

The
GABRIEL
UPCHURCH VILLAGE MAGAZINE

TWINNED WITH FERQUES-ELINGHEN, PAS DE CALAIS, FRANCE

February
2025

URGENT

Can you help to

SAVE THE GABRIEL?

- Our magazine has been a central feature of Upchurch village life since before most of us can remember. Along the way it has survived many setbacks, most recently the COVID crisis but has always lived to fight another day
- However, if it is to continue, the production team is in URGENT need of ongoing support which requires recruitment of one or two volunteers;
- If you think you can help, or know of anybody who might come to our aid, please refer to page 3 for full details



Friday 14th Feb 2025 is
St. Valentine's Day

THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF LOVE IS THE DAY WHEN WE TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TELL THE PEOPLE WE LOVE JUST HOW MUCH THEY MEAN TO US. TRADITIONALLY ONE SHOULD SEND A CARD AND A GIFT SUCH AS CHOCOLATES OR FLOWERS TO THE ONE THAT YOU LOVE.



TEAM GABRIEL



~ Editor ~

DAVE CANDY

~ Address ~

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upchurchgabriel@gmail.com

~ Treasurer ~

JOE REYNOLDS

~ Production & Distribution ~

M^{RS} LESLEY EVERSON

RAY LeBORGNE

*& all those who do the
door-to-door drops*

**PLEASE SEE THE VERY
IMPORTANT NOTICE ON THE
COVER**

DISCLAIMER

GABRIEL relies on the integrity of the people/organisations submitting articles. Without this the magazine would be unable to run. Any mistakes or concerns, must be referred to the person/organisation entering the article. Similarly, the views expressed in such articles and letters are not those of the editorial staff. No unattributed articles will be accepted. Any organisation or person wishing to contribute an article does so on the above understanding

*Editor
Thank you for your co-operation.*

DEADLINE DAY

for the March Issue is

SATURDAY

18TH FEBRUARY

Any contributions should be submitted to the Editor no later than midday on the above date, either by hand to 6 Bradshaw Close or by E-mail to the above address.

Contributions by e-mail in MS Word format are preferred. *Thanks you*

A PLEA FROM THE PRODUCTION TEAM ~

I AM SURE YOU WILL APPRECIATE THAT THE GABRIEL IS A WHOLLY BLACK -AND-WHITE MAGAZINE PRODUCED ON EQUIPMENT WHICH FALLS SOMEWHAT SHORT OF "STATE-OF-THE-ART". IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO THE PRINT PROCESS IF, WHEN SUBMITTING MATERIAL, EG FLYERS ETC, THAT YOU AVOID THE USE OF SOLID BLACK AREAS (OR DARK COLOURS WHICH WILL TRANSLATE INTO BLACK/GREY DURING PRINTING) AS THIS CAUSES PROBLEMS DURING THE REPRODUCTION PROCESS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

Editor

Can you help to

SAVE THE GABRIEL?

Following the sad passing of William, the future of our village magazine is in great jeopardy and, if it is to continue, it is crucial that we **URGENTLY** recruit one or two volunteers to cover the tasks which William undertook for so many years.

Specifically, these tasks entail:

- a) The monthly printing and collating of some 1100 copies which, I understand, takes about 3 hours or so.
- b) The accommodation of the associated machines. These are quite sizeable pieces of equipment and need to be kept in dry and clean conditions.

There are no transportation issues. The white masters are sent online by the editor, the paper is delivered as required and the finished copies can be collected.

So, if you think you can help, or know of anybody who might come to our aid, please contact the Editor :

- a) on 07710-443948 or
- b) on upchurchgabriel@gmail.com or
- c) at 6 Bradshaw Close.

THE SURVIVAL OF THE GABRIEL IS AT STAKE!!!

OBITUARY >>>

WILLIAM LITTLE

We were saddened to hear of William's sad passing in December. Apart from his many years of dedicated service to The Gabriel, William was a prominent figure in St Mary's Church matters and he will be sorely missed. Our thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

Editor

FOOD FOR THOUGHT >

Dear friends

I wonder how many of you will recall an old Sunday school song...

*Jesus bids us shine,
with a clear, pure light,
like a little candle burning in the night;
in this world of darkness, we must shine,
you in your small corner,
and I in mine.*

For some reason, this has been going round in my head on a bit of a loop, even though it must be decades since I last heard it! It's a catchy little tune, and many of us remember things from our childhood much more clearly than what we did yesterday. But also, I do wonder if it has something to tell us now, in 2025.

Possibly I'm not the only person who finds the news really difficult in these times, looking around the world and seeing so much conflict, violence, injustice and suffering, abuse of power, all against the background of the climate crisis and environmental degradation which has been building over our lifetimes. It feels dark, threatening and often quite frightening.

One response might be to retreat into our own small corners, wrap ourselves up in a cosy blanket of 'We're ok', and ignore the sufferings of the rest of the world. And it's easy to live in virtual silos, as social media – and some parts of the news media – feed us more and more of what we want. We can be outraged at the 'other', and comfortably smug in our own security. But even then, reality will sooner or later come nipping at our heels in the shape of challenges close to home, in our immediate communities and personal lives.

So what can we do?

I would suggest that trusting in God and seeking to live God's love in this wounded world is a positive and life-changing response. Faith in God doesn't provide us with a magic wand or ensure nothing will ever go wrong, but we do have God's promise that we are never alone, and that Christ's light shines in the darkness and is for the whole world. And Christ called on those who follow him – the Light of the world – to be light themselves.

We can be those who live as people of light *in spite of* the darkness, and we all know how brightly a light shines when all around is dark!

Knowing that God is there in that struggle, alongside all who are suffering, has been a guiding light in my own life, and continues to be. And for countless Christians around the world and throughout history it has been the inspiration which has enabled them to live through unimaginable challenges. Each of them, each of us, in our small corners, not turning inwards, but allowing that light to shine in love and hope.

Every blessing

Rev Amanda

UPLIFT FAMILY CHURCH.

10.30am in the Village Hall.

Sunday 2nd February and 16th February.

WORSHIP FOR ALL AGES.

Join us as we celebrate God's love for each of us.



RAINBOW CAFE

St MARY'S CHURCH

THURSDAY 13TH FEBRUARY ♦ 2.00 PM TO 4.30 PM

Come and enjoy our delicious homemade cakes and savouries. Bring the kids to enjoy our amazing snack deal - 5 things for a £1 and a drink. They will also enjoy crafts and a story. Our income pays the school fees for 4 children in Uganda.

COME AND ENJOY. ALL WELCOME!!!

WE WILL BE THERE, SO PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!!!!

Thank you for your support

The Rainbow Team



CHURCH FUNDRAISING SALE

The next Sales in aid of the Church will be

from 10.00 am to 11.30 am on

SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

IT'S STILL WINTER !!!
DRIVE CAREFULLY + KEEP WARM + TAKE CARE !!!

UPCHURCH VILLAGE HALL

Available for hire at competitive rates

Facilities include

- ⊕ A spacious Main Hall with Stage ⊕ A Small Hall ⊕ A Committee Room ⊕
- ⊕ A large, well -equipped Kitchen ⊕

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Availability can be viewed online at upvh.co.uk , or please contact:

Deborah Martin – 07368-461507 – enquiries@upvh.co.uk

FROM THE COUNCIL CHAMBER >>>

UPCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL ~



YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Chairman

Cllr Tyrone Ripley

Vice Chairman

Cllr Pam Denny

Councillors

**Ernie Bernstein, Alan Horton, Gerry Lewin,
John Bodycomb, Gary Rosewell, Neil Sheppard,
Helen Boakes**

Clerk

Mrs Nina Henley

CONTACT THE CLERK

Mrs Nina Henley,

Clerk and Proper Officer to Upchurch Parish Council

Tel: 07798 600696

Email: clerk@upchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk

MONTHLY REPORT ~

1 PLANNING

- a) 24/504862/FULL 65 Chaffes Lane Upchurch Kent ME9 7BH Erection of a two-storey side and rear extension with single storey front extension. (Removal of existing outbuilding and conservatory. UPC has no objections but asks for neighbours views to be taken into consideration.
- b) Any reports from Cllr Rosewell. Including SBC Planning Meetings for applications 22/502132/ADV and 24/501182/FULL. Cllr Rosewell gave verbal report on SBC planning meetings attended on behalf of UPC.

2. PADDOCK & RECREATION GROUND

- a) Update on project for new play equipment in The Paddock. Clerk reported that work had started on new equipment project and was expected to be completed by 18 December. Noted.
- b) Update on play area new signs. Cllr Rosewell reported that the signs will be installed next week. Noted.
- c) Recreation groundwork on entrance barriers. Deferred to January.
- d) Update on tree work Paddock – contractor has completed all work on trees in Paddock. Noted.
- e) Update on new tree – new tree installed and Cllr Denny to review watering instructions in Spring





3 BURIAL GROUND & CHURCHYARD

- a) Clerk reported tree that fell in Churchyard has been cleared. The damage to grave reported to church. Noted.

4. HIGHWAYS & STREET LIGHTING

- a) Update on traffic calming Oak Lane. Work due to commence January 2025. Road closure will be in place 13 Jan – 3 Feb 2025. Noted.

5. FOOTPATHS

- a) Resident highlighted new notices at Street Farm. UPC to monitor.

6. ENVIRONMENT

- a) Cllr Rosewell reported that new village poppies needed for 2025. Clerk to order. Noted.

7. ALLOTMENTS

- a) Cllr Bodycomb reported the tree that came down in storm was cleared and removed. Noted.

8. VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATORS

- a) Clerk reported that Cllr Sheppard has checked all defibrillators as working. The Circuit has been updated. Noted.

9. COMMUNITY EVENTS

- a) VE Day May 2025. Cllr Rosewell reported that event has now booked food vendors and bar. Event has been updated on Apply4 at SBC with road closures planned for Beacon Lighting. Noted.
- b) Supporting community initiatives to combat loneliness and isolation. Deferred to January.
- c) Christmas – village Christmas tree. Cllr Ripley reported tree was installed and gave thanks to the team of Councillors who assisted. Clerk to purchase new star and new weatherproof plug box for 2025. Noted.
- d) Community Awards – Members RESOLVED to instigate Upchurch Parish Council Community Award in conjunction with Upchurch Matters. Clerk to action. To be presented at the Parish Meeting April 2025.

10. FINANCE REPORTING

- a) Financial review – bank statement and reconciliation were received signed by Cllr Lewin. Noted
- b) Payments received – SBC Grant £10,000.00
- c) Cheques for approval litter picker: £ 72.00 Noted.
- d) Schedule of payments for approval: All Payments agreed proposed by Cllr Lewin seconded by Cllr Rosewell. Members resolved to approve the schedule of payments.
- e) Budget 2025/26 – Budget Working Group – Cllr Lewin gave verbal report from BWG. Clerk to investigate costs for swing matting repair. Precept to be agreed in January meeting. Members RESOLVED to accept recommendation to increase Allotment Fees by 3% – Clerk to adjust the budget accordingly.

11. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR NEXT FULL COUNCIL MTG

- a) Approve Precept for 2025/26

12. STAFFING MATTERS

- a) Members RESOLVED to accept recommendations from HR Committee following Clerks appraisal on 11 November 2024. Members approved 2 point salary increase on NJC Pay scales. Noted.





DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Full Council: Thursday 6th February

Planning Committee and General Purposes Committee: Wednesday 19th February

All meetings in Village Hall starting at 7.30 pm

ALL RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS AND THERE IS A TIME FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO COMMENT, RAISE CONCERNS OR ASK QUESTIONS

**THE FULL MINUTES OF EACH MEETING ARE AVAILABLE TO VIEW ON OUR WEBSITE
www.upchurchparishcouncil.gov.uk**



RUBBISH

If no waste bin can be found,

PLEASE don't drop it on the ground

THE VILLAGE BULLETIN BOARD ▶▶▶

HOLYWELL KIDS CLUB ▶▶▶

BREAKFAST CLUB: From 7.15 am to Start of school

From 8.15 am to Start of school

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB: From end of school to 6.00 pm

From end of school to 4.30 pm

HOLIDAY CLUB: Full day – 8.00 am to 6.00 pm £25.00.

Half-day – 8.00 am to 1.00 pm/1.00 pm to 6.00 pm ~ £15.00.

To book, please e-mail kclub@holywell.kent.sch.uk or call 07706-002060.



UPCHURCH CHORAL SOCIETY ▶▶▶

Want to try something new in the New Year?

SINGING IS GOOD FOR YOU!

Upchurch Choral Society are always happy to welcome new members. We are a four-voice part choir and rehearse on Fridays in St Mary's Church, Upchurch. Rehearsals will resume on 7th February (time to be confirmed) for a concert on Sunday 11th May.

There are no auditions and you don't have to be able to read music.

If you're interested give me a call on 01634 361897,

Liz Walters, ~ Secretary UCS

UPCHURCH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ►►►

The New Year saw the WI back to our usual routine. We don't have a speaker at our January meeting but instead have a Games Evening with a few hotly contested rounds of "Beetle". This year we moved our "Chinese Raffle" to January to make better use of any members unopened chocolates, biscuits and Prosecco left over after Christmas! The proceeds of the raffle are being donated to "My Shining Star" this year. As usual there was time for a cuppa and biscuits (again donated Christmas ones!)

February's meeting will be back to our traditional agenda with a speaker. Tracie Fulton is returning, this time to bring us "Tales of the Labour Ward". She is a wonderful speaker. If you have never come along to a meeting but often thought about it, this could be the one to try!

Our next meeting will be

TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY AT 7.30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

ALL LADIES ARE VERY WELCOME AND YOU DON'T PAY TO JOIN US AS A VISITOR!

See you there!

Lesley Everson

UPCHURCH SHOTOKAN KARATE CLUB -

Teaching the Traditional Art of Shotokan Karate

Every Tuesday ♦ Holywell Primary School, ME9 7AE

Two Sessions - 6.00 pm to 6.45 pm and 6.45 pm to 7.30 pm

For children aged 6+ ♦ 1st Session Free!!!

- Fitness
- Discipline
- Fun
- Confidence
- Respect
- Self Defence
- Control



Free Parking
Qualified Instructors
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KSKC Established for over 40 years

For all enquiries, please contact

Ben Sawyer on Mobile: 07825-718677 Email: upchurchkarate@outlook.com

Website: www.kskc-karate.com

BINGO GROUP ►►►

Our Sessions are held in the back room of THE CROWN

Third Tuesday of each month ♦ 8.00pm to 10.00pm ♦ Upchurch Village Hall

a non-profit venture ♦ all proceeds distributed as prizes

£2 a book [12 Games] ♦ Entry £2 ♦ plus raffle

why not join us for an evening of fun

OUR NEXT SESSION IS ON TUESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

UPCHURCH ACTIVE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION (UPARA) ►►►

UpARA is a friendly and welcoming group of retired and semi-retired people who place an emphasis on activity. We have a potential membership of 200 and we do welcome guests to all our activities, although the membership does get priority where tickets are required. Full details of our many activities, including planned events during January, can be found at www.upara.club

UpARA EVENTS DIARY ~ FEBRUARY 2025		
Mon	3	SOFT TENNIS ~ 10.00 am KURLING ~ 2.00 pm
Tue.	4	COFFE MORNING & ART ~ 9.30 am TABLE TENNIS ~ 2.00 pm
Wed	5	PILATES ~ 2.30 pm
Fri	7	VILLAGE WALK ~ 10.00 am
Mon	10	SOFT TENNIS ~ 11.00 am
Tue	11	TEN PIN BOWLING ~ 10.00 am @ HOLLYWOOD BOWL
Wed	12	LINE DANCING ~ 10.15 am SOFT TENNIS ~ 2.00 pm PILATES ~ 2.30 pm
Fri	14	SOFT TENNIS ~ 10.00 am MONTHLY MEETING - 2.00 pm - Medical Detective Dogs
Mon	17	SOFT TENNIS ~ 10.00 am
Tue	18	BOULES ~ 1.00 pm ~UPCHURCH RIVER VALLEY GC [*]
Wed	19	LINE DANCING ~ 10.15 am PILATES ~ 2.30 pm
Fri	21	VILLAGE WALK ~ 10.00 am
Mon	24	SOFT TENNIS ~ 10.00 am
Tue	25	COFFE MORNING & ART ~ 9.30 am TABLE TENNIS ~ 2.00 pm
Wed	26	LINE DANCING ~ 10.15 am PILATES ~ 2.30 pm LUNCH CLUB @ URVGC - 12.30 pm
Fri	28	END OF WINTER PARTY - 7.30 pm
Please note: LINE DANCING - 5 th February - CANCELLED		

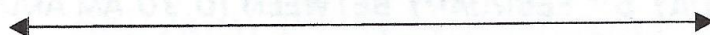
UPCHURCH PLAYERS ►►►

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



Thursday 20th February 2025 ♦ 7.00 pm

The Crown Public House, Upchurch



IF YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN JOINING THIS FRIENDLY GROUP, YOU ARE
WELCOME TO COME ALONG TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR EXCITING
PLANS FOR THE YEAR AND BEYOND

THE CHURCH BELL TOWER RESTORATION FUND ~

Did you know that "Upchurch" means "Church on the Hill"?

St Mary's Church has been at the centre of our village for nearly 1000 years and has been an important part of our village life for centuries!

We now need your help to raise £50,000 for urgent repairs to the Bell Tower

PLEASE HELP US TO PRESERVE THIS ICONIC STRUCTURE?

Events will soon be advertised on Facebook, Upchurch Matters and Upchurch Village News sites as well as in local shops and, of course, in Gabriel. So, ...

WATCH THIS SPACE !!!



Meanwhile, please donate whatever you can afford at
justgiving.com/campaign/upchurchbelltower

or send a cheque to

**Upchurch Parochial Church Council c/o Elspeth Baecke.
4 Bedfont House, Holywell Lane, Upchurch, ME9 7HN**



THE FRIENDS OF WISDOM HOSPICE ~

Charity No 284894 ♦ Website: www.fowh.org.uk

We are on hand to help and encourage you to raise as much money as you can. Did you know for instance? For every £100 raised it will help to provide 4 hours of specialist end-of-life care at the Hospice.

CONTACT EMMA DENGATE ON 01634-831163 OR emmadengate@fowh.org. FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF THESE AND OTHER FOWH FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE [uk](http://www.fowh.org.uk)

HELP US TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST



RAISING MONEY FOR THE CHURCH ...

.... and Saving on your Home Insurance costs

We went to renew our home buildings and contents insurance this year and noted Ecclesiastical had won an award for best insurance product. Their quote beat our existing insurer by over £100. Once we had accepted the quote Ecclesiastical asked me to nominate a church for their "130" donation whereby every new insurance sale means a donation of £130 to the insured's chosen church. We of course chose St Mary's, Upchurch. They said the donation works as a credit to the church's insurance because most Anglican churches insure with Ecclesiastical. The Church Warden of St Mary's has confirmed that the church is indeed insured with Ecclesiastical and so it seems that all villagers paying for home buildings and contents insurance have this opportunity.

Madeleine Thomson"

FROM THE POTTING SHED >>>

[With thanks to our Suffolk Horticultural Correspondent]

We are in the depths of winter and hoping for an early spring and thoughts are only just turning to the garden. Late autumn remained mild and it was possible to keep working outside, but after mid-December it was only for the hardy. I complained to the Duchess that the ground was simply too cold to work any longer and it was time to move indoors. She then bought me a pair of insulated gardening gloves for Christmas. I suppose that's love for you!! However, there has been plenty of time to work out planting plans and order up seed.

Due to the mild autumn the last cut in October has not lasted very long and the lawn could certainly do with another. Any good dry day in winter is suitable to cut the lawn, but it can wait until March. If it is left too late the grass gets very long and turns yellow at the base and looks very anaemic by the time of the first cut.

The Broad Beans have germinated well and are about 6" high which has provided a good start to the year. The best winter variety is Aguadulce Claudia and the earlier harvest will leave more time for a second crop of Turnip on the same plot. The Mersley Wight Garlic are also showing and autumn planting should produce a larger head by July. The 20 best cloves from last year's crop were selected for a sustainable crop this year. About half the crop is still hanging in the shed after 5 months and according to the suppliers should last another 5 months! That leaves a solitary Leek in the vegetable patch which was the best from last year's crop. It will be left to go to seed to provide the next sustainable crop. If you wish to grow from your own seed always take the best. Sow twice as many as you need and select the best seedlings for potting on and planting out. By always taking the best, you can develop a "bloodline" with the strongest genetics. This is what the top exhibition growers do and their seed commands high prices.... if indeed they will sell to you!

Some seeds can be sown in February, in fact Leek and Onion seed could have been sown last year. Seeds that can be planted now are Chilli, Calabrese and Tomato. However, they need to be kept in warm, light conditions which need a greenhouse, potting shed or conservatory. If you don't have these things it's probably best to wait until March when young seedlings have a better chance of getting established.

The spring flowers are starting to show and we have inherited some tall impressive Snowdrops from the previous owner. Last year I lifted the clumps, separated the bulbs and replanted and there are now, more smaller clumps popping up all over. The Primroses are also starting to green up and the Daffodils are shooting up. The garden could certainly benefit from Crocus, Iris and Tulips but maybe next year. The plan is to start building the borders this year after the workmen have finished refurbishing the cottage in August.

It is an optimistic time of year as you look for signs of spring but no point going off too soon, we are close but can enjoy a few more weeks in the warm. The Doctor has said that I am a good boy and that my liver function is greatly improved. After a couple of stern warnings last year I hopped on the back of the wagon and have now been able to jump down and carry on, but with an improved attitude. The evenings drag a bit this time of year, so I have taken to the kitchen to develop a few recipes. The latest creation is Creole Gumbo that is a Cajun Stew that originated from Africa. It uses Okra as a filler.... but I have just figured out what to do with the remaining Marrows. Just need to reach for the cook's glass.

HAPPY GARDENING!!

Sean Barry

February 2025

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A STEP BACKIN TIME >>>

A HISTORY OF HORSHAM FARM >>>

If you travel down Horsham Hill then look ahead and slightly to the right you will see a very large and old house with a neatly kept front garden. This is part of Horsham Farm named after Stephen de Horsham, the first owner of the Manor of Horsham during the reign of Edward III. A large manor house once occupied the land.

Constructed during the reign of Queen Ann 1665-1714, the present house was firstly owned by William Harding from London then Joseph Hasted from Chatham, Edward Hasted from Canterbury then Thomas Williams from Dartford. The house had 1000 acres of farmland attached to it during this period, mainly for the grazing of livestock. All Souls College owned the property for a long time then it was purchased by the Portland Cement Company during the early twentieth century.

The house is two storeys high with an attic, wooden eaves and a hipped roof. It's timber framed and is clad with buff brick on the ground floors. There is a tiled roof with three hipped dormers and chimney stacks to the left and right.

During the mid-19th century farmer John Green, his wife Elizabeth and their fifteen children occupied the property. Apart from farming the land John Green also served as an Upchurch parish overseer, someone who helped govern the parish. After he died his wife and her son William managed the farm while four servants worked in the house.

Following the Green family Thomas Heather farmed 287 acres of the land and he resided in the house from the 1870s. He was followed by John Whitnall, a farm bailiff. During the 1890s William Wright a station engine driver and a shepherd named George Sellen lived in the property followed by the Witherden family for a short time. When they left farm workers Bill Hylandz, Walter Phipps and stockman Jacob Hales occupied the house and they worked on the farm. From 1912 farmer Alfred Hinge rented Horsham Marsh.

After a succession of farm workers had occupied the property the Jenkins family arrived and lived at and farmed Horsham Farm. Charles and Sid Jenkins kept livestock on the land. They were succeeded by Lyn Jenkins and his wife Kathleen who lived and worked at the farm for many years.

When the Great Flood of 1953 occurred the seawater did not come as far as the house but it flooded the lower end of the land. As a precaution the livestock that had been grazing there were moved closer to the house before seawater flooded the land, this saved the animals from being drowned.

During the 1960s Bob Bearup from Chaffes Lane worked on the farm and he looked after the animals.

When Lyn Jenkins died the house and the land were sold and Horsham Farm ceased as a working farm. The house is now privately owned.

David Wood.

SURGERY UPDATE >>>

MAIDSTONE RD, RAINHAM & UPCHURCH SURGERIES >>> MISSED APPOINTMENTS

In November (32) and December (31), a total of 63 missed appointments were registered across the 2 practices. These figures are fairly typical monthly rates but still indicate the need for improvement. With available appointment times at a premium, ...

PLEASE, KEEP IT OR CANCEL IT WITH AS MUCH NOTICE AS POSSIBLE!!!!

TIME FOR A CHUCKLE >>>

A wife rushes excitedly into the lounge where her husband is sitting in an armchair watching TV.

"Hurry and get packed! I've won the lottery!" she says.

"Shall I pack warm-weather clothes or cold weather clothes? He enquires.

"I don't care" she replies "As long as you are out of here by lunchtime!"



IMPORTANT FEBRUARY DATES >>>



1st Feb to 4th February is NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK

A week for the promotion of the oral tradition of storytelling, the very first way of communicating life experiences and the creative imagination.

Friday 14th February is ST. VALENTINE'S DAY



The annual celebration of love is the day when we take the opportunity to tell the people we love just how much they mean to us. Traditionally one should send a card and a gift such as chocolates or flowers to the one that you love.

KIDS' CORNER >>>



~ SUNDAY 2nd FEBRUARY ~ NATIONAL HEDGEHOG DAY

THIS IS THE EUROPEAN VERSION OF GROUNDHOG DAY, DATING BACK TO ROMAN TIMES. IT IS ALSO A DAY TO REMEMBER THAT UK HEDGEHOG POPULATIONS ARE SHRINKING, AND TO CELEBRATE ALL THINGS HEDGEHOG.

Hedgehogs

S	H	O	G	L	E	T	S	S	E	S	E	H	B
T	U	O	N	S	B	O	H	E	I	E	N	C	E
K	S	C	F	N	D	R	E	S	N	R	K	A	E
E	T	H	R	O	S	L	D	S	N	I	E	T	T
R	C	I	E	C	E	N	G	E	T	E	T	E	L
A	E	B	S	T	N	H	E	N	E	S	T	R	E
T	W	E	H	U	I	R	H	L	T	A	P	P	S
I	S	R	W	R	P	A	O	N	E	T	I	I	I
N	I	N	A	N	S	G	G	R	H	H	E	L	E
A	E	A	T	A	N	B	U	S	O	E	N	L	I
B	T	T	E	L	S	I	R	A	T	F	G	A	R
G	E	I	R	N	E	A	R	W	I	G	S	R	E
S	S	O	S	L	N	E	O	R	T	A	N	S	A
B	S	N	O	P	E	T	L	T	E	O	A	S	S

BEETLES
NEST
HIBERNATION
NOCTURNAL
HEDGEHOG
SPINES
EARWIGS
CATERPILLARS
SNOUT
FRESH WATER
KERATIN
HOGLETS

HEDGEHOG HA HAS !!

Q: Where do hedgehog wizards go to school? ♦ A: Hedgehogwarts!

Q: What do you call a hedgehog that doesn't eat worms? ♦ A: A hedgetarian

Q: What do you get if you cross a hedgehog with a giraffe? ♦

A: A really long toothbrush!

NEED HELP? >>>

*** USEFUL CONTACTS ***

Holywell School	Headteacher: Mrs M Murrell	01634-388416
	Forge Lane, Upchurch	
Swale Borough Council:	Swale Hse, East St, S'bourne	01795-424341
Borough Councillors	Chris & Richard Palmer	07702-674721
	24 Station Road,	
	Newington, ME9 7JS	
County Councillor:	Mike Baldock	
	mike.baldock@kent.gov.uk	
Parish Council Clerk:	Mrs Nina Henley	07798-600696
Vicar:	Rev Julian Staniforth	01795-227329
Village Hall Booking	Deborah Martin	07368-461507
	enquiries@upvh.co.uk	
Police Neighbourhood Beat Officer	PC13369 Jez Chittim	
	13369@Kent.police.uk	
Samaritans	0845-909090 or 01634-842222	

Kent Wildlife Trust Rescue Service [Lorraine]**07824-893399**

**IN ORDER TO KEEP THESE
IMPORTANT PAGES AS UP-TO-
DATE AS POSSIBLE, PLEASE
REPORT ANY CHANGES TO THE
EDITOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

Thank you for your cooperation

KEEP OUR VILLAGE CLEAN & TIDY

*If no waste bin can be found,
Don't throw your litter on the ground.
Be it tin or card or Styrofoam,
Pick it up and TAKE IT HOME!!!*



FEEL LIKE JOINING IN? >>>

*** VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS & GROUPS ***

Cricket Club		Carolyn Sutton	01634-378341
Choral Society		Sue Rossiter	01634-234780
Colts FC:	Secretary	Richard Divers	07905-507338
	Under 8s	Darren Wakefield	07958-117063
	Under 9s	Steve Hall	07596-113663
	Under 11s	Paul Garrett	07917-410569
	Under 12s	Darren Wakefield	07958-117063
	Under 13s	Richard Turner	07903-094076
Handbell Ringers		Peter Boakes	01634-230805
Horticultural Society		Tracy Wells	.upchurchsociety@gmail.com
Players		Kay Wright	playersupchurchsecretary@gmail.com
Scouts/Guides:			
	Group Scout Leader	Julia Richardson	07712-043621
	Scouts	Julia Richardson	07712-043621
	Cubs	Darren Hatcher	07917-003374
	Beavers	Sarah Fowle	07518-363652
	Guides/Brownies	Tracey Snellings	07926-006153
Short Mat Bowls Club		Malcolm Groves	01634-388425
Surgery PPG		Ray Kemsley	07713-165229
Upchurch Active Retirement Assoc		John Wishart	07971-511956
Village Hall Chair		David Steward	upchurchvillagehall@yahoo.com
Women's Institute		Wendy Pitts	01634-362253

IN AN EMERGENCY ...

DEFIBRILLATORS are now available in accessible boxes situated adjacent to

- ❖ **THE DOCTOR'S SURGERY., Oak Lane**
- ❖ **SNAFFLES, Oak Lane**
- ❖ **UPCHURCH VILLAGE HALL**
- ❖ **BECKENHAM PARK – attached to the wall of the larger garage in 2nd car park**