

ROUND ABOUT

DECEMBER 2021

GREAT TEY

NEWS, VIEWS AND EVENTS IN & AROUND GT TEY

ECC UPDATE

Cllr. Lewis Barber

Since my last update, I have been working with the Parish Council, Borough Cllr Peter Chillingworth and the community to ensure your priorities are addressed.

I am pleased to confirm that resources have been secured for repairs to Greenfield Drive. This will take place between 24th January 2022 and 1st February 2022. There will be a road closure in place during this period but access to properties will be maintained. I will work to see if this date can be brought forward at all but the repairs will be taking place.

I also arranged a meeting on site to examine how to improve safety at and around the Earls Colne Road and Chappel Road junction. Following this, I submitted an application to the Local Highways Panel (LHP), who would oversee any changes and on which I am a member. The LHP is investigating possible solutions to improve safety. There are existing land ownership queries that need addressing too.

In respect of wider road safety issues, such as speeding, I requested Highways conduct road surveys. These are the required first step before speed reduction schemes are considered for funding. Once I have received the data, which at the time of writing should be received any day soon, I examine the works with Cllr Chillingworth and the Parish Council to discuss possible next steps, before community consultation.

Flooding issues continue to be a challenge. Please report all flooding issues as a first point of call on the Essex Highways website. If you are having any difficulties, or you receive an unsatisfactory response, please do get in touch with me so I can try to resolve. Highways are aware of flooding on Brook Road and it has written to landowners to clear blocked ditches to help address the problem.



We are also all working to ensure that the jubilee tree on the Moor Road/Chappel Road junction is saved. This historic tree is now struggling with the fact the surrounding concrete surface is limiting its access to necessary water and nutrients. We are in the process of gaining the required permissions to ensure the tree gets the work it needs done.

ECC is launching a new bus strategy as part of the national changes to bus policy. This new strategy has the ambition to increase bus usage. I would welcome feedback on the local bus service and what changes you would like to see. Please do let me know your thoughts so I can ensure the new strategy works for Great Tey.

Finally, a reminder that applications for primary school place for September 2022 are now open. You can apply through the ECC website but please be aware that ECC does not write to parents/guardians to remind them to apply. The deadline is 15th January 2022.

Contact details: 07876237137, Cllr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk, Cllr Lewis Barber on Facebook.

EDITORIAL

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers and a big thank you to John Lucock and all the people who deliver this paper to your door each month.

Also, a big thank you to the Parish Council for their donation to the print fund, which will enable us to continue printing the paper into the new year.

Please remember we do not publish a January paper, I guess everyone is too excited unwrapping their presents and drinking their wine to even think about what else is going on, but please send in your news for February by the date listed on the back page. I hope, with the Covid situation easing slightly we will see plenty of exciting events in our village next year. Watch this space! Ed

GREAT TEY CUBS RETURN TO VILLAGE HALL

As previously reported in Round & About, Scouting in Great Tey continues to go from strength to strength. In this month's spotlight it's the turn of our Cubs. On top of the usual games enjoyed each week, the Cubs have had a varied month including:

Guy Fawkes – the Cubs learnt all about Guy Fawkes and keeping safe during the bonfire festivities. They also built their own Cub Guy out of newspaper and old clothes and enjoyed sparklers in the fresh evening air!

Remembrance Day – the Cubs learnt about what Remembrance Day stands for and made Poppy Wreaths. Henry was chosen to lay the Cub wreath at St Barnabas Church on Remembrance Sunday. We had an excellent turn out of the Group at the service, with 20 young people from our Beaver, Cub and Scouts. The young people all behaved impeccably and did the village proud on the day.

International Badge – the Cubs undertook some activities related to their International Badge. Within their Sixes, there were given a Country to research (including Italy, Spain, France and Greece) and learnt about their food, culture, Scouting and other interesting facts. For instance one group learnt about a festival in Pamplona in Spain – the running of the bulls, where participants are chased through the streets by bulls. Some cubs said they'd like to give it a try but that won't be appearing on the programme any time soon!!

Presentation – the Cubs took their research and new knowledge from the previous week's International Badge week and created PowerPoint slide presentations, allowing them to practice their IT skills and develop their presentation skills, as they showed their slides to the group.

Adventure Day – on Saturday 27th our Cubs and Beavers had an excellent day at the Thorrington Scout Camp Ground. During the day they explored the site, made bug hotels and nature pictures, went for an adventure run on the course within the camp ground and learnt about how to safely light a fire. They were then sent into the woods to collect wood and light their own fires (under supervision!). The day was rounded off by sausages cooked over the fire and a camp fire sing along.

We would like to go on record to thank the Scout Leadership Team at 1st Marks Tey & Copford, who have made our Cubs feel so welcomed and provided them with such a rich Scouting experience over the last few months, with a special shout out to Liz Welch for her support and guidance. We are hugely excited that

our Cubs will be returning to Scouting in the village from January and looking forward to continuing their Scouting Adventure.

If you would like to become involved with our enthusiastic leadership team or have a youngster aged between 6 and 14 that would like to benefit from the exciting activities in Beavers, Cubs or Scouts please contact us at 1stgreatteygroup@gmail.com
Happy Christmas to you all.



YOUR VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU! Vacancies for Voluntary Roles on the Village Hall Management Committee for Chairperson and Secretary

VILLAGE HALL CHAIRPERSON

Duties include:

- Chair AGM
- Regular communication with Village Hall Manager
- General correspondence with Village Hall Manager, Treasurer and Parish Council
- Annual inspection of village hall with Village Hall Manager

VILLAGE HALL SECRETARY

Duties include:

- Preparation and minute taking at Village Hall AGM
- Ad hoc correspondence with the Village Hall Manager

If you are interested in either of the above roles, please contact the Parish Council,

David Williams on: greatteyparishcouncil@outlook.com for further information.

GREAT TEY COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL



On Tuesday 21st December at 7.00pm we will be reviving an old tradition for Great Tey and will be gathering outside the Pub to sing Christmas Carols. We have Carol sheets (although we should all know most of them by now) for those people who come along and join us. After the Carols we will go into the Pub to warm up with Mulled wine and mince pies/sausage rolls.

All donations will go towards the Swimming pool Fund, so please come along and join us either to sing or even just to listen and enjoy – EVERYONE IS WELCOME.



Christmas Cards For Sale

‘St Barnabas in the snow’

£ 5.00 for pkt of 10

Contact ann@bartleet.co.uk

Or text 07543635469 to arrange payment and delivery – all proceeds to church funds

PS. Our aprons are red for Xmas – and we have some jigsaws still in stock

EYES DOWN – BINGO

Thank you to all that attended Bingo last month. Many thanks to all who helped and attended to make it an enjoyable afternoon.

Our next session will be our Christmas event with ‘Big Money’ prizes to be won, The more people who come the bigger the ‘prize pot’, There will also be a Christmas raffle.

The Christmas bingo session will be held at the Village Hall on Thursday, 9th December 2021 between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm. We look forward to seeing you all.

Bingo now takes place on the 2nd Thursday each month.
Beryl Brewer



COULD YOU BE A BLOODRUNNER?

The Essex Voluntary Blood Service – or Essex Bloodrunners for short, is a charity providing medical courier services to the NHS and our local Air Ambulances. We are one of 30 such organisations in the UK.

From the NHS Blood Bank at Basildon, our unpaid volunteers deliver blood and blood products to A&E Hospitals in Essex and East London; deliver samples for analysis to a NHS Lab in North London, and via Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow, supply blood to the Air Ambulances at Earls Colne and North Weald every night. Amongst many other tasks we also courier breast milk from donors to the Hearts Milk Bank and Addenbrooke’s Hospital.

We operate every weekday night, and day and night shifts at weekends and Bank Holidays. Our enhanced support to Hospitals during the Covid-19 pandemic has also introduced a weekday daytime shift. We now need more members. You choose in advance the days and shifts you work. We are looking for reliable and responsible men and women from all backgrounds, employed or retired, with a motorcycle, car or van, a mobile phone and internet access. You will receive training, documentation, full support and a hi-viz uniform jacket.

You will work alone on a delivery run with a typical round-trip distance from home of between 60 and possibly over 120 miles, and be the face of Essex Bloodrunners to the public and NHS staff. The work is not glamorous; can be tiring; you may work unsocial hours in all weathers and you will add thousands of miles to your vehicle. You are unpaid and cover all your own expenses... so not much going for it really!

However, rather like being a First Aider or Blood Donor, this is one of the very few ways that an ordinary member of the public can help save a life.

Most of you reading this piece will think “sounds good, but not for me”, which we quite understand, but just one of you may wish to enquire further. If so, see our website at: EssexVoluntaryBloodService.com

And thank you for your kind attention.

GREAT TEY WI

We had a very interesting and helpful talk on Telephone and Computer scams at our last meeting.

Hopefully it made those present more alert, and resistant, to the many ways that you can lose your money.

This month meeting, Tuesday 7th December, is "something completely different" as it is our Christmas Dinner at the Chequers. We aim to sit down to eat at 7.30pm, so leave plenty of time before hand for chatting!

As there is no R&A in January, this is just a gentle reminder that January's meeting on Tuesday 4th is our Birthday Party at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, where we will enjoy fun, games, food and good company.

As February's meeting is on Tuesday 1st February 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, we would like to give advance notice of the meeting in case delivery of R&A is not received in time. The talk for February will be about the History of Perrywoods Nursery in Tiptree, and hopefully some 'samples' of their stock will be available to buy.

ALSO, in February we will holding our Annual Soup Lunch on Tuesday 15th February at 12 noon in the Village Hall. This has been a well attended event for the last few years, and for £5.00 for soup, bread and pudding it is a real bargain, so make sure to mark the date on your New Year's Calendar. This year, instead of the profits going to the WI, the money will be going towards helping to build our new Community Swimming Pool. So come along, bring a friend, and enjoy the soup lunch and know you are helping to build a great community project. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

Great Tey WI Committee

GREAT TEY YOUTH ACTIVITY CLUB (YAC)

Calling all Year 6 children and upwards, you are invited to start at Youth Club on Friday 14th January 2022, 7:30pm to 9:30pm at the village hall, £1.50 per child per session.

We welcome children from Gt Tey, Little Tey, Chappel and Wakes Colne.

We meet every fortnight for activities including table tennis, Wii, PS3, pool, badminton, games, table football, music, tuck shop and activity trips through the year.

If you have any queries please contact Alec Brooks on 01206 210248

GREAT TEY FOOTPATH WALKING GROUP

In **October** we completed our awayday circular walk from Colne Engaine to Pebmarsh and return on a very pleasant, sunny, dry day with several members enjoying the change of scenery, and of course the great roast lunch afterwards at The Five Bells in Colne Engaine. In **November** we met on Remembrance Sunday afternoon for a more chilled, thoughtful, local walk around Great Tey, taking advantage of the freedom we now enjoy thanks to all the men & women who fought in the wars to retain this wonderful feeling.



Sunday 12th & 19th December - As 2021 comes to a close, and indeed Christmas descends upon us too, we have two Sunday walks planned; the first on Sunday 12th is an awayday walk in & around Manningtree, with lunch (venue to be confirmed) followed by a visit to Lawford Church for the annual Christmas Ramblers & Cyclists carol service commencing at 3pm. Obviously, this was cancelled last year due to lockdown restrictions, so it is really special we have been invited to attend this year. It would be wonderful to have as many people as possible at the service. Cars leave Great Tey Village Hall car park at 9.30am. The second walk on Sunday 19th is a local morning walk commencing from the Village Hall at 10am. This should be no longer than 4-5 miles, returning to the village in time for a seasonal drink in The Chequers afterwards. For those who are hungry too, we might even be able to arrange lunch as well, but we will have to book with Terry & Natalie to be certain of availability. Contact details are below.

Sunday 16th January 2022 - Happy New Year!! Start the New Year off with a bracing winter walk around Great Tey. The village is surrounded by a matrix of fabulous footpaths in all directions, you'll be amazed just how beautiful the countryside is around us within a few minutes of leaving the village centre!! We usually meet in the village hall car park at 2.30pm and be delighted to lead you on a journey you won't forget. For further information about any of our walks, please contact the following:-

Peter Wakeling,

01206 211887 email: peteanddil@hotmail.com

Jane Pearson,

01206 210855 email: drjanepearson@gmail.com

THE GREAT TEY FRIENDSHIP/ BOWLS CLUB

Well, we've only got one more meeting now before we face Christmas! Our Christmas lunch at The Chequers is booked for the 15th, and we have our last meeting of the year on Wed the 8th of Dec.

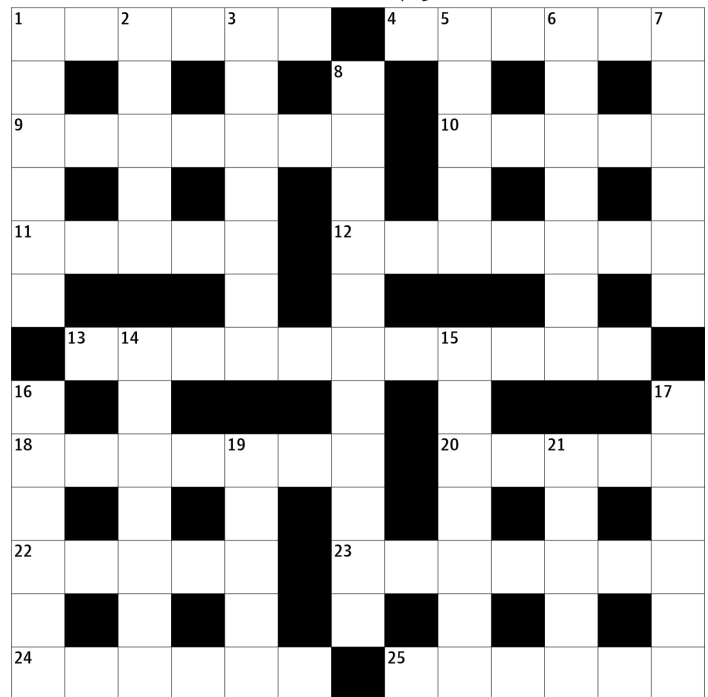


Mince pies and Sherry for that day - just to get some practice in before the holiday really starts! We'll start again (with some no doubt much needed exercise...) in the New Year. The proposed dates are the 5th and 19th of Jan, with lunch on the 15th and 26th. As ever, contacts are Jim on 01206210838 and Andrea on 01206803541.

Merry Christmas everyone and a happy and healthy New Year to you all.

R&A QUICK CROSSWORD

Solutions over page



Across

1. Take (to be true?) (6)
4. Source of confusion (6)
9. Pedicurist's tip? (7)
10. Most charming and beautiful woman (at the ball?) (5)
11. Grade 'A' (5)
12. Fair-weather time piece (7)
13. It's often cast upon the waters (7,4)
18. Onslaught (7)
20. Unconventional (informal) (5)
22. Incinerated (5)
23. Very appetising (informal) (7)
24. Walk like a child (6)
25. Arouse (6)

Down

1. Off course (6)
2. Sound like a bird (5)
3. Old Egyptian royal (7)
5. In a densely populated area (5)
6. Very large indefinite number (informal) (7)
7. In a uniform way (6)
8. When to drink up — Milo's gin etc (anag) (7,4)
14. Protected against loss or damage (7)
15. Not highly cultured (7)
16. Tactical move (6)
17. Link between two words (6)
19. Up to that moment (5)
21. Pain in the neck (5)

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YAY2GREATTEY at checkout
to receive free delivery

Offer ends 22.12.21. Valid for Great Tey Residents only

WINTER BOWLS LEAGUE

After a year's Covid break, the winter bowls league is back. 7 teams are taking part as per the last 12 years. The first evening has taken place and it was good to see the old faces again and a number of new ones. It was also good to see that none of the regulars had lost any of the skills and the competition will be as competitive as ever as the new players unleash their skills.

We thank the Bowls/Friendship club, once again, for the use of the equipment which is helping the community in getting back to some normality.

CHURCH NEWS

We are getting very close to Christmas and we very much hope lots of R and A readers will come and celebrate with us. We think there is something for everyone in the run up to Christmas.

Services during December

5th December	10.00am	Morning Service (Chappel)
5th December	10.00am	Family Service with giving of Toys (Little Tey)
5th December	4.00pm	Christingle Celebration with Nativity Play (Gt Tey)
12th December	10.00 am	Benefice Communion Service (Great Tey)
14th December	7.00pm	The Chequers, there will be Carols at the pub)
19th December	6.30pm	Carol Service (Great Tey)
24th December	4.00pm	Crib Service (Little Tey)
25th December	10.00am	Christmas Day Benefice Communion Service with carols and Christmas readings

Advent

The churches season of Advent lasts for the 4 weeks leading up to Christmas day. The name comes from the Latin adventus, meaning 'coming'. It marks the beginning of the churches year and the coming of the birth of Christ. In former times Advent was marked by extra fasting days and purple hangings on the alter. The church still often uses the purple hangings on the alter in Advent and marks the 4 Sundays in Advent by lighting a candle on a wreath each Sunday and one on Christmas Day.

Nowadays most of us remember Advent, because our children and grandchildren open a door in their Advent Calendar every day for the 25 days leading up to Christmas. It is thought that this started in Germany at the beginning of the 20th century. Sometimes a candle is burnt down a little bit each day until the 25th

Christmas

Like so many of the Christian Festivals, the way we celebrate Christmas is a mixture of Christian and pre-Christian festivities. The date for the celebration of Christ's birth was settled in the early days of the church. It may have been partly a matter of convenience to choose a time already associated with light and re-birth at the winter solstice in the Roman Calendar. The evergreens that we bring into the house and sing about in carols, for instance 'The holly and the ivy' were used in pagan times to symbolise rebirth and the enduring qualities of plants and their ability to be 'reborn' in the coming year. Fires and lights were an important part of the celebrations. It wasn't difficult to graft onto these traditions a Christian message - red berries to symbolise the blood of Christ that would be shed at the end of Christ's life and candles for the 'light of the world'.

We sometimes refer to Christmas as 'Yuletide'. This is another reference to pre-Christian celebrations and feasting in midwinter. German and Scandinavian countries all had similar words for these festivities and were brought to this country by the Anglo Saxons. When King Halkon of Norway became a Christian, he too made sure that the celebration of Christ's birth coincided with pagan Yuletide festivities.

Christingle celebration with Nativity Play

5th December at St Barnabas Great Tey, 4pm

This celebration marks the arrival of the Christ child bringing light into the world. It reminds us that we are part of a world community and we all share the planet's bounty. We celebrate with;

An orange, representing the world. A candle pushed into the centre of the orange, then lit, representing Jesus Christ as Light of the World. A red ribbon wrapped around the orange or a paper frill around the candle, representing the blood of Christ. Sweets skewered on cocktail sticks pushed into the orange, represents the fruits of the earth

There will also be a short Nativity Play included in the service

Children of all ages with parents and grandparents are warmly invited to attend

There will be a retiring collection for UNICEF, a charity which works for disadvantaged children around the world

Family Service at Little Tey with giving of Toys

5th December, 10am

During the Family Service toys suitable for small children are collected to be given to the Mother and Babies Home. If anyone who can't be there and has anything suitable, please email Freda King, fredaking100@gmail.com

Carol Singing at the Chequers

Tuesday 14th December at the Chequers, 7pm

Come along to The Chequers and have a good old sing of some of your favourite Christmas carols (carol sheets will be provided). All you need to do is be there, don't worry if you think you can't sing very well. You will be amazed how good you sound with a glass of wine in your hand!

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

19th December at St Barnabas Great Tey, 6.30pm

The Church will be decorated for Christmas, including a Christmas Tree and candles. There will be the traditional Christmas readings read by representatives of village organisations and well known carols.

Christmas Day

25th December at St Barnabas Great Tey, 10.00am

A communion service with carols – everyone welcome to come and celebrate an important birthday!

There will be no Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and no service on Boxing Day, Sunday 26th this year.

CROSSWORD

Solutions

1	A	C	2	C	E	3	P	T	4	P	5	U	Z	6	Z	7	L	E
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24	T	O	D	D	L	E		25	A	W	A	K	E	N				



TREES!

In particular, Quinces and Medlars

We have all been asked to plant more trees to help combat climate change. I'm not sure I can manage that at Bucklers or it will begin to look like Sleeping Beauty's castle after 100 years, in other words invisible within a wood! However, I have been reminded that we all make choices even if we only have a small garden and that that choice is all the more difficult if we have only room for one or two trees.

One of my favourite small trees is the quince – *Cydonia Oblonga* – It has everything going for it. It grows a bit like an apple tree, to which it is related.

The original habitat of the quince is the eastern Mediterranean. The Greeks called it 'Cydonia' from a town in Crete where it would certainly have grown in ancient times. It produces a better crop than an apple tree in hotter climates, so was popular in Roman cooking. If you happen to have a copy of the recipes of Apicius (he lived between 30BC and the forty's AD), he has recipes for cooking quince with honey as well as with meat.

The quince is not naturally a large tree, but if it gets too large it can be judiciously pruned to keep it in bounds. I have two varieties, one Meeches Prolific, seems to grow more vigorously and I do prune this a little most years, and a second, Vranja, which seems naturally to be a bit smaller. I planted this one more than 20 years ago and it still is quite a small tree.

All Quinces have very pretty, pale pink flowers which arrive after the leaves. This means they often avoid frost damage. They then produce

beautiful clear yellow fruit. Those of Meeches Prolific are enormous, often 6 inches in length and weighing up to 500gm and it is a more reliable cropper in our, not very reliable, climate. This autumn the leaves on one of the trees have gone the most spectacular shades of yellow and russet.

Quinces are pretty, garden trees and for that reason I would recommend them, but the glory of the tree is the jelly that you can make from the fruit. I have just made a batch and it is sitting in the window in the kitchen, a positively luminous shade of pinkish apricot. It is delicious with scones and cream or used like redcurrant jelly with lamb or game. The Spanish eat it with cheese and that is good too.

The Medlar tree – *Mespilus Germanicus* is another good candidate for a smallish garden. This tree also has its origins in the Western Asia and especially Persia and Turkey. It has probably been in cultivation for 3,000 years. The Greeks and Romans grew it. Its great advantage was that its fruit stayed on the tree into winter. What is more, the fruit becomes edible when it is beginning to be over ripe and soft which also means it lasts into winter. For those of a sensitive nature leave out the next couple of sentences! The medlar's brown fruit is a strange shape. This gave it its name in Chaucerian English 'open arse' and the French common name for it is 'dog's arse' – less sensitive times!

Nowadays the principal reason for growing the medlar is that it isn't too large, it has pretty pink flowers that appear after the leaves, it grows into an attractive umbrella shape and its leaves turn a good colour in autumn. The fruits are edible as described above, but not that exciting! Similarly, one can make jelly from them, but it is a bit dull, rather like apple jelly.

If you decide to grow either of these trees, the quince tree prefers a slightly damper soil

(I put the hose on mine a couple of times a summer).
PS. If you want to try quince jelly, I will be putting some for sale outside my door in December.



THE CHEQUERS

CHRISTMAS @ THE CHEQUERS

19th December, Sunday – Quiz Night 7pm (wear a Xmas Jumper) Pre-book your table.

21st December, Tuesday – Christmas Carols from 7pm

Christmas Eve – 12pm – 3pm 5pm – 12am

Christmas Day – 12pm – 3pm (Restaurant Closed)

Boxing Day, – Colchester Morris Men from 12:30pm. Open 12pm – 8pm

New Year's Eve – Disco - free entry - please let us know if you are coming as space is limited.

New Year's Day – open 12pm – 6pm

2022

Pre-order Themed nights

20th January, Thursday – Vegan Evening – Menu now available

29th January, Saturday – Cockney Evening – Menu available soon

12th February, Saturday – Valentine's Evening – Menu available January

26th February, Saturday – Chinese Evening – Menu available January

November was a busy month for the team @ The Chequers and we would like to thank you all for again for your turnout. The bonfire night and the charity event were both extremely well supported and both events could never have taken place without your input.

We wish you a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Please note: the website shown on an internet search of The Chequers Great Tey is not owned by us and the information is out of date.

Tel: 01206 210814 (currently no answer phone facility)

Facebook: The Chequers-Great Tey (the old page is not monitored by the current owners)

The new page has a hyphen in between words.

Instagram: The Chequers-Great Tey the_chequers_great_tey

Email: thechequersgreattey@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you @ The Chequers.

Please note copy deadline for the **FEBRUARY** issue

(if sufficient news is forthcoming) will be:

Wednesday 19th January 2022

PLEASE send all copy **BEFORE** noon on this day to the editor, David Edwards at
edwardsdj44@gmail.com

If you would like to make a donation to the print fund for Round & About Great Tey please use payment by BACS to Barclays Bank Account No 83141004 – Sort Code 20-97-40 including your name or organisation if possible.