

Great Gaddesden Parish Newsletter

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THE 13-14C. CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, ST. GADDESSEN

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

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October 2024

From the Glamorous Assistant

Hello again everyone.

Lots of exciting news for you this month. We've got new people involved in the magazine and community. We've got special offers, new sponsors and the usual apologies for last month's mistakes. (If you can do better, come and help us)



SPECIAL NEWS... The big Tescos at Jarman Park are only going to help us out!!! Oh yes. How good is that? We have been lucky enough to get involved in their community scheme and we 'could', with your help, earn up to £1,500. See the page opposite. Every little blue disc helps. (or is it disk) 🤔

MORE SPECIAL NEWS. The nice manager at the **Red Lion pub is offering 20% off food** for Great Gaddesden Newsletter readers. Is there a catch? Not really. You have to email them to book rather than go on the website and you can't use it with other offers or have the firms do on a Friday night. Other than that, no catch. Let me know how it goes, so I can thank the manager. P11 for details 😊

NEW FOLK... Last month we told you about the new head teacher at Great Gadd school. This month we welcome one of the governors, John Bevan to write our monthly update. If you normally skip past the schools bit, don't. Read John's article. He even includes Latin and Einstein. It reminds me about the moto of a tech' team I used to work with whose moto was 'Intermitte machinam tum incipe id iterum' Which means turn it off and on again. I'm getting the drift that John's writing style is going to make you smile, even if you don't have kids in the school.

Writing style leads me on to Jane Campbell from the University of the 3rd age. or U3A as it's called. They have a creative writing group. So I asked for a page worth of nice writing. Check out page 41. Want to give it a go, let us know. Jane is also telling us about other U3A groups. P40.

New police team. PC Onyon who used to

look after us is now Sargent Onyon and has moved on. His replacement has yet to be confirmed, but I'm hoping we will hear from her next month. We do have a new PCSO (Support Officer for those not in the know). She tells us a bit about herself on P45. Incidentally, the Herts Police website tells everyone about a

good arrest in Grovehill the other day. Police on patrol, spot something not right followed by a car chase, foot chase, arrest, home search and the suspect before the courts in the morning.

I'm chuffed that our MP Victoria Collins and her new team spend time to tailor make an article for us. We've connections to other parish magazines who have struggled to get anything at all from their MP.

OLD SCHOOL.. We had panicked emails from Val of Val's Rambling fame after the release of last month's magazine. She sent us Septembers article. Sadly though she pressed the wrong button and sent us September 2022's article. We noticed it didn't tie in with some of the photos, but it is Val's Ramblings after all and published it. 🤔 So this month's article, is last months. P42. She's taken some time off to get over the incident. Robin has also taken time off for some holidays. My friend is away in Spain at the moment with his 4 year old son. The lad can't say 'please' in Spanish, which is poor for four. 🤔 (I like that one)

We've heard about the passing of Frank Gish who lived a few doors away from magazine towers. Our hugs go to Gloria and her family. P44 for more details.

Stop Press. We gave the Red Lion offer to our contributors earlier in the week and we've had lovely feedback already after a Sunday lunch at 20% off. 😊

Stay Great Gaddesden

John Lowrie

Tesco has agreed to help our magazine!!!!

You all know that since Richard took over as editor, the magazine has grown from a simple parish leaflet to a large community magazine full of local articles from local people which I think is fun to read and has something or interest for everyone. As the magazine has grown, more folk want to see it, which means bigger magazines and more copies. Which means MORE COSTS!!

Currently, it costs us just under £10 per house, per year. That's a lot.

Richard and I want to keep it as a community magazine and not just an advertising book with the odd feature. In January we started a crowd funding page on just giving.com and managed to get about £1000. Which was fantastic. Thank you everyone who has contributed so far and anyone else who has contributed in their own way, it really does help. We also get money from the parish council, the church and advertising. (we can't charge too much for adverts as we only have a small circulation) ... you know what's coming next..... yes... But we still need a bit more to keep us going.



So, we spoke to the lovely Tricia from Tesco in Jarman Park and we applied for their blue disc community appeal.

They have lots of enquiries and the rules are quite strict. I had to write a blurb about the magazine in with only 160 letters. I came up with

Our magazine links our community together. It is written by locals in a fun style to encourage interest, involvement and community spirit. It is our social media.

Cheesy I know, but low and behold we have



won!!

Now the hard part. We've got to prove we have a good community here and we're asking

EVERYONE who goes to the big Tesco at Jarman Park or the local Tesco Express shops to pick up and put the little blue disc in our section by the exit. The more discs the better and could be the difference between £500 and £1,500 in our kitty.

So you see, **'Every little disc helps'**. See what I did there.

Voting for the best community cause starts in the first week in October and goes through to Jan 2025. Don't worry, I'll be reminding you all about it for the next few months. I'm just hoping we don't come up against an animal charity.

Along with Jarman Park there are Tesco Express stores at :-

- Grove Hill HP2 6BJ
- Marlows HP1 1BD
- Warners End HP1 2QF
- Maylands Plaza HP2 4XH
- Fletcher Way HP2 5SE
- Bovington High St HP3 oHG
- Barnacres HP3 8AP

But unfortunately **not** Berkhamsted as it's in a different region.



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
revmseldon@outlook.com

Heather Tisbury (Reader) 01582 842807

20 West Dene, Gaddesden Row HP2 6HU
tisbury@btinternet.com

Anthony Archer (Reader) 01442 842397

aw.archer@btinternet.com

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

Coffee & Chat in the Church!

Wednesday 2nd October



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Dear Friends,

One of the many mistakes I have made over the years, was, in my ignorance, to move Harvest Festival to the middle of September, reasoning that looking round the fields in Great Gaddesden, the harvest looked complete and so why wait until October to celebrate? I was reminded that there's a lot more to harvest than merely gathering the crops!

In the Old Testament, following God's covenant with Noah after The Flood, you can follow through the early books of the bible, the instructions from God to the people of Israel, as to how they were to use the land and much detail about harvest and its distribution.

In those times, some 3,000 plus years ago, and indeed right through the following millennia, up to the beginning of the First World War, most rural communities would in some way, be involved in, or affected by, the harvest.

These days, we are all too easily detached from the realities of harvest, being mainly spectators; but spectacle it remains. Harvest is still, a spectacular sight to seeing combine harvesters and all the required additional machinery needed to complete a modern harvest. Make no mistake though, it is still incredibly hard work for a very few.

In ancient times, with the involvement of most of the community, there was much more of a sense of God's involvement in the whole process however, reading Guy Halsey's article last in last month's Great Gaddesden magazine, *news from the Halsey Estate*, there are still times when for no apparent reason the yields will be particularly good – so praying for a good harvest is worthwhile and God does listen!

When the people of Israel entered the promised land, God required them to have three harvest festivals a year, each lasting a week, that's some celebrating, but of course that was how important God's bounty was seen to be!

The first festival was of Unleavened Bread, a solemn moment recalling the Passover, when God led the Israelites to freedom

from slavery in Egypt.

The second 50 days later, celebrated the wheat harvest, during the height of which, two loaves of leavened bread were waved before God and the people, by the priest; this is the time when we now celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit.

The final festival came with the gathering of the grapes, later in the year.

In the book of Leviticus there are instructions about the first fruits of the harvest being for God, there are also instructions about caring for the land, including allowing it to 'rest'. There are reminders that those who worked a particular piece of land were stewards, not owners and as virtually the whole community would be involved in harvest, there was a sense in which all were to be cared for, including leaving the edges of the fields uncut, for the poor to gather some grain.

In the New Testament, in St Paul's second letter to the Corinthians there are clear messages about sowing generously and reaping with thanksgiving, sharing blesses all, both the giver and receiver.

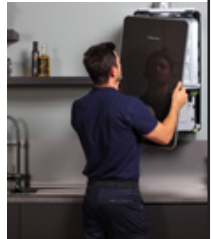
So once again, Harvest Festival is upon us, we celebrate in the churches on the second Sunday of October, (the 13th), and it seems to me, in this rapidly changing world we would do well to thank God for all we so easily take for granted; our food, our water, our shelter, our clothing, and especially to thank God for the work of those struggling tirelessly to provide us with good crops. In other words, to truly value the harvest for what it is.

As in previous years, we invite you to come to church for our Harvest Festival on the 13th October, bringing, please, non-perishable items, of food and other essentials, having checked the high needs lists of DENS, our local charity supporting the homeless and others struggling to live in this present time and also Azalea the Luton based charity supporting trafficked women.

I am yours in Christ,

John.

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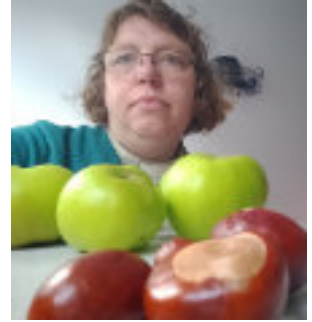
7:30pm

Usually 5 days a week
check amaravati.org/
calendar



Gaddesden Row Church

I grew up in a large town, overlooking the M4 (Jcn 25 to be precise), although from the bedroom on the other side of the house we could see beyond housetops to green hills. At 18 I headed off to university, not to the big cities but the compactness of Aberystwyth in west Wales. I decided then that smaller communities were my natural habit, despite where I grew up. As a church minister this is the 3rd context I have served in – each where there was a clear sense of local communities, and one thing that has been constant is a harvest theme – apples.



The first place I lived as a minister, on the borders of Herefordshire and Worcestershire was known as the ‘town in the orchard’ and we had the annual AppleFest. (I learned to appreciate craft cider). Later in the former mill villages of West Yorkshire amidst the post industrial tensions, one of the churches I worked with had their Millennium Orchard, where the community could pick as they liked, and again I would plied with bags of apples. Now after a year in Hertfordshire, and whilst not living in any of the villages where I work with local churches, I find I have a neighbour’s apple tree leaning over and gifting me a harvest; whilst I walk my dog among fallen apples as part of Harpenden Common.

This time of year our churches mark Harvest Festivals, as do schools and other parts of the community. Of course harvest times vary with crops; but the produce based autumnal harvest festivals, even of my townie youth (from local shops), gathered up to give a treat to older members of the community, has given way to dried and tinned goods to support local food banks feeding those struggling to make ends meet, even those with jobs.

The idea of harvest was a community celebration of the food gathered safely in to provide for all in the winter ahead and beyond, and a break after the intense work involved. So maybe the focus on feeding the most vulnerable reflects that spirit. However it feels that rather than celebrating plenty we are offering mere plasters to greater wounds among the financially vulnerable in our communities. And yes even in a place like ours, maybe especially - just more hidden, with expensive housing and costs, there is a need for food banks, for warm hubs, for looking out for our neighbours – both near and far.

Helen Roberts



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DID YOU KNOW?

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Harvest festival is an annual celebration, said to be started by the Reverend Robert Hawker a vicar in Cornwall in the 18 hundreds, it usually falls around the last week of September or early October in the autumn equinox, but given the differences in climate and crops around the world it is celebrated at various times in different places and continents.

'Harvest' is derived from the Old English word 'Hoerfest' meaning autumn. When the crops were gathered in from the land church bells would ring out every day to tell the reapers when work in the fields was to begin or end. The farmers had food brought out in to the fields at midday and break-times by young boys. Usually bread, cheese and ale. Once the crop had been cut, the sheaves were gathered into stooks or stacks so the air could flow through to dry them.

The farmers and workers prayed for good weather at harvest time. The 1863 August was recorded so sunny and warm it was called 'a golden year in a golden age'. Conversely in 1879, the driving rain which made the fields a mud-caked land meant crops could not be cut until November, this was a disaster for the farmers.

Now, having enough workforce for the harvest was crucial not as today when farmers have enormous air conditioned combine-harvester to complete what use to be hard backbreaking work. People sometimes even came from towns and cities to help with the harvest. Though by the mid-19th century the industrial age saw this practice decline. The Kentish hop harvest was the last; droves of urban dwellers would take an annual hop-picking holiday. The tradition for hop picking holidays only died out in the 1950s.

After the harvest had been gathered, women went back into the fields for the



gleaming/collecting up all the final bits of the crop so nothing was left on the fields.

Geese were sent out to the fields to gorge on the leftover corn. These

geese were known as Michaelmas geese and eaten traditionally for prosperity. In some parts of the land it was known as Goose Day and goose fairs would be held around the country. The Nottingham Goose fair still takes place each year.

Until the involvement of the church the harvest supper had been a rural event, and the feast included anything that had been grown on the land or picked in orchards and hedgerows. If meat was included, bird or beast, every last bit would be eaten and the bones used for stock.

The Pilgrims emigrating from the Old World to the New World around 1621 took the harvest commemoration with them. They celebrated in 1621 their first successful corn crop firing guns and cannons in Plymouth Massachusetts. In the USA it is known as 'Thanksgiving' and is still the most important date in the US calendar.

In the 60s and 70s the connection to the land's bounty began to be lost due to convenience and imported food grew in popularity. We all remember taking tins

and packet provisions to school for harvest festival.

However, today with a growing emphasis on the importance of fresh, locally sourced and seasonal produce the value of harvest is once again being recognised.



Gerti Evans



Birthdays in October

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.

Cory Pethard	1 st	18
Rebecca Hollick	7 th	13
Maddison Pugh	10 th	15
Lucille Johnson	15 th	10
Andrew Emes	16 th	18
Hope Thackeray	24 th	16
George Merry	27 th	4



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Gaddesden Row
JMI School

Gaddesden Row JMI School

A new school year is well and truly underway here at Gaddesden Row. The children have settled in very well to school life and their new

classes.

We have a new PE coach who started in September, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in their weekly PE lessons and getting to know their new teacher.

On Wednesday the 18th of September, we had some very special visitors come into school and deliver an Animal Encounter Experience. The children were able to see and touch the following animals: an owl, rabbit, tarantula, bearded dragon, chickens and many more!



different activities including art, drama, discussions, debates and writing for different audiences.

On the final day of this half term - Friday 25th of October - we will hold our annual pumpkin carving competition. The

children will be invited to bring their pumpkins into school and we will share every design during an extended assembly. Choosing the best designs is extremely difficult and lots of deliberation between teachers and teaching assistants will take place.

Needless to say, it's been a busy start to the school year already, and the children are doing us proud. Our reading buddies has also already started, with children from the older classes pairing up with our younger classes to share the joy of books.

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*

The week beginning Monday 21st of June, we will celebrate Black History Week. The theme this year is African Americans and The Arts. Each class will take part in



Great Gaddesden CoE (V.A.) Nursery + Primary School

October (origin *octo* Latin for the 8th Roman month—which replaced the Old English *Pinterfylleþ* lit. ‘Winter’/‘Falls’) is here. With the sweet sound of feet kicking up falling leaves and the first conkers comes a flourishing calendar for the Great Gaddesden CoE (VA) School. First, some September highlights!

Mid-September saw the Rev. John Russell lead the annual blessing of the school. Followed almost immediately by an epic Y5/6 residential to PGL, Surrey. Great team spirit, determination and kindness was on display all round. Pupils took part in a blockbuster of activities from abseiling, rock climbing and hiking to wagon building, singing and toasting marshmallows around the campfire.



At the time of going to print, our September Macmillan coffee morning is lining up, bringing together parents,

carers and our local community.

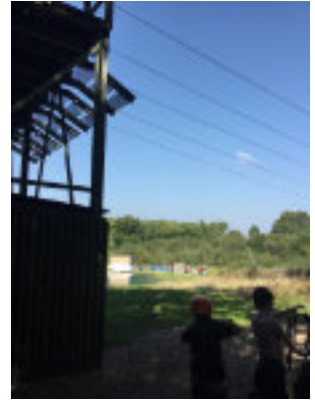
As the last of the summer sun shone on our September Forest School, so will two more sessions follow in October as pupils see in the first frost with foraging for fruit, forming fox dens and performing puppet shows.

Vision Day (Oct 2nd) opens October, followed up by the Vision Day Exhibition afterschool at the church (Oct 15th). We'll also welcome grandparents, run parental consultations and find time for individual school photographs over October. Harvest service is on Oct 14th. All dates are in the School Newsletter (Issue 2) and online.

Let me also further extend on behalf of the Governors a warm welcome to Matt Beach as Headteacher. We're excited to see Matt bringing his vision, passion and fresh thinking to life and enabling our school and wider community to flourish. I'm certain of continuing the deep and wide-ranging achievements orchestrated under

Sarah Wicken's tenure—to whom we again owe deep thanks for what will surely be a long-lasting legacy.

Great Gaddesden School sits at the happy heart of our richly rural community. One of our school's many strengths is the deep feeling of family, full inclusivity, and the joy seen and heard throughout our great pupils, supportive staff, parents, the church, and wider community of supporters.



Over recent years, the school's staff leadership team and Governors have sustained strategic efforts (and with significant energy!) to elevate all areas of school life, including the vision, curriculum, teaching, safeguarding and extra-curricular activities. This journey—always ongoing—today makes for an incredibly rich, vibrant environment throughout the school as pupils settle back into school life. With the calibre and commitment of all those involved, I am certain that the school will continue making great strides in the coming semesters.

Finally, the change of season also brings a change of scribe responsible for inking school articles for this illustrious gazette. *Salvete magistri et discipuli et cetera*, (Welcome, teachers, staff, students and all others). And thank you—on behalf of all of the school community—to Sarah Pugh for her wonderful curation of these columns, articulating the achievements of our school, our great pupils, staff and beyond.

“Learn from yesterday, live for today, work for tomorrow.”—Einstein

JM



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Are You Waiting For The Day You Are happy In Your Body?....

Being super honest with yourself,
Do you have a body goal that you'll be 'happy' with?
Is it a body you've had in the past?
An idea of your ideal weight?

Here's why getting your Body Goal will never bring you the happiness you think it will....
Just like the seasons, fitness goals can change, but if you are constantly finding that your goals are dictated by what the scales say you will never relax or enjoy the process....

Hedonic adaptation means we ADAPT to happiness we feel in response to say, reaching our goals.

We might reach a level of happiness but in time, we tend to return to baseline levels again.

So even if you magically find happiness to reaching your goal weight (which is very unlikely given body image is related to our thoughts, feelings and behaviours around our body, and not our weight, and honestly the idea that we magically get happy in a certain body is a dirty little Diet Culture lie). The likelihood of you STAYING HAPPY in your body is slim to none.

The happiness you're looking for is more than likely found in cultivating joy and PURPOSE outside of your body, and working on your body image as a SIDE to your body composition goals (if you have them).

You can also be more resilient to that hedonic treadmill by practicing gratitude for what you already have (body functionality is great for this).

By practicing presence, aka mindfulness, aka be here now in the moment peeps!

Hitting your Goal Weight doesn't = Happiness

Neither does a firm bottom

Nor 6 pack abs...

Sorry Peeps but it is time to look elsewhere!

In order to get and see results and most importantly be able to maintain them in a healthy way. You need to firstly work out what truly makes you happy, starting with yourself as a living breathing human, before you can then set some realistic achievable goals that will in time distract you from the pressure that comes with what the scales say.

The clients I work with at The Fit Hut all understand the importance of exercise, but what is more beneficial overall is the environment and people in which you choose to surround yourself with.

I would love to welcome you this October! Work with me 1-1, in a small group, online or in person. I will help you find your purpose!

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Pilates and the three P's

Posture

Prevention

Pain Management

Think good posture and we think standing upright but it's more than this... It's about how we move through movement and maintaining proper alignment can help prevent injuries, decrease existing pain and improve overall wellbeing.

Poor posture can lead to, not just muscle and joint problems, but also breathing and digestive difficulties when the digestive organs and lungs are squashed through a rounded upper back posture.

Postures associated with a myriad of symptoms, not just pain, include

- 1) Forward head posture – The “Text Neck” but commonly seen with screen users, who sit and poke their head forward, spending long periods looking at screens.
- 2) Rounded shoulders – Often due to prolonged sitting and/or work at a computer.
- 3) Anterior Pelvic Tilt- ie hanging forward on one's hip ligaments in a lazy stance.
- 4) Kyphosis or hunched back- Again a slouched posture but can become quite rigid, associated with bony and ligament changes if left unchecked.
- 5) Flat or Poker back. - Loss of natural low back curve. Tightness and weakness in the back and upper leg muscles can help create this.

Pathologies as opposed to just plain, poor posture can also create some of these features. However poor posture alone is often a large culprit.

Pilates can help address the muscle imbalances, utilise your core muscles of your back and pelvis, lengthen and strengthen muscles and make you more body aware, promoting overall better wellbeing.

You don't have to be injured to join my

classes. You may only just be beginning to think “Who's that?” when you catch sight of yourself stooping over as you go past a shop window.

Wherever you are at with your posture. From recognising it's not what it could be and wanting to work to prevent injury to wanting to restore function and decrease pain from existing injuries, my Pilates classes can help.

For further information, either visit my website at www.stjudesclinic.com or email me at

moira@stjudesclinic.com



Moira's Therapeutic Pilates



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Moira's Therapeutic Pilates

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Moira's Therapeutic Pilates Classes

Great Gaddesden Parish Hall:

Fridays, 10 am – 11 am

Billington Village Hall:

Tuesdays 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm

Wednesdays, 7 pm – 8 pm &

8.05 pm – 9.05 pm

The Belgian Death March

With the Boston UK Marathon & the Nijmegen Marches under my belt, the 100-km ultramarathon challenge beckoned me across the Channel to the town of Bornem, in the Belgian province of Antwerp for their 55th Dodentocht® (Dutch for Death March).

The local Belgian Scouts provide a decent camp-site complete with showers, meals & even live music & DJs to accompany their bar! Entry to the march is capped around 13000 participants, mostly walkers & there are 12 control points roughly every 6-10 km with water, coffee/soup & different snacks available, each control point has specific restrictive opening hours, so that you will be chopped from the event if you are too slow, as there are only 24-hrs to complete the 100-km route. The route also cannot be completed under 10-hrs, as each control point does not open until a specified time. I have walked the event several times before, so had a rough idea of what to expect here, but this time I planned to run as much as possible.



The event starts at 2100-hrs on the second Friday of August & all participants assemble in an extremely crowded field. With my plan to run, I needed to be near the start line in good time & after the Scouts fed me a large spag-bol, my waiting commenced around 1830-hrs as the start field progressively filled around me. Other Death-Marchers were lazing around attempting sleep, but simultaneously a Belgian DJ was doing their best to prevent this, creating a nervous atmosphere of Europop-infused tension. At 2100-hrs

prompt, the hooter sounded & the surging crowd shuffled forwards, I was over the start-line after a minute but the congestion meant I could only break into a trot after another 3-4 minutes.

The first section of the route was a 13.4-km loop out of Bornem & then back through the Boomstraat (main high street) where crowds of cheering supporters were creating a fantastic atmosphere with live music, amazing how this makes you run faster & I soon arrived at the first control point – well ahead of schedule & to my surprise - it was not yet open, there were about 50 or so other keen runners assembled & waiting for the off. I thought about taking the opportunity to remove a stone from inside my shoe, but I was distracted by chocolate milkshake & sugar waffle, then another hooter sounded & the police escorted pace car set off, followed by eager runners. Forgetting all about that stone, I tagged along. Next up, another speedy leg completing 21.4-km (just over half-marathon) in 1:51, a bit too fast but I knew the next phases would get slower with the darkness.



Through the next few stages I found myself arriving at the control points just as they were opening, the 31.3-km rest area provided an interesting combination of more chocolate milkshake, coffee, gingerbread & Duvel (strong Belgian pale ale). Participants were now very well spread, & as I entered some rural villages the spectators had really thinned out, just a

few folk huddled under blankets around their dying bonfires, were they even awake? But why should they be at 1am? Other runners were also now few & far between, I donned the headtorch & pressed on through the darkness, footpaths, tracks & fields passed by & occasionally I encountered other runners, sometimes searching for the route markers, most runners had accompanying support cyclists & their lights provided a clue as to the likely route.



I completed the first 50-km in 5-hrs, which I was really super-chuffed with, certainly this was much faster than I had figured possible, then I arrived at the village of Opwijk (55.3-km) I had booked a meal, however, the cafeteria was not really geared up for runners & so having initially missed the hall, I was led back 200-metres to find it deserted, I was their first customer so there was plenty of seating for me - I eventually tucked into another tasty hot spag-bol, before continuing...

Several more villages passed me by through the night & eventually dawn broke, this was a welcome relief as my headtorch had packed up, it kept on flapping open with every small jolt, like a step for example & I was doing plenty of those, it was very good at lighting up the fenceposts or fields to my right, but not the route direction arrows showing where I was supposed to be going. Anyway, I welcomed the misty dawn & continued plodding, although by now the pace had slowed as I found myself suffering some exercise-related transient abdominal pain

(more commonly referred to as a 'stitch'), running recommenced once these had been walked off.

The last few sections were a chore & I sat down for a couple of minutes at some of the control points to eat various bananas, salted boiled eggs, pastries & naturally some more sugar waffles. The control point in Branst signified 95-km, so only effectively a parkrun to go, by now I could only see one other runner on the route, we occasionally passed each other grunting acknowledgements, as his English was about as bad as my Dutch. I lost sight of him as we re-entered Bornem, at 7am the streets were now deserted, so no real welcome to the finish, but I pushed on & it felt like I was sprinting along the empty Boomstraat to cross the finish line in 11-hrs 12-mins.

My 17th completion of the event & a PB by a mere 4-hrs & 16-mins! My Belgian challenger comrade met me in the finish tent flashing his



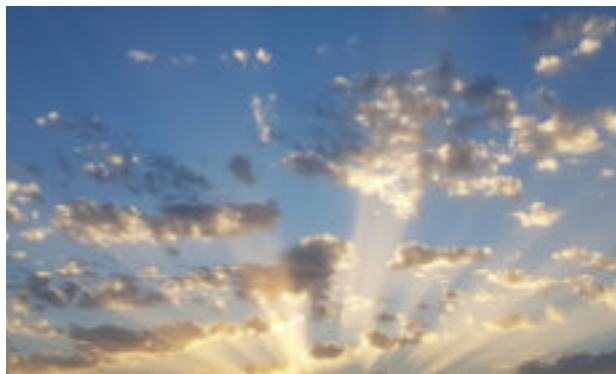
No 25 medal, his team of support cyclists told me that I had finished in 92nd place (of 12312 starters), I had never dreamt of a top-100 finish. I guess all the Gaddesden Row training runs & the weekly parkrun over the last year since my retirement had paid off, & some.

Whilst I had finished in time for a Saturday morning parkrun, thankfully (in these circumstances) Belgium does not have any, so I returned to the campsite. Being so early had pros & cons, I finally had time to get that stone out of my extremely smelly footwear, there was no queue for the shower & I had plenty of time for a leisurely breakfast. That said, showing your face so early at the campsite meant everyone kept asking how far I had got before dropping out – that No 17 medal came in pretty damn handy here!

The Retired Runner

Summer 2024. How does it Compare?

Another summer comes to an end. It all seemed so brief, and to most people, not very memorable in terms of prolonged sunshine and heat. So how does summer 2024 compare to recent years, and indeed how close to



average was it? Well, it may not come as a surprise that in terms of warmth it was the coolest since 2015 here in Gt.Gaddesden. This is in line with the country as a whole but it was not wet overall. The only wet period was the first half of July. Between 1st and 15th July, rainfall amounted to 89.0mm (3.505") that's 64% of the total rainfall for the whole of summer. One interesting fact is July 15th, St. Swithin's day. According to folklore, whatever the weather is on that day, whether rain or sunshine, it will continue for the next 40 days and 40 nights. Well, July 15th was the second wettest day of the month recording 15.6mm (0.615") so notably wet. Over the next 40 days there were 12 wet days and 28 dry days, and only one day recorded more than 5mm. I think we can put that one to bed!

The total rainfall for summer (1st June – 31st August) was 139.4mm (5.49") or 80% of average. It was drier than 2023 but wetter than 2022. Total rain days was 29 out of a possible 92. Looking at the individual months, June was notably dry recording only 39% of average rainfall, the driest since 2018 and the driest of any month since February 2023.

However, June was not a warm month, and the mean temperature of 13.8°C was the lowest since June 2013. I mentioned in my last article that July was unlikely to be cool, because in 2023 temperatures were below average; it was not a particularly pleasant month. I also mentioned that a temperature of 30°C was likely to happen. Up until July 16th, the highest maximum

was only 20.8°C (on 14th), almost 2°C below average. However, two days after the newsletter arrived through my door we had exactly that. On July 19th the maximum had reached 30.5°C, summer had

finally arrived, or had it? The following day, the temperature had dropped back down to only 22.4°C but the summer's longest minis hot spell arrived by the end of the month. On the 28th the maximum reached 25.3°C, and 25°C or more was achieved for the next 6 days. The hottest day was 30.2°C on the 30th July. The Met Office criterion for a heatwave in our location is 28°C or more on 3 consecutive days. Despite the heat, we didn't reach this threshold. Two days was the most, so technically, it still wasn't a heatwave! Overall, July was only slightly less cool than last year so this surprised me. August was the best month in terms of warmth, and was slightly above normal. Maximums reached or exceeded 25°C on 6 days. The hottest day of the year was on the 12th August reaching 32.0°C. It was a dry month too, the driest since 2016. This would certainly have helped our local farmers to bring in the harvest.

Compared to recent summers, the last two may have seemed poor but you have to remember as the climate warms, then the average temperature will also increase. The current period that temperatures (and rainfall) are compared to is 1990 - 2021. This 30 year period is what Meteorologists currently use. If we were to compare this summer to the 1960-1991 period then this summer would have actually been above average. Bearing in mind, four of the warmest years on record have all occurred in the last decade. To the younger generation, this summer probably would have seemed quite cool as we've been spoilt

in recent years. Even in a warming climate, we'll still get months cooler than average, but they are becoming less common. Let's compare this summer to one of the warmest in the last few years – 2018.

During this summer, there were 39 days reaching 25°C or more, 9 days of 30°C or more. There were two official heatwaves, both lasting 5 days and both in July. It was also exceptionally dry. Total rainfall of 58.1mm (2.73”) was only 40% of average. There were severe drought conditions in June and July.

I would imagine there are a few people like me that like to watch a summer thunderstorm, especially at night, but if you've been thinking, where have all the big storms gone?, they don't seem to happen much these days, then you'd be right. Records show that thunderstorms have been declining in England and Wales within the last 30 years, and no-one knows the real cause. Anyone living in the 60's would have experienced some notably big storms. I can remember as a child, many a time when it would thunder what seemed all night. There is an interesting reference to a storm in the book entitled 'The Elements Rage' by Frank W. Lane. In it there is mention of a storm over Hertfordshire on June 12th 1964 when thunder was timed that lasted continuously for 28 minutes. I'm sure that is one of the storms that literally lasted all night and it was still thundering in the morning. Several trees had been struck around

Gaddesden and there was no power. Talking of trees being struck, has anyone noticed the big scar on the oak tree next to the footpath opposite the meadows? This was clearly struck by lightning many years ago. I don't know when this was but its left a permanent record on its huge trunk.

Thunder is recorded as 'days of thunder'. That is a period of 24 hours. If a single storm were to pass through midnight, then this would count as two days. The most I've recorded in a year was 32 days in 1983, but also 31 days in 1982. Since then, the average has come down noticeably. So far this year, up until the time of writing, there have only been 4 days. During the summer months this year, I only heard thunder once on July 7th. Just one day of thunder in summer is the fewest since at least 1980. There is theory that's it's linked to global warming but we're constantly being informed that rising temperatures create more storms, and central Europe continue to experience severe storms in record heat. Hmmm, that's an odd one. Now let's see what autumn has in store, by the time this is published it will be well underway. One last interesting fact, it was the wettest first 7 months of the year (up until the 31st July) since my rainfall records started in 1971. Could it end up being the wettest year overall? Let's see.

Steve Flitton

[Written before the torrential rain at the end of September.]

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Birds of Great Gaddesden

It's been another eventful month of birding in Great Gaddesden, a series of easterly winds at the start of September led to some early autumn excitement, whilst another week of easterly airflow towards the end of the month looks promising for any intrepid birders out searching for rares.

I stumbled across my first Wheatear of the Autumn on the 25th August. A striking male was frequenting the horse paddocks at 6 Tunnels Farm. I initially spotted him in flight, catching sight of his white rump as he flew away from me along the fence line. He would perch up the fence posts before descending to the paddock where he would hop along before picking up small insects off the grass.

The first Wheatears were shortly followed by Whinchats on the 31st of August. The Whinchats remained for the first week of September and with perseverance and a little bit of luck, showed very well in weedy areas of the water meadows. They were often seen in close proximity of a juvenile Stonechat, also a first for the Autumn. The first week of September also saw the arrival of several Common Snipe, who should now stay in the Gade valley until the spring.

On the 31st of August I was very pleased to find a cracking male Redstart feeding in the hedge by the tennis courts at Lane house. I'm not sure what it is about this area but it's fast becoming one of the most productive sites to look for migrant birds in the Autumn. Last year I scored 4 Spotted Flycatcher and a Marsh Harrier in the exact same spot. A week later I found another on the common at Gaddesden Row, a much more elusive female bird hiding in the Knapweed.

There were some decent sized flocks of House Martin and Swallow to be seen locally as they formed large groups ready to head to Africa for the winter. Nikki managed to capture a photo of over 30 perched on the wires at her Ledgmore Lane garden, where she has enjoyed the excitement and chatter that they have brought this summer.

The large number of young Swallows and



Kingfishers

House Martin also persuaded a couple of Hobby to take up residence in the area - the young and naive birds providing an easy snack for the falcons.

By the middle of September there was some visible migration to be seen overhead in the mornings. Meadows Pipits were on the move and on clear mornings hirundine passage was starting to pick up. The next week or so will see the arrival of Fieldfare, Redwing and Chaffinch as they move in to the UK from Siberia for the winter.

A large finch flock has also started to build up at Beechwood school where they are feeding on the cover crop. It currently consists of mainly Linnet and



Winchat



Stonechat

Yellowhammer but is well worth keeping an eye on over the next few weeks to see if they are joined by anything more unusual. At Bridens Camp, Richard Smith was fortunate enough to observe a Peregrine Falcon being mobbed by one of the local Raven. He watched in awe as they tussled

overhead – the Raven determined to see off the Falcon.

The local Kingfishers have had a successful breeding season and it's been a pleasure to watch them of over the Summer. One of the Resident pairs has raised 2 young and my good friend Chris Sharp has taken some fantastic photographs.

The number of birds seen in the Great Gaddesden Parish this year now stands at 96, the same amount I saw in Norfolk in a day last month! It would be fantastic if we could hit 100 but it looks extremely implausible with the only possible additions left Hawfinch, Jack Snipe and Little owl – all hard birds to connect with locally.

As always please send any questions or photos to georgemoreton92@gmail.com, or join the local WhatsApp group receive all the latest news.

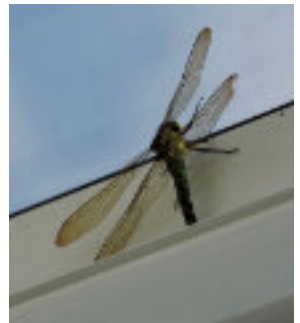
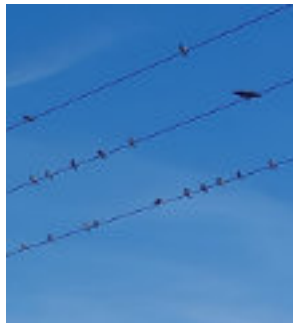
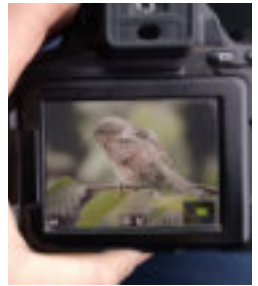
George Moreton

BIRDS OF GREAT GADDESSEN WHATSAPP GROUP

To join, email your mobile number to me at

georgemoreton92@gmail.com

Sightings this month include:



Gaddesden Row Spooky Kids Halloween Fun



31 October 4pm - 6.30pm at the Village Hall

- Halloween crafts including cookie decoration
- Halloween sweet bags
- Games & music
- Buffet food

Tickets only £5 available from Chris on 07738106344



Gaddesden Row Village Hall Christmas Craft Fair



Saturday 30 November 10 am - 12

- Christmas crafts
- Mulled wine & mince pies
- Tea & coffee
- Raffle

If you are interested in selling your xmas crafts please
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Gaddesden Diary

Weekly Events

Mondays

7:45pm

Chip Van

Gaddesden Row Green

Tuesdays

9:00am

Holy Communion

Great Gaddesden Church

Wednesdays

9:30am

Toddler and Baby Group / Coffee Morning

Gaddesden Row Village Hall

8:00pm

Bellingring

Great Gaddesden Church

Thursdays

10:00am

Baby Sensory

Great Gaddesden Parish Hall

Fridays

9:00am

Walk and Talk

Great Gaddesden Churchyard

10:00am

Pilates Moira's Medicine in Movement

Great Gaddesden Parish Hall

Saturdays

2:00pm

Meditation Workshop in Temple

Amaravati Buddhist Monastery

Sundays

10:30am

Christian Spiritualists Church Group

Great Gaddesden Parish Hall

11:00am

Parish Communion (Café Church on 13th)

Great Gaddesden Church

October Events

Wednesday 2nd

10:00am

Coffee and Chat

Great Gaddesden Church

Thursday 3rd

8:00pm

Thursday Murder a Pint Club

Crown & Sceptre

Friday 11th

9:00am

Open Morning

Beechwood Park School

Tuesday 15th

7:30pm

Parish Council Meeting

Gaddesden Row Village Hall

Saturday 19th

9:15am

Terry Douris Surgery

Hemel Hempstead Garden Centre

Saturday 26th

7:00pm

Jazz in the Church - Gaddesden Place RDA

Great Gaddesden Church

Thursday 31st

4:00pm

Children's Spooky Halloween Party (Book Early, Limited Spaces!)

Gaddesden Row Village Hall

Save the Date

Saturday 30th November

10:00am

Christmas Craft Fair

Gaddesden Row Village Hall

Great Gaddesden Parish Newsletter is read by over 1000 people in and around the parish. Funded by the parish council, the church, advertising, and voluntary contributions from our readers.

To contribute search online for "Just Giving" then Great Gaddesden newsletter or scan the QR code.

Editor: Richard Collis
richard@richardcollis.com 07971795571

Full Year Advertising Rates for 2024

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Community events advertised free of
charge

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

The opinions expressed in the publication are those of the authors. They do not purport to reflect the opinions of the publishers.

Gaddesden Row Village Hall

 @gaddesdenrowvillagehall

 @Gaddesden Row: The Village
No One Has Heard Of

 Chris Hurt
07738106344

 info@gaddesdenrow.org.uk

What's Coming Up:

Toddler & Baby Group - Every Wednesday From 9.30am to 11.30am

Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning - Saturday 28th September, 10am to 12pm

Children's Spooky Halloween Party - Thursday 31st October, 4pm to 7pm

Christmas Craft Fair - Saturday 30th November, 10am to 12pm

Hall For Hire!

If you are looking for a venue to host a party, a regular club, or anything else, the Gaddesden Row Village Hall is a great space available for hire now. The cost for the space is £15 per hour, and offers users the following:

- Capacity for 40 seated, 70 standing in the main hall,
- A fully fitted kitchen, a small side room & garden,
- Fast Wi-Fi
- PA system with a projector and screen (*on request and subject to availability*)

For more information, please contact us through any of the above social media platforms / contact Chris Hurt on 07738106344.

www.gaddesdenrow.org.uk

Join

RICHARD & John

Come and murder a pint while discussing
the mysteries of the world at the Crown
& Sceptre first Thursday of the month
6th October 8pm
- ITS JUST A DRINK!



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Charitable Trust number 154154



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Not-for-profit GGParish Hall is available to hire for Your Regular or Occasional Special Event or Activity too.



Although if it's Christmas you have in mind,

Please contact Anne sooner rather than later – there's only One Saturday remaining in December

- ✓ Light & airy, 12m x 6.2m (74sq m) hall suitable for up to 70 people; patio doors
- ✓ Well-equipped kitchen, serving hatch, dishwasher, 2nd sink lowered for accessibility
- ✓ Crockery, cutlery, chairs, tables, heating & lighting included in hire rate
- ✓ Freedom to choose your own entertainment, caterer, or self-cater
- ✓ Wheelchair & pushchair friendly: access slope, generous entrance hall, wide doorways, one-level throughout, separate ladies, gents & disabled toilets with baby changing unit
- ✓ Ample private off-road parking
- ✓ Public Footpath no.4 leads across beautiful countryside to River Gade & Hoo Wood

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... see where your skills could slot in

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A warm welcome awaits YOU !!

Thank you

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Anne: 07954 600234

GGHallHire@gmail.com

Sam, Dan, Jim, Sue

GreatGaddesdenparishhall@gmail.com



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YEARS OF GADDESSEN PLACE RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

Gaddesden Place Riding for the Disabled is celebrating its
50th Anniversary
please join us to celebrate and fundraise at

"Jazz in the Church"

Headed by the fabulous Lily Dior Quintet

Plus, a performance from Choir on the Green,
conducted by Paul Bullen



- Date: **26th October 2024**
- Time: **7 for 7.30pm**
- Venue: **Great Gaddesden Church, HP1 3BY**
- Tickets: **£35pp** cheese & biscuits in between acts. All profits to RDA
- Wine, beer & soft drinks can be purchased at the venue

To book your place please contact: **Simon Double 01442 877597**
info@solarioracing.com

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Cultivating with Clive

Now autumn is officially here I start to think about bedding down my garden and allotment for winter. I will be checking that all of my small trees and shrubs are still firmly staked into the ground, also that the ties are not damaging the trunks of the tree or bush. I tend to give my roses a light prune now to prevent the larger roses rocking in the wind. I do leave the ones near the kitchen window as they can flower right up until Christmas. PIC1



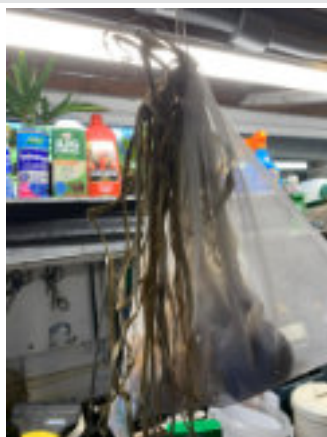
I will also be clearing out my greenhouse getting rid of all the pots I didn't use this season and giving it a good clean with Jeyes Fluid. I cleaned the glass with white vinegar last year using that left over from my pickled onions, straight out of the 5 litre container as otherwise it would have gone to waste. This year I have purchased a white vinegar spray : I bought this online



but cover them with straw or cardboard before the first frosts.

and will let you all know how I get on next month PIC 2

If like me you have a glut of vegetables and fruit this time of year I will tell you how I store mine. Beetroot I usually leave in the ground



Carrots can also be left the same way, however, I have not been successful with this method. So this year I will lift mine, cut off the tops and store them in damp sand in a cool well ventilated, frost free dark

space.

My onions, once dried out I store in a fine netted bag PIC 3 It is an old bag you buy for your veg from the supermarket recycled. Alternatively, you could use an old pair of tights. My apples I store in a slatted box in single layers in a dark but well ventilated area. I check them every couple of weeks to make sure they are not degrading. My pears I store in the same way but check them more regularly, as once a pear starts to ripen it can turn the whole tray mouldy in no time at all.

Clive Hill

THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN IN OCTOBER

- Plant spring bulbs and plants.
- Lay new turf.
- Remove leaves from the lawn and pond.
- Heighten the blades on the lawnmower and reduce the cutting frequency.
- Lift dahlias and gladioli, particularly if you live in the valley near the river.
- Trim conifer hedges.
- Harvest pumpkins for Halloween.
- Prune soft fruit bushes.
- Move and divide rhubarb.

Dacorum Borough Councillors

Hertfordshire County Councillor

Terry Douris

Jane Timmis – 07712 050363
Email: jane.timmis@dacorum.gov.uk

01442 402273
email terry.douris@hertfordshire.gov.uk

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

Harpenden and Berkhamsted MP
Victoria Collins MP
victoria.collins.mp@parliament.uk

Great Gaddesden Parish Council

Next Parish Council Meeting 15th October 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

Update from Victoria Collins MP

Parliament is back in earnest - and I've been determined to take every opportunity to stand up for local people across my constituency, which extends west from Harpenden to Berkhamsted, with the beautiful village of Great Gaddesden in the middle.



Both in the towns and rural areas, there's one particular concern I've been hearing - in your letters, emails, and when I chat to people on the doorstep. It's all the more urgent with cold weather on the way.

That's the government decision to cut the Winter Fuel Allowance. More than 17,200 elderly people in our constituency are at risk of losing the vital £300 payment which helps with heating bills.

I do understand that Labour must deal with the economic mess left behind by the last Conservative Government. But targeting vulnerable pensioners, in freezing homes this winter, is not the answer. That's why - alongside my fellow Lib Dem MPs - I voted in the Commons to keep the winter fuel allowance.

It's still not too late for ministers to change course. So my colleagues and I will keep fighting tooth and nail to reverse the cuts and restore support for those who need it most.

Energy bills aren't the only challenge facing our communities. Local provision for special educational needs - known as SEND - is in crisis. Ofsted found "widespread and systemic failings" in Hertfordshire, with children waiting far too long to be assessed and helped.

This is placing immense stress on families, as I highlighted in a Parliamentary debate. Parents often have to give up work, or spend many hours every day taking their children to far-off schools. A primary cause is that Hertfordshire has the third-lowest SEND funding per head in the country - and that urgently needs to change.

So does policy around another crisis - in social care. There are thousands of unpaid

carers across our local boroughs of Dacorum and St Albans. They make huge sacrifices to look after relatives and loved ones, often at the cost of their own physical and mental health. The NHS is severely affected, too. At the West Hertfordshire Teaching Hospitals Trust, 843 'bed days'

were lost in one month alone last year because of the backlog in social care.

At the recent Lib Dem conference, I renewed our party's call for a transformative package of reforms for unpaid carers - to whom our society owes so much. These include the introduction of pair carers' leave, a raise of £20 a week for the Carer's Allowance, and a commitment to place unpaid carers at the heart of every announcement on social care, including future cross-party talks

Also at the conference, I championed a plan to protect our precious local chalk streams from the dire problem of sewage pollution. The River Gade is one of four chalk streams in our constituency. These are unique ecosystems which support all kinds of plants and wildlife, as well as being lovely places to visit and where children can paddle.

But they're in danger. Up at the Markyate storm overflow, Thames Water has seen 2,500 hours through the sewage overflow into the River Ver, this year alone. As well as ecological damage, I've seen nearby roads flood with smelly sewage filled with toilet paper.

Alongside much tougher regulation, I want to see the introduction of Blue Flag status for rivers. Water companies who pollute a Blue Flag river would be fined.

Altogether, there's a lot to do. I campaigned in the general election on the promise of getting you a Fair Deal. Now I'm in parliament, I'll use my voice - and vote - to achieve just that.

And remember, you can always get in touch to raise a local issue, or a problem where I can help as your MP. Email me at victoria.collins.mp@parliament.uk

Emergency Services Day

Monday 10th September saw the raising of the Emergency Services flag over County Hall in Hertford in recognition of the work and dedication of all our emergency 999 services. The profile of the calls which they have to respond to has changed over the years for example, the Fire and Rescue Service now attend more highways related incidents than fires.



campaign when Janine Mundy was murdered by her husband of 15 years in front of their children. There are a number of different forms of abuse including physical and sexual and economic and controlling and the figures are frightening. 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men are likely to experience domestic abuse in their lifetime and in the year ending in March 2024, 19,478 domestic abuse crimes were reported to Hertfordshire Constabulary. The

county council can provide support and guidance if made aware, but many cases are simply not reported.

Riding for the disabled

With thanks to the glamorous assistant (aka John Lowrie) for allowing me some extra time I spent Sunday 22nd at the RDA Open Day at Bridens Camp. It was so rewarding to see how riding a horse can have a positive impact on the well-being of people both young and old. The centre also has a mechanical horse which is ideal for people just setting out on their experience. Horse-riding can have a number of benefits including the strengthening of the central core of the body. TDA is fortunate to have an indoor riding school but I was staggered to hear of the dramatic increase in the purchase price of a pony or horse which can be as much as £9,000. They would always welcome donations and support especially as the have a new addition arriving during the week after my visit.

In addition to the horse riding we were treated to entertainment by BURP the Ukulele band.

Domestic Abuse

I recently attended a seminar on domestic abuse. It was a hard hitting and thought-provoking session designed to raise awareness of domestic abuse in support of the J9

Happy birthday Druglink

At the beginning of September, I attended the 40th birthday of this charity which offers addiction treatment, housing solutions, education and training, and counselling for people affected by substance misuse. Over the years it has helped so many people including providing accommodation to enable people to live without drugs, many of whom are now working within the Druglink organisation. The charity quietly gets on doing this important work.

Do you have a project?

If you have a project which could do with a little financial help. If you do, I may be able to help from my Members Locality budget. There are some rules so the best first step is to drop me an email outlining your project.

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

Update from your Borough Councillors

Autumn is on its way but maybe a bit of an Indian Summer can soften the blow.

Reminder, Great Gaddesden and Gaddesden Row will still be part of **Dacorum Borough Council** (DBC) for local Council matters.

Currently, there is no more news or a decision on the planning application for a Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space, (SANG) on fields between Ladies Mile and Potten End Hill.

DBC have been consulting on increased parking charges in Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted and Tring, as well as Kings Langley, where there is free High St parking.

In October, the new draft Dacorum Plan will be discussed.

Dacorum Wellbeing Club for young people

A Wellbeing Club for young people (aged 10-16) will be launching at Adeyfield Adventure Playground on Monday 23 September.

The sessions will provide a safe space for young people to participate in games, activities, and interact with mentors to further support their emotional well-being. The club is free, no booking is required.

Venue details:

Location: APG Youth Club, Turners Hill, HP2 4LW

Time: Mondays, 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Autumn Clothes Swaps at the Forum

Next month we are hosting two days of our much-loved clothes swaps at the Forum in Hemel Hempstead.

How does it work?

Simply bring along up to 10 items of good-quality adult clothing that you no longer want during the 'drop off' times, and return during the 'swap' times to choose the same number of clothes to take away. You could be taking home an entire outfit at no cost at all!

Schedule:

Friday 4 October - Drop-off: 11.30am to 12.30pm. Swap: 1pm to 2pm

Friday 4 October - Drop-off: 5.30pm to 6.30pm. Swap: 7pm to 8pm

Saturday 5 October - Drop-off: 10am to 11am. Swap: Midday to 1pm

Please keep a look out for the monthly 'surgeries' with Terry Douris (County Councillor), when you can come and see us too. These are held at the Garden Centre at 9.15am usually on the third Saturday of the month. Alternatively, you can contact either of us on the numbers/emails below.

Questions about planning applications, bins, parking, council housing etc, ask us.

Jane Timmis – 07712 050363 Email: jane.timmis@dacorum.gov.uk

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

Roderick Wilson Tree Surgery Ltd

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Parish Council News

I hope everyone had a pleasant summer? There are lots of things to update you on since I last wrote.

The last few articles have focused on the proposed Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space or SANG proposed to run from the top of Potten End Hill very nearly to the Leighton Buzzard Road and from Nettleden Road to Potten End Hill. This is still being considered by the Planning Officers in Dacorum but there have been a number of interesting submissions, not least from the Chilterns Conservation Board which are worth reading – search for 24/01239/MFA on the Dacorum Planning Portal.

In July we received a fascinating presentation from Affinity Water about the works planned for the Gade between the Red Lion and Water End bridges. The weir at the Red Lion bridge is to be removed and the river upstream encouraged to meander; details are available on the Planning Portal under 22/02836/MFA.. Unfortunately work planned for the Summer and early Autumn was halted because water voles were found on site – but this can only be a positive development.

Further down the Leighton Buzzard Rd to the north of Galley Hill and opposite Piccotts End, the developers who had an application to build 450 house turned down by Dacorum have appealed the decision. Again you can find details on the Planning Portal under 21/04508/MOA. Technically this lies outside the parish but is of significant interest to us because of the possible impact on traffic volumes on the Leighton Buzzard Rd.

Cupid Green Lane has been relatively quiet apart from a new access road being opened which had received planning permission. We continue to chase for some action about the car storage on the site; the lack of progress is perplexing.

The problem with Cupid Green Lane started when the owner started to sell off small plots. So it's disconcerting that we've learnt of a similar proposal involving the subdivision of land to the south of Pipers Hill running from above the water meadows to the top of the hill. This is all National Landscape (AONB) so development is heavily restricted, but Cllr Timmis is liaising with Dacorum to see what else can be done to prevent any development.

Whilst Red Lion Lane was closed as the council pruned back some trees, the Parish Warden was able to carry out a 'deep clean' along the verges.

The Council's audit for 2023/24 has been completed without comment. If anyone wants to inspect the auditor's report technically you have a right to do so until 17 October – although all the information is available from the council website anyway. Dacorum are looking to make savings and have asked Parish and Town Councils to assess the impact were Dacorum to reduce the grants it pays us by either 50% or 100% in 2025/26. As this constitutes 24% of the council's income the impact would be significant. At the moment we don't know when Dacorum will take a decision but it will have to be before January 2025 when the Parish Council is required to finalise its budget for 2025/26.

And finally – if you thought that the telephone kiosks at Gaddesden Row and Great Gaddesden were rather questionable pieces of design from the 1980's which just about deserve their continuing existence by housing our defibrillators – think again! They are (so I have been informed) relatively rare examples of the KX300 kiosk which is described as 'triangular' (despite being hexagonal), I have been sent a 23 page document about them, and if you search Facebook there is a group dedicated to the KX range. Quite what I'm supposed to do with this information, other than pass it on to you, is something of a mystery to me.

*Andrew Farrow
Parish Clerk*

[Many of you will have had a leaflet through the door from The Gade Valley Communities Coalition regarding the developers appeal of the site opposite Piccotts End.

More information can be found by emailing gvccoalition@outlook.com]

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Curtain Call



blackout and there are even coloured linings for those curtains that get pulled back and show the lining.



Colour, texture and pattern is considered in a room to reflect the taste and desire of a customer and to ensure a good

This week I thought I would delve into the inner workings of a curtain. That piece of fabric that hangs from your track or pole that you cannot fathom out why they cost nearly as much as a second hand car.

A pair of bespoke curtains can be the focal point in a room with a range of styles and headings to consider. The work that takes place inside – hand stitching – isn't seen but is the engine room of the piece, holding layers together to minimise billowing in the wind and create the perfect drape.

Before creating a masterpiece in fabric your maker will consider –

- The track or pole required
- The light in the room
- The style and décor/period of the room
- The size and condition of the window
- Customers budget



From this your maker can guide you towards a variety of outcomes – formal, flamboyant, decorative, warm, elegant

Your fabric can be enhanced with linings that protect the fabric from the sun and interlinings that add a sumptuous look to any fabric and also provide warmth

Specialist linings can keep out the cold - thermal, keep out the light –

outcome. But correct furnishing fabric choice is key. You can't pull out a roll of dressmaking fabric from under the stairs and hope it will make a great pair of curtains because it won't.

Measuring and estimating for fabric is carefully determined given the price range of furnishing fabrics

Before even cutting your fabric, the maker will carefully check the fabric for flaws or misprints.

Stitches range from serge to hold the side seams, lock stitches to bring the fabric to the interlining and the interlining to the lining and herringbone to create strong long-lasting hems.

The threads used are matched to the fabric in colour and make up to ensure they last as long as the fabric does.

Fabrics must be joined so as not to cause puckering, patterns must be carefully calculated to ensure placement and repeats and even what you see at the top of your curtain.

Perfect mitres, hidden weights and heading buckram create the perfect piece to add your pleats and produce a flawless curtain

So much of the creation of curtains is unseen but vital to ensure a long lasting window dressing

Your soft furnisher will be adept at maths, a skilled maker and a lover of fabrics and creativity

Maggi Loughran

Learn, Laugh, Live



As I have mentioned previously our U3A has a huge range of interest groups. During the summer many of them are out and about whilst others continue to meet in halls, members homes and on Zoom.

Here are reports from a few of our popular groups.

Bus Trippers, as the name suggests take advantage of our concessionary passes. On a recent trip to Oxford they enjoyed their picnic lunch in the grounds of Baliol College before taking a quick peek into the Ashmolean Museum and deciding that in the near future a whole day should be spent there.

The Local History Group have been studying the history and origins of Hemel Hempstead New Town with recent focus on Marlowes.

Meanwhile Armchair Travellers explored Namibia and Botswana as they enjoyed a presentation by a group member.

Railway Group plan a number of trips during the summer, this year they visited the new Dart Link to Luton Airport and were given a behind the scenes tour and rode on train. A later visit was to the HS2 construction site at Maple Cross. Hall meetings on a range of topics will resume in late October.

Both Poetry Writing and Creative writing

groups start meeting again after their summer break and the Book group, which meets in Berkhamsted to read modern writers in a range of genre, have space for new members.

Our Monthly Meeting, usually on the first Monday of each month, is free and offers a range of speakers. If you would like to come along as a guest please look out for me in the kitchen area where we serve tea, coffee and a range of biscuits.

We meet at Boxmoor Playhouse for most meetings, doors open at 09.45 and the presentation begins at 10.30.

7th October

Mike Barbakoff - The Women of Bletchley Park

4th November

David Burnell - The Art of Underground Travel

We welcome guests to attend any two of our meetings before expecting them to join so why not come along and see what we are all about.

Jane Campbell

Gaddesden Row Flower & Produce Show 2024

The best in Show was Heather Tisbury with her onions-beautifully presented for the judge. There were many flowers on display and quite a number of cakes.



Creative Writing - First Day Out

The coach trip really interested him. Just one day away from the security of his lonely flat, no one would recognise him and offer sympathy at his recent loss so he booked a ticket.

He arrived at the meeting point in good time to be greeted by a jolly lady in an outrageous floral hat. He groaned inwardly as she called to a chap close by and asked him to welcome our new friend. Appalled Phil tried to escape but was herded into the waiting coach for the short journey to a nearby historic house and gardens. He really wanted to be alone but the Floral hat lady "Call me Maggie Dear" took his elbow and guided him towards the coffee shop where coffee and cakes were produced as if by magic. He was surrounded by cheerful chatter and sounds of appreciation as the group demolished a huge quantity of cake and gallons of coffee.

Excusing himself he headed for the toilets and then crept out of a back door.

He found himself in the most amazing gardens and wandered slowly along paths through huge beds of multi coloured roses. Under arches resplendent with purple and white clematis he was soon in a walled vegetable garden where neat rows of salads, carrots and cabbages stood to attention in the warm sun. He began to calm as he enjoyed the sights and sounds around him. He saw a secluded arbour in a distant corner and moved towards it. Realising that he was well away from the house

and his fellow travellers he sat.

Closing his eyes for a moment he listened to the rustling leaves and the chirping birds. As he calmed he breathed deeply of the fresh air, filling his lungs with peace around him. Slowly he became aware of a familiar scent, faint at first but becoming stronger as he tried to identify it. He opened his eyes but was quite alone. Looking around he became aware of a bush covered in small purple flowers which was gently moving in the breeze. He reached out and touched and at that moment he recognised the scent of lavender. He took a small sprig and held it to his face.

Once again he closed his eyes, this time in an attempt to stop his tears. Deep within himself he heard her voice telling him to enjoy the life he had now. He tried to ignore the plea and cried bitter tears for the love he had lost. He remembered that she had used lavender to refresh the bedding that he slept on. He sat quietly for a while enjoying memories of happy times.

"Call me Maggie Dear" came towards him and took his hand. "Feeling better now duck?" she asked and quietly led him towards the coach that would take him home to rebuild his life.

As he reached into his pocket for a key he realised that he still had some lavender, smiling he walked into the flat which no longer seemed so lonely.

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Val's Ramblings

Early July saw me on the water again with Gill and John on their narrowboat 'Florence', Flo to her friends! Our plan was to travel from Kings Bromley Marina to Leek and back. The first lock was the same lock which was broken when we attempted to go north on a previous cruise and it was good to see that the 'temporary' fix was still working well! We continued up the Trent and Mersey Canal to Stoke on Trent where, after 19 locks, we turned right onto the Caldon Canal.

This is one of James Brindley's canals, with a statue of him close to the junction.

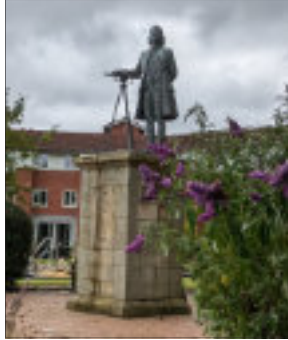
Unfortunately, it was literally the death of him as he caught

pneumonia while on a surveying trip and subsequently died! The canal divides at Hazelhurst Junction with the mainline continuing to Cheddleton and Froghall Wharf while the Leek Arm crosses the main line on an imposing brick aqueduct. (Visualise a mini Spaghetti

Junction with water!) Sadly, both arms go no further and a return journey along the same route is required, passing attractive canal side gardens and now derelict bottle kilns reflecting the once thriving pottery industry.

Continuing our trip back to Kings Bromley we moored at Barlaston, home to the Wedgwood Pottery and Visitor Centre and where we enjoyed a delicious meal at the Plume of Feathers, with Neil Morrissey!

Two days at home and then off to Scotland with college friend Judy. Our first

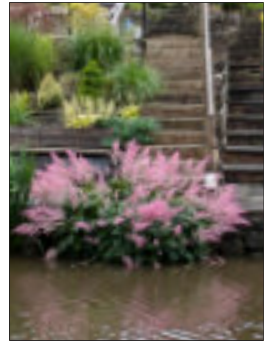


overnight stop was in Penrith but we took a route up the east side of the country to indulge my love of the journey across the Pennines to Glossop where we were meeting my oldest school friend for lunch! The following day we were to travel

to our next hotel but because our planned stop off Drumlanrig Castle and Gardens was closed, we visited Moat Brae in Dumfries. It was opened in 2019 as an International Visitor attraction and Scotland's National Centre for Children's Literature and Storytelling as it was here that J. M. Barrie was inspired to write Peter Pan. He was at school in Dumfries

and his friends Hal and Stuart Gordon lived at Moat Brae with their parents. He often visited the house and garden which he described as 'enchanted land'.

Visitors to the house can sit at the dining table with J. M. Barrie



and his friends, help catch Peter Pan's shadow and put on a costume and star in a play of their own! The Neverland Discovery Garden offers adventure to young (and not so young) explorers as you never know what you'll encounter among the towering trees and colourful flowerbeds –



crocodiles, pirate ships, mermaids and more! Quite an amazing place!

Our initial reason for going to Scotland was to visit Dumfries House, saved for the nation in 2007 through the vision of HRH Prince Charles (who has since been promoted!) Using the skills of local craftspeople both the house and estate have been beautifully restored securing the building and its contents, including priceless items of Chippendale furniture, for the nation. In keeping with the King's philosophy and determination to keep such skills alive, several of the estate buildings have been developed to provide spaces dedicated to educational initiatives and courses ranging from science and engineering, traditional crafts, food, farming and others supported by the RHS. The aim being to provide training opportunities for local people, especially the younger generation.

Having experienced great difficulty finding 'suitable' accommodation near to Dumfries House (we discovered later that our visit coincided with the Open Golf Championship at Troon!) we discovered a very comfortable hotel at Symington Biggar. The silver lining being that it provided an opportunity for us to visit The Falkirk Wheel, the Kelpies and the Royal Yacht Britannia, now moored in Leith. We

originally had these venues on the itinerary for a separate visit to Edinburgh later in the year!

Naturally we took the opportunity to take a ride on the unique boatlift which links the Forth and Clyde Canal with the Union Canal without the need for locks. This completes The Millennium Link, not only providing a direct waterway link between Edinburgh and Glasgow but also a coast- to-coast connection linking the Rivers Forth and Clyde. The Kelpies are inextricably linked to the Forth and Clyde Canal providing a memorable gateway to Scotland's inland waterways. Dr Olivia Lassiere (Environmental Manager, Scottish Canals) suggested they be called Kelpies after the mythical horses which



had to be tamed to offer safe passage across water.

And so - to Edinburgh and Britannia. Britannia was a symbol of the British Commonwealth, a promoter of British industry and commerce and a private home to the late Queen and the Royal Family, and sailed the equivalent of once around the world for every year of her 44 years of service. We spent almost 3 hours touring the ship from the Queen's cabins to those of the crew, from the gleaming engine room to the bridge, and ending with afternoon tea in the Royal Sun Deck Tea Room! (My slice of Dundee cake was so big I took half of it home in a coronet-shaped box!) All absolutely wonderful!

But that isn't the end! There is a local link to Britannia in that Roy Morgan, who lived

originally at St. Margarets, and then Water End, was a 'Yottie'. (A nickname for the Royal Yachtsmen who were handpicked to serve on the ship between 1953 and 1997) Roy was onboard Britannia in his role as Band Master in the Royal Marines. (A small complement of bandsmen was always on board to provide music for receptions and for Beating Retreat on the quayside as the Queen's guests left the ship) There are over 3,300 'Yotties' who served on the Victoria and Albert (Britannia's predecessor) or Britannia, and researchers are endeavouring to create a Book of Remembrance containing all past yachtsmen who have "Crossed over the Bar". (ref Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem) I am currently completing the Full-Page

entry for Roy. The Book of Remembrance is kept onboard Britannia.

As ever, the homeward journey south also contained some planned highlights! The two-day return included lunch with a former teaching friend living near Ormskirk, afternoon tea with two of Judy's former teaching pals in Lymm and coffee with two more of my teaching pals in Ripley! Arriving back in Hemel Hempstead after just over a thousand miles we both reflected on what a truly super time we'd had and are now starting to plan for 2025 – possibly a River Cruise in France! Eh bien!

Val

Frank Gish

We recently heard the sad news of a 30 year resident of Water End, Frank Gish who past away. His daughter Viktoria put a message on Facebook which his wife Gloria is happy to share with everyone.



A sad post. On Friday 13th September 2024 my clever, funny, kind, generous, complicated, grumpy, hustler-extraordinaire father passed away. He was 87 years old.

To say he had an adventurous life would be a significant understatement - if you ever spent more than 10 minutes with him, you'll have heard a selection of the scrapes he got into - not least escaping from Hungary in 1956, in his Sunday best, occasionally helping a farmer plough a field to evade Russian capture en route (yes, still in his suit and dress shoes); his

decision to spend a few spare hours in Andorra teaching himself to ski (funnily enough, once again in a suit and tie); his obstinacy in proposing to my mother numerous times before, at the age of 24 & 27, they finally got married after 7 years of courtship and started their adventures together. Lots of travel, lots of hustle, lots of stories, lots and lots of love & laughter shared.

We will always miss him, so much - but there's comfort in knowing that his stories and his laughter and his zest for life will make joyful memories.

Szia papa, jo et.. xxx

Local Police



My name is Parisa PEIRO and I am the new Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) assigned to Hemel Hempstead station since the 10th of September. I'm part of the

and I am responsible for covering a large area including Great Gaddesden, Gaddesden Row and as far as Bovington, so it will take me some time to get to meet everyone. I'm looking forward to attending the other areas and local villages and be a visible presence, getting to know the local community. I'm hoping to arrange a Coffee with a Cop in Gaddesden, where I can get involved in the community and find out the local issues.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns, or if there are specific issues you would like me to address. If I can't help you, I'm sure I can find someone in our team that can. I am here to serve the community and ensure the safety and well-being of all residents.

Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to working together with you for a safer and more secure neighbourhood.

Parisa Peiro

parisa.peiro@herts.police.uk

team covering the Great Gaddesden parish. I have recently engaged with the community at the fire station Markyate, along with my colleagues, and it was a pleasure meeting and speaking with many residents. I took the opportunity to introduce myself as the designated PCSO for the area. I have also visited the local Holiday Inn to further familiarise myself with the community there. Hemel Hempstead station is my base,



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Cheers!

Craig's Cocktails

Boo! This is the Halloween edition so I get to tear my brain out to create a suitably spooky cocktail. This one came to me in the dead of night. This Halloween I give you the...

Frithsden Copse Reviver #1



A what? The Copse Reviver family of cocktails go way back to the early 20th century and beyond. These were drinks that were mixed as pick-me-ups for customers who can back the following day looking worse for wear - the classic 'hair of the dog'. Copse Reviver #1 was created at the Ritz Bar in Paris in the 1920s - probably to deal with all of the absinthe guzzlers!

For this version I am using brandy distilled by Burnt Faith who are based in E17. This distillery creates British brandy that embraces the endless wines, barrels and techniques tradition has ignored. I bought their Batch One brandy that has been distilled using four varieties of grape and cask finished in four different woods. You can get yours at <https://burntfaith.com>

On to the mix... pour into your mixer 45ml of Burnt Faith's Batch One brandy, 22.5ml of Calvados, 22.5ml of sweet vermouth. Add a handful of ice to the liquid line and stir until the cup is frosted. Stir in the opposite direction for an equal length of time. Fine strain the cocktail (using a Hawthorne and a fine strainer) into a coupe. Finish with a single dash of orange bitters (I used Angostura) and a mini Jack-o'-lantern made using a satsuma and a little bit of lime for the stalk. Voila!

I hope you enjoy

Craig

Shopping List:

Burnt Faith Batch One Brandy
Calvados
Sweet Vermouth
Ice
Orange Bitters
Satsuma



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