

# The 4 Villages Magazine

December 2021



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**Gt Yeldham Parish Council**  
**Christmas Tree and Carol Service**  
**Saturday 4th December 2021**



*The Parish Council will be hosting a Christmas Tree and Carol Service at 4.30 pm on Whitlock Green.*

*The children of St Andrews Church of England Primary School will be crafting decorations to hang on the Christmas Tree. The School Choir will be singing some carols for everyone to join in.*

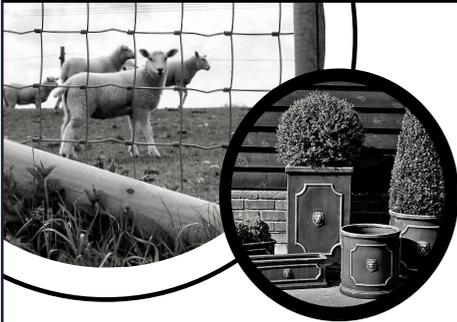
***Unfortunately, due to the risk of Covid transmission, the Parish Council have taken the difficult decision not to host any activities, refreshments will be served outside. We would like to keep residents as safe as possible during this festive time and keep to an outside service.***





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## Cottage garden society

The history of the Christmas Tree goes back centuries to the symbolic use of evergreens which in many countries were believed to ward off evil spirits, witches, ghosts and illness. In the northern hemisphere the winter solstice falls in December and represents the shortest day and longest night. Many ancient people believed that the sun was a god and that winter came because the sun god was ill and weak. They celebrated the winter solstice as it meant that the sun would get stronger again. Evergreen boughs reminded them of times when plants were green and the sun was strong. The ancient Egyptians decorated their homes with green palm rushes at the solstice to symbolise the triumph of life over death. Early Romans celebrated the solstice with a feast in honour of Saturn, the god of agriculture as their farms and orchards would soon be full of produce again. They used evergreen boughs as decorations in their homes. Druids, the priests of the ancient Celts also used evergreen boughs in their temples as a symbol of everlasting life.

Germany is credited with starting the tradition of the Christmas Tree as we know it today. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century devout Christians bought decorated trees into their homes. Some built pyramids out of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles. It is thought that Martin Luther first added lighted candles to a tree after marvelling at the stars twinkling amongst evergreens one evening.

In 1841 Prince Albert brought a Christmas Tree over from Germany and put it in Windsor Castle. Queen Victoria and Albert were then illustrated in the newspapers standing around the tree with their children and the tradition of decorating a tree became fashionable. Candles were used to remind children of the stars in the sky at the time of the birth of Jesus. These have now been replaced with coloured electric lights for safety. Trees were also decorated with ribbons and sweets and in 1880 Woolworths sold the first manufactured Christmas Tree ornaments.

Jo Williams (joannacwilliams@btinternet.com)

## **Prehistoric flints and a Roman ditch system at Nun's Walk, Great Yeldham**

**by Jon House and Simon Carlyle**

Prior to the construction of new homes by Rose Builders (Properties) Ltd on a plot of land off Nun's Walk, Great Yeldham, Pre-Construct Archaeology was contracted to undertake an archaeological investigation of the site. The scope of the investigation was agreed following discussions between RPS Group, the developer's archaeological consultant, and Place Services at Essex County Council.

At the outset, little was known about the site's archaeological potential, although its location next to the Whitlock's Estate, where a possible prehistoric pit and worked flint had been discovered in the 1990s, suggested that remains of a similar date could be encountered within the site. It has also postulated that parts of the A1017, which passes the site directly to the east, follow the route of a Roman road, although this has not been confirmed by excavation and its route through Great Yeldham is unknown.

So, in March 2021, an initial stage of trial trenching was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology, which uncovered remains dating from the Mesolithic/Neolithic, Iron Age and Roman periods. Informed by these results, it was therefore decided that a second stage of fieldwork should be undertaken, consisting of three excavation areas, to further investigate these remains. The excavation commenced in August 2021 and was completed in five weeks.



*The excavation area, looking south*

The Mesolithic/Neolithic remains encountered by the trial trenching had consisted of a shallow, subcircular pit or natural hollow, c. 1.3m in diameter and 0.05m deep. It contained 45 pieces of flint showing evidence of having been worked, including a bladelet core of Mesolithic/early Neolithic date (very broadly 8000–3000 BC). The pit also contained fragments of animal bone, charcoal and a few charred cereal grains. For the excavation, the site of the pit was relocated and the surrounding area was stripped by machine to determine if the pit was an isolated feature or part of a feature group. No further pits or hollows were encountered, but a buried soil layer was identified that contained additional pieces of worked flint of a similar date. This suggests that this location had been used opportunistically on at least one occasion by a passing band of hunter-gatherers as a place to fashion flint tools. The site may have been chosen as it lies close to a stream and the local gravel geology would have provided a good source of flint pebbles suitable for knapping.

Following the visit to the site by the band of hunter-gatherers, many millennia passed by before humans again left an imprint on the site. This was in the Late Iron Age (100BC to AD 43), when several ditches were dug on the plateau of higher ground in the south-west corner of the site. These ditches would have formed part of a more extensive ditch system that formed the boundaries of fields belonging to a nearby farmstead. Few pottery sherds or other finds dating to this period were recovered from the ditches, indicating that the farmstead was located a little way from the site.

The peripheral location of the ditch system to nearby settlement was emphasised by the discovery of a group of cremations that probably date to the very end of the Late Iron Age, to the years preceding the Roman invasion in AD43. Several of the cremation pits were furnished with grave goods, including fineware pottery vessels and a Chatelaine set, a belt adornment that was typically presented to Roman girls as a ‘coming of age’ gift. The range of grave goods suggests that the people buried here were moderately prosperous and had access to local markets supplying Roman goods in the years before the Roman invasion.



*Grave goods in one of the cremation pits*

Around the middle of the 1st century AD, perhaps in the decade immediately following the Roman invasion, the area of the Late Iron Age ditch system and cremations was re-organised. This re-organisation may have been associated with a change in land ownership, as no attempt was made to respect the location of the cremation cemetery and the new ditch system was set out on a different alignment to the old. The new, rectilinear ditch system was established on a north-south/east-west axis, forming paddocks or enclosures, probably for corralling livestock. There was little evidence for domestic occupation within the site, although a number of pits and postholes within the area may be associated with agricultural activities. However, several of the ditches contained relatively sizeable assemblages of Roman pottery and a small Roman knife was recovered from one feature, suggesting that the ditch system lay close to an area of occupation, probably to the south or west of the site. In the western corner of the site two large Roman extraction pits were investigated (probably dug for clay), which were up to 30m in diameter and up to 2.4m deep. This part of the settlement appears to have fallen out of use in the 2nd century AD.

The process of examining the results of the excavation is currently underway and will be reported on in due course. The excavation has provided a great opportunity to learn about Great Yeldham's distant past, in an area that has seen limited detailed archaeological investigation.

Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Rose Builders (Properties) Ltd for commissioning and funding the work, Nick Cooke of RPS Group for appointing PCA to undertake the excavation and Teresa O'Connor of Place Services at Essex County Council for monitoring the work and providing archaeological advice and guidance. Thanks is also given to the field team for all their hard work and their determination in digging some tricky features that weren't always that easy to see!



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## Heddinghams & Upper Colne Benefice Services- December 2021

Sible Heddingham			Castle Heddingham	
5th	11:00	Family Communion	9:30	Holy Communion
6th	14.00	Carolwith W.I.		
12th	11:00	Communion (CW)	9:30	Communion
19th	11:00	Morning Prayer	17.00	Carol service
	19.00	Carole Service		
24th	4pm	Childrens Christmas	17.00	Childrens Christmas Service
	11.30pm	ChristmasMidnight Communion		
25th			9.30	ChristmasMorning

Great Yeldham			Little Yeldham	
5th	11:00	Communion (CW)	9:30	Communion (CW)
12th	10:50	Nativity Service	18:00	Carol Service
19th	11:00	Communion (CW)	9:30	Communion (CW)
19th	18:00	Carol Service		
24th	16:00	Crib Service		
24th	23:30	Midnight Communion		
25th	11:00	All Age Worship	0.40	Communion (CW)

Toppesfield			Stambourne	
5th	11:00	Morning Prayer	9:30	Morning Prayer
12th	11:00	Communion (CW)	17.00	Carol service
19th	15.00	Carol service		No Service
24th	18.30	Christmas Holy Communion		
25th	11.00	Christmas Family service		

Tilbury-juxta-Clare		
5th		
12th		
19th		
24th	16.00	Christmas Eve Carols
25th		



See our website for latest news, services Special Events and 'contact us' details at [www.heddingham.info](http://www.heddingham.info)

SUNDAY 26th December

<https://www.chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk/worship/regular-worship>

## Heddinghams & Upper Colne Benefice Services- January 2022

Sible Heddingham			Castle Heddingham	
2nd	11:00	Benefice Service @ GY	11:00	Benefice Service @ GY
9th	11:00	Family Communion (CW)	9:30	Communion (BCP)
16th	11:00	Communion	9:30	Communion (CW)
23rd	11:00	Morning Prayer	9:30	Morning Prayer
30th	11:00	Communion (CW)		Joint with Sible

Great Yeldham			Little Yeldham	
2nd	11:00	Benefice Service	11:00	Benefice Service @ GY
9th	11:00	Communion (CW)	9:00	Communion (CW)
16th	11:00	Family Worship	9:30	Morning Prayer
23rd	11:00	Communion (CW)	9:30	Communion (CW)
30th	11:00	Family Worship	9:30	No Service

Toppesfield			Stambourne	
2nd	11:00	Benefice Service @ GY	11:00	Benefice Service @ GY
9th	11:00	Morning Prayer	9:30	Morning Prayer
16th	11:00	Communion (CW)	9:30	Communion (CW)
23rd	11:00	Morning Prayer		No Service
30th	11:00	Communion (BCP)		No Service

Tilbury-juxta-Clare		
2nd	11:00	Benefice Service @ GY
9th		No Service
16th		No Service
23rd		No Service
30th	9:30	Communion (CW)



See our website for latest news, services Special Events and 'contact us' details at [www.heddingham.info](http://www.heddingham.info)

## Church News

The approach of Christmas can spark a variety of emotions. We may feel a familiar sense of excitement about festivities drawing near. We may experience a sense of panic about preparations yet to be completed. We may be anxious about how we'll pay for all we wish to buy. We may be filled with an awareness of loved ones who are far away, or no longer with us. Maybe all of the above as well as others.

Whatever emotions we feel as we journey deeper into December, the Christian season of Advent calls us to set aside time and to reflect as we wait once more for the anniversary of Jesus' birth. To help you do that you may wish to join us for some of the Christmas services in our local churches. You'd be so very welcome and you'll find details within this magazine. I particularly invite you to join us for an all-age Nativity service at St Andrew's Church at 11am on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

You may also like to make a note of the Christmas café at St Andrew's. In a change to our usual pattern, that will be held on the second Thursday of this month, on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec, 10-11.30am. We're delighted to be able to report that the café will continue to be held approximately monthly throughout 2022, with the first one of the New Year on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January. All are welcome.

With prayers that in all the whirl of emotions this season, you'll know the love, peace, light, comfort and the hope of Jesus.

God bless you

Justin



## STAMBOURNE CHAPEL

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Secretary: Jill Holmes, 07883423528

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### Stambourne Chapel Care

*Matthew 25:40 (CEV) The king will answer,  
"Whenever you did it for any of my people,  
no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me."*

We are now supporting about 30 people with various needs. These include befriending, gardening, dog walking, shopping, prescription collection, transport, support with medical appointments as well as advice on other support available.

As part of interfaith week (14th- 18<sup>th</sup> November) Braintree District Council put together a film about services that are available and we featured in one of the films (Braintree District Council Facebook page).

On a Wednesday we continue with our club for those with additional needs with activities such as gardening, card making, recycling and vaccuming the Chapel.

We are looking at starting a weekly lunch group but need to do some work on the kitchen before we are able to do this. So if you have any or know anyone with skills such as kitchen fitting, flooring, painting, plumbing etc please get in touch.

Do you have any fundraising ideas for the kitchen or for the work of Stambourne Chapel Care? We rely on grants and donations to fund our work.

We have received three referrals for befriending and 4 requests for gardening (tidying for the winter) so if you have a few hours to spare and would like to volunteer with us please contact Jill on 07883423528 or [holmesjill30@gmail.com](mailto:holmesjill30@gmail.com)



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1.30pm Men only class.

Sible Hedingham Village Hall. Wednesdays from 8<sup>th</sup> September  
10.30am Everyone welcome.

Stambourne Chapel. Wednesdays from 8<sup>th</sup> September  
1.30pm Everyone welcome.

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## HEDINGHAM MEDICAL CENTRE – PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENT

Hedingham Medical Centre and OneMedical Property are delighted to invite the local community to attend an information evening, where they will share the most recent details of the planned Hedingham Medical Centre.

Working with the practice team and the CCG, the OneMedical Property Design team have strived to design a building that delivers improved healthcare facilities for patients of the practice and the broader communities they serve.

On Tuesday, 30 November, please join us for an online presentation of the proposed designs, project work to date and explanation of the planning processes involved.

You can book your place on Eventbrite at the following links:

6 pm - 7 pm Hedingham Medical Centre Public Information Event [Session 1](#)

7 pm - 8 pm Hedingham Medical Centre Public Information Event [Session 2](#)

We want to take this opportunity to answer any questions you may have about the new Hedingham Medical Centre and respond to the valuable feedback we've received from members of the public so far.

In the meantime, you can see the designs and read our FAQ page on the scheme's [dedicated microsite](#). You can also express your views and questions before the event at [feedback@onemedicalgroup.co.uk](mailto:feedback@onemedicalgroup.co.uk).

We want to thank you for all your involvement and look forward to working together to create a healthcare space that will improve lives and be a much-needed asset to the local area.

6 pm - 7 pm Hedingham Medical Centre Public Information

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hedingham-medical-centre-public-information-online-event-session-1-tickets-208600247957>

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## **YELDHAM & DISTRICT LADIES CLUB**

Well cannot quite believe that Christmas is almost upon us and what a year it has been! So very glad that we are back at last to having our meetings and it is good to see so many ladies joining us for the last five months of the year. Our first meeting in the New Year on 27<sup>th</sup> January will be 'Lasting Power of Attorney' and the speaker is Jackie Lucas. This meeting is in the afternoon starting at 2pm and finishing at 4pm approximately which we thought would be better than coming out in the January darker colder nights. The rest of the programme will be enclosed with the Christmas card we give to you all. Meanwhile wishing you all a very happy Christmas and hope for better New Year to come.

## **GT.YELDHAM CARPET BOWLS CLUB**

A massive thank you to our bowlers, depleted as we are, for coming each week to the club and making our evenings a fun time and a good laugh. Something we all need and enjoy. We hope that in the forthcoming year we might be nearer to starting friendly matches, but time will tell on that one. Meanwhile, thank you all again, and wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a happier New Year.

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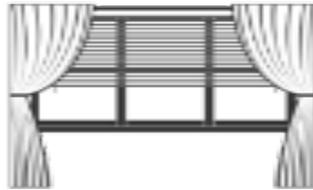
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# Poetry corner

## Fireside

Red, orange, brown and yellow,  
The flames jump higher.  
The heat is thrown out into the room  
From this roaring fire.

Black coals all aglow, red hot ashes,  
Blue flames within amber flames,  
Containing magenta dashes.

The chopped wood spits and crackles  
As it is slowly burnt away,  
It makes you feel as if it would be wonderful to stay  
On this hearth-rug soft and warm,  
And ignore the crashing of the storm.

The clock ticks quietly on the mantle-piece.  
I sit not awaiting when the strong winds will cease,  
As they whip, swirl, and lick every wall, window and door  
I am very content to welcome more.

More rain drumming the roof and pattering the panes,  
So relaxing, soothing, and comforting,  
I hope it never wanes.  
And while the storm is raging outside,  
I sit feeling cosy, safe, and secure here by the fireside.

By Rosemarie Sayer





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## The 4 Villages Magazine

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Georgina [the4villagesmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:the4villagesmagazine@gmail.com)

For Adverts please contact the editor as above

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# Kid's Page



**Fun Fact:** The earth is 24,901 miles around at the equator. At walking speed, to travel that same distance would take you about 8,000 hours without any breaks. That would be almost a year of walking day and night!



**Your Challenge:** Try to draw a line to match up the identical gingerbread boys and girls. Hint: They are all triplets! (3 of each)



## Recipe to try: Gingerbread biscuits

Sift into a mixing bowl: **350g plain flour + 2 tsp ground ginger + 1 tsp bicarbonate of soda.**

Rub in **100g butter.**

Stir in **175g brown sugar.**

Beat together **1 egg + 4 Tbsp. golden syrup**, then mix into the rest to form the dough.

Knead on a floured surface for a minute.

Roll out to ¼ inch thickness.

Cut into any shapes you like! Carefully move them onto baking trays. Bake your biscuits in the oven for about 9 minutes at 190 degrees C or until just turning golden brown.

Have fun decorating with icing and sweets or raisins. Enjoy!

## Christmas jokes for you:

1. What do you call a snowman in the summer?
2. Why does everyone love Frosty the snowman?
3. What music do Santa's elves like best?
4. Why does Santa have 3 gardens?
5. In what year does New Year's Day come before Christmas Day?

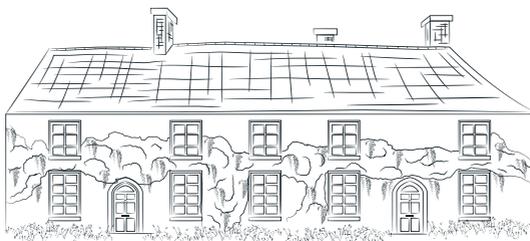
Answers: 1: A puddle; 2: He's cool; 3: Wrap music; 4: So he can HOE HOE HOE; 5: Every year!

# Have fun!



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Woof, woof fellow dogs!

I haven't been in touch lately because my lady human (who now has to help me with my computer skills...old age you know!) had to have one of her joints oiled in the humans repair shop which I think is called a hospital. She's alright now though, so she can write for me again. I wish I could have my joints oiled!

Now I'm old (they keep telling me!) I like to be really warm when I'm sleeping ....my man human tells me, I sleep all the time...huh, he can talk!

So the lack of the yellow thing in the sky is very disappointing, but do you know, to add insult to injury they took me to the dog hairdresser for a haircut so now I get chillier quicker. I don't know what I'm going to do with my humans! The nice lady who does this, reports that I am a very good dog when this is done but that I don't like my face being done. But I do come home smelling very nice with a jaunty bandana round my neck, ooh, get me! I think our humans do need educating about the weather . My lady humans tells me she can't do anything about the weather so I should stop grumbling, which I suppose is true!

Well,I'm off for another sleep in glass building which gets nice and hot (when the sun shines)

See you soon. Woof, woof

Scamp 

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## THIN PLACES 3. BETHLEHEM

*“Bethlehem, of noblest cities  
None can once with thee compare;  
Thou alone the Lord from heaven  
Didst for us Incarnate bear.”*

Such was the hymn we used to sing around Christmas time. But I suspect the writer of the hymn (Edward Caswell) had never been there! Bethlehem is now a suburb of Jerusalem, about 5 miles distant and separated by a hideous wall which divides much of Israel.



Palestinians are kept out and those who have reason to travel to Jerusalem (or other parts of Israel) have great difficulty in crossing this border to get to work or see family, or even to visit hospital. As Palestinians queued to pass through the wall, pilgrims passed through in air-conditioned coaches without hindrance: for those with a conscience this was a time of embarrassment.

We came, though, to visit the Basilica of the Nativity where tradition has it that Christ was born. At the end of the church one descends steps



into a cave-like crpt which some believe to be the place where Jesus was born. This is little more than a cave with curtains hanging over rough walls, but the focal point is at one end where there is a richly draped altar under which, set into the marble floor is a silver star. If one can come at a time when there are few pilgrims and the place is not crowded like the bar of a theatre in the short interval as people vie with each other to get a drink, then a pause for reflection on the fact that God became man for our salvation. As John Betjeman wrote,

*“That God was Man in Palestine  
and lives today in Bread and Wine.”*

© Chris Elliott



**The Friends of St John the  
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**Advance notice of 2022 guided walks**

Sunday, 3 April at 11.00 am	Meet at The Kings Head, Gosfield
Sunday, 12 June at 11.00 am	Venue tbc
Sunday, 11 September at 11.00 am	Venue tbc

All the walks are leisurely and approximately 4 miles long. Lunch at a local pub can be half way through the walk or at the end. Cost is £5 per person. You can walk and lunch, just walk, or just lunch.

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## Great Yeldham Parish Council

The Parish Council meet the first Thursday of every month, except in January. All meetings start at 7.30pm in the Reading Rooms, High Street, Great Yeldham and are open to the public and press. There are 15 minutes available for public participation. Agenda and Minutes are published each month on the Parish Council's website and are placed on the notice board on the green at the North Street and Bridge Street junction.

**Website:** [www.greatyeldhampc.co.uk](http://www.greatyeldhampc.co.uk)

**Office:** The Reading Room, High Street, Gt Yeldham, CO9 4ER  
01787 237832

**Office hours:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9.15am-2.45pm  
There will be periods when the office is closed due to council business and annual leave but a message can be placed in the post box, sent by email or left on the answer phone.

**Chairman:** Mr P Rawlinson, Gt Yeldham 01787 237049

**Vice Chairman:** Mr J Marks,,Gt Yeldham, 01787 238297

### **Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer**

Tracy Wigmore c/o The Reading Room, Gt Yeldham 01787 237832

### **Councillors**

Mrs G Burr, Gt Yeldham,

Mrs A Burrows, Gt Yeldham 01787 237959

Mr P King, Gt Yeldham, 07391467541 [Phil.kinggypc@gmail.com](mailto:Phil.kinggypc@gmail.com)

Mr B Sargeant, Gt Yeldham 01787 236041

Mr G Theobald, Gt Yeldham [gtheobaldgypc@gmail.com](mailto:gtheobaldgypc@gmail.com) 07802252471

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**Vice-Chairman:** Mr Robert Nott - [cllr.rnott.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.rnott.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com)

**Clerk:** Mr Adrian Corder-Birch, Rustlings, Howe Drive, Halstead CO9 2QL  
[clerk.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com)

### **Councillors:**

Mrs Katie Chapman – [cllr.kchapman.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.kchapman.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com)

Mrs Amanda Gardiner – [cllr.agardiner.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.agardiner.ly.tjc.o.pc@gmail.com)

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**Website:** <https://e-voice.org.uk/little-yeldham-tilbury-juxta-clare-and-ovington-parish-council/>

### **Planning Applications:**

The Parish Council refers planning applications relating to Little Yeldham to the Little Yeldham Planning Advisory Group who advise the Parish Council how to respond to the consultation request from Braintree District Council. For more information about the Little Yeldham Planning Advisory Group, who they are and how they operate, please visit the Planning page on the Parish Council website alternatively, contact Peter Gentry at: [ly.tjc.ovington.parishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ly.tjc.ovington.parishcouncil@gmail.com).

Planning applications relating to Tilbury Juxta Clare and Ovington will be dealt with by their respective councillors.

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#### **St. Mary's Ovington**

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#### **County Councillor :Peter Schweir**

cllr.peter.schwieir@essex.gov.uk 01787 46047

#### **Braintree District Council, Yeldham Ward**

Richard Van Dulken, 07803 932737

Email cllr.rvandulken@braintree.gov.uk

#### **Braintree District Councillor**

Mrs. I Parker,

01787 237246 Email cllr.iparker@braintree.gov.uk

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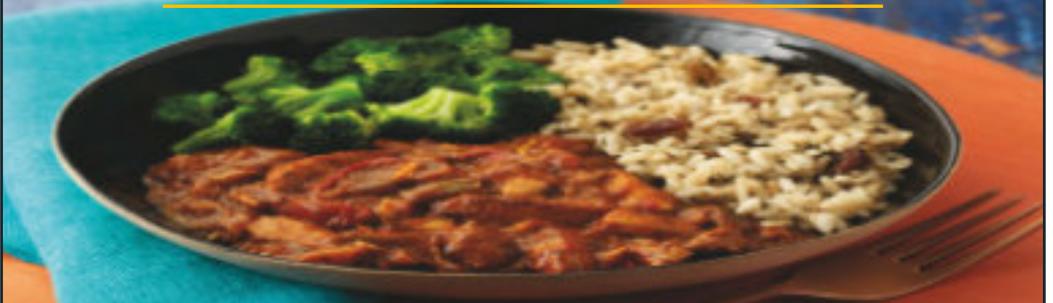
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