

ROUND ABOUT

DECEMBER 2023

GREAT TEY

NEWS, VIEWS AND EVENTS IN & AROUND GT TEY

EDITORIAL

Thank you to White Colne Parish Council and G & J Barron Farms for their kind donations to the print fund in return for including their material in this issue.

Don't forget there will not be another paper until the February edition so please send in all your articles for publication by the copy deadline on the back page.

Thanks to everyone who has supported this paper throughout the year and I hope you and all our readers have a good Christmas and may 2024 be good for you. Ed.

SAVE THE DATE - VILLAGE WEEKEND RETURNS

The date for your new 2024 diary is 14th, 15th and 16th June 2024.

The theme for the Fete is 'Farming and Nature'

As part of the celebrations there will be a photography competition on that theme.

Photos can be of plants, animals, tractors, farming work taking place on the fields around the village, anything showing Great Tey and its surroundings in all its glory!

We are also looking for photographs of the past to capture how farming practises have changed.

This advance notification is to allow for all the seasons to be captured, so get those cameras and phones out and start snapping!

More details to follow next year.



GREAT TEY YOUTH ACTIVITY CLUB (YAC)

Calling all Year 6 children and upwards, you are invited to start at Youth Club on Friday 12th January 2024, 7:30pm to 9:30pm at the village hall, £1.50 per child per session.

We welcome children from Great 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 07715 698551

GREAT TEY WI

Soup Lunch



Tuesday 20th February at

12 noon

Great Tey Village Hall

Soup and bread followed by a choice of pudding all for £ 5.00.

RAFFLE

This event always proves very popular. So please book your seat, in advance, on 01206210872

DRAFT AGENDA GT TEY PARISH COUNCIL

Summons and Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Village Hall, Chappel Road, Great Tey on Thursday 12th December at 7.30pm

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declaration of Interests
3. Confirmation of Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 14th November 2023
4. Public Open Forum – To receive any representations from the Public. Note: A period of up to 15 minutes (maximum of 5 minutes per person) for members of the public to ask questions or submit comments about items on the agenda.
5. Ward and County Councillors to address the members (if present). To receive reports from our ward and county councillors.
6. Neighbourhood Plan – To receive an update from the committee
7. Planning Matters – Planning applications received, approved and refused by Colchester City Council
8. Financial Matters – Payments for approval
Bank reconciliation statement
2024/25 Budget and Precept discussions
9. Clerk's Report
10. Garden Waste Strategy
To discuss cessation of Garden waste services by Colchester City Council
11. Harold Fairs Recreation Ground
To consider any management matters
12. Maintenance Contractor - To receive a report on outstanding jobs
13. Village Hall - To consider any management matters
14. Highways – To consider any highways issues
15. Old Playing Field - To consider any management matters
16. Allotments - Report on allotment payments and condition of plots
17. Information sharing and items for future agenda

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC To RESOLVE that due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the public and press be excluded pursuant to Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

18. Other Business for Discussion

Close of meeting

Signed:- *Adele Warnes* Clerk to the Parish Council.

Approved minutes of previous parish council meetings may be inspected by arrangement with the Clerk -

telephone: 01787 224895,

email: greatteyparishcouncil@outlook.com, or view at www.greattey.com

PLEASE NOT THAT THIS IS ONLY A DRAFT AGENDA AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE BEFORE THE MEETING DATE

THE COLNE VALLEY COMMUNITY ENERGY PROJECT

This project is backed by the Essex County Council and has gained the support of six parishes and one Town council in the Colne Valley area. We believe it has the potential to make a significant impact on our community's sustainability and energy efficiency – plus save us all some money !

For the last two months we have been inviting residents to directly contact the project's official installers darran@simcott.co.uk to request a FREE no obligation desk stop study showing the potential and costs of solar panels with battery storage for their property.

As the project moves forward we know there are still many more of you who would like to discuss this in depth with the technical company and installer involved in the project.

Therefore everyone is invited to our next public meeting to be held at the Village Hall in Great Tey on Tuesday January 30th from 7.00pm. As well as presentations from Powercircle, ECC and Simcott, there will be a Q and A session, plus free refreshments.

For further details or enquiries please contact

Jill Bruce: jillbruce321@gmail.com or

Jane Taylor: chairman@whitecolneparishcouncil.gov.uk

THE GREAT TEY FRIENDSHIP/ BOWLS CLUB

The end of the year approaches - where did it go?? Goodness knows, but go it did! And Christmas is now well and truly in our sights. I do enjoy the build up - all the "naughty" foody things you get at this time of year - just don't like the diet that follows...! Talking of food, our Christmas dinner is booked! We'll be at The Chequers on the 13th December, really looking forward to that.



If you think you might like to join us, come and meet us on a Wednesday afternoon at the Village Hall and say Hello. We'll be there on the 3rd and 17th January next year. Don't be shy! Call Andrea on 01206 803541.

Bye for this year.

GREAT TEY COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL

By the time this news sheet is read our "Christmas Carol" recital will have already taken place in the Church. Hopefully it was a successful and enjoyable evening.



The next fund raising event is a Family Christmas Disco, with music by DJ Del'sMusic, taking place in the Village Hall on Saturday 9th December from 7pm – 11pm. The tickets are £5.00 per person with children under 11 years of age free of charge. Please bring your own nibbles and drink, plus "real money" to buy tickets for the raffle, and hopefully we will all have a "rocking good time"!

Great Tey Swimming Pool Committee Member

SEWING CLUB

Again we were a little low on numbers, but we were still able to have an enjoyable session and were very grateful for the advice and demonstration giving out. Although you may not be able to make every session, you are quite welcome to join us for advice and a chat and even help with your project.

We meet on the first Monday of the month in the Village Hall at 3pm – 4.30pm and it is £10.00 per person per session and after the hire fee is paid the money will go to the swimming pool fund – so everybody wins!

Norma Tregoning

GREAT TEY WI

Last month's meeting was really interesting because our speaker, Ann Bartleet, showed us how to make Christmas Decorations from shrub and flower cuttings taken from the garden. Plus also table decorations made from household items, so proving you do not need to spend a fortune to make the house look festive.

This month's meeting is our Christmas Dinner at the Pub, which hopefully should be a good night too. January's 2024 meeting is our Birthday Party, more internal news to follow regarding this, and February's meeting is a talk about conservation at the Zoo.

Any ladies interested in joining us will be very welcome, we meet on the first Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall for. 7.30pm start. Look forward to seeing you.

Great Tey WI Committee Member

CHARITY CALENDAR IN AID OF ST HELENA HOSPICE

The 2024 charity sketch-book calendar featuring images from Great Tey, Earls Colne and the surrounding area is now available.



The price this year is still £8.50 and all profits will be donated to St Helena Hospice, Colchester.

This is the fifth calendar we have produced and we're hoping that you will help us again to raise funds for this worthy cause.

You can buy your copy at the following outlets:- The Chequers and Charlies mobile shop in Great Tey, Ecolnes Refillery and Ziel Design in Earls Colne and Chappel and Wakes Colne Post Office Stores. We are very grateful for their help.

We will also have a stall at the Christmas Market in the Village Hall on December 3rd.

Thank you Yvonne and Karen

**Friends of Great Tey Primary
Christmas Fair**

Friday 8th December
3.15pm – 4.30pm

Games, Kids Crafts, Pocket Money Stall
Silent Auction, Raffle with AMAZING prizes
Refreshments
And meet the BIG MAN himself!

Fun for all, come & join us!

Bring this advert to get a
FREE cup of tea or coffee

only 1 free drink per person

Parentkind
Member Association

GREAT TEY BELL RINGERS

Congratulations to Rose and Matthew Collier who both rang their first quarter peals this week, on their first attempt. A quarter peal takes a considerable amount of physical coordination, stamina and mental concentration. Each bell rings 1260 changes, taking approximately 45 minutes, of a mathematical method in this case called Plain Bob Doubles. Both Rose (on 24.10.23) and Matthew (on 27.10.23) completed this without a single mistake, which is an amazing achievement. Rose and Matthew joined Great Tey bell ringers in August 2022 as they wanted to learn to ring for the skills part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

We are very proud of all our ringers at Great Tey, especially those who have learned this ancient art of change ringing since Covid. There have been many achievements such as; first quarter peals for Mick Stone and Bruce Knights, ringing for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's funeral on half muffled bells, His Majesty King Charles III's Coronation, weddings and Sunday Services.

WINTER BOWLS LEAGUE

The 2023/24 season has started which will run until March 2024. The first league night has been completed and last years winners Bowlsderdash are in a 3 way tie with Hot Shots and Guns'n Roses. Matches are played on every 2nd Friday in the Village Hall.

WINTER BOWLS LEAGUE TABLE - 10/11//2023

Team	Played	Won	Drew	Lost	For	Against	Points
Bowlsderdash & Piffle	6	4	0	2	41	17	12
Hot Shots	6	4	0	2	32	22	12
Gun'n Roses	6	4	0	2	30	20	12
Poles Apart	6	4	0	2	29	26	9
The Ringers	6	3	0	3	24	26	9
Youth Club	26	2	0	4	16	42	6
Chequers	6	1	0	5	13	45	3

1ST GREAT TEY BROWNIES

It is with a sad heart that I write this last write up. Great Tey Brownies will be closing its doors for good at the end of this term. After over 50 years in the village, the pack is shutting down due to lack of girls wanting to join.

Brownies and Girlguiding in Great Tey have been in my life for over 40 years since I was seven years old, and I am going to miss it very much! I would like to thank everyone, especially my whole family, who have been part of the unit over the last 40 odd years. Since I have been part of it and for the few years before that! Lots of girls and young women have benefited from their years in Brownies and Girlguiding and I hope they remember it with fond memories.

It is a sad moment that we will not be continuing in the New Year but with no new members the unit cannot run. Luckily all remaining members have been transferred to other units in the area.

Sam, Christine and Jodie

Make 2024 Your Year

Out with the old and in with the new YOU.

I'd love you to come and join our Slimming World family, you will receive a warm and friendly welcome with no humiliation or judgement, just on-going support, help, motivation and celebration.

My name is Janda and I'd love to see you at St Cedd's Church hall, Icen Way, Colchester CO2 9EH for our Saturday morning groups at either 7:30am or 9:00am on December 30th.

There is plenty of parking available and disabled access if required.

Any questions please get in touch with me on 07540 695272.

I look forward to seeing you.

SEE YOU THERE

GREAT TEY SIGN

If you are wondering where the Village Sign has gone, it has been taken away for a "makeover". We hope, though, to get it back in its pride of place outside the Village Hall before Christmas.



Our Maintenance contractor is also going to be taking away the bench outside of the Village Hall, again for some much needed refurbishment.

GREAT TEY FOOTPATH WALKING GROUP

Our November afternoon walk was enjoyed by 6 members and led by Paul Burns. The walk took us to the West of the village commencing on The Essex Way via the water treatment plant, then across fields to East Gores Road, Buckleys Lane (Coggeshall Road) then North to Brook House Road and back to the village just in time before dusk.



Sunday 10 December 2023 – Ramblers/Cyclists special Christmas Carol Service in Lawford Church near Manningtree, preceded by a walk in the Lawford area followed by lunch, then the Carol Service commences at 3pm. Meet 9.30am in Great Tey Village Hall car park.

Sunday 17 December 2023 - Morning local walk followed by something seasonal in The Chequers afterwards (maybe lunch too!) 3-4 miles, meet 10am Great Tey Village Hall car park

Sunday 21 January 2024 - Coming up, Awayday London Literary/Historic Walk led by Paul Burns, which possibly will include walking through the five London Royal Parks!! This is a really popular event, so please pencil it in your diary now. The journey begins in Great Tey Village Hall car park at 9am, we will then drive to Shenfield Station and take the Elizabeth Line to Central London. If you require a lift, then please let us know using the contacts below.

Sunday 18 February 2024 - Coming up, Sunday afternoon local 'Snowdrop Walk' 3-4 miles, meet 2.30pm, Great Tey Village Hall car park.

For more information about any of our guided walks, then please contact one of the following:-

Peter Wakeling, 01206 211887
email: peteanddil@hotmail.com

Jane Pearson, 01206 210855
email: drjanepearson@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS TREE-CYCLE RETURNS FOR 2024!

If you're preparing to get into the festive spirit and are planning to deck your halls by purchasing a real Christmas tree this year, let St Helena Hospice take the hard work out of the post-Christmas clear up!

St Helena

St Helena Hospice will once again be collecting and recycling trees across Colchester and Tending in return for a donation. By signing up you'll save yourself a trip to the recycling centre, whilst helping raise vital funds for your local hospice.

St Helena's dedicated volunteers will be out in force on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th of January 2024 collecting registered real Christmas trees from the postcode areas CO1 to CO9, CO11, and CO13 to CO16. Bookings are limited so don't delay!

By registering your tree you can join St Helena in making a positive impact on the environment by recycling your Christmas tree and contributing to a greener, more sustainable future.

With costs of care increasing and the population growing, our services are more in demand than ever, so it is essential we raise more vital funds to maintain our high quality care to ensure St Helena Hospice continues to be here to support local people who need us, today and for future generations.

By taking part in St Helena Hospice's Christmas Tree-cycle you are making a huge difference to the lives of local people facing incurable illness and bereavement at the most difficult time of their lives. With your support, more local people can live and die well with compassion, dignity and choice.

If you are free to volunteer and would like to help us out with collecting trees on the day, or if you could supply a van for our volunteers to use on Saturday 6th and/or Sunday 7th January 2024 please get in touch with our fundraising team by emailing fundraising@sthelena.org.uk or call 01206 931 468.

GREAT TEY VILLAGE HALL'S CHRISTMAS SALE 9.00am – 2.00pm on Saturday 3rd December 2023

Over 23 stalls including, tropic, gifts, dogaccessories, wrapping, body shop, candles, stocking fillers, scrunchies, pokemon cards, toys, personalised cups and gifts, cakes and treats, wood burnt items, felted mice, prize stalls, refreshments and last but not least we have food stalls coming this year including greek kebabs and also bakery and treats, plus much more.

SEE YOU THERE.

The Holly and the Ivy

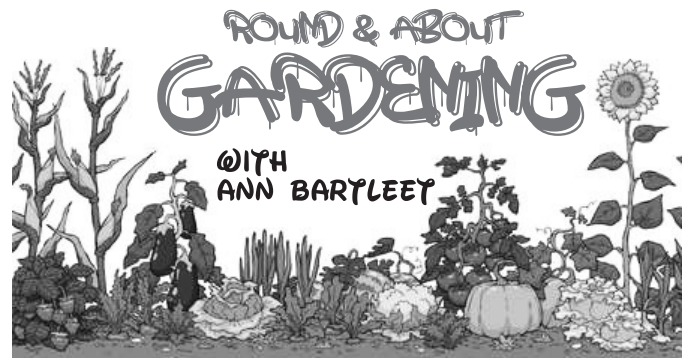
I love decorating the house for Christmas and this is the time of year when we all need to pick the holly that has berries, ready to bring into the house and put on the Christmas pudding. We will have to get on with it as I have seen and heard flocks of fieldfares in the hedges and they, along with redwings and blackbirds will make short work of those berries.

Bringing evergreens into the house at this time of year goes back to pre-Christian times when it was done to encourage the gods to remember the need sponsor the rebirth of all the otherwise 'dead' plants that were so important for survival. The early church didn't want to spoil the fun associated with the winter solstice, so why not graft it on to the celebration of Christ's birth?

I grow quite a few varieties of holly in the garden as well as some different ivies, so here a few thoughts on what you might like to grow. The first thing to say about holly, is that although it is not the most rapid of shrubs to grow, once established, it will grow about a foot a year. Holly is unfussy. It will grow in shade but will do better in semi shade or sunshine. It will stand any amount of pruning and you can, of course, use it like yew or box, to cut into shapes. In my time I have made 9 lollypops from hollies! I have started with 18 inch single stems and within a few years have achieved fine bobbles on top of 4 foot stems.

What about varieties? It is worth remembering that by and large it is female varieties that produce the berries and they will need a male for pollination. However there is one variety, *J. van Tol* which is female and self pollinating. However, it has very few spines on the leaves which doesn't seem quite right to me! I mustn't get carried away because I am very fond of holly and have quite a few in the garden. Do have a look on line for yourselves and remember that even if they don't have berries, the variegated varieties light up a dark corner.

Of the silver edged varieties, I would choose *Handsworth New Silver* – I have some excellent clipped specimens, or *Argentea Marginata* – a good all round



doer. Of the golden variegated ones, *Golden Milkboy* is one of my favourites. In checking out these varieties on line, I spotted *Ilex Ingrammii*, which has pinkish new growth – I think I will have to try it!

WARNING! Don't be tempted to grow *Ilex Crenata* – *Japanese Holly*, if you garden on heavy Essex clay. It doesn't like it! Often sold now as a substitute for box, it likes acid soil. Fine in a pot but not in the soil. A few years ago, I had to pull up 300 small plants that had failed. An expensive mistake!

I have run out of space to talk about Ivy! Another time?

EYES DOWN - BINGO

Hi Bingo Players.

Thank you to all that came to the November 2023 session. It was a smaller turnout than usual but a few new faces. As always a big thank you to all our Helpers.

The December 2023 Bingo session will take place on Thursday, 14th December 2023 between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm at the Village Hall. The December session will be a festive afternoon with bigger prizes and a raffle. Remember the more people that attend the greater the rewards!

We look forward to seeing you all. You may be the lucky one to win a cash prize or the raffle. Cup of tea and cake £2 and Bingo cards £1 for 6 games.

Tell your friends it's a great afternoon. Bingo is held on the 2nd Thursday of the month.



Beryl Brewer

CHURCH NEWS December 2023/January 2024

As Christmas approaches we very much hope you will come and celebrate with us. We think there is something for everyone in the run up to Christmas.

Services during December and January

- 3rd December 10.00am Morning Worship (Chappel) **Preacher Bishop Roger**
10.00am Gift Service (Little Tey)
4.00pm Christingle Service (Great Tey)
- 10th December 10.00am Benefice Communion (Little Tey)
- 17th December **3.15pm Carol Service** (Chappel)
6.30pm Carol Service (Great Tey)
6.30pm Carol Service (Little Tey)
- 24th December 10.00am Morning Worship (Chappel)
4.00am Crib Service for everyone (Little Tey)
- 25th December **10.00am Christmas Day Family Communion** (Great Tey)
- 31st December No services in the Benefice
- 7th January **10.30am Epiphany** Morning Worship (Wakes Colne)
10.00 am Plough Service (Little Tey)
- 14th January 10.00 am Benefice Communion (Great Tey)
- 21st January 10.00 am Morning - Worship (Great Tey)
- 28th January 10.00 am Benefice Communion (Wakes Colne)
6.30 pm Evensong (Little Tey)

Christingle celebration

We hope to see families joining us for this celebration marking the arrival of the Christ child bringing good news for the whole world.

We give all the children an orange with a candle to remind us all that we are part of a world community and we all share the planet's bounty. **Children of all ages with parents and grandparents are warmly invited to attend. There will be a retiring collection for to a charity which works for disadvantaged children around the world.**

Gift Service at Little Tey

During this Service, gifts suitable for young adult girls, 16-21, are collected to be given to a charity that helps these young people. If anyone who can't be there and has anything suitable, please email Freda King, freda-king100@gmail.com.

Christmas Day

Our service of Communion and Carols at Great Tey, is intended for all the family, not too long with lots of well known carols. Everyone is very welcome to come and celebrate an important birthday with us.

Plough Sunday

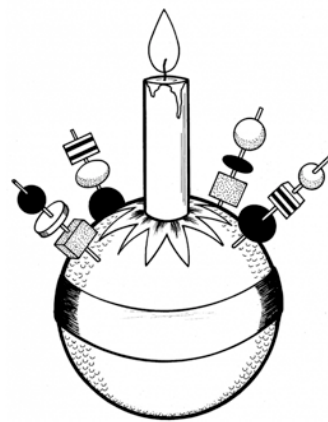
Plough Sunday is a traditional English celebration of the beginning of the agricultural year. Plough Sunday celebrations usually involve bringing a ploughshare into a church, as happens in Little Tey, with prayers for the blessing of the land.

It is traditionally held on the Sunday after Epiphany, the Sunday between 7 January and 13 January. Accordingly, work in the fields did not begin until the day after Plough Sunday: Plough Monday.

Although the nature of farming has changed over the centuries, Plough Sunday is seen as a way of generally celebrating farming and the work of farmers.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS – THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP in 2023

The village has been fantastic in the support it has given to all the events we have organised this year, everything from Pop Up Teas to Punch and Judy shows! We hope we have generated some fun along the way. The organisers have certainly enjoyed themselves! Here's to more of the same next year!



Calling all young people
to
join us on December 3rd at 4.00pm
for a

Christingle Celebration

at St Barnabas, Great Tey,
marking the arrival of the Christ child
and to remember children
in need around the world

THE CHEQUERS

CHRISTMAS MENU NOW AVAILABLE

Opening Hours

Set menu available weekday lunchtimes from 12pm – 2.00pm & Wednesday evenings from 6pm – 8.30pm
2 Courses £13.95, 3 Courses £16.50

Monday – Closed all day

Tuesday – 5:30pm - 10.30pm

Wednesday/Thursday – 12.00pm - 3.00pm 5:30pm-10.30pm

Friday – 12.00pm – 3.00pm 5.00pm – 11.30pm

Saturday – 12.00pm – 11.30pm (food 12.00pm – 2:30pm & 6.00pm – 8:30pm)

Sunday – 12.00pm – 8.00pm (food 12.00pm – 3:30pm)

(food served Wednesday to Sunday)

UPCOMING EVENTS

For our opening times over the Christmas period please see our Facebook Page.

December

17th December, Sunday 7pm– Quiz Night – £3/person (max 6 people/team).

Please confirm/cancel your team because we have limited space, and the evening is popular.

19th December, Tuesday 7pm– Carols at The Chequers

Boxing Day, Tuesday 12:30pm - Colchester Morris dancing

New Year's Eve, - DJ – Tickets £3 per person (Ticket refunded on the night upon purchase of a drink).

Further details to follow

January 2024

21st January, Sunday 7pm– Quiz Night – £3/person (max 6 people/team). Please confirm/cancel your team because we have limited space, and the evening is popular.

27th January, Saturday – themed menu, 6pm- 8:30pm. Further details in the next Round & About and our Facebook Page.

Tel: 01206 210814

Facebook Page: The Chequers-Great Tey. The new page has a hyphen in between words.

Please like our page if you would like to keep up to date with what is happening.

(The old page belongs to the previous tenant of The Chequers)

Instagram: The Chequers-Great Tey the_chequers_great_tey

Email: thechequersgreattey@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you @ The Chequers.

Please note there is no January paper but the copy deadline for the **February 2024** issue will be:

Wednesday 24th January 2024

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 as reference if possible.