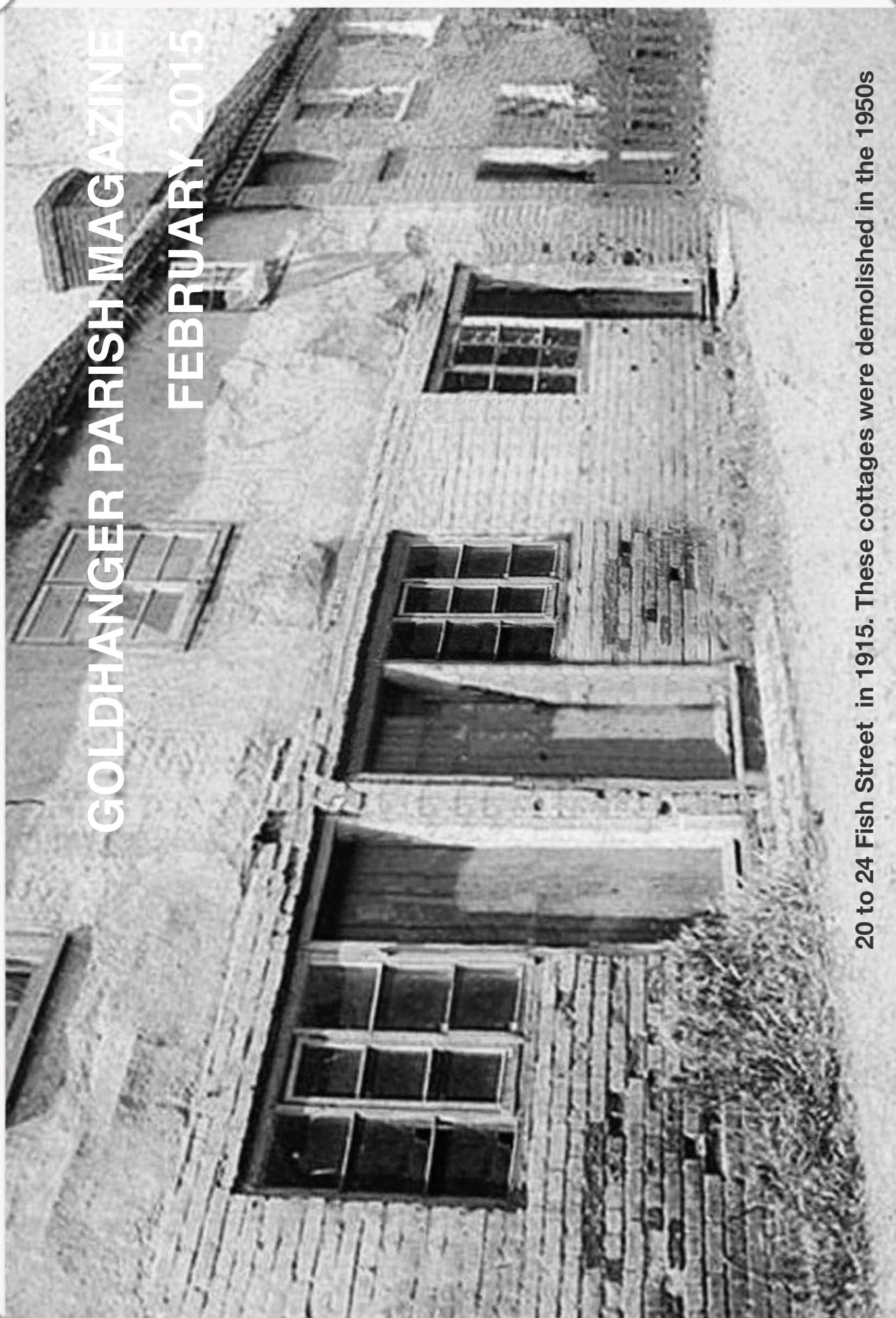


# GOLDHANGER PARISH MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2015



20 to 24 Fish Street in 1915. These cottages were demolished in the 1950s

## **120 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. There have been some breaks in publication, most notably during both World Wars, and in 2015 it will be 120 years old.

To celebrate 120 years of our Parish Magazine we will have a different cover each month during 2015 picturing Goldhanger at different times through our history. There will also be an article about Goldhanger and its history.

Magazine Editors:	Stephen & Chris	788369
		parishmag@goldhanger.org.uk
Magazine Advertising:	Morag Wood	788495
		advertising@goldhanger.org.uk

This magazine is run entirely by volunteers and relies on donations and advertising to fund it. Please bear this in mind when submitting advertising and articles. Your donations will be gratefully received.

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

Adverts and donations are to be delivered to Morag Wood, Advertising Coordinator, at Elms Bakery, Church Street (next door but one to the Cricketers).

**NB** - All copy and advertising to be submitted before the 16th of the month please.

**Goldhanger is also on the internet at: [www.goldhanger.org.uk](http://www.goldhanger.org.uk)**

**Goldhanger History website: [www.churchside1.plus.com/Goldhanger-past/](http://www.churchside1.plus.com/Goldhanger-past/)**

### **What's on in Goldhanger this month**

<b>Women's Institute</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>	<b>Wednesday 4th</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>P. 24</b>
<b>Art Society</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>	<b>Thursday 12th</b>	<b>1:30pm</b>	<b>P. 13</b>
<b>Wildlife Watching</b>	<b>Meet at Church</b>	<b>Thursday 12th</b>	<b>2.00pm</b>	<b>P. 18</b>
<b>Bingo</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>		<b>See village noticeboards</b>	
<b>Parish Council Meeting</b>	<b>Village Hall</b>	<b>Tuesday 10th</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>P. 7</b>

## Past Descriptions of Goldhanger

*Some extracts from the History Archives...*

### *White's Directory of Essex, in 1848...*

Goldhanger, a neat and pleasant village, at the head of a short creek, on the north side of the estuary of the Blackwater, 4 miles east north east of Maldon, has in its parish 520 souls. The village has a fair for toys on Whit-Monday. A great part of the parish is low and marshy, but on the north side the surface rises gently, and the soil is a gravelly loam.

### *Lewis's Topographical Dictionary of England, in 1848...*

The living is a rectory, valued in the king's books at £25 19s 4d and in the gift of the Rev, Thomas Leigh. There are places of worship for Independents and Wesleyans. The Romans are supposed to have effected a landing from the river Blackwater; and some mounds in the parish show that they encamped here.

### *Maldon & Burnham Standard, in 1939...*

This tiny Essex village nestles on one of the numerous creeks in the Essex coast. The world has passed Goldhanger by, for it remains today as it was when the English civil war began. Leading from the village centre is Fish Street, which with its cream washed cottages might well have been taken from a Cornish village and planted here.

### *Essex Countryside magazine, in 1962...*

There has never been any gold in "Goldangre" except that made by salt-makers, oyster-dredgers and the scallywags who were always opening up unlicensed ale-houses with attendant facilities of "gamming". Of all Goldhanger's sins, smuggling was the least, because the men in a revenue cutter anchored off the Stumbles had a clear view of anything creeping up the Blackwater! These times the Creek is a quiet place, for the salt-making, carried on here since Roman times finished.

### *Shell Guide to Essex, by Norman Scarfe in 1968...*

Goldhanger - Before Norman times "the slope where marsh-marigolds hung". The main delight now is its creek on the Blackwater and the walk from Decoy Point over to Osea Island. In the village the Chequers is a place for tales of wild-fowling and the old bargeing days. A wheel turned village pump is still in use at the corner of Head St and Church St.

For more past descriptions, Google: goldhanger past descriptions  
David Newman ([www.Churchside1.plus.com/Goldhanger-past](http://www.Churchside1.plus.com/Goldhanger-past))

# Goldhanger Church Services

## **Sunday 1st February Candlemas**

8.30am           Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.30am           Parish Communion by extension (CW)

## **Monday 2nd**

7.00pm           Evening prayer

## **Sunday 8th February Sexagesima**

### **Creation Sunday**

8.30am           Holy Communion by extension (BCP)  
10.00am          Family Service

## **Sunday 15th February Quinquagesima**

### **Transfiguration Sunday**

8.30am           Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.00am          Family Service with pancake race!  
                    Pancake brunch afterwards

## **Monday 16th**

7.00pm           Evening prayer

## **Wednesday 18th Ash Wednesday**

7.30pm           Holy Communion with imposition of ashes

## **Sunday 22nd February First Sunday in Lent**

8.30am           Holy Communion by extension (BCP)  
9.30am           Parish Communion

## **Wednesday 25th February**

12.30pm          Picnic Service

## **Sunday 1st March Second Sunday in Lent**

8.30am           Holy Communion (BCP)  
9.30am           Parish Communion by extension (CW)

\* BCP denotes a service from The Book of Common Prayer using traditional language

\* CW denotes a service from Common Worship using contemporary language.

## **Flags for February**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**



**Thomas Woolford**

## ST. PETER'S GOLDHANGER

Rector of Goldhanger Little Totham & Great Totham	Reverend Jonathan Pearce The Rectory 1 Hall Road Great Totham CM9 8NN	01621 893150 revdjpearce@aol.com
Church Wardens:	Mr George Bunting Mrs Betty Abrey	788234 01206 384894
Flowers for Church:	Mrs Elaine Clark	788686 elaclark@me.com

Benefice website: [www.totham-goldhanger-churches.org.uk](http://www.totham-goldhanger-churches.org.uk)

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The services at St Peter's church are for everyone. We are pleased to have children at all of the services. There is a family service once a month. We are also pleased to have people of other denominations worshipping.

Mother's Union meets on the fourth Friday of each month 1.45pm at Honeywood Hall, Hall Road, Great Totham.

The Wednesday lunchtime Picnic Service for Parents and toddlers. Last Wednesday of the month in term time.

Please get in touch with the Rector or churchwardens if you are considering baptism for yourself or your children, confirmation, weddings, funeral arrangements, Holy Communion at home or if you would just like a visit.

### **From the Parish Registers**

#### **Christian Burial**

5th January Mary Alice Owers      aged 79 years

### **Parish Prayers**

If you would like someone, an event or concern included in church prayers please write your request in the book in the Lady Chapel.

Votive candles are lit at Sunday Services.

### **Oops announcement!**

Last month a message from Lesley was included, thanking the PCC for her lovely flowers. It was placed against the Parish Councillors' page when it was intended to thank the Parochial Church Council instead ...



**Saturday 21st March 2015**

**Great fun for all the family - bring your children and grandchildren**

**Goldhanger Village Hall**

**Doors Open: 7.00pm Eyes Down: 7.30pm**

**Finish: 10.00pm**

**Raffle**

**Tea/Coffee and Cake available during the interval**

If anyone would like a lift to the Village Hall and be taken home after Bingo please ring Debbie on 788709

#### **Warning over 'Nottingham Knockers'**

Police in Essex are warning residents that a group of young salesmen, dubbed the 'Nottingham Knockers', have been visiting Goldhanger.

They claim to be ex-convicts attempting to mend their ways, before trying to sell the householder everyday household products at very high prices.

Always ask for a Pedlar's Certificate, which is a legal requirement issued by police for salespeople to be legally allowed to sell door-to-door. If they do not have one - DO NOT BUY FROM THEM OR LET THEM INTO YOUR HOUSE.

Some UK regions have discovered a notable rise in crime during the times their local areas were being visited by this group.

## **GOLDHANGER PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Report on the Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

The Council has asked BT to repaint the telephone box in the Square.

Maldon District Council's Emergency Planning Officer will attend the March meeting to give a talk on how the Council will respond to future problems such as tidal surges and extreme weather.

#### **Planning**

The following decision by the Planning Inspectorate was noted:

FUL/MAL/14/00361 – proposal to demolish the existing hangar and to erect a dwelling – Falcon Hall Little Totham Road: Appeal dismissed.

Maldon District Council has approved the following application:

LBC/MAL/14/01138 – single storey front extension to annexe, enlarge garage and storage area with lean to roof with finishes to match existing – Hall Farm 5 Church Street. The Parish Council had raised with officers the “occasional use area” mentioned in the application but was informed that this was not part of the application. Councillor Mr Sargeant will pursue this further.

Pond at St Peter's Close – Maldon District Council has advised that there has been a breach of the Section 106 agreement on this site, and the developer has been asked to provide an explanation.

Councillors supported the following applications:

TCA/MAL/14/01090 – T1 lilac, fell to ground – 15 Fish Street.

FUL/MAL/14/01197 – Application for variation of conditions 9 and 14 on approved application FUL/MAL/10/01070 – reduce the minimum hub height of turbines and to facilitate the option to deliver turbine components via marine delivery.

#### **Parish precept**

Councillors considered and adopted the final version of the budget and resolved to ask for a precept of £6,250. This figure will include funds to enforce parking restrictions in the village.

#### **Highways**

Essex County Council has been asked to give an update on land drainage issues in the village. It was noted that kerbstone gulleys in Maldon Road are not working and this will also be reported. The Local Highways Panel has been asked to clarify and report progress on various schemes in the village, including speed restriction measures in Maldon Road, the 20mph speed limit in Fish Street and work on Charity Farm bends. The bus cage has now been installed in the Square but there is a gap between the existing yellow lines and the cage. This will be looked into.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Vysian Banyard  
Parish Clerk

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#### **Local council elections 2015**

Parish Council elections will be held in May of this year. If you are interested in standing for the office of a Councillor and have:

- A willingness to represent others
- An interest in caring for the community
- A desire to make a difference in the parish

You can apply to Maldon District Council for nomination papers – closing date is 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

If you would like to contact either the clerk or councillors to find out what is involved in standing for elections, you will find contact details elsewhere in the magazine.

Macmillan Cancer Support  
89 Albert Embankment  
London SE1 7UQ  
tel 020 7840 7840  
fax 020 7840 7841

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P Sargeant  
Goldhanger Friends and Neighbours  
15 Head Street  
Goldhanger  
MALDON  
Essex  
CM9 8AY

1 December 2014  
Supporter Reference: 5551091

Dear Pat,

**We appreciate your support**

Thank you so much to everyone at Goldhanger Friends and Neighbours for your very kind donation of £100 to Macmillan Cancer Support. No one should have to face cancer alone, and your generosity and support will help us to make sure that no one does.

**Support every step of the way**

Following a cancer diagnosis, patients often have many questions for the Macmillan team. Alongside our support line and information specialists, our Macmillan Nurses are there to answer these questions and to provide support. Kate recalls how her Macmillan nurse Vikki was there for her following a cervical cancer diagnosis, "Vikki stopped me from spiralling into despair. She caught me before I got there. I felt like Vikki was a friend rather than a nurse. I couldn't have gone through it without her".

**How your Support Helps**

Your donation will ensure that we help patients, carers, families and communities every step of the way. It will allow us to fund more nurses and therapists to help people through cancer treatment. Provide more information and support centres offering free and confidential advice and support us in our campaigns to improve cancer care and fight discrimination.

If you'd like to know more about our work and how you can get further involved, please take a look through the enclosed leaflet, Help Us Make a Big Difference.

**Thank you once again for being a part of Team Macmillan. We couldn't do it without you.**

With best wishes,



Jaspreet Bhangoo  
Supporter Donations Team  
Tel: 0300 1000 200  
Email: [fundraising@macmillan.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@macmillan.org.uk)

**PS Get your group involved and hold a match in support of Macmillan. For more details please visit [Macmillan.org.uk/match](http://Macmillan.org.uk/match)**

**DATA PROTECTION STATEMENT**

By submitting your donation and personal information you agree to us recording your details on our database, so we can provide you with the best possible support every time you contact us. We will also contact you from time to time by phone, email, text or post to tell you about how we can support you and how you can get involved with our team. Your details will be kept securely and only shared with our suppliers or partners who work on our behalf or with us to deliver and improve services for people affected by cancer. **We never sell or swap your details with third parties.** If you prefer us not to use your details in this way, you can email [contact@macmillan.org.uk](mailto:contact@macmillan.org.uk), telephone 0300 1000 200, or write to us at Macmillan Cancer Support, 89 Albert Embankment, London, SE1 7UQ

## **CHILDREN'S PAGE**

We thought of putting a page in the magazine for children.

This could include quizzes, jokes, making things, achievements at school or clubs, anything you would like to see.

Please send any submissions to: [parishmag@goldhanger.org.uk](mailto:parishmag@goldhanger.org.uk) or post it through our door at 12a Church Street.

Q: What did Cinderella say when her photos did not show up? (See below for the answer - don't cheat!)

**It's Pancake Day on February 17th.** Why not help a grown up make the batter for some pancakes of your own? You might want to let an adult toss the pancakes though because you could make quite a mess if you drop them.

You can sprinkle on lemon juice and sugar or try strawberries and chocolate, bananas and honey, or desiccated coconut and chocolate.

There's a pancake recipe on page 24 in this magazine.

A: Someday my prints will come!

St Peter's Church, Goldhanger – Parish Magazine

C/o Holly Cottage, Head Street, Goldhanger, Essex, CM9 8AY

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Dear Pat and Villagers

Thank you so much for your kind donation from the signing of the Christmas Card in the Parish Magazine.

The Parish Magazine is run entirely on donations from individuals and also from advertisers, without the support of either the magazine would not survive. The donation will be used towards the costs of publishing the magazine.

Thank you once again.

Parish Magazine

*Sally*

---

Received from Pat and residents of Goldhanger a donation

In respect of the Parish Magazine

In the sum of £55.00 (fifty five pounds).



**Weddings**  
**Bouquets, Church and Reception**

**Funerals**  
**Sprays, Tributes**

**Bouquets/Events**  
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*Contact Mary Crossman for Brochure/Prices*  
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**07890 213464**

*3 Church Street, Goldhanger*  
*e mail: [contact@myflowersandevents.co.uk](mailto:contact@myflowersandevents.co.uk)*  
*website: [www.myflowersandevents.co.uk](http://www.myflowersandevents.co.uk)*

Goldhanger Village Hall Management Committee

Spring Event will be

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**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

*Tickets £ 20.00*

*Contact: Chris 788578 or Debbie 788709*

*Theme Dress optional*

The Vicar/Rector writes:

February – it's here again!

I must admit to enjoying February each year, on the whole, while recognising that many people don't like it much. Personally, I can enjoy the cold and the dark, including some of the best walking and bird-watching opportunities of the year, with a nice warm fire in the evenings. The month can bring some of the coldest weather of winter, of course. I well remember the February of 1963, the coldest winter of my life so far. Mr Cooper, headmaster of my junior school, said in an assembly that we mustn't throw snowballs at each other any more. The snow had been lying around for so long that it had been transformed into ice. "It's like throwing stones at each other!" he said. (As I recall it, throwing stones at each other was not quite the alien concept that he seemed to think it was!)

My Grandfather, however, seemed to epitomise all that people dislike in the month, always going down with some nasty bug or virus at this time of year. "It's here again," he would say, shivering in front of a roaring fire in their tiny sitting room. It seemed appropriate, if sad, that he died during February 1981. I expect his feelings about February were jaded by having to work out of doors a lot during the month, and in winters that were perhaps a bit been colder on average than today.

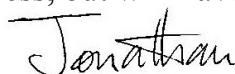
The cold and darkness of February can symbolise many things for us:

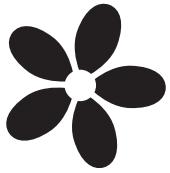
darkness can be frightening, full of things that we might fall over or that will jump out at us. For a few poor souls, darkness can be a dreadful nothingness, a deadness that comes to those who are driven to shutting out all feelings. We all face 'darkness' at times, the loss of a loved one, or perhaps the loss of something precious to us like health or youth. Then we have to wait in darkness. There are obvious elements of darkness in the wider world at the time of writing – the terrorist attack in France, ebola, the Isis reign of fear in Syria and Iraq \_\_\_\_.

There is also the warm, friendly darkness of the womb, though, which we do not consciously remember, but psychologists tell us is one of the most rewarding stages in life. We should also consider the abundance of activity going on in the cold, dark earth at this time of year as the sap begins to rise, and everything begins to get ready for another spring. There is not much evidence of this above ground apart from the Snowdrops, my favourite, pushing through and coming into flower. The cold and dark also bring opportunities for restful sleep at night, in contrast to those hot, restless nights of summer.

The feast of Candlemas, (2nd February) has a 'bitter-sweet' nature. It is a kind of pivot in the Christian year. It is the end of Christmas and Epiphany season, forty days after Christmas Day, and usually leads on in a matter of a few weeks into Lent. Candlemas is a time of rejoicing in that it recalls the child Jesus being presented in the Temple, and being greeted by the elderly Anna and Simeon. But alongside saying words which are encouraging and joyful, Simeon also says that the child is destined for the fall and rise of many, and speaks of the sword which will pierce Mary his mother's heart. This points to Jesus' suffering and death. It is as if the church says, on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 'one last look back to Christmas, and then turn towards the cross.'

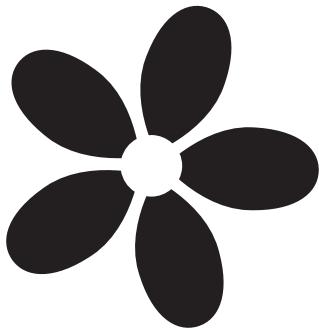
The central theme of Candlemas is Jesus being the light in the darkness, ( St. John's Gospel ch. 1 et al), hence the traditional name of the festival. Whether this month brings for us 'darkness' or not, we can rely on Christ being our light. He says "I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."





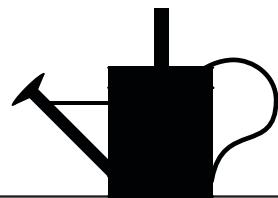
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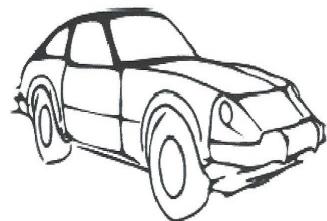
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## Head Street Sewer Blockage

Just before Christmas the Head Street sewer which serves Head Street from the Square up to and including Peartree Close was blocked for the second time in 2014. Each time the cause has been WIPES. I would ask whoever it is flushing these wipes down the toilet to cease the practice. This is a major concern to all of us served by this sewer since sewage backs up in all the manholes both on private property and in the street. The final stretch of this sewer runs the whole length of our garden at number 17 and it usually falls to us to notify Anglian Water. The unblocking process can take anything up to two days and can involve us in allowing machinery into our garden. Anglian Water have been running an advertising campaign on television against the flushing of WIPES down the toilet. Would those responsible please take the Anglian Water television message and this request to heart.

*Francis Erridge.  
17. Head Street.*

*Anglian Water is reminding people in Clacton to keep drains clear after underwear caused a blockage at one of its pumping stations last month.*

*Wipes and cooking fats are the biggest cause of avoidable blockages, but the water company says even expensive items like mobile phones and wedding rings have been found in the sewers, and a recent third party poll estimated that 5,000 pairs of pants had to be cleared from the UK's drains last year.*



## Goldhanger Art Society

Meets in Goldhanger Village Hall on the second Thursday of the month from **2pm to 4.30pm.**

- February 12th meeting will be members bringing their own still life - in whatever, style, colour, shape or theme - using which ever medium they fancy.
- March 12th is a demonstration followed by a "questions and answers time" by John Kay Water colour painter. £5 for non members. Please check before hand.
- April 9th - AGM.

Every meeting refreshments are provided with biscuits or maybe cake!! Annual Art Exhibition in September - date to be confirmed. For any further details please ring Jane 01621 892565.



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## Baby Pilot Whale stranded at Goldhanger

Many members of the village community will have seen the news relating to a large group of Pilot Whales that had arrived at the mouth of the Blackwater. There was much speculation as to why they were there, what they were doing and what would happen if there was a mass stranding. There was much water-borne activity where attempts were made to keep the group in deep water. I would like to add to the speculation with the following tale.

In the late afternoon of the 20<sup>th</sup> November, I answered a knock on my front door to a chap who was responding to reports of a stranded Pilot Whale at Goldhanger. He wanted to know if, when it was recovered, they would be able to leave it in the Sailing Club compound awaiting pick-up the following morning.

I was embroiled in a similar incident a few years ago when a porpoise was stranded in the creek. This involved a team travelling up from Regents Park Zoo, to recover the body and take it away for necropsy.

I told him that we would like to assist in the recovery and host the whale at the club if we could get it there. Mike Webster and I cycled up to the club where we met 2 ladies from British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR). We were soon met by my earlier visitor and his assistant where between us all, we recovered the body from thick mud about 80yds off the sea wall at the sailing club's race hut. By this time darkness was upon us. The whale was dragged via a tarpaulin onto a club dinghy trolley, up the beach steps and subsequently back to the club compound.

There was concern that if the general public and press were to find out its location, there could be problems with contamination, so we were strongly advised to keep the whale's location quiet until she was collected the following morning. At 0830 the following morning, Dr.Rob Devere from the Zoological Society arrived and did an initial examination of the body. He declared that it was a very young emaciated female, the thinnest he had ever seen. He was pleased that the body had been kept firmly wrapped and protected from foxes etc. and said that there should be no human contact with it due to a number of sores on its skin. Fortunately Mike and I had taken gloves with us in order to do the manhandling the previous evening.

We managed to get the 200Kg+ 7ft long whale into Rob's Land Rover and bade him farewell. Not before he told us a couple of tales about his previous encounters with the Police when they had observed him travelling around the M25 with "the catch of the day!!".

I have attached a photo of our little whale along with the following email update from the autopsy (necropsy). By the time this is published, I should have received the full necropsy report. If anyone is interested in viewing it, I am happy to email it to them.

*Hi Rod,*

*Apologies for not getting back to you, we have been incredibly busy the last week or so (just returned from N.Wales after a Pygmy sperm whale stranded.)*

*continued ...*

Please find attached some text (below) that my colleague has posted to our Facebook page, Please feel free to use as is, or take out what you would like to add. We should hopefully know by the end of next week, as to whether there was any underlying infection that could have led to its loss of body condition and ultimately death.

Its interesting that since this has been found the whales have not been seen since, and there is a well-known theory called the 'sick leader' theory that states that pilot whales will follow the leader on to the beach if it is compromised. This may need to be changed to 'sick individual' theory now, of course this is speculation, and is very hard to prove. I know there are attempts to see if they can identify this animal as the one that was observed appearing to be behaving erratically/sick at sea.

I will let you know (or please email) when we have the results back.

A CSIP team from ZSL carried out a necropsy today on the long-finned pilot whale (national reference SW2014/428) found stranded at Goldhanger yesterday. The whale was found in partial rigor mortis yesterday afternoon (20th November), which had disappeared by the time the whale was retrieved by the CSIP this morning. This indicates that the whale is likely to have died on the morning of 20th November, possibly around the time that the pod of whales was observed up the Blackwater River near Osea Island.

The necropsy showed that it was a 218cm female juvenile/calf in very poor nutritional condition and had probably stranded alive prior to death. No significant evidence of recent feeding was found, with remnants of several small crustaceans and several squid beaks in one of the stomach chambers. A light burden of nematode parasites and several fragments of litter/plastic were also present within one of the stomach chambers. These were too small to be considered a causal factor in the stranding. Various skin lesions were observed - some are possibly viral in origin, others may be symptomatic of its general debilitation and/or the period of time spent in brackish water in the estuary

Follow up tests are pending, including several to determine whether the animal had an underlying infection- these should be finalised within 1-2 weeks. Pending further tests, the most likely cause of stranding and death at this stage is starvation.

The CSIP have been collecting data on cetacean strandings in the UK since 1990, and now hold information on over 12000 individual strandings. In that time, only one long-finned pilot whale has been recorded stranded on the UK coast in the southern North Sea (a single individual in Norfolk in 1992), indicating how unusual this event is.

Many thanks to Emma Webb at BDMLR and to the staff of Goldhanger sailing club for all their much appreciated help in the retrieval of the body.

Best wishes

Matt Matthew Perkins BSc Pathology Technician  
continued ...

The new spin on what was happening with the whale group is that they were in fact nursing the sick baby. The group split, with about 20 coming up past the Ross Revenge (Radio Caroline) and on up to Osea. Here the youngster left the group and beached herself near our race hut. The group waited a full tide and once distress calls ceased, they returned back to Mersea where they met with the rest of the group and rapidly vanished.

It is interesting that once the body had beached at Goldhanger, there were no other sightings of the whales, despite their prominence in the press and on the national news. Despite concerns about mass stranding, the experts seem to think that the group knew what they were doing and were taking great care of their stricken youngster. As reported above, there have been 12000 reported cetacean strandings with only 1 previous Pilot Whale stranding. The Goldhanger event, although sad, was a very rare occurrence and we feel privileged to have been involved in such an unusual event.



**Rod Brown-Lee**

### **OPEN GARDENS IN GOLDHANGER**

Somebody has contacted us to ask whether or when there will be an open gardens day this year as they would like to add their garden to the list.

If anyone has any knowledge of this please contact the magazine editors (*details inside front cover*) so we can pass it on. Thank you.

### **GOLDHANGER VILLAGE HALL**

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The pod of 40 Long-finned Pilot Whales, (Pictured) in the Blackwater Estuary mid-November was undoubtedly the wildlife event of a lifetime. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month, some Cley, (North Norfolk) Bird Club members witnessed the pod passing by, heading for Sheringham. I have only ever seen Pilot Whales in deep water – the Bay of Biscay, and on one occasion, an individual in the South-western Approaches near to the Scilly Isles. The origin of the name “Pilot Whale” is a matter for speculation, but it used to be believed that they would

guide ships to port in poor weather conditions.

Back to November, a young, emaciated female of 2.3 metres in length beached herself at Goldhanger Sailing Club. It was feared that others would follow suit, due to the very close social bonding in pilot whale pods, but fortunately the other, (Presumably healthy) animals went quickly back out to sea.

Over the past couple of years, Polecats have featured a number of times in this article. The new “Mammals of Essex” book by John Dobson and Darren Tansley, revised and published at the end of last year, confirms that Polecats are returning to mid-Essex, with Maldon (District) being mentioned alongside Little Waltham, Great Leighs and Boreham as sites where this is taking place. Sadly, they are only being reported to Essex Wildlife Trust as road kills at present. To date I’ve found three Polecat or Polecat/Ferret crosses at the roadside, at Tiptree Heath, Wickham Bishops, and Little Totham. A couple of live animals have been spotted in gardens, in Braxted and on the Seagers estate in Great Totham.

Melenistic, (Dark coloured) Pheasants have been noticed of late, with two hens together at Goldhanger, and one at Fingringhoe Wick, near to the Visitors Centre. An albinistic, (Pale coloured) individual has been present at Church Road, Great Totham. Genetic aberration to black or white pigmentation, or to any colour for that matter, is widespread across the entire realm of nature – consider farmyard ducks, for example, and all of the shapes, sizes and colours that they have been bred into, from wild Mallard ancestors. There was great excitement among birdwatchers a few years ago when a presumed male Red-footed Falcon, (very rare in this country) was found in Cambridgeshire – it turned out to be a melenistic Kestrel!

Birdwatching has been very rewarding lately, culminating in a gem of a January “Second Thursdays” afternoon at Abberton Reservoir, Layer Bretton Causeway. We quickly found the two drakes and one duck Smew, (Pictured) that were known to be present, and some Goldeneye. Then a female or juvenile Marsh Harrier flew past. We saw a Bittern from a distance sitting at the edge of the reed bed. It then took to flight, looking very prehistoric somehow as it turned away from us over the reeds and bushes. A Stonechat perched on a fencepost briefly.

Here's to the rest of the winter!

 Jonathan



Second Thursdays – February. Meet as always at Goldhanger church, 2.00pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February. We'll decide where to go then. All welcome.

## Honouring those killed in the Great War recorded on our memorial.

This is being done by raising the Union Flag on the Church on the 100th anniversary of their death and ringing the bells for a short time during that day.

The 2nd to be honoured is Thomas Woolford. He died on 3rd February 1915. He was a Coastguard and Royal Naval Reservist who lived in the village.

Parish magazine May 1915 records:

### THOMAS WOOLFORD

Till lately one of our coastguards, at the outbreak of war was called up, and went in the North Sea for four months on HMS Royal Arthur. He then was sent aboard an armed liner, HMS Clan McNaughton, and left Liverpool on 23rd January, and the last time she was heard of was 3rd February. The Admiralty have lately given notice that she has been lost with all hands, how and when is not known. His high character made him a general favourite with all here and we mourn his loss, and our deep sympathy goes out to Mrs Woolford in her heavy affliction. R.I.P.

HMS Clan McNaughton was a passenger cargo vessel of 4,985 tons launched on 28th June 1911. She was requisitioned in November 1914 and hastily converted into something she was never intended to be - a warship, which would have included mounting guns up on deck, well above her normal centre of gravity. A hotchpotch crew was then cobbled together for her: career RN officers, although her engineer officers had all been Merchant Navy, some career RN ratings, but many of the rest of her crew were reservists including some men from Newfoundland, one or two RN pensioners, plus no less than 50 boys straight out of the training shore base at Shotley, HMS Ganges. She was in radio contact off the North Coast of Ireland at about 6am on the morning of 3rd February 1915 and reported terrible weather conditions. Nothing further was ever heard of her. Some floating wreckage was found about a fortnight later in the approximate area of her last known position but it could not be identified as having come from her. Her complete crew of 261 was lost.

The truth is that no-one knows for certain what did happen to her. A mine theory was put forward as a possible cause of the loss. But if you think about it, surely the odds must be seriously stacked against a ship encountering a drifting mine out in the Atlantic Ocean.

The Rector said "personally speaking, I believe that the real cause of her loss was a combination of three factors: an Atlantic gale, she had been converted into something she had never been designed to be with those guns quite possibly making her top heavy in such weather, and a real mixture of a crew who had only limited experience of the ship and how she sailed".

CHATHAM NAVAL MEMORIAL



Thomas's name was not included on our memorial after the war for some reason but was added this year. It is included on the Chatham Naval Memorial along with the names of the other crew members lost. Interestingly the crew members from Canada are also included on the Newfoundland memorial at Beaumont Hamel on the Somme.

A search of the internet gave a great deal of information about HMS Clan McNaughton but not a picture which could be said to be definitely her. The Clan line had many ships and another Clan McNaughton was built in 1921 and was sunk by a U-boat in the 2nd World War.

*Article by Barry Unger*

## Pancake Day is the 17th February 2015

### Pancake recipe

(makes about 12 small pancakes)

- 100g white plain flour
- 1 free-range egg
- 150ml milk
- 150ml water
- 1 teaspoon olive oil (plus more for greasing the pan)

Sift the flour into a bowl, make a well in the centre and break in the egg.

Add a little milk and stir gently.

Add the rest of the milk slowly and stir until smooth. Stir in the water and oil and beat for one minute.

(If you have an electric whisk bung all the ingredients in a bowl and whisk until you have a smooth batter).

Heat a drop of oil in an omelette pan. When the pan is really hot, pour in about 3 tablespoons of batter. Cook for just under a minute - using a spatula to keep an eye on how it's cooking.

Now the fun bit ... FLIP IT - or if you find you're dropping too many, turn it over with the spatula.

Cook the other side for 15 seconds.

Turn onto a plate and drench with your favourite topping.

Eat with gusto! (or a knife and fork)



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## **GOLDHANGER, LITTLE TOTHAM and TOLLESHUNT MAJOR W.I.**

February 4th is the date of our next meeting to be held in the Village Hall at 7.30.p.m. The speaker will be Ron Ratcliffe, who was very well-received when he spoke on the subject of the Titanic. His talk this time is about NEW SCOTLAND YARD. If you have a seasonal, single flower to bring along it will be most welcome for the 'flower of the month' competition.

We welcomed guests and entertainers from the village to our January meeting which was a 'CHEESE AND WINE' evening. Thanks to the generous donations of chutneys, pates, terrines , breads etc to complement the cheese selections, we were able to enjoy an excellent supper as we welcomed in a new year of meetings and activities.

May we thank all our members for contributing to a very enjoyable evening. The entertainment was a joy. We were enthralled by ABBA, ELVIS, CLIFF RICHARD and ROY ORBISON brought to us by the talents of Ray, Martin, Mary, Debbie, Hugh, Jenny, Keith and Sue who kindly agreed to join us for our evening. They were all excellent and such good fun. Clare played 3 items for us also and we all appreciated her superb performance. The hall was packed and members and guests agreed that it was a good start to the year.

Congratulations to Carol and Joyce who organised everything and to all who helped in any way.

We will be hosting a Lent Lunch in the Village Hall on February 27th. This is always a well-attended Village event with the proceeds being donated to Christian Aid.

Also, on February 10th there will be an outing to the Bowling Alley followed by lunch at the Izumi Restaurant. This is a very popular activity with members and details will be confirmed at the February meeting.

### **Wheelchair available**

A manual wheelchair is available, which can be borrowed by anyone in the village.

Please contact Andrew Christy on 01621 788432 for details.

The village magazine is supported only by our regular advertisers and your donations. That's it!

Any articles about the village or for the benefit of the village will always be included.

Whilst we try to include all other submissions these increase the cost of the magazine, therefore any donation you feel able to make for your personal interest article will be gratefully received.

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Stephen - 788369

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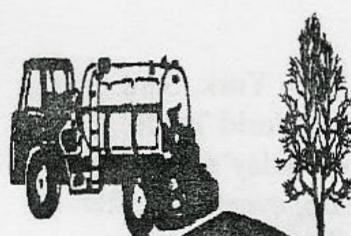
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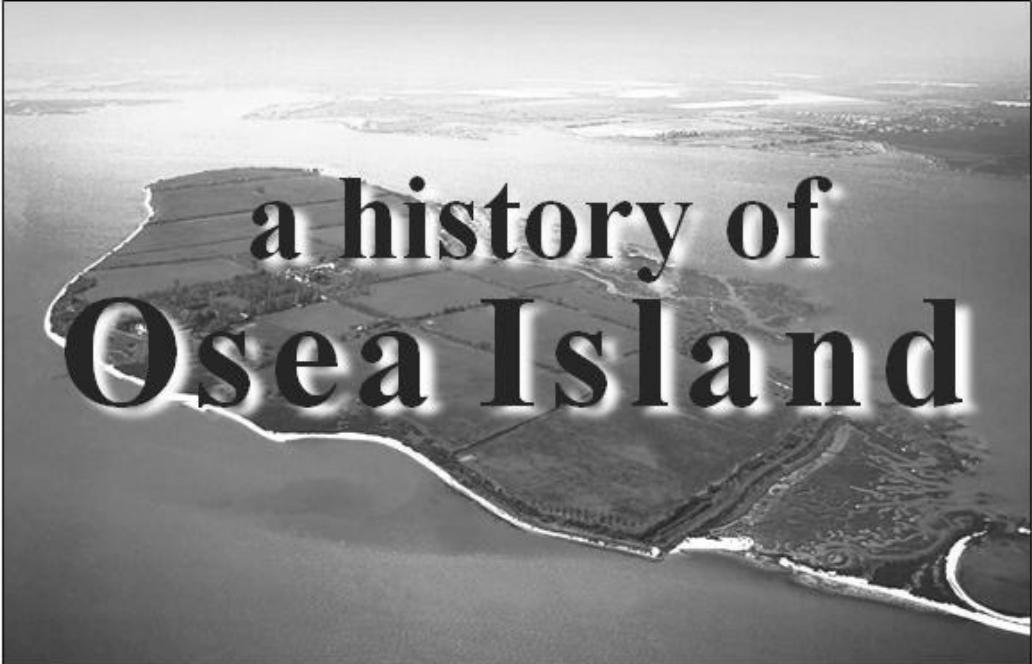
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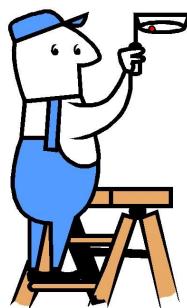
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Vice Chair:	Councillor Christopher Joslin 15 Fish Street Goldhanger CM9 8AT 01621 788578 / <a href="mailto:chrisandiillioslin@gmail.com">chrisandiillioslin@gmail.com</a>
Councillors:	Councillor Clive Cheeseman 3 Maldon Road Goldhanger CM9 8BG 01621 788433 / <a href="mailto:cheeseman3@sky.com">cheeseman3@sky.com</a>
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District Councillors	Maddie Thompson 01621 810101 Robert Long 01621 817762

## Mobile Library dates & times

Thursday dates	Location	Stop name	Arrives	Leaves
Feb: 6, 20	Ulting	Does Corner	9:40	9:55
Mar: 6, 20	Ulting	Ulting Lane/Water Co. Houses	10:00	10:15
Apr: 3, 17	Heybridge	Colne House	10:45	11:15
May: 1, 15, 29	Heybridge	Coopers Avenue	11:20	11:50
Jun: 12, 26	Heybridge Basin	Bus Stop	12:00	12:15
Jul: 10, 24	Heybridge Basin	Daisy Meadows car park	12:20	12:50
Aug: 7, 21	Goldhanger	Village Hall	14:00	14:30
	Heybridge	Plantation Hall	14:45	15:15
	Langford	Little Hills	15:30	16:00

### What goes where?



### Essex Police Contacts

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- Violence is being used or threatened

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Our neighbourhood officer is PCSO Carol Gladman and when she is on duty a contact number is **0797 084 4179**.

The neighbourhood constable for our area is police constable Leah Keene..

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Ivy Sharman is now collecting stamps for the Guide Dogs ~ 16 Head street telephone 788268.

## 95 - BUS TIMETABLE BETWEEN TOLLESBURY & MALDON

This is an abridged timetable. Don't forget - if you don't use it, we will lose it!

► Maldon	M-S	M-S	M-S	M-F SCH SAT	NSCH	M-F St
Goldhanger Square	09:10	11:10	13:10	14:40	14:50	17:57
Bentalls	09:20	11:20	13:20	14:50	15:00	20:00
TESCO	09:23	11:23	13:23	14:53	15:03	
Maldon High Street	09:26	11:26	13:26	14:56	15:06	Set down only
Maldon Leisure Centre	09:30	11:30	13:30	15:00	15:10	

► Tollesbury	M-S	M-S	M-S	M-F	M-F	M-F St
Maldon Leisure Centre	08:55	10:00	12:00	14:00	16:30	17:35
Maldon High Street	09:00	10:05	12:05	14:05	16:35	17:40
TESCO	09:05	10:10	12:10	14:10	16:40	17:45
Bentalls	09:10	10:15	12:15	14:15	16:45	17:48
Goldhanger Square	09:20	10:25	12:25	14:25	16:55	17:57

- M-F = Monday to Friday service  
 M-S = Monday to Saturday service  
 M-F SCH = Monday to Friday (School term time)  
 SAT = Saturday service  
 NSCH = Non-School days only  
 St = Stephenson's Buses

Regal Busways run the Saturday service  
 Stephensons run the weekday 17:35 service from Maldon

More information at [www.hedingham.co.uk/timetables/95](http://www.hedingham.co.uk/timetables/95)

### The Blackwater Link - 90

Runs from Maldon, Morrisons to Witham Ebenezer Close (passes Witham Station)  
 Take the 95 to Bentalls and pick up the 90 there.

For more details contact 01702-541511

Social Services	854011
Maldon Citizens Advice Bureau	841195
Victim Support	01245 422660
Women's Aid	01245 493114
Alcoholics Anonymous	01904 644026
Childline	0800 1111
The Samaritans	0345 909090
Salvation Army	853942
Gingerbread	01245 352708
Outhouse East (LGBT Charity)	0345 123 23 88 (7pm-10pm weekdays)
 E.ON (Electricity)	0800 195 5556
Loss of Electricity - EDF Energy	0800 783 8838
Gas Chelmsford	01245 264061 <i>Emergency Freephone 261</i>
Water	0845 782 0999
Bramston Sports Centre	01376 515527
Blackwater Leisure	851898
Broomfield Hospital <i>NHS</i> (Chelmsford, has A&E)	01245 362000
St Peter's Hospital <i>NHS</i> (Maldon - no A&E)	725323
Springfield Hospital <i>Private</i> (Chelmsford)	01245 234000
Stansted Airport	0844 335 1803
Heathrow Airport	0870 000 0123
Gatwick Airport	01293 535353
National Rail Enquiries	0845 748 4950
Hedingham Omnibuses Ltd	869214
Regal Busways	01245 249001
Arriva Buses	01375 374890
First Eastern National Buses	0845 678 2977
First Eastern Nat. Bus Stn. Colchester	01206 572478
National Express	0870 580 8080
 Maldon District Council	854477
Abandoned Vehicles	875830
Anti-Social behaviour	875821
Dogs - (Dog warden)	875720
Fly tipping	875801
Graffiti	875706
Noise	875818
Pest Control (MDC)	875815
Vandalism	01245 491212