

Great Gaddesden Parish Newsletter

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Delivered to the villages of Great Gaddesden and Gaddesden Row and the hamlets of Bridens Camp, Water End, Noake Mill and St Margarets

www.greatgaddesdenparishnews.co.uk

Number 324

July/August 2024

From the Glamorous Assistant

Hello Everyone

We were told last night of the passing of Trevor Beale. Such a shame. He was an occasional contributor, friend to the magazine and more importantly, a nice gentleman. Richard and I pass on our condolences to his family and many friends.

This issue covers July and August, so that our wonderful contributors and distributors can have a bit more time for holidays and party party party. The deadline for the next issue is a closely guarded secret. However, Ladbrokes has seen a sudden rush on August 23rd. Perhaps some people have inside knowledge.

The Summer fete in Gaddesden Row was good. The rain held off so festival wellies were not needed. The cakes went down very well this year as always. Some superb photos of the stallholders on page 31 Thanks to everyone who got involved in the event. Wonderful fun. We've had lots of photos from the schools this month. We couldn't show all 23 from Great Gadd!. Check out pages 12 and 13 to see the kids enjoying school life. Jazz in the church was another hit too.

The England and Scotland football teams are busy in the Euros 2024. At time of writing (11:30am) I don't know, or can predict how they are getting on. So just in case...The teams are doing well / badly/ out on penalties (delete as required) One thing for sure is that Nick Adderley, the former Chief Constable of Northants will be playing in the final. Just kidding Nick if you're reading this.

Last month we told you about the Great Gadd school fete. They have had to postpone it. They are disappointed and will update everyone when they can. We also featured a section asking for people to get involved in revamping the Upper Gade Conservation Society. That seems to have worked and we'll be able to update you more in the next issue. We've a piece from the lovely Jo Connell about LL see page 41 for what I mean. Sir Mike Penning has



retired and the rules say he can't be in magazines like ours during an election. We wish him well in his retirement. We're also missing Guy Halsey this month as he is just too busy on the farm. I'm not surprised. Make hay while the sun shines. Chatting about weather, as some folk always do, we have our occasional contributor Steve Flitton telling us all about it on page 28. I was on my travels to Normandy for the D-Day celebrations where I met the King and a remarkable lady who I've told you all about her research on her father on page 18. Have you met someone, done something, want to tell us. It's your magazine in our community. Tell us. Get involved, as long as it's fun, we'll put it in. While you're there, can you help my friend Walter Wall. He's opening a carpet fitting business and not sure what to call it. Any ideas?

I've not said this for a while. It's still important. Don't fill your life with days, fill your days with life.

John Lowrie

100+ Club

Congratulations to Anne Wong, winner of the June 100 Club with her no.85.

From Heather Tisbury - Reader

Dear Friends,

I must admit that Morecambe Bay was not my first choice for a 'day trip' destination but after years of fell walking in the Lake District I was finally enticed by the illuminating light on the coastline seen on many a clear day from the mountain top trig points. The Bay itself is both stunningly and savagely beautiful. It is an estuary of five uniting waters resulting in mud flats and unpredictable tide manoeuvres. The shoreline is spongy and the locals don wellington boots to take their dogs for walks whilst less prepared visitors negotiate cobbles and prehistoric rocks at the foothills of the dunes. Mementoes of the once lucrative fishing and cockle picking industry is evident with every stride and the discarded cockle shells a sad reminder of the many lives lost whilst scraping a living from the sea.

The town of Morecambe is a vision of its former self and was probably one of the first victims of the 'Spanish package holiday exodus' and yet there is a sense of solidarity with its surroundings and a determination from its amusement arcades, as they ring out their tinny tunes whilst stall holders offer crab and cockle snacks. A couple of families coming from the half deserted caravan park claim their island of beach amongst the cobbles and the young children, also wearing wellington boots, start to build the compulsory sand castle.

As the Bay sweeps towards Humphrey Head Point you are met with a sight that defies belief. A line of Hawthorn trees, bent double, having withstood the ferocity of the prevailing winds for years. Even on a still, blue sky day there is a sense of violent motion to the trees as they anchor themselves defiantly into the eroding ground beneath. I couldn't help but reflect on the fact that these trees could illustrate the plight of so many people in our world today. Bent double with the force of whatever the world is throwing at them, at a time of constant change in their lives, but clinging onto the hope that whatever got them through last time, would be there again to hold them up.

Despite the obvious presenting vulnerability of the distorted Hawthorn trees, you realise that their roots are deeply set and provide an often unseen strength and stability. God can be trusted to provide this 'strength and stay' during the prevailing winds and storms of our lives, when our roots are deeply set in Him. Our prayers can provide a solidarity with those around us and a connectedness with those worldwide, who are experiencing an erosion in their security and stability and struggling to remain upright. It is in trying to understand others' situations and in offering up their plight that we can hope to make any sense of the world and grow together in resilience, within the presence of God.

Those Hawthorn trees are not unique, there are plenty of trees clinging onto life in the woods around us. They have a beauty of their own and unknowingly give praise to God when people like me gasp 'whoever would think they could survive in such a desperate condition and in such an inhospitable place'.

Whether you are planning a 'staycation' or a trip abroad, I wish you a relaxing, reflective and restorative holiday and if you venture anywhere near Morecambe the proud and resilient 'Morecambrians' would be pleased to see you.

Heather



Great Gaddesden Parish Church Contacts

Our parishes have a Prayer Group and if you would like to be prayed for or know of someone who would appreciate a pastoral visit, please contact any of the Ministry Team:

Rev. John Russell (Vicar) 01442 214898

St. Johns 's Vicarage, Pipers Hill, Great Gaddesden HP1 3BY john_russell@live.co.uk

Associate Priest: Rev'd Miranda Seldon 07761 165871
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Parish Administrator: Helene Hockings 01442 842493

a_dmin-church@outlook.com

Jo Connell (Churchwarden)
01442 842981

jo@mpconnell.co.uk

Peter King (Churchwarden)
01442 256556

peter_king@btinternet.com

Cream Teas in the Church!

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The vote and beyond

By the time this is printed and circulated for you to read the grand vote may well have happened – Yes, July 4th General Election day. So what to say now, a whole month earlier?

The right to vote was hard won. I grew up in Newport, South Wales (Monmouthshire at the time) and in the town centre was an underpass with a mural of the Chartist Riots. Men excluded from the vote because they were not landowners; and unable to stand for parliament - as only those with another source of income could stand. We have come a long way from then, they asked for the vote of all men over 21 and a wage for MPs allowing more than the rich to represent people. The Chartist uprising in Newport was eliminated by Redcoats and many were killed or sent to Australia as convicts. There were uprisings in other areas too, and this is before even considering the Suffragette Movement that raised the issue of women being able to speak – and vote – for themselves.

So every vote is important regardless of how it is used, it doesn't make our system perfect, but it does allow us to express a view. So if you read this before the 4th July then I hope you use your vote whether or not we may agree.

This edition takes us up beyond just the results of the election through. How we live with the results of a vote is as important as how we vote. I look across the pond to the US and how politics have descended below the idea that different parties have different views on how to lead the nation into labelling the other as evil, and even satanic. Whenever we dehumanise the people we disagree with, the more we see others as the 'problem' rather than humans with their own experiences and valuable, with important views to share.

John Wesley (the preacher who led to the formation of Methodism) stated back in 1774, when only landowners could vote and the ballot was not private -

'I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them

1. To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy
 2. To speak no evil of the person they voted against, and
 3. To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.'
- I think this wisdom is still relevant today.

Rev Helen Roberts

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Great Gaddesden Parish Newsletter

23-05-80 45863149

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Full Year Advertising Rates for 2024

1/2 £100 1/3 £95 Full Page £300
1/4 £60 1/8 £40

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Deadline for the next issue:
September 2024 - 23rd August 2024

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St Margaret's Pilgrimage Walk, Saturday, July 20th - 2.15pm starting from Little Gaddesden Church

On the afternoon of the feast day of St Margaret of Antioch, Saturday July 20th at 2.15pm, there will be a Pilgrimage walk from Little Gaddesden Church to the historic site of St Margaret's in Boscoe, the Ivinghoe Benedictine Priory, at St Margaret's, Great Gaddesden. The distance from Little Gaddesden is 3km each way but the return journey is optional. There will be opportunities on the way to pause for reflection and a short act of worship will be held at the site. Come along and learn more about St Margaret of Antioch and the Priory where Benedictine Nuns lived and worshipped for almost 400 Years. Please join us if you can

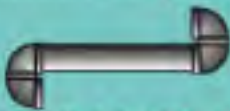


for the walk or meet us at St Margaret's. Dogs are welcome on leads. For more details contact Heather Tisbury, Heather@greatgaddesdenchurch.com



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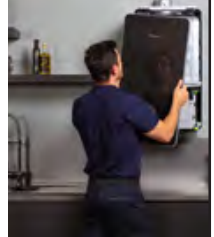


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Birthdays in July and August

We try to keep an up to date list of birthdays.

If anyone wants to add names to our list or knows of people who have moved away and could perhaps have their names removed please contact The Editor.

richard@richardcollis.com

Names are normally removed when the person becomes 18, but we can include 'special' birthdays for any age.

Fallon Makepeace	1 st	14
Jamie Williams	12 th	15
Lachlan McIntosh	19 th	16
Gia Wise	31 st	4
Abigail Fitzgerald	6 th	14
Abigail Timlett	6 th	14
Scarlett Cheeseman	9 th	11
Matthew Green	15 th	15
Rowan Pethard	31 st	16



Gaddesden

Row

Vegetable & Flower Show



Sat 7th Sept
entries 9.30-11

CAKE DONATIONS WELCOME IN THE MORNING
Refreshments, auction and raffle.
IN VILLAGE HALL- STARTS 2PM



Theatre and Entertainment Correspondent Required

Is there anyone in Great Gaddesden who's involved in the AM-DRAM world who could report on upcoming local events like the one opposite, auditions, live shows, bands, choirs plays, musicals, exhibitions craft markets, raves, happenings etc. in the surrounding areas to help people in the parish to get involved.

Contact Richard or John at:
richard@richardcollis.com or,
Johnlowrie62@gmail.com



Gaddesden Row
JMI School

Gaddesden Row JMI School

Although the end of this academic year is coming to an end, there has still been lots going on at Gaddesden Row JMI.

The children in Year 4 completed their statutory multiplication check this month, and we are extremely proud of the hard work the children have put in. To be able to answer times tables in just six seconds is very impressive!

The children in Year 3 did some fantastic work with Greener Highways where they were taught about sustainability, the importance of bees in our environment, and how to

make 'bee houses.' We look forward to seeing some of the flowers grow and flourish that were planted on our school grounds.



On Thursday 13th of June, the children in Class Wiltshire evacuated their homes for the evening and slept over at school. This was to 'bring to life' our topic of World War 2. The children took part in a range of activities: cooking with imperial measures and rationed amounts, making air craft models, playing hide and seek, and making their own posters linked to World War 2. It was a fabulous evening



and one in which all children will remember.

The children in Year 2 and Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed their Greek Day on Wednesday 5th of June. It was lovely to



see all children sampling different Greek foods and giving feedback as to what they liked or disliked.

National Sports Week took place week beginning 17th of June. The children took part in a range of sporting activities over the course of the week. All children took part in a 'Fun Run' with Mr Merriman, who is a keen runner, and well done to everyone for covering the distance required. The week concluded with our annual Sports Day and we were so lucky with the weather. The children took part in different physical activities and they all played to win and played fairly. We are very proud of all of them. Team Sapphire were victorious, our trophy is now



decorated with blue ribbons until next year!

The fun and competitiveness did not stop there as during the afternoon of Friday 21st of June, we held our annual water fight, where the children competed against each other in their team groups



For any more information or to discuss spaces within the school, visit our website <https://www.gaddesdenrow.herts.sch.uk> or call the School on 01582 840376. Mr Merriman, the headteacher, and his team will be delighted to help.

Miriam Barrow - Governor, Gaddesden Row JMI School

and over 1,000 water balloons were used!

On Tuesday 10th of July, the children in Year 6 will be travelling into London with Mr Merriman and Mrs Groves to see our capital city, see the sights, have lunch, and make some memories!

Its been a busy end to the year, with lots still to come - our Year 6 play, leaving disco, summer fayre and school picnic!



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Great Gaddesden C of E (V.A.) Nursery + Primary School

This month we have celebrated 'Small Church School Week', which is always a highlight of the school year. The children and staff have participated in a range of activities as a school family, with many linked to France, the home of this years Olympics.

The week started with an epic whole-school forest school day, where all the children and staff went to the woods for a day of Forest School activities. They learned to tie knots and plait, young and old were entertained by woodland puppet shows, imaginations run wild in the small world play. The children made keepsake pendants using wood slices and used the pigment from leaves to dye pencil cases!

on the Penfold. In the afternoon, we challenged perseverance and technical skills in the Eiffel Tower STEM challenge, using spaghetti and mini marshmallows to build the Eiffel Tower. Then putting artistic skills to the use, the children collaborated to produce French and Matisse inspired collages, including pointillism collaborations.

On Wednesday, delicious aromas were wafting around the school as all the classes cooked up a French treat, from crepes and pain au chocolats in the infants to croquet-monsieur and ratatouille in the juniors. There was some fabulous creations from junk modelling, which the children were very excited to take home.



The collaborative weaving project was a good way to learn the names of plants in the local area, and everybody enjoyed planning, building and adapting some amazing dens. As always we are so grateful to be able to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the village.

On Tuesday, the children split into their houses, with our oldest and youngest children working alongside each other. In the morning a French inspired scavenger hunt around the village took place, followed by a game of French Boules

On Thursday the sun shone for our annual sports day! We all started the afternoon coming together for a family picnic and ended with everybody enjoying well deserved ice lollies in the shade. Our children showed great sportsmanship, looking after each other and cheering everybody on.



It was an absolutely brilliant week, which has very appreciative of our small school community. It is lovely to spend time together as a whole school and in smaller mixed groups,



enjoying these enriching experiences.

Although as we come to the end of this school year, we find ourselves with mixed emotions. It is with immense gratitude and a touch of sadness that we say goodbye to our remarkable headteacher, who has led our school for the past six years. Mrs Wickens' genuine care for every individual student and staff member has transformed our school into a place of warmth and excellence. On behalf of the children, staff, parents and governors we would like to thank Mrs Wickens for her dedication, support and hard work – you will be sorely



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Is your pelvic floor a casualty of poor exercise technique?



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Many people are now going to the gym regularly. However, are they doing their exercises correctly?

It is not only arms and legs or backs that can suffer through poor exercise technique, but the pelvic floor is also at risk too. Some women in their 20's and 30's, or older, risk permanently damaging their pelvic floor muscles through weight training and high impact aerobics and may suffer as a result with stress incontinence.

That's not to say that it's not good to do these activities, they have their benefits, just that we need to be mindful of not promoting damage to our pelvic floor as we do them.

The pelvic floor is a layer of muscles, which stretch from the pubic bone to the bottom of the backbone (coccyx), and it supports the organs of the pelvis.

Figures suggest that 1 in 3 women will suffer from urinary leakage at some point in their lives and it may be as high as 1 in 2, accounting for suspected unreported incidents.

Stress incontinence is the leakage of urine with acts like coughing sneezing, jumping, lifting, whereas urge incontinence is when you get an urge to go, which you can't overcome - in this article I am referring to stress incontinence.

Poor lifting technique in the gym can strain the pelvic floor, while performing multiple sets of sit ups with breath holding, increases the intra abdominal pressure and

can adversely affect the pelvic floor.

Even Pilates can strain the pelvic floor muscles if the exercises are repeatedly performed incorrectly. So, it's essential that you attend classes run by a Registered Instructor or have been shown exercises by a Chartered Physiotherapist if you have an existing problem.

It's as important to recognise how to relax your pelvic floor in Pilates so that when you "recruit your core" of which the pelvic floor is part of, you do so fully, thus working the muscles effectively and fully. A tight pelvic floor is not necessarily a strong pelvic floor!

As a Chartered Physiotherapist, who has been a Women's Health Physio. Musculoskeletal Physio and a APPI rehab Pilates Teacher, I am well placed to help clients who feel that they may have problems with their pelvic floor. (Incidentally weak pelvic floors play their part in some bad backs too).

If you feel that you would like to try Pilates to aid you with pelvic floor problems, or the protection of your pelvic floor and/or back in gym and day to day activities, please feel free to email me at moira@stjudesclinic.com.

Classes are held at Great Gaddesden and Billington village halls as well as 1:1 sessions in clinic.

Moiras D'Arcy Chartered Physiotherapist
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Cultivating with Clive

July and August are usually the hottest months of the year. However, writing this article in mid June who knows what is happening with our weather. Let's hope while you are reading this the summer will have finally arrived.

Now is a good time to prune your wisteria. It will benefit from this to encourage growth and flowers for next season.

Most people in the UK holiday in July and August so planning ahead for your break is a good idea. If you don't have an irrigation system place water trays or saucers under each potted plant. Then give your plants a

good soaking before you go away. You can also move pots into a shady place in the garden, which will help to preserve the moisture. Plants in the ground should be fine for a week or two. However, hanging baskets will need

watering so if you haven't got a friendly neighbour who is willing to help you out, I would definitely install a watering system. They are very easy to install and not too expensive.

I make a point of feeding my pot plants at least every other week this time of the year.

I use Miracle-Grow or liquid seaweed or even tomato feed. I don't feed when the pot is bone dry. Wet the soil first then feed the pot and this will stop any roots being scorched.



I shade my greenhouse this time of the year, as it is south facing and can get above 40 degrees C even with the automatic ventilation on. I usually use the winter fleece I wrap around my tender plants in the

winter. However, this year I have used scaffold netting which I brought from Amazon. My thinking behind this is it can be used year after year.

Clive Hill



THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN

THIS MONTH

- Keep pinching out side shoots from tomato plants.
- Harvest early potatoes.
- Keep sowing salad crops.
- Lift garlic
- Keep on deadheading to encourage new flowers.
- Harvest soft fruit
- Give the lawn a feed
- Relax and enjoy your garden.



D·DAY 80

You may know that I've a keen interest in all things World War II. My dad served in the Royal Navy during the war and I've found researching into his war history fascinating. Myself and two other war wafflers decided to go to Normandy for the 80 commemorations of D Day. An amazing experience which we will never forget. We were lucky enough to be invited to the British Memorial Service at the Ver-sur-Mer on the 6th June. However, if you have seen the films, you'll know that British gliders landed at Pegasus Bridge at 00:16am on the 6th. So it made sense to start there and see the pipers and fireworks at 00:16am. A few hours sleep. Well, sort of sleep with three blokes stuck in a camper van. Then up early to be at Caen rendezvous point at 6:30am to be coached into the ceremony. We wondered what the French word was for rendezvous point was, in case we had to ask for directions. Suited and booted, we climbed onto the coach and I was lucky enough to sit next to my new best friend forever, Christine Ballentine. It turns out she was one of the VIP's.

She asked what my connection was to the ceremony. I told her that my dad's ship had hit the beaches on D-Day +3 which is true. Although a slight exaggeration! I explained that my dad's ship was brand new and still in training. The ship had only been completed in May 1944 and they were still on trials in Tobermory on D-Day. A few days later, they were tasked to take urgent equipment to Plymouth. Sadly, things didn't go to plan and they ran aground on a sand bank just off Plymouth. So they had hit the beaches of sorts. A true



Flt/Lt. "Sandy" Ballantine spring 1941



Christine Ballentine during filming of World War 2 Treasure Hunters with Graham McPherson (Suggs)

story.

I naturally asked about her connection... She told me that her dad was in the RAF and had landed on Gold Beach on D-Day. But that was only half the story. Her dad's plane has featured in a painting, and Airfix model and in 2018 her dad's story was featured in the TV programme 'World War 2 Treasure Hunters' with Stephen Taylor and Suggs. I asked if Suggs's was on his own or was it the first sign of madness. She didn't have a clue who he was, or get my attempt of a joke. She was

wearing her dad's medals and caterpillar badge. You may have seen a caterpillar badge on Antiques Roadshow. They were issued to people whose life had been saved by jumping from an aircraft and used a parachute. The badge is a silk worm with blue eyes if you land in the sea and ruby if you jump onto land. They were first issued by the Irvin company, who made parachutes from silk. She told me that she's done lots of research into her dad's war history. I've taken a brief, actually, a very brief, summary from her research.

Flt/Lt. 85650 Arthur Alexander Ballantine, known as "Sandy" was born on the 13th March, 1920. After school in Edinburgh, became an apprentice optician, learnt to fly in 1939 and joined the

Royal Air Force Voluntary Reserve in September, 1940. He soon joined 255 Squadron, RAF, a night fighter squadron based at RAF Stations at Kirton-in-Lindsey, Lincolnshire, where he teamed up with Chris McTaggart as his gunner. One

afternoon on the 7th March 1941 they were just doing a test flight in a Defiant aircraft when they came across a Heinkel 111 in layers of cloud. They made three attacks, hitting the Heinkel on every occasion. Despite these hits, the Heinkel managed to escape into cloud and they could not find it again. Did it make it back home? This incident became the subject of an oil painting by Mark Postlethwaite. A few months later, Sandy was on his second patrol of the night looking for bombers heading for Hull, when suddenly....

From his combat report...

4th May 1941 'A' Flight 255 Squadron.
Flying Defiant N3333 YD-B
6 miles east south-east of Lincoln With Sgt
C McTaggart as my Air Gunner. I took off



from Kirton Lindsey at 03.43 hours (second sortie) on patrol and was vectored south to patrol bomber aerodromes. After about 10 minutes, when flying at 4,000 feet, about six miles E S E of Lincoln I felt two explosions in the engine accompanied by violent vibration of the aircraft, and immediately flames appeared below the instrument panel and along the cowling. The aircraft at once began to lose height becoming more unmanageable as it did so. I gave my Air Gunner the order to abandon aircraft and prepared to follow suit myself. The Air Gunner climbed out of the turret (guns to port) and dived off to port of tailplane without difficulty. The Aircraft was now almost out of control, diving and turning, but I managed to invert it and proceeded to bale out myself. The only difficulty occurred when my leg got caught on something, but this gave way when I pushed. I must have been about 2,000 – 1,500 feet when I got clear of the aircraft. My parachute however opened almost

instantly and I felt a heavy jolt as the parachute filled, this immediately being followed by a pleasant sensation of quietness and the feeling that I was not falling. I was not aware that I was near the ground until I landed with considerable force in a ploughed field on my posterior. Happily, I was uninjured, and I made my way to a nearby farm (at Potterhanworth) and aroused the occupant. This worthy took an extremely poor view of me for a time, but eventually the situation was grasped and the inevitable cup of tea produced.

My Air Gunner also landed safely on his hands and knees (without injury except for minor bruises) and we both returned to Kirton Lindsey. Neither my Air Gunner nor myself saw any Enemy Aircraft.



The 255 Squadron's Intelligence Officer stated:

As the pilot reported, it was later established that the Defiant was indeed shot down.

Plots had shown 3 enemy aircraft in the vicinity at the time, 2 of which were converging on the Defiant at exact time and place where explosions occurred. Although engine buried itself 15 feet in ground a few large pieces of aircraft were recognisable and on a wing there was a hole which appeared to have been caused by machine gun fire. About 100 yards from the crashed plane several pieces of fairing were discovered punctured by machine gun fire. Since the ammunition had been seen and heard by pilot and Air Gunner to explode in the pit made by the crash there can be no question of these holes having been made by the Defiant's own guns"

In 2018, parts of the plane were dug up by archeologists as part of the TV program talking about the blitz on Hull.

The day after the crash Sandy was up flying solo again, this time in a Hurricane. Sandy volunteered for the Merchant Ship Service Fighter Protection Unit. The idea was to catapult a plane off a merchant ship in a convoy to deter German planes. After it's flight, he would have to ditch the aircraft in the sea and hopefully be picked up.

Christine told me that he didn't fancy that idea and quickly returned to 255 Squadron. Sadly, Sandy's flying was curtailed in early 1942 when he was blinded in his right eye after the optic nerve was severed during a sinus operation. He continued some flying and later joined the RAF Radar section as a Ground Control Interception Controller.

On the 6th June, 1944 - D-Day - Sandy landed in the late afternoon on Gold Beach to set-up radar units at Bazenville. By June 17th, the front line had moved on, but the area was still being attacked by the Germans. Sandy told his friend that he was more frightened being on the ground in

France, than he was flying in a night fighter. Sandy had dug a slit trench to sleep in. Early in the morning of the 18th, German aircraft dropped sticks of anti-personnel bombs, one of which rolled toward his trench and exploded, burying him. He was dug out alive and taken to hospital 15 miles away near Douvres where he died on the 20th June, 1944. He's now buried at La Deliverande War Cemetery, Douvres.

I've had to miss out quite a bit of the story to fit in the magazine. If you want to know more, please contact me and I'll send the links. Of course, you could always send in your stories too. Family stories that make you laugh and the kid groan are ideal.

John has a long moustache (Name the film)

John Lowrie



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Yes 2024 is where lots of us sitting comfortably in our living rooms glued to the television to watch the Olympic Games.

Where did it all start? The first known Olympics took place in the summer of 776 BC at Olympia, a site in southern Greece where people worship their gods. Athletes prayed to Zeus, the king of gods, for victory. Unlike today's games only men were allowed to compete and they did so naked! Many events including sprinting and wrestling are still part of the modern games. Other sports such as chariot racing or pankration, this was the ultimate fighting sport, are no longer included in today's modern games.

The Romans in A.D. 393 after conquering Greece banned the Olympic Games. It took quite some centuries before Athens revived the games in 1896 since then they have been celebrated every 4 years. Today thousand of athletes from hundreds of countries compete for gold, silver or bronze medals.

The Olympic Games are now a global phenomenon but few of us know that it's

modern origins lie in the sleepy Shropshire town of Much Wenlock. It is hard to imagine that a small English town is behind the Modern Olympic Games. Yes, Wenlock Olympian Society significantly contributed to the development of today's modern Olympic Movement.

Dr. William Penny Brookes founded the society in 1850 to provide annual competitions in sport and the arts for everyone. He helped to launch the Wenlock Olympic Games which, yes it's unbelievable, would in turn go on to inspire the founder of the Modern Olympic Games, the French educator Baron Pierre de Coubertin. It continues still today in Shropshire and is centred around the town of Much Wenlock.

Throughout the celebration of the ancient Olympics a fire was kept burning, today we light the Olympic torch which is transported by today's athletes from continent to continent.

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Great Gaddesden Cricket Club



After the 150th year celebrations at the end of May, cricketing life at GGCC has returned to the more normal routine of Saturday

League matches and Sunday Friendlies.

At the moment the League season is going quite well, with the club sitting 4th in the Saracen's Herts League Division 9 West – having so far won three games, lost two and had one cancelled due to rain. Sunday Friendlies have also gone well, with the highlight recently being Monak Patel's blistering innings against Ivinghoe and Pitstone of 102 runs from just 45 balls - including 12 enormous sixes!

Practice evenings are held on Thursdays for club members and any new players interested in joining us. These are from around 5.30 to 6.00 pm onwards – usually followed by retiring to the Crown and Sceptre afterwards. Do please feel free to come up and visit us – either to just have a practice or perhaps with a view towards playing occasionally or more regularly.

Alternatively, just come up at weekends, grab a drink at the pub and come over to watch a game. We will be glad to see you.



Monak Patel

Forthcoming games in July and August 'at The Camp' (all 1pm starts) include:

- 14 July v North West CC
- 20 July v Berkhamsted 3
- 21 July v Outlaws
- 04 August v Washington
- 10 August v Rickmansworth 3
- 11 August v Redbourn
- 18 August v Croxley Guild
- 25 August v Milton Bryan
-

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Great Gaddesden Diocese

JULY

Monday	1 st	7:45pm	Gaddesden Row Green	Chip Van
Tuesday	2 nd	9:00am	Great Gaddesden Church	Holy Communion
Wednesday	3 rd	9:30am	Gaddesden Row Village Hall	Toddler and Baby Group / Coffee Morning
		8:00pm	Great Gaddesden Church Tower	Bellringing
Thursday	4 th	10:00am	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	POLLING STATION
Friday	5 th	9:00am	Great Gaddesden Churchyard	Walk and Talk
		8:00pm	Crown & Sceptre	The Liabilities
Saturday	6 th	2:00pm	Amaravati Buddhist Monastery	Meditation Workshop in Temple
Sunday	7 th	11:00am	Great Gaddesden Church	Parish Communion
Monday	8 th	7:45pm	Gaddesden Row Green	Chip Van
Tuesday	9 th	9:00am	Great Gaddesden Church	Holy Communion
Wednesday	10 th	9:30am	Gaddesden Row Village Hall	Toddler and Baby Group / Coffee Morning
		8:00pm	Great Gaddesden Church Tower	Bellringing
Thursday	11 th	10:00am	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Baby Sensory
Friday	12 th	9:00am	Great Gaddesden Churchyard	Walk and Talk
		10:00am	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Moiras Movement is Medicine Pilates
Saturday	13 th	2:00pm	Amaravati Buddhist Monastery	Meditation Workshop in Temple
		10:00am	Gaddesden Row Village Hall	Coffee Morning / AGM
Sunday	14 th	10:30am	Gaddesden Row Chapel	
		10:30am	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Christian Spiritualists church group
		11:00am	Great Gaddesden Church	Parish Communion
Monday	15 th	7:45pm	Gaddesden Row Green	Chip Van
Tuesday	16 th	9:00am	Great Gaddesden Church	Holy Communion
		7:30pm	Gaddesden Row Village Hall	Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday	17 th	9:30am	Gaddesden Row Village Hall	Toddler and Baby Group / Coffee Morning
		8:00pm	Great Gaddesden Church Tower	Bellringing

ary – Summer 2024

Thursday	18 th	10:00am	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Baby Sensory
Friday	19 th	9:00am	Great Gaddesden Churchyard	Walk and Talk
		10:00am	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Moiras Movement is Medicine Pilates
Saturday	20 th	2:00pm	Amaravati Buddhist Monastery	Meditation Workshop in Temple
Sunday	21 st	10:30am	Gaddesden Row Chapel	Service of Worship
		10:30am	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Christian Spiritualists church group
		11:00am	Great Gaddesden Church	Parish Communion
		1:30pm	15 Gade Valley Cottages	National Garden Open Day (£5)
		2:30pm	Great Gaddesden Church	Cream Teas
Monday	22 nd	7:45pm	Gaddesden Row Green	Chip Van
Tuesday	23 rd	9:00am	Great Gaddesden Church	Holy Communion
Wednesday	24 th	9:30am	Gaddesden Row Village Hall	Toddler and Baby Group / Coffee Morning
		8:00pm	Great Gaddesden Church Tower	Bellringing
Thursday	25 th	10:00am	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Baby Sensory
Friday	26 th	9:00am	Great Gaddesden Churchyard	Walk and Talk
Saturday	27 th	2:00pm	Amaravati Buddhist Monastery	Meditation Workshop in Temple
Sunday	28 th	10:30am	Gaddesden Row Chapel	Service of Worship
		10:30am	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Christian Spiritualists church group
		11:00am	Great Gaddesden Church	Parish Communion
Monday	29 th	7:45pm	Gaddesden Row Green	Chip Van
Tuesday	30 th	9:00am	Great Gaddesden Church	Holy Communion
Wednesday	31 st	9:30am	Gaddesden Row Village Hall	Toddler and Baby Group / Coffee Morning
		8:00pm	Great Gaddesden Church Tower	Bellringing



Great Gaddesden Dia

AUGUST

Friday	2 nd	9:00am	Great Gaddesden Churchyard	Walk and Talk
		10:00am	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Moiria's Movement is Medicine Pilates
Saturday	3 rd	2:00pm	Amaravati Buddhist Monastery	Meditation Workshop in Temple
Sunday	4 th	10:30am	Gaddesden Row Chapel	Service of Worship
		10:30am	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Christian Spiritualists church group
		11:00am	Great Gaddesden Church	Parish Communion
Monday	5 th	7:45pm	Gaddesden Row Green	Chip Van
Tuesday	6 th	9:00am	Great Gaddesden Church	Holy Communion
Wednesday	7 th	9:30am	Gaddesden Row Village Hall	Toddler and Baby Group / Coffee Morning
		8:00pm	Great Gaddesden Church Tower	Bellringing
Friday	8 th	9:00am	Great Gaddesden Churchyard	Walk and Talk
		10:00am	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Moiria's Movement is Medicine Pilates
Sunday	11 th	10:30am	Gaddesden Row Chapel	Service of Worship
		10:30am	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Christian Spiritualists church group
		11:00am	Great Gaddesden Church	Cafe Church
Monday	12 th	7:45pm	Gaddesden Row Green	Chip Van
Tuesday	13 th	9:00am	Great Gaddesden Church	Holy Communion
Wednesday	14 th	9:30am	Gaddesden Row Village Hall	Toddler and Baby Group / Coffee Morning
		8:00pm	Great Gaddesden Church Tower	Bellringing
Friday	16 th	9:00am	Great Gaddesden Churchyard	Walk and Talk
		10:00am	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Moiria's Movement is Medicine Pilates
Saturday	17 th	2:00pm	Amaravati Buddhist Monastery	Meditation Workshop in Temple

ary – Summer 2024

Sunday	18 th	10:30am	Gaddesden Row Chapel	Service of Worship
		10:30am	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Christian Spiritualists church group
		11:00am	Great Gaddesden Church	Parish Communion
		2:30pm	Great Gaddesden Church	Cream Teas
Monday	19 th	7:30pm	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Parish Council Meeting
		7:45pm	Gaddesden Row Green	Chip Van
Tuesday	20 ^h	9:00am	Great Gaddesden Church	Holy Communion
Wednesday	21 st	9:30am	Gaddesden Row Village Hall	Toddler and Baby Group / Coffee Morning
		8:00pm	Great Gaddesden Church Tower	Bellringing
Thursday	22 nd	10:00am	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Baby Sensory
Friday	23 rd	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE		
		9:00am	Great Gaddesden Churchyard	Walk and Talk
		10:00am	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Moira's Movement is Medicine Pilates
Saturday	24 th	2:00pm	Amaravati Buddhist Monastery	Meditation Workshop in Temple
Sunday	25 th	10:30am	Gaddesden Row Chapel	Service of Worship
		10:30am	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Christian Spiritualists church group
		11:00am	Great Gaddesden Church	Parish Communion
Monday	26 th	7:45pm	Gaddesden Row Green	Chip Van
Tuesday	27 th	9:00am	Great Gaddesden Church	Holy Communion
Wednesday	28 th	9:30am	Gaddesden Row Village Hall	Toddler and Baby Group / Coffee Morning
		8:00pm	Great Gaddesden Church Tower	Bellringing
Thursday	29 th	10:00am	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Baby Sensory
Friday	30 th	9:00am	Great Gaddesden Churchyard	Walk and Talk
		10:00am	Great Gaddesden Parish Hall	Moira's Movement is Medicine Pilates

A wet, warm Spring. Temperatures Increasing



As we enter the summer months, I'm going to look back up until a year ago and into the quite extraordinary events that have happened weather-wise. Often dominating the news is the amount of rain that has fallen across the UK, but here at least, it is the unprecedented and quite alarming rise in temperature. Some people are still somewhat sceptic that anything unusual is happening, but my own records prove that this is all very real. Since, June 2023, no less than four months have been record warm, these are June 2023, September 2023, February 2024, and now May 2024. During this period we've also had the second mildest winter on record, followed by our warmest Spring on record.

In terms of rainfall, I'm often hearing how the weather is becoming warmer and therefore wetter (warmer air being able to hold more moisture) but although globally this may be true, that doesn't appear to be happening here. I've looked back until 1971 when my records began, and there isn't any evidence the weather is becoming any wetter. As an example, the wettest spring was back in 1979 (356.2mm) and wettest Autumn in 1974 (393.2mm). So looking at the big picture it is not, on average anyway, any wetter now than 50 years ago.

However, it does appear summers may be receiving more rainfall. The wettest on record was in 2020 (317.2mm) and second wettest in 2012 (301.2mm). In contrast, the driest summer was back in 1995 recording a mere 38.4mm. The wettest year was also recently, in 2020 recording 1,015.9mm, about 40 inches, but the years 2012, 2000 and 1974 were only slightly less wet. The driest year by contrast was in 1996, recording 526.5mm, a little over 20 inches. The annual average rainfall here in Gt. Gaddesden is 757.4mm, around 29 inches. That's based on the official 30 year average, 1991-2020. It can sometimes be misleading to the average person how wet a month is. When we talk about a month receiving record rainfall we are referring to the total. If rain falls on more days but the total is less, it may seem a wetter month. The number of days rain fall on has a bigger influence on everyday life in my opinion, and can even affect our mood.

It is temperature that is definitely on the rise. It is no exaggeration we are entering unknown territory. No less than four of the warmest years on record have occurred in the last 10 years. If the current trend this year continues, then 2024 could well be even warmer. Winter 2023/24 was the

second mildest (after 2015/16). February 2024 was the mildest on record, and yes, even May 2024 was the warmest on record here in Gt. Gaddesden. The Met Office also recently announced it was the warmest May on record in the UK. You could be forgiven into thinking it didn't seem out of the ordinary. Some have even taken to social media to say that May, and indeed Spring, were not record warm and that the Met Office are acting dishonestly by 'fiddling' the data to create a 'scaremongering' scenario. I have proof from my own records that this is not the case and the weather is definitely warming. As an amateur, there would be no reason for me to deceive or 'fiddle' my records. A mini warm spell in May reached a peak on the 12th when 26.5°C was recorded, but it was the night time minimums that were record high. At 8.9°C, this is 2.7°C above average. There was no frost at all, not even at grass level, an unprecedented event here. In terms of daytime maximum temperatures (which are more influential), it was only the 7th warmest May. Many gardeners on the media have complained about the unusual amount of slug damage this season. I know this is the case in my garden. There's no doubt the contributory factor was the wet conditions and very mild nights. May 2024 was a wet month, but not exceptionally so, only the sixth wettest since 1971. The total of 94.0mm was 162% of average. April was also significantly wetter than normal, the wettest since 2012.

At 74.5mm, this was 137% of average. March was wet too, but less so than 2023. Rainfall was 86.4mm, 180% of average. As a result, spring was a significantly wet season despite the record warmth. Rainfall totalling 254.9mm (159%) was the wettest since 1998. Rain days amounted to 48 out of a possible 92 (52%).

With temperatures on the rise it may not seem a bad thing, at least to us. Mild winters for example would see our energy bills come down, and having Mediterranean type summers would appeal to many. However, although we can adapt, most of our wildlife cannot. I can see for myself the impact climate change is having. Growing food is becoming more difficult. Have you seen the price of olive oil in the shops? Crops have failed because of the intense heat and drought in parts of Europe, and in the UK, oil seed rape is becoming too risky a crop for farmers to grow (70% decline in Herts and Essex). The fields of yellow are disappearing. Pests and diseases that live on them are far more likely to survive milder winters. Cabbage stem flea beetle is a serious pest. Those of you who have grown leeks in recent years would have seen the devastating impact the Allium leaf miner has on mature plants. This pest was first recorded in the UK in 2002, all contributed by our warming climate. The list goes on.

Currently, early June has been very cool so far, but current thinking is for the heat to return in July so don't be surprised to experience hot weather later this summer. Temperatures of 30°C + are quite likely. Last year, July was disappointingly cool of course but two consecutive below par Julys are uncommon, even less likely these days. Keep those summer outfits and the barbecue on standby!

Steve Flitton



**General Election
POLLING STATION
Thurs 4 July 2024
Don't forget your photo ID!**



Great Gaddesden Parish Hall
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Competition Time

What an interesting event; the 2024 judging of Stamps, Postcards and Old Envelopes (Covers) for members of Societies belonging to the Mid Anglia Philatelic Federation (MAPF) was held in the Hall last month. The 25 exhibits came from entries from as far as Kettering, Huntingdon, Grantham, Kings Lynn, Spalding and Cambridge, as well as nearer to home Leighton Buzzard and Dunstable. It took the three highly experienced judges from Princess Risborough, Amersham and Maidenhead a total of *five* hours to score the 25 exhibits, not an easy task!



After the event, MAPF's John Spencer sent an open invitation to anyone interested in Collecting or Postal History, to come along to their thriving group of collectors who meet in Linslade on the third Wednesday of every month. Or indeed, John's willing to arrange a display to any local group who find the topic of interest. So please don't hesitate to contact him: jowbspencer@hotmail.com 07881 503580

If you'd like to hire GG Parish Hall yourself for your Special Event, Activity or Family Occasion, we'd love to hear from you:

Anne: 07954 600234
GGHallHire@gmail.com

Sue & the rest of the Team:
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We'd love to invite YOU too to get involved a little in the running of the hall. We need help in particular with general admin and simple maintenance, and would really welcome your interest, so please get in touch. Thank you.

GG Parish Hall, Dagnall Road (formerly Leighton Buzzard Rd), Great Gaddesden, HP1 3BW



Gaddesden Row Village Summer Fete

On June 15th, the village came together to enjoy the annual Gaddesden Row Village Hall Summer Fete on the green. Despite a very wet start, the weather cleared just in time, allowing the fun to begin. The fete featured a variety of entertaining activities, offering numerous prizes and games to challenge everyone's skills. Attendees enjoyed delicious food and drinks from the bar, making the day even more enjoyable.

A highlight of the event was the exciting dog show, which showcased many amazing entrants. Additionally, the Gaddesden Row Olympics provided a fun and competitive atmosphere, drawing enthusiastic participants of all ages.

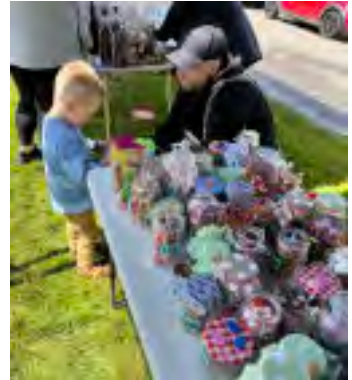
We are delighted to share that we raised over £1,300 (with some donations still to be confirmed) for our village hall, the heart of our community. The fete is our largest and most important fundraiser of the year,

crucial for maintaining and running the hall. We are incredibly thankful and grateful to everyone who supported us in numerous ways.

Special thanks go to everyone who:

- Donated raffle prizes, tombola prizes, jolly jars, and cakes.
- Ran stalls and events for us on the day.
- Braved the pouring rain early in the morning to help set up.
- Joined us on the day, invited friends and family, and participated in all the activities.
- Helped us clear up after the event.

THANK YOU ALL!



Birds of Great Gaddesden

In June and July, the birding scene is very quiet, often leaving me contemplating what to go in search of. This year I've decided to try and find my first local Quail – I've quite enjoyed my Quail quest (or Quailing as I've started to call it). I gently cycle around the country lanes early evening listening out for one calling. These migratory gamebirds arrive from Africa in early summer and with only 300 to 500 arriving on our shores each year making finding one an arduous task.

I stop and listen next to their favored habitat; cereal crops such as wheat and barley. I listen out and gaze across the fields of crops as they sway in the setting sun. I often hear nothing but the busy chattering of Linnets and the whistling of Red Kites as they head for roost. Quails are extremely skulky and chances are even if I heard one, I'd never see it.

I haven't come across a Quail yet, and I probably won't but it's an appealing way to spend a calm summers evening after a long day at work.

With breeding season well underway many young birds are now on the wing. Lee at Jockey End was delighted when a family of Great-spotted woodpeckers arrived in his garden, he was lucky enough to watch the parent birds show the youngster how to use the peanut feeder. Craig at Water End also hosted some new arrivals at his garden in the form of 2 juvenile Song Thrush- a fantastic spot!

We've also had some fascinating sightings and photos on the new wildlife WhatsApp group. The most unusual sighting however was when Lee Robins spotted a Wallaby at Stags End in the early hours of the morning – most likely an escapee from Whipsnade! I wonder if anyone else has seen one?

The highlight of my local birding last month was discovering several Firecrest just a short walk from home. The birds were in an area of woodland that I have been monitoring closely hoping to one day find this species. I'd noted a few years that the mixture of Conifer and Holly looked an ideal breeding area for them and despite



Firecrest

no sign of any earlier on in the season at least 3 were present on-site mid-June.

The Firecrest is the UK's smallest bird and can be extremely hard to spot as they restlessly comb through trees and bushes hunting for tiny insects. Their numbers have increased strongly in recent years, having only started to breed in this country in Hampshire in 1962. They have since rapidly expanded northward. I generally find these birds by listening out for their high-pitched call when walking in suitable habitat.

Whilst things are looking up for the Firecrest many of our birds are still in serious decline. It's been a dire year for House Martin and Swallows, very few have



Swallow

returned to this Parish this year and those that did struggled to find any food in the cold and wet start to June. Numbers of breeding birds such as Yellow wagtail, Lapwing and Willow warbler are also looking worryingly low.

The number of birds seen within the parish rose by 3 this month to 89 thanks to the additions of Cuckoo, Spotted Flycatcher and Sedge Warbler. The Cuckoo was heard briefly along Ledgemore Lane while my wife was walking the dog but unfortunately wasn't relocated, the Flycatcher was at Bridens Camp and the Sedge Warbler was

singing at the Water meadows, presumably on territory.

If anyone would like to see the list or add a species, please let me know.

Please send any wildlife questions , sightings or photos to georgemoreton92@gmail.com or alternatively join my WhatsApp group for all the latest news.

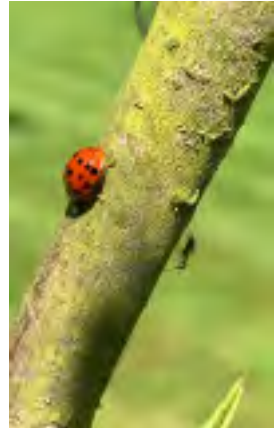
George Moreton

BIRDS OF GREAT GADDES DEN WHATSAPP GROUP

To join, email your mobile number to me at

georgemoreton92@gmail.com

Sightings this month include:





**Martin and Shirley
would like to
welcome you to
your friendly
local pub**

CROWN & SCEPTRE

Briden's Camp

A CAMRA recommended Free House

Opening Times 12 to 3 and 5:30 to 11

Local Home made Food Daily 12 to 2.30 and 6 to 9

(Except Monday evenings)

Sundays 12 to 4:30

Car Park and Large Garden

Friday July 5 - The 'Liabilities' from 8pm

Crown and Sceptre, Red Lion Hill, HP2 6EY

01442 234660 - No booking Sunday

Dacorum Borough Councillors

Jane Timmis – 07712 050363
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**Hertfordshire County
Councillor**
Terry Douris

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email terry.douris@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Ed Barradell – 07928 692862
**Email: Edward.
barradell@dacorum.gov.uk**

Great Gaddesden Parish Council

Next Parish Council Meeting 16th July 2024 at
Gaddesden Row Village Hall, 7:30 pm

Chair:	Ben Cosbie Ross	07813 842 229		
Members:	Corran Griffin	07368 201 866	William Ristoff	07801 042 594
	Rosie Hamilton	07786 651696	Guy Halsey	07811 317 177
	Chris Turner	07905 742 178	Mark Griffin	07931 900 000
Clerk:	Andrew Farrow	07512 192 188	clerk@greatgaddesden-pc.gov.uk	

The Parish Council's website is available at
greatgaddesden-pc.gov.uk

Local Community Social Media - search facebook for:

"Great Gaddesden Parish Council", "Great Gaddesden Community Group"
"Gaddesden Row the Village"

If you're worried about anything from dog-fouling, fly-tipping, litter, issues with pavements, pot holes etc. please contact one of the Parish Councillors or report it online. Search online for:
"Dacorum report it" and look for the Dacorum website,
or for highways issues search for:
"Herts report it" and look for the Hertfordshire website.

Defibrillator Sites

Bridens Camp: The cricket club pavilion

Gaddesden Row: In the old phone box at junction of Bradden Lane

Great Gaddesden: In the old phone box next to the school

St Margaret's: Within the Monastery grounds

Water End: The Red Lion Pub, on the perimeter wall by the front entrance

Parish Council News

This month it's all going to be about the proposed Potten End Hill SANG, or Suitable Accessible Green Space.

You may recall that in April I wrote about an advance presentation we'd been given about this proposal. The full planning application has now been received and if you're interested in looking at the detail go to the Dacorum Planning Portal and search for 24/01239/MFA. If not, I'll do my best to pull out the main details for you, but if you want to express a view the deadline is 3 July.

The idea behind SANGs is that they provide a public space which will divert people from travelling to Ashridge which has been suffering from overuse. Any new development in Dacorum must provide more publicly accessible green space. This SANG is funded by developers who want to build 1,100 houses to the west of Hemel on Pouchen End Lane.

To help orientate you on the map below, the Leighton Buzzard Road and the Gade are in the top right-hand corner. The site lies between Nettleden Road at the top of the plan and Potten End Hill at the bottom and the western most point is past Bingham's Park, almost as far as Potten End. It will be difficult to see the detail on the newsletter and the original can be found as the "Landscape Strategy" document on the Dacorum Planning Portal.



One of the key aspects of the design is a carpark with 50 places located at the bottom of Potten End Hill with an entrance just up the hill from Willows Lane. There is a concern that this will result in increased traffic at the busy junction of Potten End Hill and the Leighton Buzzard Road as well as adding further pressure to the already highly congested single-lane bridge at Water End.

We also believe that having the carpark in this location will lead to people leaving the SANG to walk along the (flat) footpath along the Gade water

meadows toward Great Gaddesden rather than taking the (steep) footpath toward Potten End, and that this will adversely impact the fragile ecology of the water meadows. The absence of almost any reference to the chalk stream is one of the more striking aspects of the proposal.

Another concern is that the SANG is heavily focused on allowing dogs to roam freely, and the valley side running up from Nettleden Road provide breeding grounds for several ground-breeding birds, in particular the Corn Bunting and Yellow Hammer, which will be adversely affected by dogs.

Finally there is the impact on the view down the Nettleden Road valley. At the moment this is a dramatic dry valley with no hedges or fences on either side for the length of the valley. The proposal introduces two hedgerows and a fence along the southern side of the valley splitting it into four compartments both because these reflect the field structure in the 19th Century and because hedgerows are a valuable habitat. Even if you think those arguments are compelling, it will represent a significant change to an iconic view.

There are other points of detail which will be published on the Parish Council website in due course, but these are the main issues.

There is an uncomfortable feeling that the current landowners, developers, National Trust, and Dacorum all stand to receive money under this proposal, and Great Gaddesden parish ends up with Ashridge's problems of too many people and too many dogs. Either that or the SANG fails to attract visitors and we have a defunct carpark in our back yard. Neither seems like a desirable outcome and so the Parish Council will be objecting to the scheme,

If you want to express your view on the proposal you need to do so by 3 July on the Planning Portal using the reference number mentioned at the start of this article. The Parish Council has asked for an extension to the consultation period so it can discuss the final wording of its objection at the Council meeting on 16 July but this has yet to be confirmed.

Andrew Farrow
Parish Clerk

Have your say - Dacorum Electoral Review

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is asking for your views on the electoral review of **Dacorum Borough**. The review will agree **new ward boundaries** across the borough. Gaddesden Row and Gt Gaddesden, Markyate and Flamstead, are currently part of **Watling Ward**.

- Do you have suggestions about where your ward boundaries should be?
- Where do people in your area go to access local facilities, such as shops and leisure activities?
- Which areas do you identify as your local community?

Consultation closes on 15 July 2024





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From Terry Douris - your County Councillor

Hertfordshire Scouts

On Saturday 8th June I had the pleasure of attending the Annual General Meeting of Hertfordshire Scouts at Tolmers Activity Centre in Cuffley. I confess to being surprised to learn that there are 17,997 scouts in Hertfordshire alone and the range of activities which are provided is simply huge. I was reminded that the World Scout Jamboree in Korea in 2023 attracted some 43,000 scouts from across the world including 4,360 from the United Kingdom. Potten End has its own Scout Troop with further ones in Little Gaddesden and Berkhamsted. Across the country there are many young people wanting to join the scouts, but the limiting factor is adults, more are needed so if you have time and would like to see young people enjoying themselves in constructive games and skills, how about it...

Carers Week

This national event seeks to give recognition to all who care for another family member, sometimes without really realizing that they are doing so. On Thursday 13th I attended the Hertfordshire Carers Event which was aimed primarily at carers who work for the authority. There were a number of support organisations there including HILS. They may be better known as the Meals on Wheels Service but these days they do so much more including arranging Exercise sessions for people living at home. The meals service itself is an important way on checking on people to ensure they are safe and well.

Herts Show

Last month I noted that the County Show was taking place. I am very pleased to report that it was a great success with



more than 900 pieces of furniture, bikes and household items sold at the County Council's pop-up Reuse Shop over the weekend – all items that would otherwise have been broken down, recycled, or disposed of. This meant that shoppers saved more than four tonnes from disposal, the equivalent weight of eight, 20-foot oak trees.

Market Square Health Campus

You may have heard of the proposal to develop the old Market Square in Hemel into a Health Campus providing a range of services. The intention was to bring proposals for the next stage of the project to the DBC Council meeting in June but this has been delayed due to the restrictions around the General Election, so the plan is to consider it at the meeting on 23rd July.

General Election Impact

When a General Election is called PERP comes into action. It stands for pre-election restricted period and whilst for most actions it is business as usual however there are restriction on press releases that HCC can provide and across all areas of local government resources have to be deployed to managing the election arrangements. A number of council meeting get postponed until after the election when business gets back to normal although we will be heading into the holiday period.

Keeping in contact

I will publish the details of dates and times of my surgeries at the Garden Centre on the Gt Gaddesden and Gaddesden Row Facebook pages. Alternatively, you can contact me on 01442 402273 or by email at terry.douris@hertfordshire.gov.uk

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Lord Lieutenant

I recently gave a talk at the Church Spring supper about the Hertfordshire Lieutenancy and the Glamorous Assistant was kind enough to ask me to repeat some of it in the newsletter.

In the UK there are 100 Lord-Lieutenants representing counties or local government ceremonial areas. The first lady to be appointed as a Lord-Lieutenant was Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk in 1975 for West Sussex (as her home was Arundel Castle) and there are now 15 female Lord-Lieutenants.

The office of Lord-Lieutenant (L-L) was established during the reign of Henry VIII. After 1535 there was discontent and rebellion in the country and the Crown commissioned Lieutenants to command the counties in times of emergency. The Lieutenant was responsible for the maintenance of order and defence. From 1585 in the reign of Elizabeth I, all Lieutenants were peers except three knights with special connection to the Queen – one of whom was Sir Walter Raleigh.

In 1871, the Regulation of the Forces Act removed the military from the Lord-Lieutenant's direct control although until 1921 they were able to call on all able-bodied men to fight in an emergency. In 1569, Deputy Lieutenants were created *pro-rata* to the population of each county and this continues. Hertfordshire has a population of almost 1.2 million which entitles it to 57 Deputies and a Vice Lord-Lieutenant who are appointed by the sovereign on the recommendation of the Lord-Lieutenant. They live within the county or very close to the borders.

The L-L is the King's representative in the County and their foremost duty is to uphold the dignity of The Crown whilst carrying out official tasks and duties on His Majesty's behalf.



Modern responsibilities of the L-L and Deputies include arranging visits by members of the royal family and escorting them during a visit. Presenting medals and awards on behalf of the sovereign and advising on honours nominations.

Participation in civic, voluntary and social activities within the county. Liaison with local units of the forces, police and their associated cadet forces. Involvement as Patron or President of local charities and organisations. Leading the local magistracy as

chairman of the local Advisory Committee on Justices of the Peace and chairing the local Advisory Committee for the Appointment of the General Commissioners of Income Tax.

As the sovereign's representatives, the L-L and Deputies are non-political and appointed for life although the customary retirement age is 75. They may wear their military uniform if they were in the forces or a specified military style uniform. This did not apply to ladies until 2 years ago and they had to make do with wearing a Tudor Rose badge suspended on a ribbon or court bow in white and magenta.

Great Gaddesden has been well represented on the Lieutenancy in the recent past. The late John Wood (formerly of The Hoo), Nicholas Halsey and I are all Deputy Lieutenants. My personal involvement was to Chair the Education/Young people panel and sit on both the Business and King's Award for Voluntary Service panels. In addition, I attended various award ceremonies, parades and Remembrance services; I delivered the 100th birthday card from HM Queen Elizabeth to Mrs Moir at Gaddesden Place and read the Proclamation of the ascent of King Charles to the throne in Dacorum.

Jo Connell

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A pocketful of happiness – Step back in time

Hello lovely readers,

Isn't history amazing!? And we have so much of it in our local area.

Last week I was lucky enough to nab a spot for a talk on the 'Piccotts End Paintings'

A large wall of incredibly preserved pre – reformation wall paintings which are situated in a medieval timbre framed cottage dating to 1527, just set back from the Piccotts End Road.

I had known about these for many years but like many who live in the area had never got round to visiting. I really didn't know what to expect or how an hour would be taken up talking about them with the cottage being so very small, but it was absolutely fascinating, and I would urge anyone who doesn't know about them or hasn't had the opportunity, to go!

The paintings themselves were accidentally discovered in the 50's under a skin of linen and 6 layers of wallpaper! This was how they had been preserved so well -we were told this was a very rare thing indeed and likely the only one in the country of this quality.

We were expertly guided through each part of this impressive and intricate imagery, given an insight into how and why it was created, and the significance they held to beliefs and society at the time. Also learning of the different incarnations of the cottage, and the area as a whole from Hemel to the Ashridge Estate and beyond.

At the time of these paintings the building was a 'hall house' which was both a home and meeting space that spanned 3 of the current cottages and would have been an impressive



sight for anyone entering the property. Hundreds of years later I was just as impressed!

It really did blow my mind to think that at the time of their creation no one would have given a second thought that strangers would be listening to someone discuss the paintings in detail in 2024! I absolutely loved listening and learning about style and paint techniques and the way it had been carefully restored and painstakingly cleaned to reveal more secrets about the life and times of 16th century Hemel Hempstead.

Years later the cottages became a hospital for experimental amputation work (this one gave me the heebie jeebies!) Our speaker also speculated about who may have crossed the path of this house given the religious unrest of the time, and those massive figures of history that were most definitely nearby. Of course, we will never really know which I find both annoying and completely brilliant! What I do know though, is that the doors in this little house were so small that many people were ducking to get in and out. People were definitely smaller back then! But being 5foot nothing this wasn't a problem for me, and I could have lived here quite happily. Perhaps I was born in the wrong century!

Sian Turner



Summertime Greens

Burgeoning growth continues*. With very little sun to date but lots of rain, we have everything reaching for the sky, including all the weeds. The raspberries in particular are well over 2 metres high and looking stunning. But there is little sign of anything ripening yet. Similarly, the strawberries, that we were tempted to recycle earlier this Spring as they produced very little last year, are full of lots of green fruit. The main crop potatoes are also way up high and flowering. The books say we should continue to earth them up as they grow, but I'm sure that I will do more damage than good trying to get a spade under all that foliage. Other vegetables doing pretty well too. The onions are up, peas and beans climbing the frames and courgettes spreading across the bed well. We had a Mr McGregor moment as a very confident rabbit decided to help us while we were weeding, it took a considerable amount of shouting and chasing before he (or she) vanished into the hedge. It was only last year that we took down all the rabbit fencing around the beds as we hadn't seen one for ages and we had assumed that the dogs kept them away. Oh well, plans of mice and...

Our next step with our North Chilterns' farming group is the attempt to record the numbers and species of moths on the various farms across the area. I may have mentioned before that there are many times more types of moth than there are butterflies, but we tend to only see them occasionally as they are nighttime creatures. Except of course the ones who love to eat our woollies. They make a major contribution to the pollination of plants and many species of moths are under extreme threat from a wide range of sources.

Attached is a picture of the kit provided. It is essentially a plastic bucket, lined with



egg boxes and a battery attached to a sensor and led light. The light is switched on during the night and the moths are hopefully attracted down to settle inside the bucket. In the morning, they are photographed and released. All the data is then uploaded directly to the research team via an App called e-surveyor.

So far, the weather has not been particularly accommodating for our searches. Apparently, the best time to attract moths is



on a warmish night, with little wind and an overcast sky. This week the skies have been clear and nights a rather too chilly. I managed to see just 3 moths on the first night. The picture shows my first sighting, I am not sure what this moth is, the App hasn't identified it yet!

I remain very interested in the re-wilding debate and this last weekend there was an interesting interview in the Observer with Isabella Tree who published a significant book called *Wilding* in 2018. The book describes the work they have done in Knepp, Sussex to shift their farm from a

modern agri-business to a centre that is now rich in diversity of animals, plants and insects. A documentary film by David Allen has just been released that shows the transformation that they brought about on the Knepp estate. Its now on release so it may appear in a cinema or via Netflix etc. Definitely worth a look.

Do have an excellent summer, more on the moths in September,


Robin @ Hatches Barn

*great word *burgeoning* and yet according to the Oxford English Dictionary, is only used about 0.03 per million words. Let's encourage a burgeoning use of burgeoning.

p.s. there were a couple of excellent photos spotted by Lizzie in last months magazine. It made me wonder where the bees went. I think its worth reminding ourselves that honey bees are a 'domesticated species' and may struggle to survive in the wild. In years gone by bees could find places to settle and overwinter in old barns or in the back of warm chimneys, but these habitats

are now rare. If a swarm appears, the bees are commonly looking for a new home with their recently mated queen and a call to the local bee society or beekeeper should bring a speedy response. They will be collected and then found a suitable hive so they can settle and grow strong. In the picture the bees have produced a significant amount of wax foundation into which they will lay their eggs, but the side of a tree doesn't bode well for a secure future. A minor detail is that a good swarm is potentially quite valuable. to buy a 'nucleus' which is a queen with around 5 frames of workers to set up a new hive, will cost at least £250. Some beekeepers are very cautious of placing swarm bees into their hives as they can bring disease, but others see the benefits of introducing new strains.



Let's hope that these bees have found their forever home.



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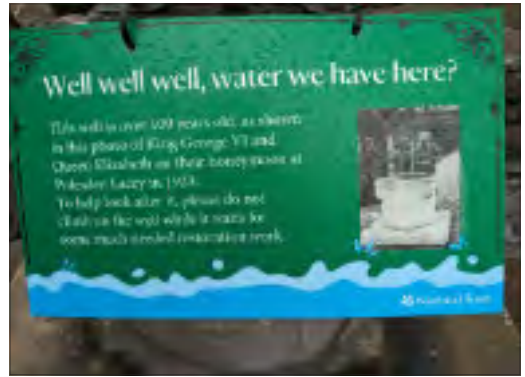
Val's Ramblings

After a delightful few days on the Isle of Wight my next ramblings took me to Polesden Lacey, a National Trust property nestled in the Surrey Hills just 25 miles from London. (Shown on BBC "Treasures of the National Trust" the day after our visit!) This trip was the annual get together with two of my college pals from the 60's, Linda and Judy. We tend to visit Houses and Gardens rather than theatres because we have a lot of talking to do!

Unlike many country houses, Polesden Lacey has not been the long-standing seat of one aristocratic family but has been occupied by a string of wealthy individuals. The last private owner was the super-rich socialite Mrs



Maggie Greville who bought the estate in 1907. She was dynamic and ambitious and became one of the most influential hostesses of her generation entertaining foreign ambassadors, dignitaries, members of the Edwardian elite and members of the Royal Family. As a consequence, little expense was spared to provide the opulent interior where bedrooms were ensuite with hot and cold running water, and a typically English garden including a nine-hole golf course and tennis court. Considered the highlight of the gardens is the walled rose



garden at the centre of which is a 14th century Venetian well which has been at Polesden Lacey for over 100 years evidenced by the green label (hanging on the right side of the well).

Guests enjoyed wonderful hospitality and Lord Plunket wrote:

"The fish is good, the meat is fine,
No need to praise the luscious wine!

The beds and linen 'beat the band'
The water's hot, the butler's grand.

There's golf and tennis and every game,

What other comfort can I name?

But why speak of wine and meat?

'Tis our hostess whose [sic] so sweet,"

And then it was another ringing weekend from Friday June 14th – Sunday June 16th when eight of us travelled up to Liverpool in two cars. We rang at three churches on the way to our hotel in Haydock (pronounced "edock" by the locals), St. James, Bulkington, 8 bells, St. Wilfrid, Grappenhall, 10 bells and St Matthew, Stretton, 8 bells. We were met by two friendly ladies at Bulkington who provided us with most welcome tea and coffee (to accompany the delicious fruit cake provided by Deirdre, one of our group) The ladies, both local ringers, were keen to tell us that the bells had only recently been remodelled and re-sited in the tower after many years of fund raising by the local ringers. I asked if they were pleased with the outcome and was told that "it was like

ringing the tower before!” The bells were indeed superb.

Five more churches on Saturday going from one extreme to another. Starting at Rainhill, St Bartholomew, a huge Catholic church (not many catholic churches have rings of bells) with a tiny ringing chamber and 6 bells

with the biggest (the tenor) weighing just over 2cwt (the tenor at Great Gaddesden is 10 cwt). This was followed by Rainhill, St Ann, another 6 bell tower with a tiny ringing chamber and a tenor weighing just under 2cwt! Both of these rings of bells were produced by the Dutch



company Eijsbouts in the 1990's. One more before lunch, Prescot, St Mary, 8 bells, where we rang a very pleasant quarter peal. After lunch another catholic church, St Francis Xavier (SFX for short). Once again an impressive building with 8 very nice bells where we were met by one of the university ringers. She was waiting for us outside the locked gates wearing a sparkly purple mini dress and highly decorative baseball boots! She was of course going to the Taylor Swift concert being held at Anfield !

Then we visited the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, another magnificent, Catholic church, the largest Catholic cathedral in England and nicknamed locally 'Paddy's Wigwam' (no bells) Sir Edwin Lutyens was the architect



and the foundation stone was laid on June 5th 1933. Sadly, the outbreak of war in 1939 interrupted building after only the crypt had been completed and by the end of the war, costs had escalated so much that Lutyen's grand scheme had to be abandoned. Adrian Gilbert Scott (brother of Giles, designer of the Anglican

cathedral) was commissioned to scale down Lutyen's plan but once again the mighty project was deemed unachievable. In 1960, architects throughout the world were invited to design a Cathedral for Liverpool and from 300 entries, Sir Fredrick Gibberd's design was chosen. Building began in October 1962 and the completed Cathedral was consecrated in May 1967. "The spirit of the Cathedral is deeply embedded in its history. A tale of determination, tenacity and conviction that despite the odds enabled all those involved to fulfil their holy ambition to create a place of special, deeply spiritual resonance for all who use it"

And then the 'Big One' – Liverpool Cathedral, the largest Anglican Cathedral ever built. The architect,

Sir Giles Gilbert Scott (a Roman Catholic) was only 22 when in 1902, he won the design competition to build the cathedral. The building was completed shortly before the service of thanksgiving and dedication in October 1978 which was attended by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Sadly, George Gilbert Scott died before the building was finished. I,

personally do not find the outside of the cathedral attractive but the inside is certainly beauty to behold and definitely worth a visit.

.....and the bells!

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Awesome is not a word I often use but there is no other to describe the highest and heaviest peal of bells in the world. The

13 bells are hung in a circle and surround Great George the bourdon bell, which at 14.5 tons is too big to be swung, hangs in one position and is struck mechanically with a hammer. The ringing chamber is enormous with hefty steel girders supporting the tower structure. The ringing circle resembles a circus ring with a narrow, raised platform round the edge where the ringers stand when they're actually ringing. The huge weight of the bells, tenor 80cwt., necessitates ringing very, very slowly which makes it impossible to use the smooth swing of the bell to do the work when ringing the smaller bells and each blow is a 'Pull and wait'! This, together with standing on the edge of what seemed like an abyss certainly provided the 'dread' part of the Collins English Dictionary's definition of 'awe' –

“wonder and respect mixed with dread”. But what an experience, and we didn't even have to climb any stairs – two separate lifts carry you up to the ringing chamber, but if you want to 'enjoy' the Tower



Experience, a ticket only, guided trip to the top of the tower means you have 108 steps to climb after you reach the level of the ringing chamber!

Sunday was travelling home day with two more churches to visit on the way. We joined the local ringers at St. Thomas, Stockton Heath, 10 bells, to ring for their morning service and our final church was St Chad, Over, Winsford, 8 bells, where Gill Moore grew up and learnt to ring. Here we rang a good quarter peal to end a very successful ringing weekend.

Over the next two months I will be 'rambling' all over the place including a trip to France! More exciting reading to come in future editions of the Newsletter!

Val Mills



is a 5 piece swing band playing the classic songs of Gershwin, Porter and Berlin, and original material.

Their love of the music of the golden swing era, and the classic songs of Gershwin, Porter, King et al means that stylistically they are all hip to the

same muse. With the likes of Nat 'King' Cole, Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Jordan and Count Basie as their heroes, you can be sure the band will get you jumping. Their extensive repertoire ranges from the big band sounds of Glen Miller to the rock 'n' roll of Ruth Brown and Etta James.

In a world over-populated with low-energy soundalikes, this is a group of Olympian musicians with enough wattage to light up Broadway on a busy night. It's not for nothing that they say, 'Follow your feet!'

Judging by the response to the last few Jazz at St John's gigs, this promises to be another fun affair at the 800 year old Great Gaddesden Church which has great acoustics and space for dancing along with a bar for refreshments. So, don't delay in getting your tickets @ £18 either on line at www.wegotickets.com/event/624688 or calling 01442 246513.



The Great Gaddesden Bake Boff

Traybake Nut Crunch

There are many versions of traybakes the one below is like a flap jack but has coconut and oats. Traybakes recipes can easily be added to with the added benefit you can cut them to a size that suits your needs. These keep a while so may come in handy for children's lunch boxes Etc.

Cooking time 30 min

Oatflakes 180 Grams

Desiccated Coconut 180 Gram

Margarine 35

Syrup 220 Gram

Plain flour 320 Gram

1 Melt Syrup, Sugar and Marg together then add the dry ingredients

2 Place into a large, greased flan tin

3 Bake in a moderate oven for 30 Min



These are best cut when still warm.

Enjoy... Ivan.

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Cheers!

Who's feeling fruity? As this is the summer issue, I have pulled out all the stops to rustle up a tropical treat for the summer days ahead. I even bought new glasses! So, this summer I give you the...

Piccotts Colada



This one is in honour of our friends at Piccotts End. The Piña Colada originates from Puerto Rico. Legend has it that this was another 'medicinal' cocktail concocted for sailors - this time to revive morale.

The version we have today relies on the talents of many - including University of Puerto Rico Professor Ramon López Irizarry who created an improved method to extract cream from coconut pulp in 1954, and the Griffiths Brothers of Buckinghamshire who have crafted the Coconut Rum I have selected for our mix. It has been expertly blended with real coconut water to give the rum a rich coconut flavour. Get yours at <https://griffithsbros.com>

On to the mix... chop up a small handful of pineapple chunks (around 7 or 8) and add them to your blender. Pour in 60ml of Griffiths Brothers Coconut Rum, 45ml of Cream of Coconut (important to note

that this is different from coconut cream or coconut milk), 45ml pineapple juice, and 15ml of lime juice. 1 tsp sugar syrup . Add a handful of ice cubes to the blender (assuming yours can cope with ice) and pulse until smooth (ish). Pour into a ridiculous looking cocktail glass and decorate with a wedge cut from the top of your pineapple and a straw.

Voila!

I hope you enjoy

Craig

Shopping List:

- Griffiths Brothers Coconut Rum
- Cream of Coconut
- Pineapple
- Pineapple Juice
- Lime
- Sugar Syrup



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