your spirits! Christmas would not be Christmas without the *Messiah* and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment will be joined by Jesus College Choir in what will no doubt be a very emotional performance of the 'Hallelujah' Chorus. It is a season of Saffron Hall favourites and friends; I know we will all be delighted to see the return of Nicola Benedetti, The Sixteen and of course our Resident Orchestras, the London Philharmonic and Britten Sinfonia. Our star debut comes from the world's most illustrious operatic mezzo-soprano, Joyce DiDonato.

I look forward to seeing you at Saffron Hall again very soon; please do keep safe and sound until then.

Bored with your board games?

Why don't you….

- Join Lawrence for the **1980's Music Bingo Bonanza** on Friday 15th May
- Take part in the **Littlebury Ladies Picture Quiz** on Wednesday 13th May
- **Download 'Coronopoly'** - Monopoly meets Cards Against Humanity with an Isolation and Lockdown theme. £5 from Etsy https://www.etsy.com/uk/listing/778009330/coronopoly-the-family-isolation-based or make your own version as two enterprising young people have done https://themanc.com/homepage/kids-create-coronopoly-a-lockdown-themed-version-of-monopoly/
- Take part in **a quiz, murder mystery or board game night** and raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support with the Macmillan games night in https://gamesnight.macmillan.org.uk/
- Test your wizarding world knowledge in the **free Harry Potter themed escape room** https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSflNxNM0jzbZJjUqOcXkwhGTfii4CM_CA3kCxImbY8c3AABEA/viewform
- If you have young children, try some of the **lockdown play ideas** at the Great Ormand Street Play Hub https://www.gosh.org/power-of-play
- Enjoy the **Gyndebourne Opera** experience for free https://www.glyndebourne.com/on-screen/
- Take a **virtual tour of the world's best museums** https://www.southernliving.com/syndication/museums-with-virtual-tours
- Complete one of the nearly **1000 free courses** available online from OpenLearn https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue

If you have news, information or photographs to share in a future newsletter, or know of anyone who would like to receive a copy, please email joannacl.hancock@gmail.com