

March  
2011



March 2011  
Issue No. 12

# North Stifford Village NEWS

North Stifford Village Community Group  
*Working together to improve our village*

## Armed robbery at Dog and Partridge Pub



POLICE are appealing for information after the landlord of the Dog and Partridge pub was threatened by robbers with a handgun around 10.30am on Wednesday 29th December 2010.

Andrew Carter, manager of the Dog and Partridge was getting into his car with assistant manager Richard Wellham. They were on their way to bank the pub takings when they were ambushed by two balaclava wearing robbers.

One of the robbers jumped into the back seat of the car and pointed the handgun at Mr Carter and shouted "Where's the money?" before taking a cash bag containing around £10,000, which was on the back seat. They then ran off down Clockhouse Lane.

Mr Carter said: "I am still in shock. As it was happening I was just numb. With a gun pointed at you there is not much you can do.

I was upset when it happened but I am quite angry now because after all our hard work over Christmas it has gone. Even though it was company money, we all worked really hard.

We were fully booked over the weekend and it was all our takings that are gone." He said: "It was over so quickly. After they ran off, I ran after them to see if they dumped the bag, but they had gone. It was shocking."

continued on page 2

## Pub robbery continued from front page

Mr Carter, who called the police immediately after the robbery, explained he does the pub banking at different times of day and, following company procedure, staff always go in pairs .

He added: "I am glad nobody was hurt.. I was going to go with my wife, Lyn, but she stayed behind.

We always follow company procedure and we have a security advisor coming to visit to tell us about any extra precautions we can take to stop it happening again. This is the first time anything like it has taken place in my two years here."

Bhadrash Patel, who works in the village shop opposite the pub, added: "I have worked here 13 years and never heard of anything like it. It is a really good area and for this to happen here is a real surprise."

One of the robbers was about 5ft 8in tall, and was wearing a light coloured light-weight zip-up jacket and black balaclava.

The other man was about 5ft 10in tall and was wearing dark clothing and a bala-clava.

Anyone with information should contact Dc Carla Hillyer of the Serious Crime Team at South Ockendon police station on 0300 333 4444.

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## Cattery approved

Bridge Meadow Farm, Stifford Hill, have had their planning application approved for change of use of former chicken sheds to a cattery.

North Stifford Village Community Group present a

### Walk on the Wild Side

A family walk in Davy Down

with guide Steve Mitchell, Davy Down warden

Sunday 20th March

Meet at the Pumping Station at 12 midday

Refreshments will be available

#### Mobile Library

The mobile library parks in Clockhouse Lane on Mondays  
12.25 p.m.—12.55 p.m.

## Would you like to serve on the NSVCG committee?

(North Stifford Village Community Group)

Each year a maximum of 12 members are voted in to serve for the next year, comprising of four officers (Chairperson, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary) and a maximum of eight other members.

Nominations of candidates for the election of officers and committee member's shall be made in writing to the secretary at least 14 days in advance of the AGM. Nominations can only be proposed by a full member and must be seconded by another full member.

Nomination forms can be obtained from the secretary or downloaded from [www.northstiffordvillage.co.uk](http://www.northstiffordvillage.co.uk) - just follow the 'Community Group' link

Our next AGM is on Wednesday 20th April 2011. Nominations must be delivered to the secretary, Maureen Nicholas, 6 Browns Cottages, High Road (Next to shop) by 6th April 2011.

New members and new ideas to improve our village are always welcome.

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## Race Night

Another successful Race Night was held at the Village Hall on Friday 11th March. 65 people attended and a great time was had by all.

The night was organised by Gordon Roberts with assistance from the Thurrock Lions Club. Approximately £350 profit made on the night will go into the fund to make improvements to our village.

Thank you to everyone who helped on the night and for those who kindly donated raffle prizes.

Thanks also to Richard Groome, manager of the Park Inn who generously donated a meal for four and Andrew Carter, manager of the Dog and Partridge who donated a meal for two.

These were auctioned on the night and raised £60.

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## North Stifford Village Hall

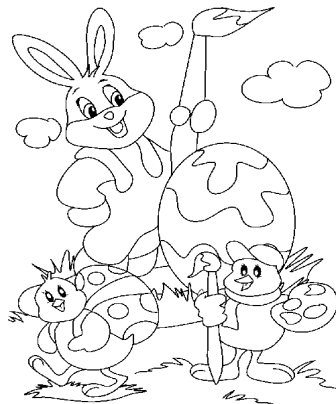
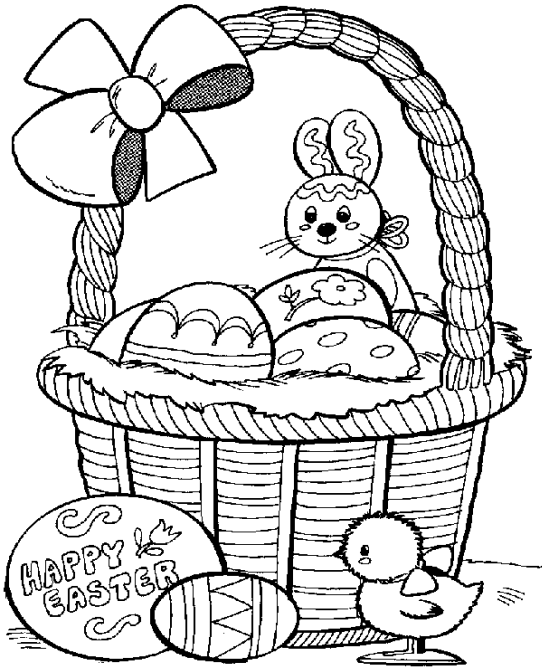
Enquiries and hall bookings can only be made in person at the Village Hall on Monday evenings between 8 and 9 p.m. (Please use the side door).

#### Councillor Surgeries - First Saturday each month

North Stifford Village Hall - 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Councillor Garry Hague and Councillor Neil Rockliffe

# Children's Easter Colouring



## THE DOG & PARTRIDGE

Your friendly local

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Available all day every day

2 meals  
for **£5.50**

Choose from



Simply steak\* 4oz



Simply beef burger



Simply chicken



Spicy penne pasta



Ham, egg & chips

OR go for one of these just an extra

**25p**  
per person

**Fish & chips**

**Smothered chicken**

**Gammon steak**



Fish & chips

**NEW!** Try our Tasty Toppers & Sauces **JUST 99p**

See the main menu

## What happened to Ford Place?

The delightful picture below was copied from *Stifford and its Neighbourhood* by Reverend William Palin and was drawn by Rev. Palin's daughter Jane c1870.

Ford Place can be seen top right of the picture. The bridge was then made of iron and just to the left you can see a horse and carriage about to cross the bridge. The man and dog are walking along the unmade Stifford Hill. The open space between the man and the Mardyke is where Bridge Meadow Farm is now situated.



Ford Place, stood north of the Mardyke on Stifford Hill. The core of the building dated to around 1590 comprising a brick house, originally half "H" plan, altered and extended in approximately 1655 in the Artisan Mannerist style with a Georgian west front constructed in 1747 by Mr John Archer Sish, a trustee of William Palmer's School in 1757.

According to Wm. Palin, the east side, formerly the front, facing the then London Road, was approached by a long and handsome avenue and dated 1655. In or before 1689 the manor of Stifford, including Ford Place was, acquired by James Silverlocke whose family had been prominent in the parish since the 1630s. From the 17th to the 19th century the estate was owned by several families including Grantham, Sish, Spence and Hogarth, and was eventually bought in 1839 by William Wingfield of Orsett Hall, formerly a judge and MP for Bodmin. William and his son Richard later took the name of Wingfield-Baker. From this time Ford Place was tenanted by Samuel Francis who died there in 1858. In the 1851 census he is listed as a farmer of 700 acres, employing 30 men. Other occupants were, in 1860, James Robinson Grieg, magistrate and landed proprietor, in 1863, Captain Atkinson and in 1871 Charles Moss Esq., a retired merchant.



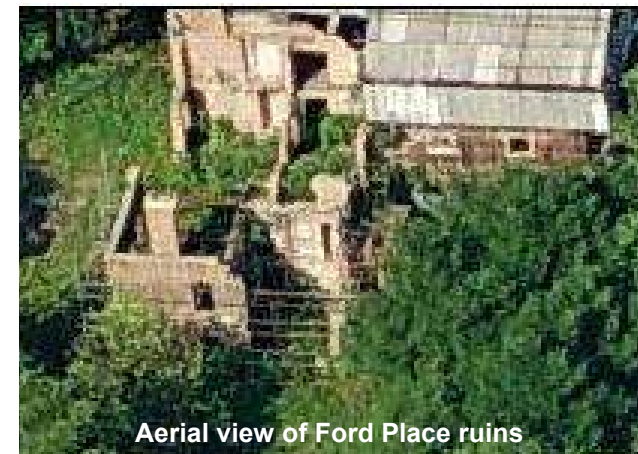
Ford Place 1980's

There followed a succession of tenants until after the Second World War when Mr Humphrey John Vellacott bought a long lease and divided the house into flats and developed part of the grounds for light industry. The *Grays and Tilbury Gazette* for 8th May 1958 reported raids on Ford Place, by three boys at Ardale Approved School, about a mile away.

The boys pleaded guilty to breaking into the house on March 13th and stealing £6 1s. 9d. and a torch. One of them admitted a similar offence on March 18th, stealing a cigarette case worth 25s. Two of the boys pleaded guilty to breaking into Mr Vellacott's house on April 19th and stealing a ciné camera. All three youths were sentenced at Essex Quarter Sessions at Chelmsford to one day's imprisonment. In 1979 Mr Vellacott was in the process of buying the freehold. The building was listed Grade I by English Heritage but after its partial destruction by fire in 1987, was listed as Grade II.

I decided to investigate and discovered that the ruins of Ford Place are still there.

If you travel towards South Ockendon, across the traffic lights into South Road. On the right hand side before the entrance to the golf course there is a dirt track. At the end of this dirt track are the ruins of Ford Place. Ed.



Aerial view of Ford Place ruins

There have been numerous planning proposals put forward over the years including a hotel and a housing development. So far none of the proposals have been acceptable.

Currently a planning application is being considered for apartments.

*Content for this article has been sourced from various places including Stifford and its Neighbourhood, Thurrock Local History Society, and Google Earth.*

Have you got any interesting stories about the village or surrounding area? Please contact Cliff, editor@northstiffordvillage.co.uk or any member of the NSVCG committee.

# Mo's Cookery Corner

by Maureen Nicholas

Although there is a vast range of cookery books on the market, we thought it would be good to share some 'favourite recipes' to enhance our culinary skills and enjoyment of cooking and eating. Recipes for any type of meal or for cakes, jams, chutney or pickles, would be welcome. It may be that you have an old family recipe tucked away somewhere or could offer an alternative cultural delight. It would also be of interest if you have a story of where the recipe originated.

So next time you are enjoying one of your favourites, why not email the recipe to the North Stifford web site, or drop the recipe off to Mo, 6 Browns Cottages, High Road, so we can share these culinary delights with all our neighbours through these news magazines.

We have started with a very simple and cheap recipe, the source of which I cannot even remember, but it has been enjoyed by family members (and at lean times, my pocket) for many years.

## BAKED STUFFED LIVER - by Maureen Nicholas

This dish is simple and easy to make. Serve with new or roast potatoes and green vegetables, with gravy made from the juices produced during the baking.

You will need 2-3 slices per person of pigs liver (or any liver of your choice)

For the Stuffing; (approx. 4 persons)

4 rashers of streaky bacon (chopped)

1 finely chopped onion

2 teaspoons parsley

(2 teaspoons of mixed fresh herbs can also be used)

2 slices bread finely grated (brown or white)

Seasoning

A few drops of Worcester sauce

An oven proof dish (greased)

Lay the slices of liver singularly over the base of the dish.

Grill bacon and mix in the rest of the stuffing ingredients binding together with the Worcester sauce.

Spread the stuffing over the liver, cover with foil and cook for 1 hour on gas mark 4 or 180°C.

10 minutes before end of cooking time remove cover to brown.

## PEANUT BUTTER BARS - by Catherine Hooton

### Ingredients

1½ - 2 cups of golden syrup

1½ cups of peanut butter (smooth or crunchy)

6 cups of cornflakes

8oz plain chocolate

Lightly oil 8x10 inch cake tin or pyrex dish (no need to oil)

### Method

Melt golden syrup & remove from heat.

Mix in peanut butter until smooth.

Crush cornflakes (just a bit) in a large bowl & combine with peanut butter "Goo".

Pour the mixture into dish.

Melt chocolate, pour over & leave it to cool. Then enjoy!

## War Memorials

Did you know that there are three war memorials in North Stifford?

One stands in St. Mary's church yard and is in memory of the fallen of the First World War.

The second is a bronze plaque commemorating those who died in the Second World War and can be found inside St. Mary's Church on the north wall.

The third memorial is on Stifford Green. This memorial is in memory of the Stepney Boys who died in the First World War.

All the inscriptions from these three memorials have now been recorded and can be viewed on the village website [www.northstiffordvillage.co.uk](http://www.northstiffordvillage.co.uk).

Until I find a home for it, the link can be found under Stop Press. Ed



St. Mary's



St. Mary's



Stifford Green

## **PUBLIC MEETING 19th January 2011**

### **North Stifford Village Community Group**

Herewith, a brief summary of topics covered at the above meeting for those who were unable to attend.

#### **Welcome:**

Gordon opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, giving a special welcome to new members and residents. Gordon introduced the committee members.

#### **Village sign:**

Gordon explained that progress had been made in obtaining the funding needed. Generous donations had been received from the Mardyke Trust, Grays Public Purposes Committee, National Grid and local residents which means we can now start the project. [See article page 14](#)

#### **Social Events:**

Gordon announced a Race Night in the village hall, planned for February 11th. Also, on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> February there will be another Litter Pick, which will start at 10.a.m. High visibility vests will be provided and other equipment will also be available.

The village Fete is to be held on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Help would be welcome on the day and anyone interested should contact a Fete committee member.

The annual Barbeque will probably be held in July. [Confirmed date Friday 1st July](#)  
Congratulations were extended to those members of the committee who had organised the Children's Christmas Party.

#### **Village News Magazine:**

We are now accepting a limited amount of advertising in the Village News as a way of raising funds. Half a page costs £25 and a full page £40.

#### **A.O.B.**

##### **Four Acres Trust letter - further development at Stifford Green:**

This letter had only been sent to some of the homes on Stifford Green. As the proposals affect all residents of the village, copies have been made and circulated around the village for discussion and response. Neil Rockcliffe, councillor, gave his interpretation of the letter's content, and comments were made from the floor.

There had been previous commitment from villagers to stop development of this kind. Gordon urged members to uphold their views and to write to Mr Bottomley.

##### **Planning application for the Tower:**

Neil also responded to questions from the floor on the proposed change of use (from business to retail) of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the water Tower on Stifford Green .

[Planning was refused on 24th January](#)

##### **Application for a licence for a fast food stall on Pilgrims Lane:**

It was announced that a street trader had applied for a licence to trade in a lay by off the Ardale site, gated area opposite Davey Down, during the hours of 4.00p.m. and 2.00.a.m. Objections were raised from the floor, such as traffic congestion and no parking facilities etc.

Councillor Neil Rockcliffe explained that objections in official terms would be public nuisance, no parking facility, no toilet facilities, risk to other road users, conflicts with prevention of traffic congestion, anti social behaviour and litter. Neil said he had an email address for people to send in their objections and to see him after the meeting.

Again it was voiced that there was a lack of communication from the council on important issues that affect the village.

#### **Pot Holes in Clockhouse Lane:**

Gordon advised that the committee had discussed this issue and he had contacted the council whose representative had been very helpful and welcomed any complaints to be presented to him. Gordon gave out copies of the telephone number to call. [See article at bottom of page](#)

#### **Cold Callers:**

Dennis explained the purpose and value of being a part of the Cold Callers Scheme, which comes under trading standards regulations. When he has gathered all the information he will be making it available to the village community and if there is a significant wish to proceed he will do so.

#### **Burglary:**

This matter was raised by a resident who had recently been a victim of burglary. He said that it is very important for us to keep aware of opportunists, who will take advantage if we lapse in taking precautions to avoid such an event.

#### **Cricket Club:**

Gordon announced that the Belhus Cricket Club (who use the village green) have a charity cricket event organised by 'The Lashings.' It will take place on June 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be matches in which test match players will take part.

#### **Guest Speaker:**

Jonathan Catton gave a very interesting talk about local history with an accompanying slideshow.

**We look forward to seeing you at the next Public Meeting**  
**A.G.M. Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011, Village Hall 7.30 for 8 p.m.**

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## **Pot Holes - People Power**

At the public meeting on 19th January the subject was raised of the pot holes in Clockhouse Lane which were caused by the freezing weather.

Gordon Roberts, Chairman NSVCG distributed a council telephone number to ring to complain about the pot holes. Over the next few days the council was bombarded with calls from villagers. The following week the pot holes were filled in. This shows that when a community pulls together things get done.

Thank you to all those who took the trouble to telephone the council and thanks to Thurrock Council for their speedy response.

## Children's Christmas Party

We held our very first children's Christmas party on Saturday 11th December 2010 and what a great success it was, selling out within the first few days.

A big thank you goes to Kevin Hooper and Catherine Hooton who put a lot of work into organising the party.

There was party food and presents for the children. Marko Sparko kept the children entertained throughout the afternoon.

A nominal ticket price of £2 helped with costs.

The party was financed by £100 from the North Stifford Village Community Group and a very generous personal donation of £100 from Kevin Hooper.



Pictures by Catherine Hooton



## £3,500 Grant Approved

As mentioned in the December issue we are very happy to report that a grant of £3,500 from Veolia Mardyke Trust has now been approved by Entrust, the charities commission. We are very grateful to Andy Furse, secretary of the Veolia Mardyke Trust for all his help in securing this grant.

We would also like to thank Ray Smallcombe, Grays Public Purposes and Recreational Charity for their very generous donation of £500.

This means that with the other money kindly donated by the National Grid and local villagers etc., we can now go ahead with our village projects. Many thanks to everyone.

The main project is the village sign and we should be able to proceed with this in the next few weeks as soon as planning consent has been approved. We are hoping that it can be completed in time for the unveiling ceremony to take place at our barbecue evening on 1st July 2011. What a night that will be. Don't forget to put it in your diary: **Friday 1st July**.

Other projects planned to follow are Village in Bloom, Village Stocks and possibly a Time Capsule.

If you have any other suggestions for the village please let us know by emailing [editor@northstiffordvillage.co.uk](mailto:editor@northstiffordvillage.co.uk) or by contacting any member of the NSVCG committee.

**Ditch the workout - join the PARTY!**



3 daytime & 5 evening classes to suit everyone!

£4.50 per class

Classes held at:  
North Stifford Village Hall  
The Gateway Academy  
Thurrock Rugby Club  
William Edward's School

For more details, check out: [www.zumbacc.com](http://www.zumbacc.com)  
Or text/call Elaine on 07525 835 611

## Mardyke Flooded

After heavy rain in early January the Mardyke river became the Mardyke lake as water overflowed and flooded the fields either side. The before and after pictures below were taken from 'The Gardens' in Stifford Hill.



## Advertising in the Village News

We are now accepting a very limited amount of advertising in the 'Village News'. We print 300 magazines each quarter (March, June, September, December) and a copy is delivered to every property in the village.

The Village News is also archived on the village website.

Advertising Rates:

Half page £25.00 per issue or full page £40.00 per issue.

All proceeds from advertising will go into the NSVCG funds to be used for village projects.

For more information about advertising or contributions to the Village News please contact:-

Cliff Cowin [editor@northstiffordvillage.co.uk](mailto:editor@northstiffordvillage.co.uk) Tel: 01375 376483

## Crime Prevention

Meet your Neighbourhood policing team to get crime prevention advice. If you are having problems or you are a victim of crime please DO report it. If we do not hear from you then we cannot help.

If you need any help do not hesitate to contact us on:-  
0300 3334444 ext 70164 NPT Mobile 07779319907

or by e-mail. [james.preston@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:james.preston@essex.pnn.police.uk)  
Neighbourhood Specialist Officer: NSO James Preston

Police Community Support Officers:

PCSO's Stacie Williams - Jackie Ball - Samantha-Joanne Harrington



Wedding Fayre  
Sunday  
6th March  
10am to 4pm



Pay  
no room hire  
on any date\*

- Come and see over 40 top exhibitors from Essex.
- Gorgeous Georgian Mansion House set in 6 acres of gardens. Three fabulous banqueting rooms on show.
- Register at [www.vipbride.co.uk](http://www.vipbride.co.uk) and every bride receives a £100 Thomas Cook voucher on arrival, also entry into The Wedding Guide's Bride of the Year competition with First Prize £2000 Honeymoon.
- Registration will give you free entry for yourself and your party to the Wedding Fayre (ticket price without preregistration is £2.50). Registration is possible on arrival to the hotel on the day.

\*Terms & conditions apply

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