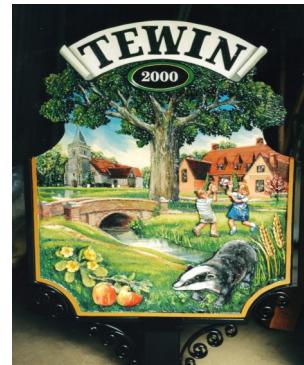




# Tewin Magazine

February 2026



Price 90p



**Sunrise over Tewin**

Datchworth, Burnham Green, Tewin

# Three village Pancake Race!



Organised by  
All Saints and  
St Peter's  
churches

Followed by  
pancakes in  
the White  
Horse

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>  
February 11am

Burnham Green, Green

Adults and children  
Come with a team or on your own.



Welcome to the February 2026 edition of the Tewin Magazine.

Our beautiful sunrise on New Year's Day on the front cover was taken by Graham Spring.

I am always happy to receive photos for possible inclusion in the Magazine. Please send to [tewinmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:tewinmagazine@gmail.com).

**Events this month are:**

Three Village Pancake Race on 17th (p17), Seniors' Lunch on 17th (p10), Friends of Tewin AGM on 24th (p9) and the Lent Group starting on 27th (p17).

Tewin Stores are serving Cottage Pie on 21st and Pancakes on 24th (p29), Screen on the Green is showing 'Diva' on the 16th (p10) and the

Technology Advice Sessions are on the 5th and 19th (p30).

Messy Church is on 15th (p18).

Other events can be found in Dates For Your Diary (p33).

Do you care for a young child aged 0-5 years old? Then don't miss the article on page 31 where you'll find details of BookTrust Storytime which is returning to Hertfordshire Libraries. They are showcasing the books on the shortlist for best picture book for sharing. There will be readings, activities and a chance to vote for your favourite.

**Trussells Butcher's Van** is outside the shop on Fridays from 1.30-2.45pm. Call 01438 812304 if you wish to order in advance.

**A Mobile Fish Van** is at Burnham Green on Wednesdays from **12-12.30pm**. Call Kelvin on 07847 176847 for orders.

Please continue to send contributions for future editions of the magazine to [tewinmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:tewinmagazine@gmail.com). The deadline is the **15th** of the month, but the earlier the better.—Jackie Murphy, Editor

Views expressed in the '*Tewin Magazine*' are not always those held by the Parish Council or by the Parochial Church Council

Editor: Jackie Murphy [tewinmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:tewinmagazine@gmail.com)

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Distribution: Sue Whitbourn 01438 798221



## **TEWINBURY MUSIC FESTIVAL LICENCE APPLICATION - 25/1695/PL**

Following a hearing on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at East Herts Council this premises licence application was refused.

The decision notice is available to view on the Tewin Village website.

## **PLANNING APPLICATION**

### **3/25/1999/PIP - Land To The North Of 3 Fairholme Stables, Archers Green Lane, Tewin**

#### **Permission in principle for erection of three detached dwellings**

Tewin Parish Council has objected to this application as it is contrary to the East Herts 2018 District Plan, the short timescales extending over the holiday period, the apparent lack of onsite notices and our limited ability to publicise this application to local residents. Tewin Parish Council referred planning to comments made by residents against the original application on the Fairholme Stables site 3/20/0810/FUL.

## **SPEED MANAGEMENT STRATEGY SURVEY**

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) are updating the Speed Management Strategy which provides a consistent approach to setting speed limits in Hertfordshire. The Speed Management Strategy provides the benchmark against which HCC decides on how new speed limits are set, as well as deciding on whether physical road calming measures are required and which would be appropriate. HCC receive several hundred requests each year from residents and stakeholders to reduce speed limits. Each request is assessed against the Speed Management Strategy to determine whether a reduction is appropriate. They would like hear your views on current speed limits in the county, as well as understanding and developing the processes the County Council should follow for setting new speed limits.

This survey should take around 5-10 minutes to complete and is open until **11.59pm on Monday 16 February 2026**.

**<https://tinyurl.com/speed-management-survey>**

## **WINTER GRITTING**

With winter here you can check when roads are being gritted by googling "HCC gritting".

## **SEEN A POTHOLE?**

Please help us keep on top of potholes by reporting them to Hertfordshire Highways on **<https://tinyurl.com/contact-highways>** or ring 0300 123 4047 from 8am until 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am until 4pm on Saturday.

**NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS - Monday 2nd February 2026 and Monday 2nd March 2026.**

All meetings start at 7.45pm and are held at Tewin Memorial Hall.

**PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION**

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

**Agenda:** Please notify the Clerk at least one week before the meeting if you wish to suggest items for discussion. The agenda is published on the Notice Board outside Tewin Stores & website 3 working days before the meeting.

*All Parishioners are welcome to attend and can make comments at the start of the meeting.*

**Minutes:** These are displayed at Tewin Stores, Tewin Memorial Hall and on the website. The minutes are not published until approved and signed at the subsequent meeting.

**Meeting Dates and Newsletters:** These are published on the website.

**Queries :**

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Chairman, Keith St Pier   | Tel: 01438-717551   |
| Clerk, Caroline McFarlane | Tel: 01438-798969   |
|                           | E-mail - <a href="mailto:tewinparishclerk@btinternet.com">tewinparishclerk@btinternet.com</a> |

**East Herts District Councillor - North & South Wards:**

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Cllr Bob Deering | Tel: 07903 073234 |
|------------------|-------------------|

**Herts County Councillor:**

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Cllr Ken Crofton | Tel: 01438 869650 |
|------------------|-------------------|

**Herts Highways Fault Line: 0300 1234047** or [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk) - for fault reporting.

**East Herts District Council: 01279-655261** or [www.eastherts.gov.uk](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk) for reporting smoke & noise nuisance, flytipping, fly posting, dead animals on the road, stray dogs, dog fouling, abandoned vehicles, Environmental Health, Environmental Services, Pest Control, Tree Preservation Orders, Planning, Waste Services, Parking Warden for parking offences.

**Police** If you need to report a crime in progress please call 999, for all other issues please use 101.

## Notes From An Apiary

The start of a new year and the anticipation of what our bees will bring to us in 2026. We have had some cold days over the last couple of months with deep frost. These have been followed by warmer, usually wetter spells. Cold dry days are no problem for our bees; they can survive much lower temperatures than we see in the south of England. Cold wet times make it difficult for the cluster of bees to maintain temperature and causes moisture and dampness to build up in the hive, a challenge to the colony and a possible cause of colony collapse. Modern hive design takes this into account and provides adequate ventilation.

Modern hive design can be traced back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century in Europe. The designs were from trial and error. Reverend Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth was able to take these designs and develop the concept of Bee Space, a discovery already used in European hives. The discovery was that a gap of a  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch would not be closed by the bees. Smaller and it is sealed up with propolis, bee cement, greater and it is filled with wax comb. Thus, designing a hive that incorporated this concept allowed for hives to have easily removable internal parts, frames. Because frames could be easily and gently removed from the hive the bees could be inspected without enraging the colony. Langstroth developed multi layered hives and a method for ensuring the Queen was excluded from the upper layers. The upper layers or supers are used by bees to store honey. Excluding the queen ensures that the cells stay free from brood and are filled with honey. This makes harvesting much more practical.

The Reverend Lorenzo Lorraine Langstroth died on October 6, 1895, in his church pulpit, just as he was beginning a sermon on the love of God. His discoveries live on.

Phil



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**Contact: Adrian Murray**

**7 Lower Green, Tewin**

**tel: 07970 298521**

**[adrian@adenassociates.co.uk](mailto:adrian@adenassociates.co.uk)**



**PAUL GRAY**

**Painter & Decorator**

**Home: 01707 892987**

**Mobile: 07833 517843**

**References on Request**



# Friends of Tewin



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2025

As our AGM is fast approaching where we review the events of last year and look forward to 2026 may I, on behalf of the Friends of Tewin Committee, say a big Thank You to all of you who have supported us at our various events during 2025. We met as a Committee 9 times during 2025 and we were pleased to be able to bring villagers together from the whole of Tewin to meet and make new friends.

At our 2025 AGM Anne Hall stood down as our Honorary President and we were delighted that Roe Hill accepted this position and was therefore elected as our new Honorary President. The rest of the Committee was re-appointed and remained the same: Shirley Sinfield, Chair; Hilary Tipping, Deputy Chair; Elaine Wulcko, Treasurer; Tec Fawcett, Secretary; Damien Redlich; Catriona Griggs and Rob Kenway.

Our first event of the year is always the **Seniors' Lunch** at the Memorial Hall, where anyone over the age of 60 and living in Tewin was invited to join us for a two-course meal. We were delighted to host the Lunch on 18<sup>th</sup> February. The Memorial Hall once again resounded to the sound of laughter and chatter as just under 100 residents enjoyed their meal. They were put to the test though with a light-hearted quiz and the event ended with tea/coffee and chocolates.

The traditional village **Maypole Dancing** came next on 2<sup>nd</sup> May which we ran in conjunction with Tewin Cowper school. It was a lovely spring morning and the children from Otter Class, Year 3, danced around the Maypole on Lower Green and surprised us all by finishing with a beautiful song. Something to live up to for 2026!

This was closely followed by the **VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorations**, announced by the Government to be held over the May Bank Holiday. Unfortunately, the lovely weather we'd had for the Maypole wasn't to be and Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May proved to be rather wet but, luckily, by 2pm the rain had

stopped and we were able to go ahead with the Village Picnic on Lower Green. Not too many picnics were in evidence but our hot tea and coffee and our delicious home-made cakes went down well and the children enjoyed some good old-fashioned fun - egg and spoon races, sack races etc!!

Our biggest event, however, is the **Tewin Classic Car and Craft Show** which in 2025 was on 17<sup>th</sup> August and the weather was at its best. Upper Green was at capacity with Classic Cars, and the public came in their droves. It was a wonderful day and I am delighted to say that we made a profit of just over £9,000 which is in the process of being distributed to any 'not for profit' group, club, organisation, school in Tewin to help them with the work they do within the Community.

On Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> November Catriona Griggs laid a wreath on behalf of us all during the Remembrance Service at St Peter's Church.

Sadly, the weather didn't favour us for our last event, **Carols around the Christmas Tree**, on 18<sup>th</sup> December. Plan B came into force as we all gathered in Tewin Cowper School's hall where we were warm and dry. The brass band livened us up with our favourite Carols and I'm sure the mulled wine, together with the hot chocolate, mince pies and sausage rolls, helped with the singing! Our grateful thanks go to Tewin Cowper School for the use of the Hall.

This year's AGM is on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 6pm in the Parish Room, Tewin Memorial Hall and you are welcome to join us. The Agenda will be on display in Tewin Stores and on the Notice Boards in the Bus Shelter on Orchard Road/Desborough Drive and Lower Green.

As I said at the beginning, thank you to everyone who has supported us at these events and a big thank you to all our volunteers, without whose help these events wouldn't happen. If you would like to be involved with our Group in any way we would be delighted to welcome you – our e-mail address is

[friendsoftewin@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftewin@gmail.com)

Chair : Shirley Sinfield, 25 Bishops Road, Tewin, Herts AL6 0NP

## Screen On The Green

This month's film, showing on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February, is "Diva" a 1981 French thriller adapted from the novel by Daniel Odier.

It follows Jules, a young postman obsessed with opera who becomes entangled in a dangerous criminal plot involving two audio recordings: one tape is a bootleg recording of an opera star and the other incriminates a senior police officer in a crime ring.

Directed by Jean-Jacques Beineix and starring Frédéric Andréi and Wilhelmenia Fernandez, *Diva* is considered a pivotal film in the development of the 1980s cinematic movement known as *cinéma du look*, characterised by stylish art direction and a blend of genres including noir, new-wave and romance. And of course there's the typical motorcycle chase through the Metro and the streets of Paris as Jules is hunted by gangsters and the police.

In French with subtitles.

### **MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY**

**Doors open 7pm for 7.45pm start at Tewin Memorial Hall.**

**Complimentary tea or coffee. Ice cream on sale.**

**Tickets from Tewin Stores or on the door, priced £5.**

**Bring your own drinks and nibbles.**

Marie St Pier

## Senior Citizens' Lunch

Friends of Tewin will once again be hosting the annual Seniors' Lunch on 17th February at 12 noon in the Memorial Hall. It is offered to anyone aged 60 or over living in Tewin and is much anticipated. If you haven't already returned your form, delivered to every household in the village, then please do so by 31st January, if possible. Should you have misplaced your form, copies are available at Tewin Stores. Don't delay, this is a very popular event.



## Any Carpentry, Painting and Decorating Requirements?

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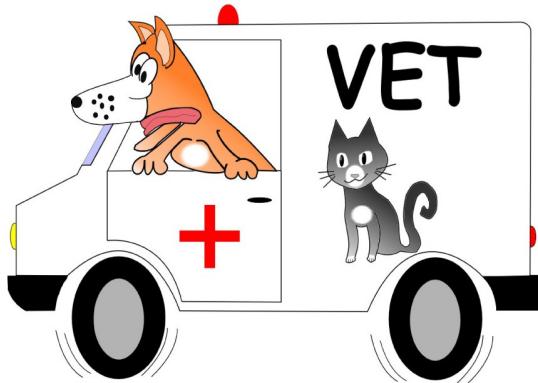
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## **TEWIN JUMBLE SALE – 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

The Spring Jumble Sale is on 14<sup>th</sup> March and we look forward to receiving your donations. However, we thought you might like to know how the profit from the sales is used.

You may already know that the proceeds from the sales go towards the upkeep of the Memorial Hall, but some of it also benefits the many village groups that meet there. There are about 20 groups and it is thanks to the Jumble Sales and Book Sales that their costs for hiring the Hall have not increased since 2008!

Here is a list of the groups that benefit from subsidised hire charges:

|                         |                          |                         |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Three Badminton Groups  | Children's Drama Group   | Arts & Crafts Markets   |
| Digital Inclusion Group | Friends of Tewin         | Ladies Boxing Classes   |
| Over 50's Club          | Parents & Toddlers Group | Rainbows                |
| Stretch and Tone Class  | St Peter's Church        | Tewin Ladies Club       |
| Tewin Cowper School     | Tewin Ukulele Group      | Tewin Under 5's Nursery |

### **WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS PLEASE**

As always, we depend entirely on your generosity to make the Jumble Sale a success. If you're having a spring clear out or if you have just one item to donate, please contact us.

If you have items ready now, please ring Anne Hall on **01438 718505** or Mike Purser on **07918 021313** to arrange to drop your items off at the Memorial Hall. **If you need your items collected now, please contact Deirdre Hatt on 07759 506750.**

**Donations such as clothing, shoes, bric-a-brac, bedding/linens, jigsaws, books, toys, unwanted gifts, small household and electrical items are always welcomed.**

**Large items very rarely sell so if your item will not fit into an average estate car, we cannot accept it. Here is a list of the type of items we cannot accept:**

***Large furniture, laptop monitors, bulky televisions, corded telephones, 3-piece suites, wardrobes, children's car seats, crash helmets, duvets, gas/electrical appliances such as cookers, freezers or refrigerators.***

**Please note, for everyone's safety, we cannot accept broken items.**

A team of residents have kindly agreed to collect items during the week leading up to the sale. Their contact details will be printed in the March edition and will also be shown on the yellow Jumble Sale flyer, which will be delivered to every house in the next couple of weeks. Spare copies will be available in Tewin Stores. **Thank you in advance for your contributions. All profit goes towards the upkeep of Tewin Memorial Hall.**



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## **Post Office Times**

### **Burnham Green Village Hall Post Office Open:**

Fri 9.30am until 13.00pm

### **Tewin Stores Post Office Open:**

Wed 9.30am until 11.30am

Fri 9.30am until 11.30am

### **Datchworth Village Hall Post Office Open:**

Tues 9.30am until 12.00 pm

## **Lent Groups**

The Welwyn Team of Churches will be running a five-week bible study group for Lent. A group for Datchworth and Tewin will meet on Fridays at 12 noon in Datchworth Church Hall beginning with a soup lunch. Our first meeting will be 27th February. For details of the times and meeting places of the other groups please get in contact with the vicar, The Rev'd Susannah Underwood, at [team.vicar@welwyn.org.uk](mailto:team.vicar@welwyn.org.uk) 07446 133496

## **Keeping Safe on Slippery Paths**

The advice from winter weather experts and at least one NHS Trust for navigating slippery pavements is to walk like a penguin. Take small, careful steps while keeping your feet flat and knees slightly bent to stay balanced. Keep your arms out for balance and avoid distractions. Find more guidance on how to stay safe in the cold weather at

<https://tinyurl.com/cold-weather-advice>.

## **Food Bank Donations**

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Christmas Food Bank this year. We had some really nice Christmas chocolates, mince pies etc as well as much needed tinned food and groceries.

The Pantry at Sele Farm were really touched by your generosity and thank you all for your donations, it makes such a difference to families who are struggling, especially at this time of year.

We only collect at Christmas time but please remember there is a food donation box in the Village shop and the church all year round.

Thank you all again and we wish you a very happy, healthy New Year

Bert and Cheryl x

## **Health Walks Winter Timetable Online**

Get active for free! We have a range of great walks with a variety of lengths to suit all abilities and backgrounds. And there's no need to worry about not being fit enough. There is a volunteer at the front and one at the back, no-one gets left behind.

For those of you just getting started, there are more than 30 short walks, <https://tinyurl.com/30-short-walks>, to choose from. Our shortest walk lasts around 20 minutes. It is ideal for people with long-term health conditions looking to improve their activity levels and those recovering from an injury or illness. Our friendly volunteers in their bright yellow jackets will welcome and support you all the way.

Check our full winter timetable at  
<https://tinyurl.com/Jan-to-April-Walks>

Everyone is welcome!

## Team Vicar's Letter

The three villages pancake race is back!!!!

It's a number of years since Shrove Tuesday fell in half term, but this year it does, which gives the opportunity for the communities of Datchworth, Burnham Green and Tewin to battle it out with pan and pancakes!

Come join us outside the White Horse on Burnham Green on Shrove Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 11am as village teams run and flip their way to victory. The coveted champions cup is currently held at Datchworth school but once again it is the prize for the community that claims victory!

If you would like to race and can let me know, that would be helpful. However if you turn up I'm sure we can still find a space for you on a team. People of all ages and abilities are welcome. We will provide the pancakes and pans. If you don't want to join with racing come and cheer your village on. Afterwards there will be pancakes served in the White Horse.

Ash Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February, marks the beginning of Lent, where we prepare ourselves by prayer and fasting for the events of Easter to be told once again. In a world where we have seen so much dreadful suffering caused by human folly, the call to self-reflection and repentance seem as relevant as ever to the human condition. Our Ash Wednesday services this year will take place at St Peter's Tewin at 9:30am or St Mary's Welwyn at 8pm.

Study groups for Lent take place around the Welwyn Team. Look out in the magazine, the church website and notices for more details.

However you intend to mark Lent, start polishing your pans and practice your pancake tossing. I wonder if it will be Datchworth, Tewin or Burnham Green who claim victory this year?

Susannah

## ST PETER'S CHURCH SERVICES

| DATE            | DAY                     | SERVICE        | TIME   | MINISTER                         | 1 <sup>ST</sup><br>READING | 2 <sup>ND</sup><br>READING | GOSPEL                                |
|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| FEBRUARY<br>1st | CANDLE-MAS              | HOLY COMMUNION | 9.30am | SUSANNAH UNDERWOOD               | MALACHI 3: 1-5             | HEBREWS 2:14-End           | LUKE 2: 22-40                         |
| 8th             | 2nd SUNDAY BEFORE LENT  | HOLY COMMUNION | 9.30am | EDWARD CARDALE                   | GENESIS 1: 1-2: 3          | 2 ROMANS 8: 18-25          | MATTHEW 6: 25-End                     |
| 15th            | SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT | MORNING PRAYER | 9.30am | JO SAMPSON                       | EXODUS 24: 12-End          | MATTHEW 17: 1-9            |                                       |
|                 |                         | MESSY CHURCH   | 3pm    | SUSANNAH UNDERWOOD               |                            |                            |                                       |
| 18th            | ASH WEDNES-DAY          |                | 9.30am |                                  | JOEL 2: 1-2, 12-17         | 2 CORINTHIANS 5: 20b-6: 10 | MATTHEW 6: 1-6, 16-21 OR JOHN 8: 1-11 |
| 22nd            | 1st SUNDAY OF LENT      | HOLY COMMUNION | 9.30am | SUSANNAH UNDERWOOD<br>JO SAMPSON | GENESIS 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7   | ROMANS 5: 12-19            | MATTHEW 4: 1-11                       |

**Service of Said Evening Prayer is held every Monday at 5pm**

**FUNERAL**

**Menna Wynne Searle 22 December 2025**

**ROtas**

| SERVER                          | READER            | SIDESMEN                               | COFFEE                         | FLOWERS           | CLEANER            |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>FEBRUARY</b><br>1st<br>SPIKE | ROZ<br>HOLDEN     | CLARE<br>RAWLINS<br><br>ANNA<br>GILLIS | MARY<br>GREGG                  | JUDY<br>PUDDEFOOT | ANGELA<br>WILLIAMS |
| 8th<br>TBA                      | HERBERT<br>LAMING | GRAHAM<br>&<br>PAULINE<br>SPRING       | GERRY<br>&<br>JACKIE<br>MURPHY | CLARE<br>RAWLINS  | PAULINE<br>SPRING  |
| 15th                            | PAULINE<br>SPRING | ROZ<br>HOLDEN                          | BARBARA<br>CLARK               | DEBORAH<br>HOARE  | CLARE<br>RAWLINS   |
| 18th                            | LINDA<br>GILLEY   |  |                                |                   |                    |
| 22nd<br>DAVID                   | DAVID<br>KEMPSON  | SPIKE<br>NICHOLSON<br><br>ANNE<br>LAND | QUEENIE<br>SIMMONS             | LENT              | SUE<br>WHITBOURN   |

**St Peter's Church was floodlit on 7th January 2026 in memory of  
Leo Minton**

### *A church at the heart of the village, with space for all*

There was one day in January when it was so cold outside on the day I went to the church to set the timers for the heating and lighting for the week, that I actually found it felt warmer inside the church than out!! As I left, the snow started to fall and it looked like it was set in for the day, but ten minutes later, it stopped. I have had pictures of heavy snow in Warsaw, all across Europe and of course everywhere north of here. The blue skies, rain and sun and mild temperatures since that very cold spell are unseasonable for January. The bulbs are waking up too early. The church flowers, the nativity scene, and the tree remain in the church until Candlemas at the beginning of February. A special service to celebrate Candlemas will take place at St Mary's Welwyn at 6.30pm on 1<sup>st</sup> February. And then we shall be rushing towards Lent which starts on Ash Wednesday on 18<sup>th</sup> February, after Pancake Day (17<sup>th</sup> February) when we propose to organise a race between 3 villages on Burnham Green.

As usual we hope to run a Lent course. This year it will be with All Saints Datchworth and will take place for five weeks on Fridays at noon at the Datchworth Church Hall from 27<sup>th</sup> February. The theme this year is "Mission".

New year, new beginnings. You may have wondered if the church was still trying to get permission for a new meeting room close to our Grade 1 listed ancient church. It is a bit like walking through treacle but we are plodding on. We have now accepted quotes for two essential surveys before any new designs may be considered. These are for a topographical survey of where things are in the ground for example, ancient graves, and for a tree survey to see where the roots of trees planted near the church may be a problem for a new building. After those have been done our new architect will produce a couple of new designs for the PCC to look at and for us to share with the village. Meanwhile we have a minor conundrum – the East Herts Planners have refused planning permission for a shed where a shed used to be in the church yard,. It burnt down many years ago and we have used the base more recently for bonfires. We have many items scattered in

corners of the church and in people's garages and spare bedrooms which are used from time to time but would be better housed in a building close to the church. Curiously, the church authorities by contrast, have granted a faculty (permission) for the shed, and Historic England, who can be difficult, also raised no objections, nor did the Parish Council or any Tewin residents. So now we must go back to the planners and reapply trying to fit in with some of the points made in the refusal or appeal to the Secretary of State. It is one step forward and two back. If you would like to support the church in this endeavour, please send me or David Rawlins, [rawlins31@btinternet.com](mailto:rawlins31@btinternet.com), a letter to go with our latest effort.

Our collection from Christmas services was over £400 and will be split between two different charities – the Children's Society and Resolve, which is a local charity in Welwyn Garden City helping people with problems with addiction. This month the PCC has met to review a number of policy documents with a special focus on Safeguarding in the church.

Throughout January every effort has been made to keep areas of the churchyard free from leaves, while folk visit the graves of loved ones over the Christmas and New Year period. Clearing leaves from the churchyard requires much effort and it would be greatly appreciated if more members of the community could offer help. Please contact David Rawlins (see above) or Gerry Murphy ([gerry.murphyjag@btinternet.com](mailto:gerry.murphyjag@btinternet.com))

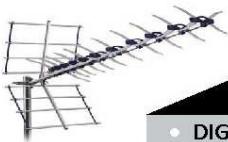
If you or your loved ones need support during the winter, please remember the Welwyn team are there for you.

Contact:

The Rev'd Susannah Underwood  
[team.vicar@welwyn.org.uk](mailto:team.vicar@welwyn.org.uk) 07446 133496

All good wishes,  
Linda Gilley Churchwarden  
[alannio@btinternet.com](mailto:alannio@btinternet.com)  
01438 717385 / 07803 248423

PS Dates for your diaries – 8/9 May Church Spring Cleaning and Open Gardens on 30/31 May



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## Tewin Tennis Club

No sooner do I write last month's Tewin Magazine missive than we are hit by a weather bomb. For the best part of two weeks in early January the courts were hardly in use. A mixture of ice and/or rain put paid to play for a longer period than any of us could remember.

Personally, I am happy to make an early call to stay home and drink another cup of coffee, but even chairman Mike, with his trusted tennis ball machine, was deterred.

Such was the desperation for a match that the Saturday morning crowd almost decamped to Gosling for a match indoors, but the reality of trekking over to Welwyn Garden City, together with the significant cost of the court rental, didn't drum up enough support.

Maybe we are the victim of our own successful fiscal policy. Our courts are owned by the Parish Council, and our membership fees are largely aimed at covering the current and future costs of the upkeep and periodic replacement of the courts, plus other incidentals and social event costs. We are, of course, run entirely by volunteers.

Before moving here 24 years ago, I'd been playing at Harpenden Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club (which like Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson, reinvented itself. Harpenden LTC seemed less posh to the proletariat). Mind you, the fees are still posh. The annual membership at my old club is now £490 for an adult, plus a £250 joining fee.

My son still plays there, gets high quality league and friendly matches every week and reckons it represents fair value for money. Compared with pickleball, padel or golf I am sure he's right.

But Tewin Tennis Club is purposely kept as affordable as possible, with last year's fees set at just £50 for adults and £15 for juniors. I am guessing members could afford to pay for the occasional foray to Gosling but it may take some forward planning. Food for thought.

Enough of my wittering. Please make sure you put the date of the AGM in your diary now, Friday 27 March, in the pavilion by the tennis courts.  
Peter Burgess

## Running the London Marathon for a Local Cause

Hi, I'm Danielle, and I live in Harwood Close. I've been part of the Tewin community for the past eight years, and my three children have all attended Tewin Cowper School, so this really is home for us.



In April 2026, I'll be running the London Marathon — my first marathon and definitely my biggest challenge yet! I'm fundraising for Hertfordshire Community Foundation, a local charity that supports families in crisis and small charities across Hertfordshire.

If you're able to support me with a donation or by sharing my fundraising page, I'd be hugely grateful. And if you see me out training around the village, please give me a wave — all encouragement is very welcome!

<https://2026tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/danielle-hood>

Thank you so much for the support.  
Danielle





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## A Burns' Supper

As I write this in mid-January my thoughts are turning to Scotland's National Poet, Robert Burns. As we sang in the New Year with *Auld Lang Syne* and we look to Valentine's Day, when perhaps a gallant gentleman will quote *My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose*, in our household we are getting ready to celebrate the birth of Robert Burns on 25<sup>th</sup> January. On this day it is traditional to eat Haggis, Neeps and Tatties and to recite poems and sing songs from his large catalogue. Now, contrary to public opinion, haggis is not an everyday dish all over Scotland. In fact, I had my first taste of haggis in London at a Burns' Night celebration which, 'it had been decided', my now-husband and I should host. In return our Australian friends would cook Lamingtons and Pyromaniac Pineapple to celebrate Australia Day the following day – we were young and living in a foreign land!

Anxious to get things right, I walked down to Smithfield Meat Market in my lunch break to consult with the experts on how much to buy and how to cook it (you do know that a haggis is a four-legged creature with two long legs and two short to make it easier to run around those Scottish mountains, right?).

So, come the day, my ever-friendly partner casually mentioned that he'd invited several extra guests. In a panic I decided that we needed MORE HAGGIS. But, although Smithfield was close to my place of work, it was not close to my home. By some miracle our local butcher had a haggis.

That evening I mashed the tatties and bashed the neeps and put the haggis in the oven as per the advice from Smithfield – no need to prick the skin, it's porous. At the appointed hour with the guests seated and awaiting the arrival of the chef with the haggis to be admired and addressed I opened the oven door to be greeted with an almighty bang and an explosion of haggis. All over me, the wall, the ceiling – weeks later we were still finding bits of haggis in the kitchen. The haggis from the local butcher was not encased in a porous skin but in plastic which should have been pricked to relieve the pressure. As I said earlier, we were young, there was enough haggis from Smithfield to go round and enough whisky and McEwan's Export to be shared and enough friends to help with the clean-up – once they'd stopped laughing.

JM

## Friends of Danesbury and QVM

It is difficult to believe it is now nearly February, it seems only a minute ago since I was writing my article for the December magazine. I hope you have all enjoyed, or at least survived, the festive season.

I am very pleased to tell you that the Friends of Danesbury and the QVM Hospitals' charity shop in Welwyn High Street was very busy before Christmas and raised significant funds for the charity. We were fortunate to have been given so many lovely things and as a result the shop was filled with a cornucopia of delights - pretty baubles hanging on branches and other decorations and gifts of all descriptions as well as books to while away the hours and lovely clothes for all occasions.

As we were approaching Christmas the Charity was delighted to be able to

provide parties for the patients in both the hospitals, both with entertainment and a buffet. It is especially sad to be ill or disabled and in hospital at Christmas and so it was lovely to see patients and their relatives able to relax and enjoy themselves, enjoying a festive get together with lovely seasonal songs as you will see from this picture of the audience at the Danesbury hospital party.



The Charity was also able to give a party to say thank you to all the volunteers without whom the shop could not operate. So much work goes on behind the scenes sorting and pricing donations and volunteers also help selling in the shop. It would be lovely if we could encourage some more volunteers to come and help us.

Finally I just wanted to say a huge thank you to Heather Knappett who has finally retired in her nineties after working in our charity shop for more than thirty years. Heather attended the Christmas party for the volunteers in December where she was presented with retirement gifts from the trustees, shop managers, some customers and friends. Brian King and Heather have really been the shop's backbone throughout the years, coping with several moves and many changes; smiling and super efficient throughout. Thank you, Heather

**Jennifer Fowler**

**Friends of Danesbury and Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital**  
**Email: 'info@danesburyqvm.co.uk'**

## Tewin Stores and Cafe

Happy New Year to all our readers of the Tewin shop articles. Firstly, I must thank those who ordered 38 of our Christmas Hampers. I hope your family and friends enjoyed them. Also, very many thanks to Jacquie Houston and Brenda Barber for the wonderful 3 course Christmas meal we enjoyed in the shop; and to those who supported the Christmas raffle. They gave us some welcome funds for the shop.



But now it's a new year and we think of Valentines Day in February. To help you celebrate and to give a gift to the one you love, we are offering for sale a gift of Prosecco and fresh flowers beautifully arranged, which you can order in advance. Place your order asap, please.

February is also the month for pancakes. Unfortunately, the Friends of Tewin Seniors' lunch is on Shrove Tuesday. So, as we don't want to lose this popular event, we are having our own 'Shrove Tuesday' on the 24<sup>th</sup> February. We will be making

sweet and savoury pancakes from 10am till 3pm, so breakfast, lunch or later.

February is also the Shop's birthday, and we are getting towards 20 years in 2 years time.

Talking of food, have you seen our new menu which now includes Porridge for early birds and Potatoes in Jackets for later in the day? The next Saturday lunch is February 21<sup>st</sup> which will be Cottage Pie.

The 100 club winners for January are :-

|                       |                |        |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Prize | Roe Hill       | £47.50 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize | Judy Puddefoot | £23.75 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize | Elaine Wulcko  | £14.25 |

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## Tewin Community Bus SATURDAY shopping trips



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## BookTrust Storytime is Returning to Hertfordshire Libraries.

From Monday 12 January – Sunday 1 March 2026 libraries across Hertfordshire will be enjoying 7 weeks of stories, songs and rhymes celebrating the fantastic BookTrust Storytime Prize shortlist.

The annual Prize aims to find the best picture book for sharing, while inspiring families to share stories together and make visiting their local library a part of everyday life.

The fantastic titles on the shortlist are:

- Five Enormous Dinosaurs illustrated by Annie Kubler and Sarah Dellow
- Suki Cat Astronaut by Grace Habib
- Superwolf by Helen Docherty, illustrated by Thomas Docherty
- The Jellyfish Jiggle by Caryl Hart, illustrated by Nicola Slater
- Tiger, It's Snowing! by Daishu Ma

Each fun, interactive, 30-minute session will feature a different book from the shortlist, an activity, and a chance to vote towards the overall winner. These sessions are free (donations welcome) and ideal for children ages 2-5. Libraries also have some fantastic sticker books to give away, with a different sticker to collect every week (while stocks last).

For families who can't make a session and would love to get involved, 12 of our libraries are setting up Reading Nooks. Families can drop in at any time during opening hours to enjoy the shortlisted books together and vote for the overall winner. More information, including when the sessions are happening and which libraries have Reading Nooks, can be found at  
<https://tinyurl.com/Bookstart-Storytime>.

Hertfordshire Libraries also have our My First Library Card, available for children aged 0-5. It is free to join your local library where you will find a huge range of picture books, fact books and beginning-to-read stories to borrow. We think joining the library is exciting as there is so much to explore and be inspired by. To mark this occasion children will be presented with a special certificate. This is part of our My Firsts promotion, helping families to celebrate early years milestones. You can find out more at  
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|------------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Mon              | Rose & Crown  | 10.30am-noon  | Knit and Natter            |
| Tues             | Tewin School  | 7-9 pm        | Table Tennis               |
| Wed              | Memorial Hall | 9.30– 11am    | Parent and Toddler Group   |
| Wed              | Burnham Green | 12-12.30pm    | Mobile Fish Van            |
| Wed              | Memorial Hall | 7.30-9pm      | Tewin Ukulele Group (TUG)  |
| Thurs            | Lower Green   | 9.25am & 10am | Footpath walks of Tewin    |
| Thurs            | Memorial Hall | 1.30-4.30pm   | 50+ Club                   |
| Fri              | Tewin Stores  | 1.30-2.45pm   | Trussells Butcher's Van    |
| Thurs 5th & 19th | Bowls Club    | 2-5pm         | Bridge                     |
| Thurs 5th & 19th | Memorial Hall | 2-3.30pm      | Technology Advice          |
| Mon 16th         | Memorial Hall | 7 for 7.45pm  | Screen on the Green 'Diva' |
| Tues 17th        | Burnham Green | 11am          | 3 Villages Pancake Race    |
| Tues 17th        | Memorial Hall | 12-4.30pm     | Seniors' Lunch             |
| Sat 21st         | Tewin Stores  | 12.15-1.30pm  | Lunch 'Cottage Pie'        |
| Tues 24th        | Tewin Stores  | 10am-3pm      | Pancakes                   |
| Tues 24th        | Memorial Hall | 6pm           | Friends of Tewin AGM       |

**Team Vicar:** Rev'd Susannah Underwood, The Rectory, Brookbridge Lane, Datchworth, SG3 6SU tel: 01438 817183  
e-mail: team.vicar@welwyn.org.uk

**Team Rector:** Rev'd Dr David Munchin, 1 Ottway Walk, Welwyn, AL6 9AS tel: 01438 714150

**Parish Office:** Mon,Tues 9-1pm, Fri 9-Noon tel: 01438 840964

**Clergy Surgery:** Saturdays at St Mary's 10.00—11.00 am

**Churchwarden:** Mrs Linda Gilley, 30 Godfries Close, Tewin, AL6 0LQ tel: 01438 717385

**Parochial Church Council:**

**Hon Secretary:** Ms Deborah Hoare, 35 Lower Green, Tewin, AL6 0LA tel: 01438 587408

**Treasurer:** Mrs Diana Bradley, 25 Firs Walk, Tewin, AL6 0NY, tel: 01438 798478

**Stewardship Officer:** Mr Graham Spring, 2b Hertford Road, Tewin, AL6 0JY tel: 01438 416071

**Bell Tower Capt.:** Mr David Hall, tel: 01707 884274

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| Hanscombe House Surgery, Hertford .....    | 01992 582025 |
| Lea Wharf Medical, Hertford .....          | 01992 550541 |
| Watton Place Clinic, Watton-at-Stone ..... | 01920 830033 |
| Moors Walk Surgery, Panshanger, WGC .....  | 01707 335151 |
| Tewin Vets .....                           | 01438 840028 |
| Tewin Stores & Post Office .....           | 01438 717929 |
| Tewin Memorial Hall .....                  | 01438 717581 |
| Tewin Pavilion .....                       | 01438 718069 |
| Rose & Crown Public House .....            | 01438 715757 |
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