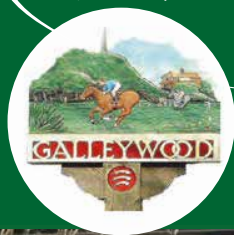
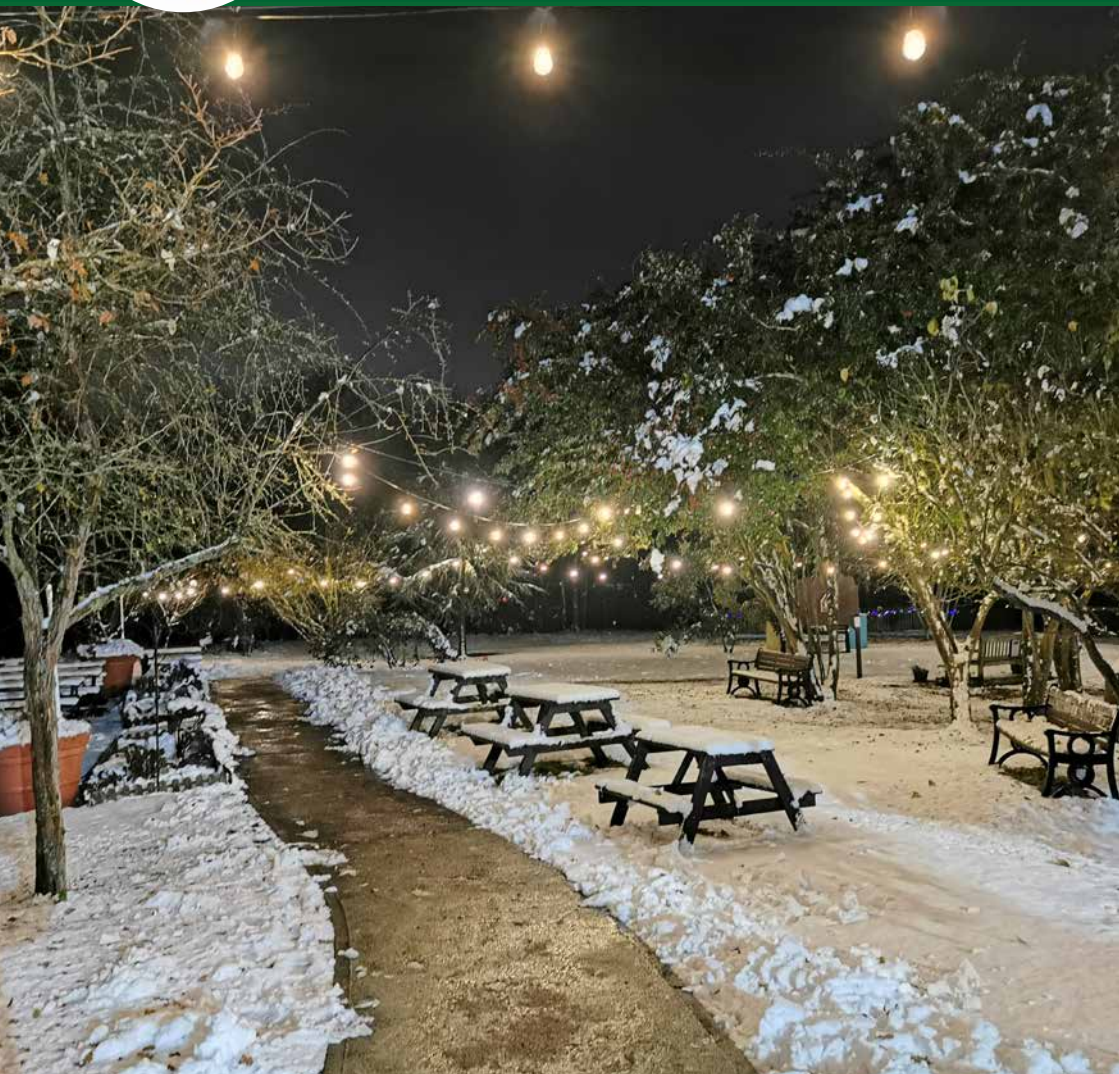


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GGCM 056

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**Deadline for the next edition is
31/01/2025**

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Galleywood Grapevine





Letter from the Chairman

Welcome to our Winter edition of the Grapevine magazine.

As I write this, the railings outside the Keene Hall are covered in poppies, hand-knitted by members of the Galleywood Women's Institute, in preparation for Armistice Day on November 11th. I hope many of you were able to come to the annual Parish Council service outside the Keene Hall, led as usual by the Vicar of St Michael's Church, the Reverend David Cattle.

During the summer, we held very enjoyable children's 'play in the park' events over two days in Jubilee and Chelmer Parks, and story-telling with a picnic at Twitten Green. Two community litter-picking days in September were very well-attended – thank you to all the volunteers who collected a small mountain of rubbish! We will be organising the next litter-picking event in the Spring, once the weather has warmed up. Please come along if you can – just an hour or two helps make a big difference to our community.

Looking forward, our senior citizens' Christmas Lunch is on Friday December 13th in the Keene Hall. Carols on the Common, in conjunction with St Michael's church, will take place at the Heritage Centre on Saturday December 21st at 4pm – no need to book, just come along to enjoy the singing and refreshments.

Finally, we have a new volunteer running the telephone-box book exchange at Pipers Tye. A big thank you to Chris, our outgoing volunteer, who has run the book exchange for a number of years.

As usual, Councillor surgeries are on the last Saturday of each month (except August and December) from 10am – 12 noon in the Galleywood Library, so please come along to meet your Parish Councillors and to discuss local issues. Alternatively, you can contact the Parish Council office at any time by telephone (**01245 358898/348756**), email (**clerk@galleywoodparishcouncil.gov.uk**) or in person on Monday through Thursday mornings. You can contact the Clerk by phone or email as usual on Friday mornings.

Further information about the Parish Council including forthcoming Council and Committee meetings and events can be found on the Council's website

www.galleywoodparishcouncil.gov.uk or on Facebook **www.facebook.com/Parish.Council**.

On behalf of the Parish Council, may I wish you a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Stephanie Troop

Chairman, Galleywood Parish Council

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We believe that 'Life Doesn't Stop' with dementia so if you are experiencing dementia or have concerns about a loved one, why not contact us – we can help!

Call us on **01245 363789** to arrange a **free** 'Taster Day' at one of our activity centres or a free two hour 'Taster Session' for our One2One service.

Visit www.essexdementiacare.org.uk for more information and to download our leaflets.

Galleywood Grapevine



Contacts

Galleywood Parish Council

www.galleywoodparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.facebook.com/Parish.Council

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Galleywood CM2 8PT

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clerk@galleywoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

Admin Assistant

Abbey Richardson 01245 348756
Admin@galleywoodparishcouncil.gov.uk

Galleywood Parish Councillors

Chairman

Cllr Stephanie Troop 01245 256008

Vice Chairman

Cllr Janette Potter 01245 352516

Councillors

Cllr Gillian Bonnett 01245 258888

Cllr Anthony McQuiggan 01245 808225

Cllr Neville Paul 01245 474891

Cllr Chris Shreeve 07948 528971

Cllr John Turkentine 01245 475263

Cllr Bill Woolward contact via Parish Council

Chelmsford City Councillors

Cllr Janette Potter 01245 352516
janette.potter@chelmsford.gov.uk

Cllr Richard Hyland 01245 475734
richard.hyland@chelmsford.gov.uk

Civic Centre

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Essex County Councillor

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01245 808225
cllr.a.mcquiggan@essex.gov.uk

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Galleywood Grapevine





Community Litter Pick Weekend

Wow, what an incredible weekend of litter-picking!

A big thank you to everyone who joined in to make Galleywood a cleaner place. We were fortunate to have sunny weather for the event, and all participants were provided with the necessary equipment and hi-viz vests. Saturday saw a great turnout, with residents of all ages coming together to help out. It was truly heartwarming to witness so many young faces taking part. In total, we managed to collect an amazing 22 bags of rubbish. A huge thank you to all the participants, and a special thanks to the library for providing tea and coffee for our hardworking volunteers.

We look forward to seeing you all next time. Please keep an eye out for the date!



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Galleywood Grapevine



Play in the park

Galleywood Parish Council once again supported Play in the Park this summer.

Play in the Park is a series of free, two-hour multi-activity sessions run for children at community and parish venues, throughout the Easter and summer holidays.

Thank you very much for your help and support towards what was another record breaking Play in the Park. We were fortunate that the sun was shining, and we all had a wonderful time at the event. Thank you to those who joined us for this fantastic occasion. We hope you enjoyed it.



The Galleywood Ladies Club 30th Anniversary Celebrations

Before The Galleywood Ladies Club there was The Galleywood Branch of the Townswomens Guild.

Unfortunately this branch of the guild closed in 1994 and it was at this time a group of the original members Of the townswomen guild decided to set up another group for ladies calling themselves The Galleywood Ladies Club.

They held their first meeting on the 19th April 1994 and have just celebrated their 30th Anniversary on the 18th July, with a garden party.

The members enjoyed an afternoon tea with strawberries and cream and lots of cake and prosecco. Even the sun shone all afternoon for them.



Visitors are always welcome. Come along and join us. We meet at the Keene Hall on every 3rd Thursday of the month at 8pm.

Our next meeting is on 16th January 2025.



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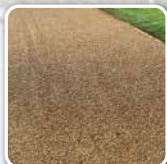
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Storytelling Event

This summer on 1st August, we were thrilled to have the very talented Mike Dodsworth return for a free event hosted by the Parish Council.

Mike is a skilled storyteller with over 17 years of experience performing throughout the UK and internationally. Centered at Twitten Green, he shared his unique and captivating storytelling with the children, who were mesmerised by his ability to bring stories to life. We were fortunate to have sunny weather, and everyone had a fantastic time. Thank you to all who joined us for this wonderful event.



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A message from your Vicar, Rev'd David Cattle

I've done quite a bit of travelling recently.

A member of my close family needed emergency heart surgery in Liverpool, so I have travelled up there a couple of times to be with my family. I went by train, which I think is a great way to travel – I love the feeling of freedom at railway stations, I love seeing the countryside speed past the window, and I get to read a book or do some work on my laptop if need to.

Train journeys can sometimes be difficult, though. It's frustrating when trains are late, or are randomly cancelled at the last minute. On one of my journeys to Liverpool, I sat on a train that was ready to depart, and then the Train Manager announced that the train wasn't going anywhere because of an electrical fault – all the toilet doors were shut and they couldn't get them open! So, we all had to get off the train, walk around Euston station to another platform, and get on another train. And the worse part of train travel, for me, is when you need to endure the dreaded bus replacement service! I was outside Lime Street Station in Liverpool, recently, and there were too many people, too few busses, and too little organisation. It was chaos. In the end, I had to get a bus to a place that was not on my original plan, but at least I could get a train home from there.

The Christmas story involves lots of travelling, and not all of it nice and easy. Joseph and his young pregnant fiancé Mary had to travel from Nazareth in the north of the country to Bethlehem in the south. According to Google Maps, it is a journey of 146 km, and takes about 34 hours if you are walking. Let's hope they really did have a little donkey to carry Mary safely on the way!

The shepherds travelled from the fields around Bethlehem into the town to see the new-born Messiah, Jesus. The appearance of angels in the field must have terrified them, and then they left their sheep (their livelihood) behind. And the wise men came from far in the East, making a difficult and long journey, and stopping at the palace of the murderous King Herod on the way (and having to sneak past him on their way home, in fear for their own lives).

But the most important travelling that happens in the Christmas story is the travelling that God does. He becomes human, in the Person of Jesus Christ, and so he joins us on the journey of life, with all of its ups and downs. Christmas is all about God coming into our world and into our lives, in order to care for us and save us and change the world.



Christmas means that God is always with us, because of his great love for us which goes on into eternity.

I hope you all have a great Christmas, and that you may know the presence of God travelling the journey of life with you.

God bless you,

David.

vicar@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk

St Michael's Church service takes place at 10am every Sunday, and includes our weekly Sonlight group for primary-aged children and Mega group for secondary-aged young people. The service is also live-streamed on our Facebook page. See our website for more details: **www.stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk** (See elsewhere in this magazine for a list of our Christmas services and events.)

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Saturday 30th November

9am-4pm: Christmas Tree Festival.

Sunday 15th December

10am: Our own Nativity, featuring our children and young people.

4pm: Carol Service (a traditional 9 lessons and carols).

Saturday 21st December, 4pm

Carols on the Common (informal carol singing around the Christmas tree in the Heritage Centre garden).

Tuesday 24th December, 4pm

Christingle.

11.15pm: Midnight Communion service.

Wednesday 25th December

10am: Christmas Day Family Communion.



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Galleywood Grapevine



CHRISTMAS EVE

by Marilyn Byford

Excited children singing round the Christmas
tree so tall

Their sweet voices ringing out as snow begins
to fall

Fairy lights are twinkling colours oh so bright
Father Christmas will have called before the
end of night

Snow is falling quickly now covering
everything around

Darkness is descending frost sparkles on the
ground

Most head off towards the church shivering in
the cold

A warm welcome waits inside the Christmas
story will be told

We have heard it all so many times yet love to
hear the story

How baby Jesus came to us humbly without
glory

A little child to change the world and cure
man of his greed

To comfort us and pray for us in our hour of
need

The bells are ringing loudly as we homeward
go

Though the air is frosty cold our faces are
aglow

So as we make our way back home again
trudging through the snow

Our thoughts go back once again to that
Christmas long ago



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Street Names

While the new development now known as Beaulieu Park in the north of Chelmsford was under way, Chelmsford Borough (as it was then) Councillors were asked to put forward names of Soldiers who died in World War 1 who had lived in their ward, as possible street names.

Some months earlier Galleywood had at last been able to erect a War Memorial at the front of Keene Hall – organised by Ted Hawkins and Wendy Cummin and funded by public subscriptions – to recognise those who died in both World Wars and other conflicts.

I went to the Galleywood War Memorial and wrote down the names of the men who died in World War 1 and sent the list off to the Borough Council. Later, I was very pleased to be informed that all the names I had put forward had been accepted

Fast forward to this summer and my grandson and his partner contacted me to advise me of the address of the property they had purchased in Beaulieu Park, and lo and behold it was a property in Frank Brazier Road. At the same time the nursing sister in charge of the Special Care Baby Unit at St. John's who looked after my daughter when she was born in November 1983, and with whom I still keep in contact, moved to Galleywood and where to ...Braziers Close.

Quite a coincidence.

By Councillor Janette Potter



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Galleywood Grapevine



Saturday 21st December

4.00pm

Christmas

CAROLS ON THE COMMON

Kids drinks

Alcohol free
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Hot dogs



Galleywood Heritage Centre

There is no charge for this event but donations are welcome.

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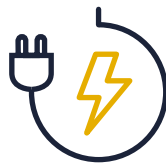
You can find us at the Scout Hut situated in the grounds of Jubilee Park, Watchouse Road, Galleywood.

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Galleywood Grapevine



Galleywood Historical Society

Galleywood Historical Society forthcoming talks:

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Forthcoming talk:

**Wednesday 12th March
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Galleywood's Boundary Stones

A talk by John Turkentine

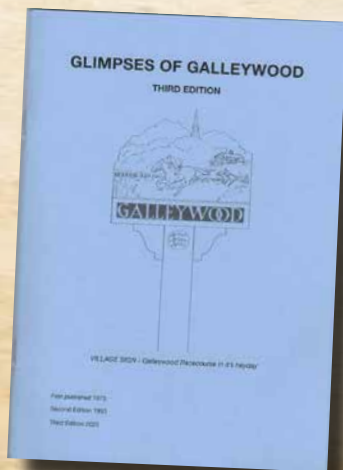
At the Keene Hall,

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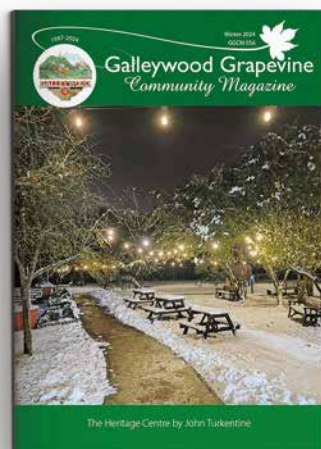
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Galleywood Grapevine



Presents for the Planet

Christmas is a time of wonder and warmth, and sometimes excessive waste.



We all know we need to do our part for planet Earth, the only home we have. As the festive season picks up speed and we start to make more purchases, now's the time to think about how to make Christmas more eco-friendly.

An obvious start would be to choose recyclable and eco-friendly wrapping paper. You can make your own with some recycled brown paper and some organic ink pads or paints. Reusable fabrics are also a great choice, tied with twine or knotted together to seal the surprise away.



When purchasing presents, it's always worth considering how useful the item is – a gag gift is great, but the UK Gift Card and Voucher Association says that roughly 23 million presents are thrown away each year. If someone is hard to buy for, a gift card for one of their favourite shops is a great idea or booking them a trip, getting concert tickets or a spa day would go down well too!

If you're set on buying a physical item, think about where you shop. The WWF has a fantastic range of pretty and practical gifts, sourced ethically and helping to fund a fantastic charitable organisation. Know a coffee fiend who goes through multiple takeaway cups a week? Get them a sustainable thermos cup, or if you really want to splurge

you can get quality coffee grounds and equipment to make a drink at home. Not only will this save them money in the long run, especially helpful after the holidays, they might just learn a thing or two about their favourite drink!

Supporting charities in honour of someone else is another sweet way to show you care without buying unnecessary products. You can adopt/sponsor an animal in need, donate on their behalf to a charity close to their heart, even plant a tree in their name.

In the season of indulgence, handmade treats also go a long way. From making your own jams and chutneys (with fruit and veg from local farm shops) to baking a really intricate dessert for Christmas lunch, that extra special ingredient of love will surely put a smile on their face. Too cheesy? Maybe they'd prefer a handmade tree decoration, an ethically sourced pamper hamper for a quiet night in, or some second-hand books to add to their To Be Read list for 2025.

This Christmas let's add a little care for the planet to our shopping lists. Even one eco-friendly swap is a great step in the right direction.

by Nicola Jacobs





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SIMPLY COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW AND GET INVOLVED

NAME: (PRINT)

GROUP/ORGANISATION NAME: (PRINT)

CONTACT NUMBER

CONTACT BERYLMOSS111@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE DETAILS

Youth
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Galleywood Grapevine





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Baddow & Galleywood u3a Winter/ Spring programme 2025

We meet from 2pm-4pm on the third Weds each month at Great Baddow Millennium Community Centre CM2 9RL.

We have a variety of talks lined up, kicking off with 'Staying Safe Online' in January. We have some exciting speakers booked for the Spring. In addition, we offer a wide variety of groups supporting a range of interests.

These take place at various times each month. Venues range from members homes, online groups or hired rooms and halls. There's lots to choose from and something for everyone:

Art appreciation, Books, Bridge, Canasta, Discussion group, Early popular music, French conversation, Gardening, German conversation, IT & computers, Italian language

and culture, Local history, Mah Jong, Music performing, Painting & sketching, Photography, Pickleball, Puzzles and quizzes, Rambling, Spanish conversation, Strollers, Table tennis, Transport, Walking, Weekenders

Full details of all our talks and the various interest groups can be found on our website <https://u3asites.org.uk/baddow/events>.

Why not join us and get involved? If you are interested please e-mail our Membership Secretary, Tony Nelson bandgmembership24@btinternet.com to find out more. New members are always very welcome... hope to see you there and chat over a cuppa!





YOUTH CLUB

Youth Club is a safe place where young people can relax, build friendships and learn new skills. We offer informal education and support for young people, offering life skills and supporting their wellbeing.

Attending youth club is a brilliant way to build new skills, develop friendships and raise self-esteem.

Sessions involve activities such as badminton, team challenges, art, baking and more! Activities are co-created by young people and youth workers, allowing us to provide engaging and fulfilling sessions our attendees can't help but get submerged in.

Qualified staff take time to get to know and listen to young people, helping them feel safe, guiding them to make positive choices and offering advice where needed. Youth workers run tailored sessions to support current issues young people are facing.



"Since attending, I have grown in confidence"

"Attending YMCA has made a real difference to my life"

"I love it here! I feel safe and supported."



Here for young people
Here for communities
Here for you

If you have any questions, please contact:
becky.whitaker@ymcaessex.org.uk

Club contact details

1st Galleywood Scout Group

Sue Raybould - 1st Galleywood Group Scout Leader - susan.raybould@blueyonder.co.uk

Baddow and Galleywood u3a

Sue Nelson
bandgu3achairsuenelson@btinternet.com

Chelmsford Guitar Orchestra

Roger Montgomery | 07773 155981
rogermontgomery@hotmail.co.uk

Essex Family History (ESFH)

Meryl Rawlings | 01245 225200
meryl.rawlings@btinternet.com

Friendship+ for Parents, Carers & Children 0-5

www.stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk/ouractivities/friendship

Galleywood Art and Craft Club

Beth Schluter | 07788 103233
schluterbeth@hotmail.com

Galleywood Chaplin Close Allotment

David Norman, Chairman
thegcgs@outlook.com

Galleywood Common Association

Patricia Stuart | 01245 268218
Pat.malcolm64@gmail.com

Galleywoofers Dog Training

Tony Cruse | 07976 807690
tcdogtraining@me.com

Galleywood Glebeland Allotment Tenant Association - Ian Jarratt

07969 054904 | ijarratt@Hotmail.co.uk

Galleywood Historical Society

Gillian Parker | 01245 466353
parkwisp@gmail.com

Galleywood Horticultural Society

Philip Walters | 01245 473191
sarah-phil@virginmedia.com

Galleywood Youth Football Club

Alan Smith, Chairman | 07899 797692
chairman@galleywoodyouthfc.com

Galleywood Ladies Club

Cynthia Walker | 01245 474781
Cjwalker2010@googlemail.com

Galleywood Cottage Garden

thegalleywoodcgs@gmail.com

Galleywood Neighbourhood Watch

Richard Hyland | 07795 540153

Galleywood Cricket Club

John Gray | 07847 336237 | jgraygccc@sky.com
www.galleywoodcricket.club

Galleywood Short Mat Bowls Club

Robert Watts | 07544 829425
trebora310@gmail.com

Galleywood & District Social Club

The Street | 01245 287260

Galleywood Walkabout

Åsa Pamphilon | 07534 414518
asaros@hotmail.co.uk

Galleywood WI

Wendy Johnson | 01245 476032
wendyjohnson9@aol.com

Galleywood Youth club

Becky Whitaker | 01245 355677 / 07850253708
becky.whitaker@ymcaessex.org.uk

Galleywood Theatre Group

Paul Hambleton | 07941 258214
pahambleton@virginmedia.com

Inland Waterways Association

Rebecca Loader | 01621 332619
rebecca.loader57@gmail.com

IYC (Ian's Yoga Class)

Ian Jordan | 01245 492640
yogateacher@yogainchelmsford.co.uk

Point to Point Patchwork & Quilting

Margaret Shears | 01245 260312
marg.shears@blueyonder.co.uk

Sing and Sign

Martine Brockman | 07739 832059
martinebrockman@singandsign.co.uk

St Michaels Bellringers

Chris Moles | 01245 268157
christinemoles@hotmail.com



Club contact details

Trudi Osborne dance

Trudi Osborne | 07788 712751

trudimorgan@btopenworld.com

The Environmental Group - Åsa Pamphilon

07534 414518 | asaros@hotmail.co.uk

Businesses

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Mr Fish

Watchouse Road | 01245 250557

Mila Restaurant

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The Post Office

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Community Venues for Hire

Galleywood Heritage Centre

01245 357700

mail@galleywoodheritagecentre.org.uk

Keene Hall

Mrs Susan Royce | 01245 268961

administrator@keenehall.com

Church

St Michael & All Angels

Rev Cattle | 01245 956953

vicar@stmichaelsgalleywood.org.uk

Other Services

Area Highways Office

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Chelmsford City Council

Switchboard | 012454 606606

www.chelmsford.gov.uk

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Environmental Services

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Galleywood Library - Watchouse Road

0345 6037628

galleywood.library@essex.gov.uk

Galleywood Voluntary Community Care

Transport officer | 07840 232746

Secretary Christopher Kersley | 07375 108941

Recycling

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The Guinness Trust Housing

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Mel Williamson

Melanie.williamson@essex.gov.uk

Leigh Jones - Leigh.jones@chp.org.uk



Club contact details

Recycling

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Village Agent

Felicity Chapman | 07305 707742

www.communityagentsessex.org.uk

Schools

Galleywood Infant School

Mrs Sarah Manning | 01245 472686

admin@galleywood.essex.sch.uk

St Michaels C of E (VA) Junior School

Mrs Rowen Prigg | 01245 472682

admin@st-michaels-jun.essex.sch.uk

Great Baddow High School

Mr Paul Farmer | 01245 265821

admin@gbhs.co.uk

Thriftwood School

Mrs Georgina Pryke | 01245 266880

admin@thriftwoodschool.com

Jubilee Friends Pre-school

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Data Protection Act

Under the Data Protection Act 2018, the Parish Council now needs consent to be able to publish personal information. This relates to the contact names, telephone numbers and email addresses for all Clubs and Organisations previously published in the Grapevine.

All Clubs and Organisations were contacted and provided with a Consent Form for completion and only the ones that we have had returned can now be published. So, if you see your Club or Organisation missing from the directory this is the reason.

If you would like to resume your listing please contact the Clerk for a Consent Form:

01245 358898 or email:

clerk@galleywoodparishcouncil.org.uk

or pop into the Parish Office, first floor at the Keene Hall, Watchouse Road.

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Teg – The Enviroment Group

We need plants - and they need us.

Plants are amazing things. They take water and nutrients from the ground and pump it up into the green leaves. Here the leaves take carbon dioxide from the air and by a process known as photosynthesis they use sunlight to make sugars. These sugars and other chemicals that are sucked up from the ground combine to make food for the growth of the tree. While they are doing this, as a sort of exhaust, they pump out oxygen into the air. Trees also provide cooling through the provision of shade and Evapotranspiration when they release water as a fine mist through their leaves which is particularly effective on a hot dry day.

This natural mechanism is lucky for us and all other animals because we can't survive without oxygen. We are also busy breathing out carbon dioxide so we need plants and they need us. We need lots of plants to survive. The bigger the plants are, like shrubs and trees, the better it is for us.

The Teg Environmental Group was founded in 1986 with the aim of improving the green environment of Galleywood and Great Baddow. The group undertakes practical conservation work at various sites across the two villages and works with Essex County Council on the maintenance of the Rights of Way. Meetings are held every Wednesday morning and once a month on Sunday afternoons.

For details of Wednesday projects and any problems you come across contact David Yelf-Gustar on **01245 471075** and for Sunday projects contact John Emery on **01245 475648**.

teg
volunteers

*conserving & improving
our natural environment*



Galleywood Short Mat Bowls Club

Galleywood Short Mat Bowls Club held an Open Day at Keene Hall on Saturday 26th October from 10am until 2pm.

This was primarily to encourage Galleywood residents to come along and 'have a go'.



We served tea/coffee and biscuits to the residents that attended. The turn out was fantastic, we had people of all ages turn up.



We had two mats out. For those who don't know Short Mat Bowls it's a 45-foot-long mat, at one end a small rubber mat is placed, the bowler then stands on that mat. In the centre is either a block or a spinner, the object of the game is to go around the spinner/block and place your bowl onto the Jack at the other end of the mat. Once that end is finished the bowlers go to the other end then it all begins again. We play 5 ends in a roll up (practice session) or 15 ends plus in a proper match. There is obviously a lot more to it than explained but that's the fundamentals of the game. It's amazing the number of steps people do in an evening/afternoon session, so this helps with fitness and agility.

We have two venues, Monday nights at the Infant school, Barnard Road from 7 til 9 and Wednesday afternoons at Keene Hall from 2 til 4. The main factor is that the Short Mat Bowls is played indoors, therefore is an all-year-round activity.





On the 2nd of November we are celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the club by holding an afternoon tea for members and our annual Christmas Dinner in December. We also do friendly matches with other clubs along with our league matches and in-house competitions. We do this to try to keep things interesting for club members.

Our members ages range from 15 to 90's, so it really is an activity for all ages and levels. We have club Woods (these were on show) so that new members don't have to purchase any until they are fully comfortable in knowing what suits them



Galleywood Parish Council supports the club by providing a grant annually, which is a lifeline to the club for ensuring that the equipment is kept updated.

If you couldn't make the Galleywood Short Mat Bowls Open Day Event but would like more information about the club then please contact - Robert (**07544 829425**) or Eve (**07709 891206**) and they will answer all your questions.

Please donate and change a life this Christmas

Christmas miracles start with you

Every day in the UK, seven young people aged 13 to 24 are diagnosed with cancer.

This winter, with the rising cost of living, their struggle will be even harder. By donating to The Tom Bowdidge Youth Cancer Foundation, you can help provide vital support to teenagers, young adults and families across the country as they face cancer treatment. Your generosity offers a crucial lifeline during these difficult times.

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Could go towards travel costs to and from hospital for treatment.

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Could go towards some new clothes because treatment has dramatically affected their weight.

£100

Could go towards a laptop to enable the young person to continue with their studies whilst in hospital or isolating at home.

£200

Could go towards making memories as they face their last family Christmas together.

Christmas Miracles start with you

Visit www.tombowdidgefoundation.org to donate and change a life this Christmas

Registered charity in England and Wales No 1156553 | 9 Firmins Court, West Bergholt, Colchester, Essex, CO6 3BQ







Cosy Dishes to Delight the Family

As the chilly winter winds roll in, there's nothing better than a warm, hearty meal to enjoy with family.

In this edition, we're bringing you four comforting recipes that celebrate the best of seasonal flavours. Whether you're craving a rich stew, a savoury bake, or a sweet treat to enjoy by the fire, these dishes are designed to bring warmth and satisfaction to your winter evenings.

HEARTY BEEF AND ROOT VEGETABLE STEW



Ingredients:

- 500g diced beef
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 carrots, sliced
- 2 parsnips, diced
- 2 potatoes, cubed
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 500ml beef stock
- 1 tablespoon tomato puree
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Fresh parsley, to garnish

Instructions:

1. Heat the olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Brown the diced beef on all sides, then remove and set aside.
2. In the same pot, add the chopped onion and garlic, cooking until softened.
3. Add the carrots, parsnips, and potatoes, cooking for a further 5 minutes.
4. Stir in the tomato puree and dried thyme. Pour in the beef stock and return the browned beef to the pot.
5. Bring the stew to a simmer, cover, and cook on low heat for 1.5 to 2 hours, until the beef is tender and the vegetables are soft.
6. Season with salt and pepper, garnish with fresh parsley, and serve hot with crusty bread.

CHEESY LEEK AND POTATO BAKE



Ingredients:

- 4 large potatoes, thinly sliced
- 2 leeks, thinly sliced
- 200ml double cream
- 100ml milk
- 150g grated cheddar cheese
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon butter
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Fresh chives, chopped, to garnish

Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C fan).
2. In a frying pan, melt the butter and sauté the sliced leeks and garlic until soft. Set aside.
3. Grease a baking dish and arrange half of the sliced potatoes in an even layer at the bottom.
4. Spoon half of the leek mixture over the potatoes, then sprinkle with a third of the grated cheese.
5. Repeat with the remaining potatoes, leeks, and another third of the cheese.
6. Pour the cream and milk evenly over the top, season with salt and pepper, and finish with the remaining cheese.
7. Cover the dish with foil and bake for 40 minutes. Remove the foil and bake for an additional 20 minutes, until golden and bubbling.
8. Garnish with fresh chives and serve.



ROASTED BUTTERNUT SQUASH AND SAGE RISOTTO



Ingredients:

- 300g arborio rice
- 1 medium butternut squash, peeled and cubed
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1.2L vegetable stock
- 50g butter
- 50g Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 6 fresh sage leaves
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C (180°C fan). Toss the butternut squash cubes in olive oil, season with salt and pepper, and roast for 25-30 minutes until tender.
2. In a large pan, melt half the butter over medium heat and sauté the onion and garlic until softened.
3. Stir in the arborio rice and cook for 2 minutes until the grains are coated.
4. Gradually add the vegetable stock, one ladle at a time, stirring constantly and allowing the liquid to absorb before adding more. Continue for about 18-20 minutes until the rice is cooked.
5. Stir in the roasted butternut squash, remaining butter, and grated Parmesan. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
6. Fry the sage leaves in a little olive oil until crispy and use to garnish the risotto before serving.

SPICED APPLE CRUMBLE



Ingredients:

- 4 large cooking apples, peeled, cored, and sliced
- 100g caster sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 150g plain flour
- 100g cold unsalted butter, cubed
- 75g brown sugar
- 50g rolled oats
- Vanilla ice cream or custard, to serve

Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C fan).
2. In a large bowl, toss the sliced apples with the caster sugar, ground cinnamon, and nutmeg. Transfer to a baking dish.
3. In another bowl, rub the cubed butter into the plain flour until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Stir in the brown sugar and rolled oats.
4. Sprinkle the crumble topping evenly over the apples.
5. Bake for 35-40 minutes, until the topping is golden and the apples are bubbling.
6. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream or custard for a perfect autumnal dessert.

These warming recipes are ideal for making the most of winter's cosy nights and seasonal produce. Whether it's a hearty stew or a comforting bake, these dishes will fill your home with delicious aromas and keep the family satisfied!

What to do in the garden in December

December is a quiet month in the garden, but there are more things to take care of than you might think.

With limited daylight hours as we approach the shortest day of the year, this month's crisp wintery weather can be strikingly beautiful and bitterly cold in equal measure.

Here's a checklist of jobs that will keep you busy...

LOOKING AFTER YOUR LAWN

- Avoid walking on your lawn when it's blanketed by heavy frost or snow, as this damages the grass.
- If it's a mild winter, continue to cut the lawn as it grows, but raise the height of the mower blades.
- Spike lawns with a garden fork to improve drainage and aeration.
- Keep clearing leaves off the lawn to let the light in and prevent dead patches appearing.

OTHER JOBS ABOUT THE GARDEN



Keep your bird feeders topped up for feathered friends during December. Image: Nature's Market Wild Bird Nut Feeder from Thompson & Morgan

- Wash down all of your garden tools and give them a wipe of linseed oil on the wooden and metal areas to help prevent rusting.
- Choose a dry day to clear out the garden shed in preparation for the spring.
- Plant bare root edible hedging now while the plant is dormant.
- Check the security of your shed. This is particularly important in winter when you visit it less often.
- Repair fences and apply a wood preservative to prevent them from rotting.
- There's still time to clean out water butts before they fill with fresh rain water over winter.
- Get rid of slimy patches on the patio and paving by scrubbing with a broom or blasting with a pressure washer. For an easy alternative try a liquid patio cleaner.
- Check tree ties and stakes to ensure that trees are still secure following strong autumn winds. Tighten or loosen ties as necessary.
- Wash and disinfect bird feeders and bird tables. Clean out bird baths too.
- Hang fat balls and keep bird feeders topped up with wild bird food to attract birds, who will in turn eat pests in your garden.
- Build or buy a compost bin. Continue to collect fallen leaves and add to leaf bins or the compost heap to rot down.
- After pruning fruit trees use the twigs for pea sticks or shred them for your compost bin.
- Turn your compost heaps to mix the ingredients and help the contents to decompose.
- Cover compost bins with a piece of old carpet or some plastic sheeting to prevent the compost becoming too cold and wet to rot down.
- Make a pile of old logs in an undisturbed corner of the garden to provide shelter for toads and other wildlife.
- Collect brightly-coloured stems and berries for your Christmas decorations.
- Did you know the colourful wrappers of Quality Street sweets are compostable? They're made from cellulose, derived from wood pulp, so rather than chuck them in the bin, add them to your compost heap!

IN THE FLOWER GARDEN

- Start to winter-prune wisteria, cutting back whippy summer side-shoots to 2 or 3 buds. Favourites like *Wisteria sinensis* will look tidy and flower better after a good shaping.
- Prune climbing roses now, removing diseased or damaged growth and tying in any new shoots to their support. Prune older flowered side shoots back by two thirds of their length.



*Resist the temptation to prune your hydrangeas before spring
Image: Hydrangea macrophylla 'Endless Summer - The Original' from Thompson & Morgan*

- Plant deciduous, climbing honeysuckle now, but make sure to avoid any frozen or waterlogged ground.
- Prune your Japanese maple trees (*Acer palmatum*) if needed, as they will bleed sap if pruning is done any later.
- Leave the faded flower heads on your hydrangeas until spring, as they provide frost protection to the swelling buds further down the stems.
- If any of your rose bushes suffered from blackspot or rust during the summer, gather up and remove any fallen leaves still on the ground to reduce the chance of spreading the infection next year.
- Keep checking over stored dahlia tubers, keeping an eye out for rot.
- Move containers of shrubs or bedding planters to sheltered spots; clustering them together helps protect the root systems from frost damage.
- Check climbers and climbing shrubs are securely attached to their supports with ties.
- Harvest holly with berries for making Christmas garlands and wreaths. Stand the berry covered twigs in a bucket of water until you're ready to use them.
- Take root cuttings of oriental poppies and grow them on in cold frames.
- Take hardwood cuttings from suitable trees and shrubs.
- Spread fresh gravel or grit around alpine & rocky plants.

IN THE VEGETABLE GARDEN



*Lift and heel in your last leeks during December
Image: Leek 'Musselburgh' from Thompson & Morgan*

- Lift your last leeks and parsnips before the soil becomes frozen, and heel them into a trench beside a convenient path. They'll keep for several months like this and can be easily brought indoors when required.
 - Remove yellowing leaves from your winter brassicas — they're no use to the plant and may harbour pests and diseases.
 - If you haven't already, cut down dead asparagus foliage and the top growth of Jerusalem artichokes. Order your asparagus crowns now for planting in spring.
 - Dig over empty borders and pile well rotted manure on top - let the worms and frosts break up the clods of soil.
 - Dig a trench for next year's beans, fill it with compostable kitchen waste (not cooked food) and re-cover with soil. This will rot down and dramatically improve the growing conditions.
- Cover winter brassicas with netting to protect them from pigeons.

Gardening tips supplied by Thompson & Morgan. For a full list of what to do in the garden in December and beyond please visit their website:

www.thompson-morgan.com/in-the-garden-this-month



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