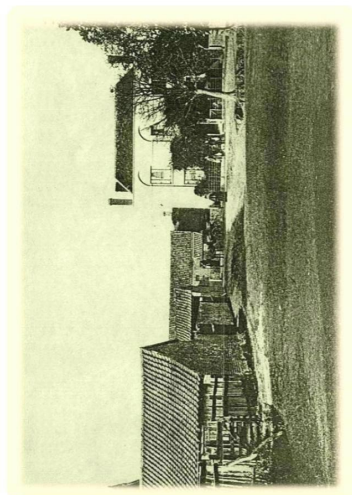


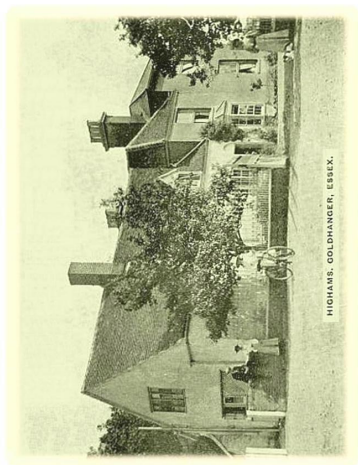
The Manors, Halls and Farmhouses



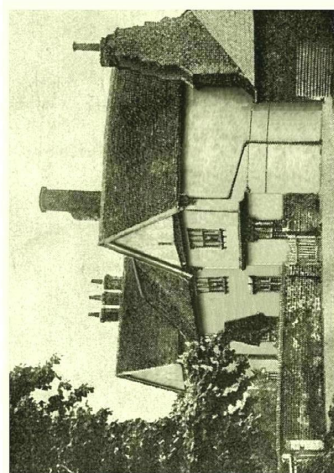
Follyfaunts Manor



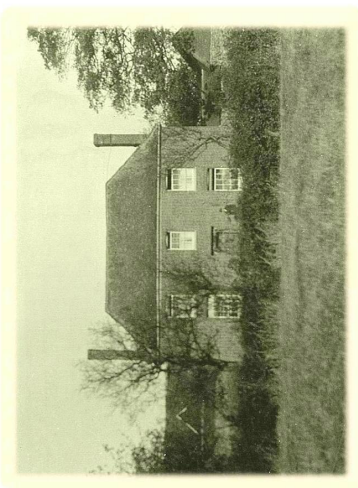
Vaulty Manor



Highams Manor



Falcons Hall



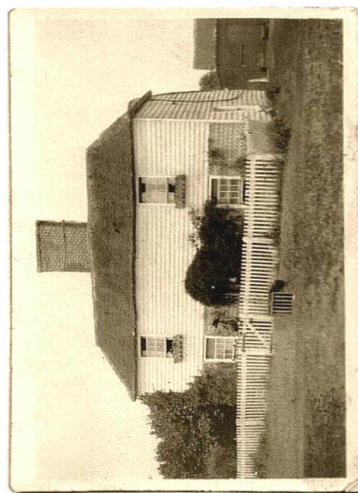
Bounds Farmhouse



Cobbs Farmhouse



Gardeners Farmhouse



Barrow Marsh Farmhouse



Charity Farmhouse

131 Years of Goldhanger Parish Magazine

There has been a Parish Magazine since 1895 when the Revd. Frederick Gardner started it shortly after being appointed Rector at Goldhanger and there have only been a few breaks in publication, most notably during both World Wars.

Deadlines:

Submit articles, as PDF to preserve layout or as plain text in an email with any images attached, by midnight on the 15th of September. Please contact the editors if you have any questions about your article.

Submit advertising (including For Sale and Wanted) by midnight on the 13th of September please.

Magazine Editors: Stephen & Chris parishmag@goldhanger.org.uk

Advertising (for
Magazine & Website) Mel advertising@goldhanger.org.uk

For Sale or Wanted - To list your items in the magazine the minimum donation is £1 per advert. If you would like to donate more it would always be welcome.

Please note: We cannot guarantee the delivery date of your magazine. Please bear this in mind when advertising functions at the beginning of the month.

Donations: Cheques made payable to **Goldhanger Parish Magazine**. You can also donate online through the Goldhanger website.

For BACS payments:

Bank Sort Code: 40-31-35

Account no: 21314327

Account name is **St Peter's Church Goldhanger Parish Magazine**.

You can **download the Parish Magazine** in glorious technicolour each month, including back issues, at: <https://www.goldhanger.org.uk/parish-mag.html> - and any links work in the online PDFs.

Tide Times

<https://www.tidetimes.co.uk/maldon-tide-times>





From the Editors

Gala Weekend is here again on the weekend of 4th - 6th September.

It's going to be quite an eventful one this year and we're all keeping our fingers crossed that the weather holds up (just not as hot as it has been recently, please). Full details of the weekend are in the centre pages.

Don't forget to send us photographs and a brief write-up for inclusion in the October magazine please. It's always good for those who can't make it to see what went on.

Gala Weekend Parking - a reminder.

There will be off-road parking available in Head Street and in Church Street. Please let any visitors know about this to avoid clogging up our roads. There will probably be signs out directing visitors, but quite a number of people still try and park as close to the centre of the village as possible. We still need to leave room for the bus to come through.

DIGITAL COLOUR COPIES OF THE MAGAZINE

Did you know, you can download the Parish Mag each month from www.goldhanger.org.uk/parish-mag.html?

It's available around the beginning of the month.

And you get it in glorious technicolor.

What more could you ask for?

The village magazine is supported only by our regular advertisers and your donations.

Any articles or notices about the village and its residents, or for the benefit of the village (such as local events) will always be included free of charge.

If, however, you feel moved to make a small donation we would be most grateful.



It's hard to explain puns to kleptomaniacs, because they take everything literally.

The Manors, Halls and Farmhouses

Old postcards, published books and early newspaper articles are a great source of early photos of the larger houses in the parish and giving us a glimpse of how these listed properties looked 100 to 200 years ago. This month's cover shows those which are furthest from the centre of the village. As some are well away from public roads they are now barely visible. Here is a just little of what we know about them...

Follyfaunts Manor – earliest known date: 1250. Belonged to Beeliegh Abbey

Vaulty Manor – Henry VIII sold it to the Duke of Suffolk in 1538

Highams Manor – Henry VIII sold it to Sir Stephen Beckingham in 1543

Falcons Hall – earliest known date: 1346, called *Goldhanger Hall* in the 1800s

Bounds Farmhouse – earliest date: 1500s, called "*Brands*" in the 1800s

Cobbs Farmhouse – named after W Cobb in 1222, famed for the Goldhanger plough

Gardeners Farmhouse – identified as *Vaulty Wick* in 1561, site of a WW-1 airfield

Barrow Marsh Farmhouse – destroyed in WW-2, now a caravan & chalet park

Charity Farmhouse – earliest date: 1571, the homestead of *Scotts and Motts* farm

The four large ancient houses below are in the centre of village...

The Old Rectory – the Rectory next to the Church from the 1500s to the 1800s
once the Glebe farmhouse and was originally red-brick

Hall Farm – a 1500s timber framed farmhouse right on the road in Church St.
also named *Goldhanger Hall* in the 1800s

The Limes – 1500s timber framed with external faux beams, now two houses.

The Millhouse – residence of the owner of the adjacent windmill from the 1700s



The Old Rectory



Hall Farm



The Limes



The Millhouse

for more about all of these buildings search for: *goldhanger past listed*

www.churchside1.plus.com/Goldhanger-past/Listed%20&%20non-listed.htm

www.churchside1.plus.com/Goldhanger-past/Farms.htm

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A.G. Smith

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Goldhanger Village Hall



A modern venue for birthday parties, discos, children's parties, quiz nights & theme nights.

Comfortably seats 80 people using our chairs and tables - you are welcome to bring your own enabling you to seat more.



See [Village Hall Calendar](#) for more details of events.

Pink recycling bags are available 15 minutes before each Parish Council meeting every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 7.15pm. Purple bags are no longer available.

Gentle Yoga every Monday 7-8pm

Nikki Myers 07963 785718, youtimeyoga@live.co.uk

Chair Yoga every Wednesday 11am

Nikki Myers 07963 785718, youtimeyoga@live.co.uk

Line Dancing every Tuesday 7-8pm

Lisa & Lora rhythmandboots@hotmail.com

Parish Council second Wednesday of the month 7:30-9:30pm

Karate every Thursday 6-8pm

Art Club second Thursday of the month 2-4pm

Catherine 01621 788488

Film Club third Wednesday of the month (*not July, August or December*), doors open 7pm, film 7:30pm *see advert for details*

Carpet Bowls alternate Fridays from Friday 11th September to April 2027.
1.45pm to 4.00 pm

Village Hall Bookings

Contact Jackie Christy on 788432 or:
<http://www.goldhangervillagehall.co.uk/bookings/#form>

Web: www.goldhangervillagehall.co.uk

Facebook: [Goldhanger Village Hall](#)

X: [@Goldhanger_VH](#)

Hire charges		Goldhanger Resident Rate (per hour)	General Rate (per hour)
Monday-Friday	9.00 -18.00	£12	£14
	18.00 - 23.00	£17	£20
Saturday-Sunday	9.00 - 18.00	£17	£20
	18.00 - 23.00	£22	£27

Community Page

Bellringing www.bellringing.org/learntoring/

Every Wednesday 7:30pm - 9:30pm and for services on Sundays. Newcomers welcome. Contact Sarah Scannell 07789 990942 or email goldhangerbells@outlook.com.



Coffee mornings

Community Room at St. Peter's Church on Tuesdays between 11am and 12noon. Everyone is welcome. Pop along, bring your friends, and have a chat over coffee.



Shanties in the Pub

Billiards room at the Chequers every other Tuesday (from 12th October) from 7pm. Just join in the responses or take a lead as you wish. Ooo-Aaaar!



AVAGO

Open evening at the Chequers. Monthly. Billiards room from 4pm. Dates will be published in the magazine monthly.



Goldhanger Sailing Club www.goldhangersailingclub.org.uk

All types of sailing, including sailboarding and canoeing, with racing organised on Sundays during the season, there is something for everyone who loves the water.



Mother's Union

4th Friday of each month at 1.45pm at Honywood Hall, Hall Road, Great Totham.



Goldhanger Book Club (*St. Peter's Community Room*)

Bring a book suggestion and share with others over a glass of vino & cake. Only £5. Monday 8th September @ 7:30pm.



Maldon District Council Monthly Surgeries

1st Saturday of the month. Queens Head Tolleshunt D'Arcy. 12 noon to 1pm.



The Goldhanger Gallopers - walk, talk, run

All abilities running club. We meet every Wednesday evening at St. Peter's Church Community Room at 7:20pm.



Goldhanger Church Services

Sunday 6th - 9.30am GALA WEEKEND Holy Communion with Rev Canon Simon Garwood

Sunday 13th - 10am Lay led Family service

Sunday 13th - 2pm Wedding with Rev Andrew Vince

Sunday 20th - 9.30am Holy Communion with Rev Michael Hatchett

Sunday 27th - 9.30am Lay led service

Weekday Holy Communion Services

Weekday Holy Communion service from The Book of Common Prayer

Every Wednesday at St Nicholas, Tolleshunt D'Arcy at 10.00am

And every Saturday at All Saints, Little Totham at 5.30pm

Please get in touch with Rosie Pollock or the churchwardens if you are considering baptism for yourself or your children, confirmation, and weddings Please contact Rev'd Andrew or Rosie for funeral arrangements.

Parish Prayers

If you would like someone, an event or concern, included in church prayers please contact Kim Evans on 788698 email kwestwood58@aol.com or George Bunting (details on next page). Votive candles are lit at Sunday Services.

Raise free donations for Goldhanger church through Easyfundraising

Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpeterschurchgoldhanger> and join for free.

St. Peter's Church Book of Remembrance

If there is someone special you would like to be included, please send an email with details to Beckywillisbecky@btinternet.com. There is no charge, but a donation to the upkeep of our beautiful church is always very much appreciated.

Thank you for your support. Please contact Rosie Pollock, for any queries or help.

St. Peter's Church Goldhanger

Priest in Charge of the Blackwater Benefice*

Vacancy

Associate Priest

Reverend Andrew
Vince (Assistant
Agricultural Chaplain)

07952 144613
andrew.vince15@gmail.com

Church Wardens:

Mr George Bunting

01621 929690
gvbunting@gmail.com

Mrs B Abrey

01206 384394

Safeguarding Officer

Vacancy

Benefice Administrator

Rosie Pollock
(For weddings,
baptisms etc). Available
on Tuesday and Friday
mornings

07908 776750
office.blackwaterbenefice@gmail.com

Church flowers

Mrs Elaine Clark

788686
elaclark@me.com

* Goldhanger, Little Totham & Great Totham and Tollesbury, Salcott, Tolleshunt D'Arcy and Tolleshunt Major

St. Peter's Goldhanger website: www.st-peters-church.goldhanger.org.uk

No flags for September



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Sunday Church Pet Service

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1 x Ladies Raleigh Pioneer £20

1 x Ladies Halford's mountain bike £30

1 x Men's Raleigh Pioneer bike almost new. Used only a handful of times. New price is £399 — now £100. (No offers on this bike).

Phone 01621 788481

GOLDHANGER PARISH COUNCIL

Council Meeting Summary – 12 August 2026

Planning

- 2 Fish Street (26/00424/TCA) – approved by MDC.
- Three Saltworks applications considered (bladder tanks; extension to Processing Building 2; new two-storey welfare building). GPC raised no objection, but asked that conditions limit external lighting to downward, directional PIR-type fittings, and that noisy activities be restricted to set hours, given the growing impact on residents as the site expands.
- T1 & T2 Lime Trees, 9A Church Street (pollard by 3m) – supported.
- Old Garage site: MDC drafting a new Asset Disposal Policy, this is expected to go before members in October.
- Enforcement: an unauthorised advertising banner has appeared at the top of Church Street.

Finance

Accounts approved for payment in August, totalling approximately £499.55, including salary, HMRC and routine council expenses.

Correspondence

A letter from The Conservation Volunteers was considered. The Council felt there were no current or future environmental projects in the parish where their support was needed at present.

Playing Field & Play Area

Following the latest inspection report, the Council unanimously agreed to purchase a new gate to the agreed specification. The Clerk was asked to place the order.

Marigold Wood

Nothing to report.

Bus Shelter & Defibrillators

It has been confirmed that earlier damage to the bus shelter was caused by a bus, witnessed by a resident. The Council is still awaiting a response from the bus company.

Highway Matters & Speedwatch

- Parking: nothing to report.
- Flooding & drainage: nothing to report.
- Speedwatch: 68 vehicles were recorded exceeding 35mph in the 30mph limit; during one 90-minute session a speeding vehicle was recorded every 3 minutes on average. The Council discussed involving the local MP to see what further action might be possible.

Clerk's Report

- A new Digital AGAR portal is being introduced from 2027 – voluntary at first, with an incentive scheme for early adopters, becoming mandatory in 2029.
- MDC is trialling a quarterly clerks forum, starting 28 September, 9am, in Heybridge.
- A VAT refund has been requested for 2025–2026.

Website Update

Good progress has been made adding content to the website, but it was discovered the site had been down for around 5 working days. The Clerk is contacting the provider to get this fixed as soon as possible.

Other Notices

- EALC AGM: 15 September 2026 – noted.
- Future agenda items: IT Policy, Data Protection Policy, Allotment Policy, and a check of bench numbers against the asset register.

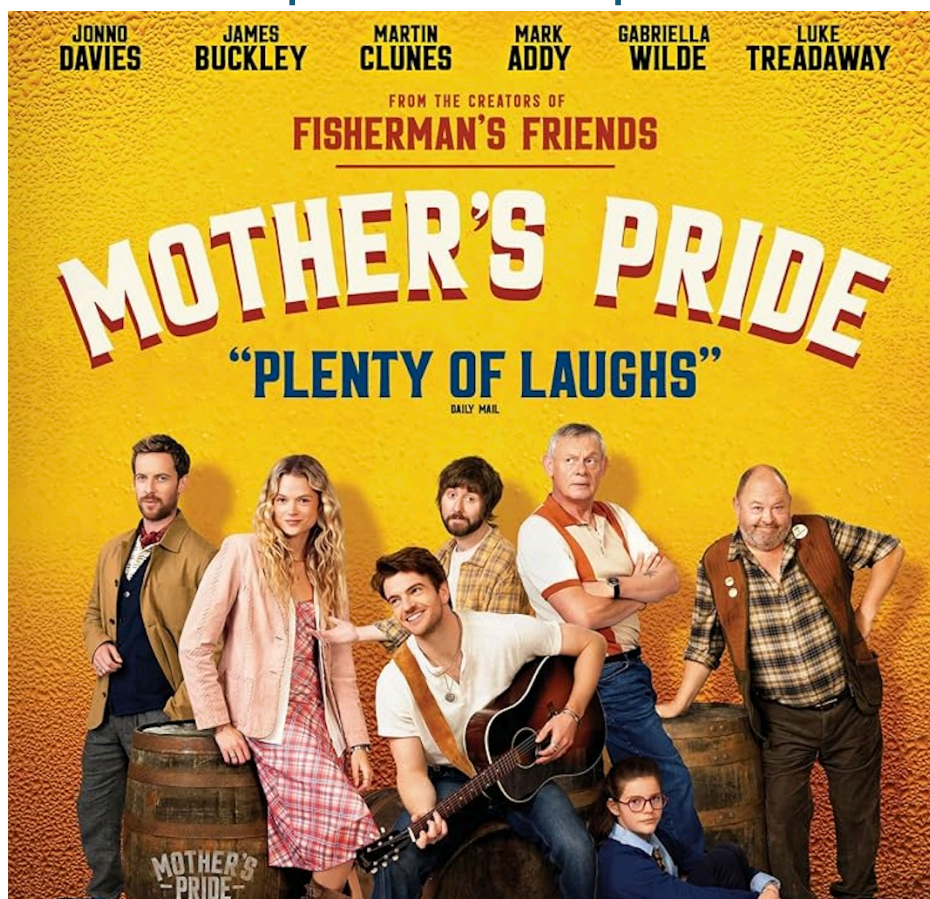
Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 9pm. The next Parish Council meeting is on 9 September 2026.

Goldhanger Village Hall Film Club

Wednesday 16th September

7pm for 7:30pm



Get ready for a beautifully brewed British comedy!

Mother's Pride follows a grieving family who attempt to save their failing pub and unite their divided community by doing the unthinkable: brewing their own real ale to enter into the Great British Beer Awards. From the producers of *Fisherman's Friends* this feel-good story is a hilarious and heartwarming celebration of friendship, resilience, and local spirit.

It is the perfect, uplifting film to enjoy surrounded by friends and neighbours, so come along, grab a seat, and let's share a laugh together!

£8 pay on the door (card or cash)
Wine, soft drinks & ice creams available

Plenty of parking behind the hall / lifts available from the village if required,
contact Jill 07734 069609 or Debbie 788709

Proceeds in support of the Village Hall, Head Street CM9 8AY

GOLDHANGER VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Invites you to



Saturday 3rd October

THE VILLAGE HALL

Doors Open 7.00 pm



Eyes Down 7.30 pm

A FUN FAMILY EVENING! 🤪

Bring your own drinks & nibbles

Refreshments & cakes will be served
in the interval

Margaret Salmon

We would both like to thank everyone in the village who supported us both and my mum, Margaret Salmon, during her final weeks: for the fan in the heatwave, for moving furniture, for last minute trips to the pharmacy and for all the kind words.

It was a comfort as well to see so many of you at the funeral - thank you. The atmosphere in The Chequers that afternoon was lovely and a fitting way to celebrate her life.

~ Nina and Tim

Tuesday Coffee Mornings

Hi Everyone

Just an update on the above.

A lovely sum of £463.90 has been raised. This covers from last September 25 up to and including July 26.

The Church PCC would like to thank all who take part in running this very popular event, not only is it very well attended but everyone who comes along, whatever the weather, has a good time chatting away and yes, gossiping.

Please, if you find you have a free hour from 11am on a Tuesday, please come along.

If you would like to be added to the rota please contact me.

Again many thanks.

Kim 01621 788698





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Open evening at the Chequers

Have you ever wanted to:
Sing a song?
Play your musical instrument?
Read some poetry or prose?
Do a little stand-up routine?

Well, now's your chance to
AVAGO.

The next event will be in the
billiard room of the Chequers in
October 2026 from
4pm.

Supportive audience also
required.



SPEEDWATCH GROUP

We need your help.

It only takes 2
hours each week
and availability
during daylight
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Full training is
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Pub games including bar billiards, darts and dominoes.

Dogs welcome.

Real fires and log burner.

Regular live music and events.

Great hospitality and friendly service.

Take away food, coffees, drinks & cakes available.

Dominic and the team look forward to welcoming you soon.

If you would like a birthday or congratulations message (or any other message) included in the magazine then please let us know.

(See inside front cover)

Photos of village events are always very welcome.



Allotments.

If you would like an allotment please phone or e-mail

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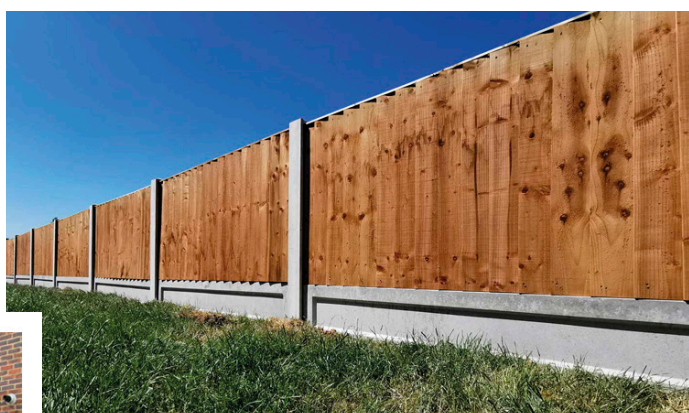
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5:15-5:45pm
£3 ENTRY

7-11 YEAR OLDS

6-7pm
£5 ENTRY

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VILLAGE HALL

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* **PARTY GAMES**



* **PARENT SUPERVISION**
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AND A GENEROUS HELPING OF AI MAGIC...

twelve familiar local faces have become the stars of

THE GOLDHANGER GALA CALENDAR 2027

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A fun, cheeky calendar created for our village,
for our Gala, and for a *very important* cause.

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GOLDHANGER DOG SHOW

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2026

VILLAGE HALL FIELD | 10:00AM

Fun for dogs, their humans & the whole family!

CLASS LIST

Dog Most Like it's Owner

Loviest Lady

Most Fabulous Fella

Waggiest Tail

Golden Oldie 7+yrs

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per class



Demos



Tea's & Coffee's



Snacks



Prizes

Join us for a wonderful morning of fun, prizes, and adorable dogs of all shapes and sizes competing for top honours!



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CHILDREN'S MINI SPORTS DAY!



Saturday 5th September | 3pm - 4.30pm

Playing Field (bottom of Fish St)

Parents must supervise children at all times

Timings are approximate



15.00 - 15.15 | TODDLER'S

Must be able to participate independently. Activities may include: Egg & Spoon, Bean Bag Toss, Races & Football Dribbling Race!



15.20 - 16.00 | AGES 4-16

Mixed age teams! Activities may include: Egg & Spoon, Bean Bag Toss, Relays, Standing Long Jump, Running Races, Three Legged Race & Football Dribbling Race!



16.00 - 16.30 | FOOTBALL GAME

PARENTS VS. KIDS! No metal studs allowed. Shin pads are advisable. Come and show the kids what you've got!



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Email any queries to:
sarah.martin1980@hotmail.co.uk

Everyone welcome — let's have fun!

Goldhanger Gala Flower Pot Trail

Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th September

Theme: Children's Stories

think nursery rhymes, fairy tales,
cartoons, comic strips etc

Create a planted pot (any size or shape)
Decorate your pot
Add your own magical touches!

Competition for the best display 🏆
Fun for all ages

contact Jill on 07734 069609 or
jillcrooks66@icloud.com
to register on the trail map



Gala VILLAGE

TABLE TOP SALE

SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER
along Head Street

If you'd like a space contact
Jill
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BYO table

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Village History Tours

Guided walks through the
history of Goldhanger,
revealing the village's
fascinating past

Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th September
2:30pm – 3:30pm

Explore Goldhanger's rich
collection of historic buildings in
the village's conservation area
with local experts and historians

- Max 12 people per tour
- £5 per person
- Booking deadline: 31st August

Note: Timings may change
so please advise of any
restrictions when booking.

Contact Jill:
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SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER, 1PM



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KIDS - £2 ENTRY - ALL AGES, NO FIXED THEME

ADULTS - £3 ENTRY - BEARDS, BEANIE HATS & HAWAIIAN SHIRTS

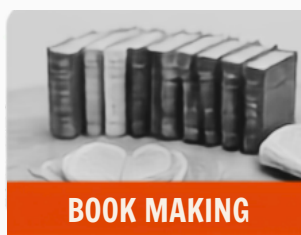
ALL PROCEEDS TO GO TO THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION



Gala EXHIBITION of GOLDHANGER Talents

SAT 5TH & SUN 6TH SEPTEMBER
in the Church

Celebrating creativity, skills & our wonderful community



ENTRANCE £1 *Teas, coffees & cakes*



Goldhanger GALA

FOOTBALL TENNIS

Get the ball over the net using any body part
except your hands, teams of 5

and

TUG-OF-WAR

Street teams encouraged!

All ages – big kids and smaller ones

Contact richardgabrey@aol.com
to register interest



Sunday 6th September, 1:30pm
Village Hall Field

GOLDHANGER GALA

4-6 SEPTEMBER 2026

A weekend of family fun for everyone! ❤️

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR UPDATES

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER



KIDS' DISCO
3-6 yrs | 7-11 yrs
Village Hall
From 17.15
See poster

Come along, get involved
and help make it a
GALA weekend to
remember! ❤️



SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

- From 09.00** **Make, Bake & Grow Show**
Village Hall (drop off entries from 9am)
Judging from 10am
Display & refreshments from 11.30am
- From 09.30** **Classic Car Display**
Chequers Car Park
Bike Display - Churchyard
- From 10.00** **Table Top Sale**
Head Street
- From 10.00** **Molly's Lollies Ice Cream Van & Sugarstripes Sweet Stall**
- 10.00 - 11.30** **Fun Dog Show, Demos & Refreshments**
Village Hall Field
- From 11.00** **Chequer's BBQ**
The Chequers
- From 12.00** **Carol & Suki**
The Square
- From 13.30** **Karate Demonstration**
Churchyard
- 14.30 - 15.30** **Guided Village History Tour**
From the Village Hall
(Booking required)
- 15.00 - 16.30** **Children's 'Mini Sports Day'**
Playing Field, Fish St
- From 15.30** **Pizza Van (Circles & Squares)**
The Square
- From 15.45** **Live Music**
The Chequers

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER

- From 10.00** **Church Family Service**
St. Peter's Church
- From 10.00** **Make, Bake & Grow Show**
Village Hall
Display & refreshments
- From 10.45** **Teddy Parachute Jumps, Bacon Rolls & Bucks Fizz**
Church Yard
- From 11.30** **Kids' Crafts**
Church Yard
- From 12.00** **Line Dancing Demo With Shanties**
The Square
- From 13.00** **Fancy Dress Bike Parade**
Ending at Village Hall Field
- 13.30 - 15.30** **Football Tennis & Tug of War**
Village Hall Field
- 14.30 - 15.30** **Guided Village History Tour**
From the Village Hall
(Booking required)
- From 15.45** **Live Music**
The Chequers
- From 17.00** **Fish & Chip Van**
The Square

EVENTS ON ALL WEEKEND



THEMED FLOWER POT TRAIL
'Children's Stories' throughout village



CHEQUER'S BEER FESTIVAL
The Chequers



TALENTS OF GOLDHANGER
Display & Refreshments
Church



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Covering Goldhanger, Maldon, Heybridge, Chelmsford & Danbury.

Goldhanger Gala – Saturday 5th September

'MAKE, BAKE & GROW' SHOW CLASSES

Maximum of one entry per person per class

Please drop entries into the Village Hall between 9-10am

COOKING / HOME PRODUCE

1. Gala Cake: a novel bake decorated to celebrate your favourite book
2. Plain or fruit scones x 6 (same size)
3. Bottle of sloe gin or similar, e.g. turnip vodka, parsnip rum etc.
4. Jar of chutney

Children's Classes

5. 4-7 years – chocolate crispy cakes x 3
6. 8-12 years – decorated cupcakes x 3, any flavour any theme

All entries must be made by the exhibitor
Entries will be tasted!

FRUIT & VEGETABLES

7. Longest runner bean
8. A single tomato (with stalk)
9. A single courgette
10. A single chilli or pepper (with stalk)
11. Most amusing misshapen veg

Open to adults and children
All fruit and veg must be home grown
Fresh and clean products please
Entries to your own presentation

FLOWERS

12. Flowering pot plant – max pot size 20cm/8" diameter
13. A colourful arrangement using flowers, foliage, fruit and/or veg
– max height 45cm/18"

PHOTOGRAPHY

14. This is Goldhanger – highlight our heritage and our vibrant community
15. Sunrise or sunset
16. Black and white

Children's Classes

17. 4-7 yrs – any animal, fur, feather or fin
18. 8-12 yrs – any animal, fur, feather or fin

All the photographs must be taken by the exhibitor
The size of the photo should be 8ins x 6ins and not mounted or framed

Entries to remain in the hall for display until 3.30pm Sunday 6th

Drop off forms/entries to the Village Hall from 9-10am on Saturday 5th Sept

MAKE, BAKE & GROW SHOW - ENTRY FORM

Please complete all the details below. One form per person.

NAME: AGE: (children 4-12yrs)

ADDRESS: PHONE:

List all class no.s you are entering (max. of one entry per class)

.....

Total number of entries at 50p each £..... (payment at drop off)

NOTES:

1. Cooking/Home Produce entries will be tasted for judging purposes
2. Entries to be left in the hall for display until 3.30pm on Sunday 6th, please pick up then

I confirm these entries are my own and I'll adhere to competition rules 🤖



GCCC Classic Car & Motorbike Display

Saturday 5th Sept, from 9.30am

Back by popular demand and tradition our classic car display will be in The Chequers car park and a motorbike display in the churchyard. Our proud owners will delight in providing any level of detail about their cherished vehicles.

Vote for your favourite 🏆 (car or bike that is, not owner!)



Contact GoldhangerCCC@Outlook.com to register a space or for more information

Ministry Team's Harvest Message for September 2026

It has been another challenging year for our Farmers; not only have they had to think about the implications of Inheritance Tax, Climate change, and rising prices for fuel and fertilisers, but also about many of the everyday tools they use, including forms like the SFI (Sustainable Farming Incentive).

This knock-on effect has had a real impact on Machinery suppliers, Animal feed suppliers, Seed and Chemical suppliers, Land agents, Agronomists, and the list goes on.

After a reasonably wet start to 2026, the ditches and reservoirs filled, then spring came. For the second year, it was a very dry time, and spring drilling was underway, and everything looked good.

A farmer recently told me that we had 17 weeks without rain during the main growing season, which has seriously impacted this year's harvest.

This year's harvest was well underway in Essex on the 24th of June, when crops like winter barley and oilseed rape were being harvested in the scorching sunshine. I have been told that yields are down on last year, and these valuable crops are coming into the grain store very warm and need to be cooled.

This is done by blowing air through the crop; otherwise, it will not keep until it is purchased by a merchant for them to mill into bread, breakfast cereals, or animal feed. The oilseed rape is pressed, and it is used for cooking oil. At the end of the day, a buyer for these crops is not guaranteed.

On 23 June, several of us had the privilege once again of being a farmer steward at the Essex food and farming day at ARU Writtle. It is a day for junior schools to take part in what is known as from field to fork. This year, we had the great pleasure of welcoming about three thousand young people from seventy schools across Essex.

It is a day for our young people to see, touch and experience how some of their food is grown in Essex. Also taste some of the delights that are available for our young people to try. It is also about learning how our environment is changing and how our farmers are having to adapt to climate change.

In Matthew 13 Jesus tells a story about a farmer scattering seed. Some fall on the path. Some on rocky ground. Some among thorns. Some on good soil, where it grows and flourishes beyond expectation.

Notice how extravagantly the Sower scatters the seed. There is no careful measuring, no checking first whether the ground is in good order. The seed falls everywhere: on the receptive and the resistant, on the prepared and the unprepared.

God's love is not rationed out to those who have earned it. The seeds of hope, compassion, truth, and transformation are scattered widely and generously. Again and again, God keeps sowing.

There are times when we become like the path: worn down by life, unable to receive anything new.

There are times when our enthusiasm springs up quickly but struggles to survive when life becomes difficult.

There are times when the worries of the world, the demands of work, fear about the future, or the pursuit of success choke out what matters most.

And there are times when we become good soil, not because we are perfect, but because we have made space for grace to take root.

The encouraging thing is that soil changes: a hard path can be softened, rocky ground can be cleared, thorns can be cut back.

This passage invites us to resist a culture obsessed with instant results. Seeds grow slowly. Justice unfolds gradually. Compassion deepens over time.

Faith is often less about dramatic moments and more about the daily work of tending our land, our gardens, and our lives.

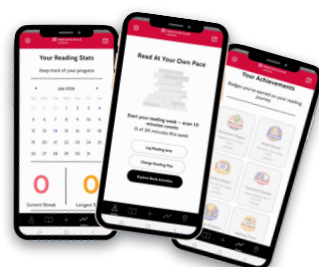
Revd Andrew Vince, Associate Priest, and Assistant Agricultural Chaplain in the Blackwater Benefice.

New reading app for Essex Libraries Members

An exciting new app is now available for Essex library members. London Libraries' Read On app is for anyone who is either hooked on reading, or would like to be. It has book recommendations you can match with your mood, literary quizzes, and challenges you can set yourself and track your progress. In particular, look out for these three challenges:

- Family Reading Moments – Complete 150 minutes of shared or parallel reading over the summer.
 - Readingmaxing – For older children, teens and young adults; read for 20 minutes a day for 14 days.
 - Quick Reads Sprint – Read four Quick Reads in six weeks.
- Download Read On today through Google Play or App Store!

Link: <https://ldnlibraries.org/read-on/>





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↓ See our article ↓

EssexVoluntaryBloodService.com

Word of the Month

tenebrous: *adj.*

Dark, gloomy



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Megabrain Wordsearch 9 - The Seven Wonders

Difficulty level 4 (5 pts)

The seven wonders of the ancient world are hidden in the grid below (NB generally using two words from each – subject and place. E.g. *The golden **handbag** of **Clacton***. PLUS there are the seven countries which hold the seven wonders of the modern world! When you've found all the words, the 30 unused letters read as a clue. Email your answer to that clue to pfrench2@hotmail.com to be immortalised in next month's magazine! Good luck!

NB There's no helpful tip or clues this month – this is level 4 so it's a 5 pointer! Time to get tough! Good luck!

A	I	R	D	N	A	X	E	L	A	O	E
S	T	C	D	I	M	A	R	Y	P	L	P
E	A	O	U	S	C	L	D	N	B	Y	H
D	L	T	F	H	U	I	N	A	R	M	E
O	Y	S	I	U	J	S	B	D	A	P	S
H	O	N	R	O	N	Y	S	E	Z	I	U
R	A	E	R	?	L	H	E	O	I	A	S
W	P	D	A	O	T	E	M	P	L	E	S
A	A	R	N	T	M	E	X	I	C	O	O
N	M	A	U	S	O	L	E	U	M	L	C
Y	M	G	I	Z	A	I	D	N	I	P	I
E	S	U	O	H	T	H	G	I	L	A	!
H	A	L	I	C	A	R	N	A	S	U	S

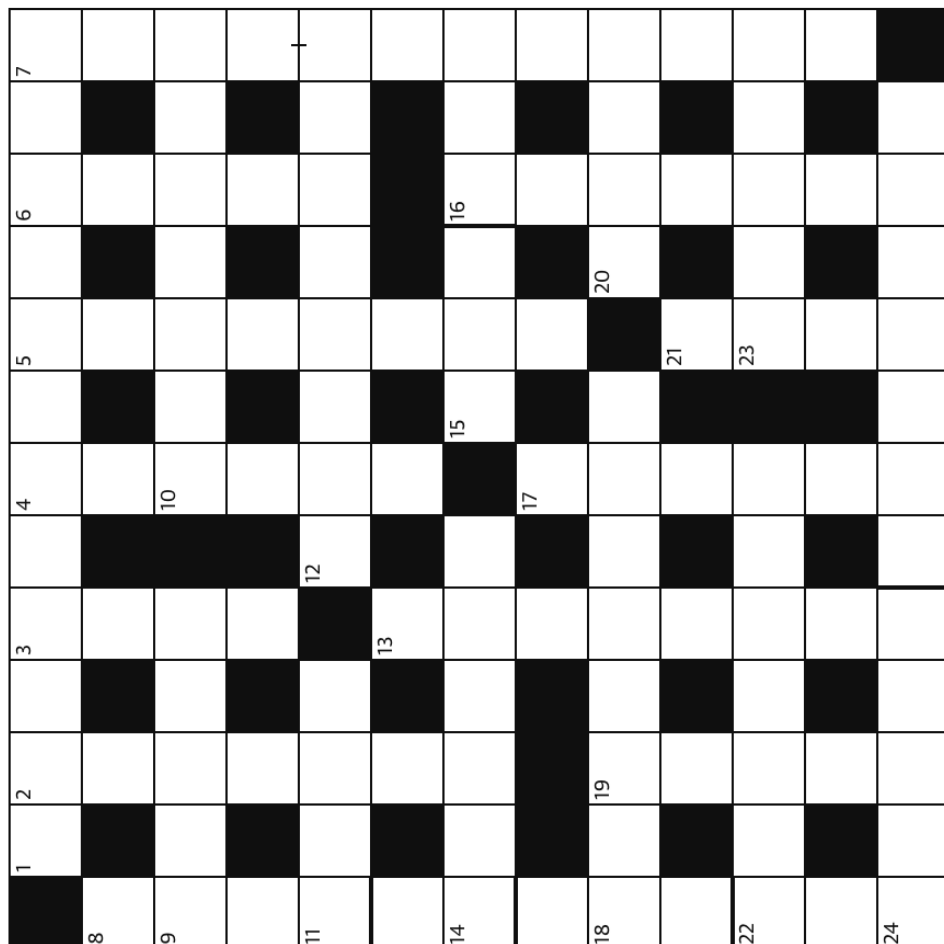
Note: Usual rules apply – diagonal, horizontal and vertical words forwards and backwards, letters can be used more than once and unused letters read as per a book to form the hidden question or clue.

NB. The answer has just 4 letters

Last month's clue 'I AM THE LORAX. SPEAK FOR THE TREES FOR THE TREES HAVE NO TONGUE. 'Answer: DR SEUSS

The trees were (horiz.) Poplar, Yew, Box, Oak, Ash, Fir, (vert.) Whitebeam, Beech, Hawthorn, Alder, Birch, Apple, (diagonal) Juniper, Willow, Hazel, Elm, Cherry, Hornbeam, Holly, Rowan, Maple, Pine, Lime

Correct answers were received from **Ruth Jolly, Jill Crooks, Carole Russell, Mo Brooks, David Harding, Lorraine Alford, Kevin Elmore, Marion Everiss, Gary Wiggans and of course Maureen Cheeseman (MBE)**



Across

- 1 State of total confusion - slob's name him (anag) (12)
- 9 Mouth, barrel or sense (5)
- 10 ___ Wizard (The Who) - 'tilt' pastime (7)
- 11 Drink quickly - head support (4)
- 12 Ruling by tyrannical behaviour (8)
- 14 Stockings (6)
- 15 Out-of-date and tired - a bonnet, perhaps? (3,3)
- 18 Mesmerising (8)
- 20 Disparaging remark (4)
- 22 Earwax - un creme (anag) (7)
- 23 Artificial silk fabric (5)
- 24 Gathering of directors - sounds tedious? (5,7)

Down

- 2 Enchanting (7)
- 3 Pubs and small hotels (4)
- 4 Short dash (6)
- 5 Board game - sole power (8)
- 6 Smallest amount (5)
- 7 Cooking for oneself (on holiday) (4-8)
- 8 Yellow vegetable, ear of maize (4,2,3,3)
- 13 Passed on knowledge to (8)
- 16 ___ days - kingfisher - holy can (anag) (7)
- 17 Man engaged to be married (6)
- 19 Ham or violet (5)
- 21 Ridge on guitar neck - worry (4)

Answers next month

Online games and puzzles to keep you amused

Online games and puzzles: <https://www.games.co.uk/games/puzzle>

Online jigsaw puzzles: <https://www.jigsawplanet.com/>

Online brainteasers, maths puzzles, word games, sudokus and memory games: <https://www.mindgames.com/>

Children's Pages

Kids Quiz (Harry Potter theme)

1. What is the first charm taught to Harry's first year class?
2. What spell is used to summon an object?
3. When Hogwarts was under threat, Professor McGonagall used the spell Piertotum Locomotor to do what?
4. Which spell protects from Dementors?
5. Early in the first film, Hermione Granger uses the spell Oculus Reparo to do what?
6. What does the spell Alohomora do?
7. An MTV website article ranks the spells we see in order of usefulness. Ranked second, mainly for fun, was the Glisseo incantation, which does what to a staircase?
8. What does the Legilimens spell allow the user to do to whom the incantation is made?
9. Suitably, what spell would you use when preparing to go on holiday?
10. What are the three Unforgivable Curses?

Answers on page **44**

Find 10 differences.

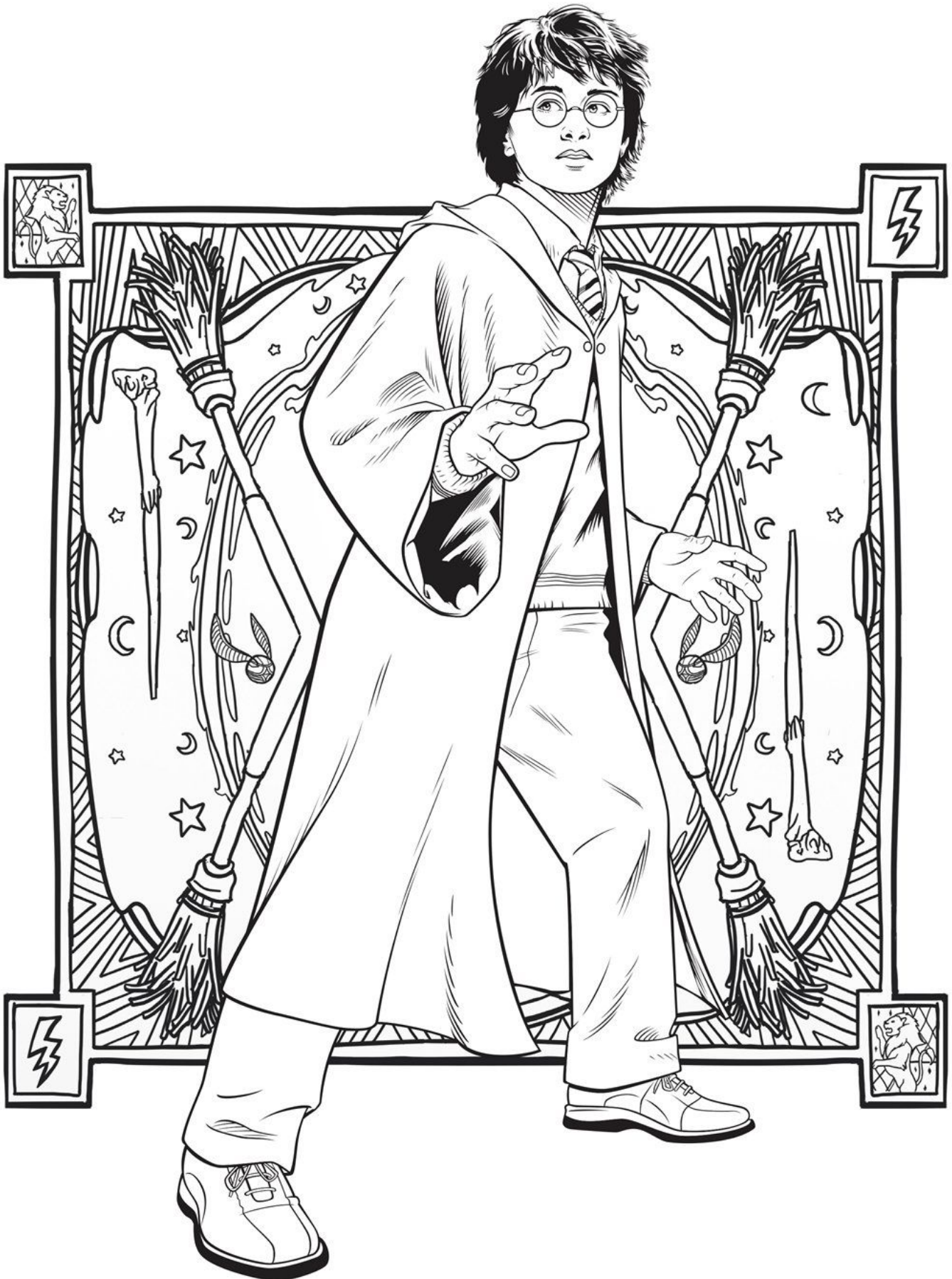


Did you know if you have an iPhone you can say, 'Siri, Lumos' to turn on your torch. To turn it off say, 'Siri, Knox'.

Children's Pages

(Adults can join in too)

Get your colouring pencils out





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Recipe of the month

Easy Lemon Posset

Preparation time

Less than 30 minutes

Cooking time

less than 10 minutes

Serves

Serves 2



Ingredients

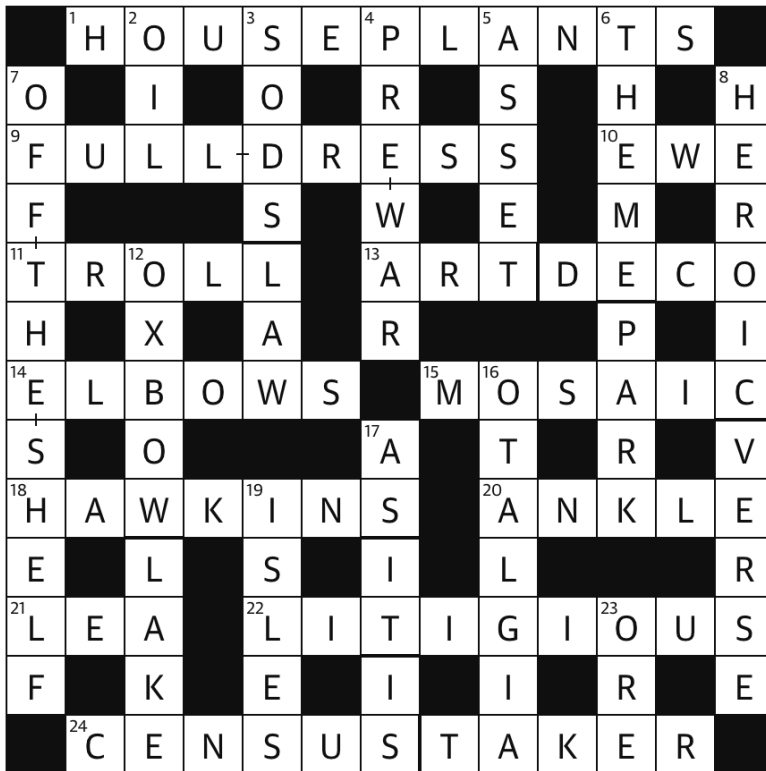
- 100ml double cream
- 50g caster sugar
- 1/2 a large (unwaxed) lemon, finely grated, zest and juiced

Method

- Put the double cream and the sugar into a pan over a low heat. Stirring constantly to dissolve the sugar, gently bring the cream to the boil. Simmer the cream for three minutes, then remove from the heat and allow to cool.
- Add the lemon juice and zest and whisk well.
- Pour the lemon cream mixture into two small cups or serving glasses and refrigerate for three hours.



Answers to August crossword



Answers to Kids Quiz

1. Wingardium Leviosa
2. Accio
3. To animate the statues and suits of armour to defend the school
4. Expecto Patronum
5. Mend Harry's glasses
6. Open doors
7. Turns it into a slide
8. Read their mind. In Latin, 'legere' means 'to read' and 'mens' means 'mind'.
9. Pack
10. Avada Kedavra, Crucio, and Imperio. Repeating one of them can lead to lifelong imprisonment in Azkaban.

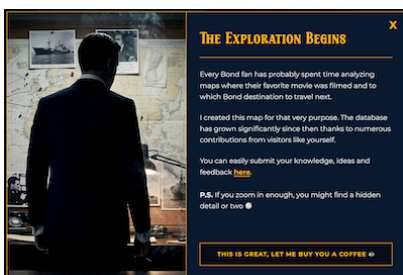


Website of the Month

Your editors present a quirky, interesting, surprising or who-knows-what website that may be of interest. Hand-curated by your intrepid cybernaut navigators Chris and Stephen 😊

<https://department-m.agency/>

A remarkable website detailing every James Bond filming location. It's classy!



Oven temperature conversions

Centigrade	Farenheit	Gas Mark
140°C	275°F	1
150°C	300°F	2
160°C	325°F	3
180°C	350°F	4
190°C	375°F	5
200°C	400°F	6
220°C	425°F	7
230°C	450°F	8
240°C	475°F	9

Mobile Library dates & times

Dates	Location	Stop name	Arrives	Leaves
2026	Ulting	Doe's Corner	9:40	9:55
2nd September	Ulting	Ulting Lane/Water Co. Houses	10:00	10:15
23rd September	Heybridge	Colne House	10:45	11:15
14th October	Heybridge	Coopers Avenue	11:20	11:50
4th November	Heybridge Basin	Bus Stop	12:00	12:15
25th November	Heybridge Basin	Daisy Meadows car park	12:20	12:50
16th December	Goldhanger	Village Hall	13:10	13:40
	Heybridge	Plantation Hall	14:45	15:15
	Langford	Little Hills	15:30	16:00

What goes where?



Essex Police Contacts

Call 999 (emergency) if:

- A crime is in progress
- Person suspected of a crime nearby
- There is a danger to life
- Violence is being used or threatened

Call 101 for any non-emergency contact with the Police. This number covers all of England and Wales but you get the option to speak to Essex Police. Alternatively you can report a crime and more at <https://www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online/>

The Goldhanger Neighbourhood Watch email system is free & confidential. It sends emails with information & advice on current issues in the village. Contact goldhangernw@outlook.com for more information.

**Our collection day is Tuesday;
Landfill and Recycling on alternate weeks.**

**Last post collection times:
9am Monday to Friday 7am Saturday**

Crimestoppers

0800 555 111

You can contact them anonymously with information about crime

BUS TIMETABLE

Monday to Friday

Tollesbury ▶ Goldhanger ▶ Heybridge ▶ Maldon

95

95A

Mondays to Fridays excluding bank holidays

Route	95A	95	95	95	95	95
Code	Sch	NSch				
Tollesbury, The Square	0730	0732	0932	1142	1432	1612
Tolleshunt D'Arcy, The Red Lion	0735	0737	0937	1147	1437	1617
Goldhanger, Rectory Corner	0741	0743	0943	1153	1443	1623
Heybridge, Osea Road	0747	0749	0949	1159	1449	1629
Heybridge, Heybridge Basin	0754					
Heybridge, Bentalls Shopping Centre	0759	0755	0955	1205	1455	1635
Maldon, Tesco Store		0758	0958	1208	1458	1638
Maldon Town Centre, The Swan Hotel		0801	1001		1501	
Maldon, Blackwater Leisure Centre		0805	1005		1505	
Maldon, Morrisons Wycke Hill		0810	1010		1510	
Maldon Town Centre, The White Horse	0808			1211		1641
Maldon, Upper Plume School	0810					
Maldon, Lower Plume School	0815					

Maldon ▶ Heybridge ▶ Goldhanger ▶ Tollesbury

95

95A

Mondays to Fridays excluding bank holidays

Route	95	95	95	95A	95	95
Code				Sch	NSch	
Maldon, Upper Plume School				1520		
Maldon, Lower Plume School				1525		
Maldon, Morrisons Wycke Hill		1016			1525	
Maldon, Blackwater Leisure Centre		1020			1529	
Maldon Town Centre, The Swan Hotel	0825	1025	1225	1528	1534	1655
Maldon, Tesco Store	0829	1029	1229	1532	1538	1659
Heybridge, Bentalls Shopping Centre	0832	1032	1232	1535	1541	1703
Heybridge, Heybridge Basin				1542		
Heybridge, Osea Road	0837	1037	1237	1546	1546	1708
Goldhanger, Rectory Corner	0841	1043	1243	1553	1553	1715
Tolleshunt D'Arcy, The Red Lion	0847	1048	1248	1558	1558	1720
Tollesbury, The Square	0852	1054	1254	1605	1604	1726

Codes

Sch Runs on school days only
NSch Runs when schools are closed

BUS TIMETABLE

Saturday

Tollesbury ▶ Goldhanger ▶ Heybridge ▶ Maldon

95

Saturdays

Tollesbury, The Square	0942	1142	1432
Tolleshunt D'Arcy, The Red Lion	0947	1147	1437
Goldhanger, Rectory Corner	0953	1153	1443
Heybridge, Osea Road	0959	1159	1449
Heybridge, Heybridge Basin			
Heybridge, Bentalls Shopping Centre	1005	1205	1455
Maldon, Tesco Store	1008	1208	1458
Maldon Town Centre, The White Horse	1011	1211	1501

Maldon ▶ Heybridge ▶ Goldhanger ▶ Tollesbury

95

Saturdays

Maldon Town Centre, The Swan Hotel	1025	1225	1425	1625
Maldon, Tesco Store	1029	1229	1429	1629
Heybridge, Bentalls Shopping Centre	1032	1232	1432	1632
Heybridge, Heybridge Basin				
Heybridge, Osea Road	1037	1237	1437	1637
Goldhanger, Rectory Corner	1043	1243	1443	1643
Tolleshunt D'Arcy, The Red Lion	1048	1248	1448	1648
Tollesbury, The Square	1053	1253	1453	1653

The Blackwater Link - 90

Runs from Morrisons in Maldon to Witham Ebenezer Close (passes Witham Station)

Take the 95 to Bentalls and pick up the 90 there.

For more details contact 01702-541511

Hedingham Omnibuses:

01206 769778
www.hedingham.co.uk

Stephenson's Buses:

For the Blackwater Link - 90
01702 541511 (0900-1730)
www.stephensonsofsex.com

HEALTH

Blackwater Medical Centre	876760
Longfield Medical Centre	876433
Tollesbury Surgery	869204
St Peter's Hospital <i>NHS</i> (Maldon - no A&E)	725323
Broomfield Hospital <i>NHS</i> (Chelmsford, has A&E)	01245 362000
Colchester General Hospital <i>NHS</i> (has A&E)	01206 747474
NHS Advice (non-emergency)	111

Very sorry, there are no places left for your dog in the karate demonstration.



LOCAL PUBLIC SERVICES

Maldon District Council	854477
Job Centre Chelmsford	0845 606 0234
Local Police (non-emergency)	101 (<i>puts you through to Essex Police</i>)

HELP & ADVICE

Maldon Citizens Advice Bureau	841195
Social Services	08457 430 430
Victim Support (charity for victims of crime)	08 08 16 89 111
Women's Aid	01245 493114
Alcoholics Anonymous	01904 644026
Childline	0800 1111
Universal Credit Helpline	0800 328 5644
Salvation Army	853942
Gingerbread (Charity for single parents)	01245 352708
Outhouse East (LGBT Charity)	01206 871394 (<i>7pm-10pm weekdays</i>)
National Domestic Abuse/Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247 (<i>open 24 hrs, every day</i>)

ELECTRICITY & WATER

UK Power Networks	0800 783 8838
Anglian Water (Sewage flooding)	03457 145 145
Essex & Suffolk Water	0345 782 0999

TRAVEL

National Rail Enquiries	0845 748 4950
Hedingham Omnibuses Ltd	01206 769778 or 564581
Regal Busways	01245 249001
First Eastern National Buses	0845 678 2977
Bus Station Chelmsford	01245 263859
Bus Station Colchester	01206 572478
Stansted Airport	0844 335 1803

SPORTS CENTRES

Blackwater Leisure Centre	851898
Witham Leisure Centre	0845 260 1535