

Thanks to Nick Miller
for the Masthead



No: 636 February 2024



'Fox' taken by Bradley Thompson- Ford, Colletts Lane, Summer 2023

Welcome to the Valentine's edition of The Worm. Inside, you'll find updates from the Parish Council, Cllr Lewis Barber, Wormingford Wanderers Reserves, ART, the Recreation Trust, plus regular features 'Word from the Vicarage' and 'A Wormingford Life'. To mark Valentines day [and the month when the return of the sun is heralded by wondrous snowdrops], you'll find some love poems scattered through the pages. I hope you'll find something you like and if you want something else, send it to me!

Editor

Wormingford Recreation Trust
Presents:

Quiz Night

16th Feb 7.30pm

Wormingford Village Hall
Max Teams of 6, £3 per person

Bar / Snacks / Games / Children welcome

'Love's Philosophy'

The fountains mingle with the river
And the rivers with the ocean,
The winds of heaven mix forever
With a sweet emotion;
Nothing in the world is single;
All things by a law divine
In one spirit meet and mingle
Why not I with thine?
Percy Bysshe Shelley

DISCLAIMER: The statements, opinions and data contained in this publication are solely those of the individual authors and contributors and not the Parish Council, the Editor nor the Publisher of the Worm.

Items for inclusion in the Worm must be with the editor by the 21st of the month by email to: thewormeditor@gmail.com

A Wormingford Life.....as told to Gill Byrne



Zhenya studied Accountancy at university in Varna, Bulgaria, and by 1999 was working for a large international company. She had never interacted with English people until she met some English colleagues who were visiting her office on business. This was a fateful encounter, as it prompted Zhenya and her friend to go and learn English- in England.

Zhenya took a real leap of faith and was soon on her way to the UK. She had given up her job and was travelling without really knowing what might be waiting for her in the UK. Whilst she worked to learn English, Zhenya lived with some Bulgarian friends in Bayswater, London. Their digs were a bit crowded, with seven people in a small flat all doing shifts. The boys worked night shifts and used the flat during the day and the girls worked during the day and used the flat at night. Despite this, Zhenya enjoyed her time there. She recalls that the arrangement worked well and that she and her friends had great fun together. This helped Zhenya to feel less homesick.

After a few months the house mates moved into two separate houses and soon Zhenya got a job with her friend, working in canteen of a City finance company. Within months, Zhenya's friend met an English partner, soon introducing Zhenya to his best friend, David. These relationships have stood the test of time, as both couples married and have remained friends with each other.

Zhenya decided to give up accountancy and qualified as a Social Worker in 2010. She had always been curious about people and had a strong drive to make a difference to the vulnerable and disadvantaged. She could see how different Social Work was in England in comparison to Bulgaria and felt it was definitely for her.

Zhenya and David lived in Silver End before moving to Wormingford in 2014. Unfortunately, they had a challenging start to their Wormingford life, moving into their incomplete new house with their 3 and a half year old son Simeon. Even worse, soon after moving in, David fell through a skylight window 12ft off the ground and broke both of his legs. This was the coldest, wettest winter Zhenya can remember, and though she can now smile about this time, going through it was hard for her and her family.

When I asked her about some of the cultural differences between the UK and Bulgaria, Zhenya said that she feels that the family unit is much stronger in Bulgaria. There, people usually fall back on the family for such things as child care and loans rather than on organised public services. She felt that there is a much greater sense of community and a willingness to share in Bulgaria. For example, it's normal in Bulgaria to cook and share meals with neighbours and vice versa. Families often meet together every Sunday to sit, eat and chat all day.

Nowadays, Zhenya and her family love cycling, walking their two golden doodles and canoeing along the river. Zhenya continues to discover how beautiful Wormingford and the surrounding area is and loves it here.

Zhenya shares pictures of herself [above] and of David, Simeon and their dogs [right].



Wormingford Parish Council (WPC)



January 2024 .

This report covers the meeting held on 11th January 2024. No meeting was held in December.

The Council noted that following consultation at the end of 2023, Colchester City Council has included Wormingford and other out-lying parishes in their application for Rural Area Designation. Once approved it will give Colchester planners the right to insist on the inclusion of Social Housing on all developments of five or more homes.

A follow up discussion on Wormingford's Housing Needs Survey was deferred to the February meeting. We are still waiting for the Rural Communities Council of Essex to establish if there are any housing associations with an interest of developing a small number of homes in the village. Any potential developers would then work with RCCE and WPC to establish if there are any viable plots of land available.

Colchester City Council have asked Wormingford and other parishes to establish a wish list of community and leisure projects, should future S106 funding become available (S106 funding is the community surcharge placed on new private and commercial developers when granting planning permission, see Page 6 for more details). If anyone has any ideas please email your suggestion to wormingford@outlook.com

We are still short of one volunteer to enable the training and establishment of a local Speed Watch Group. Anyone willing to put their name forward should contact the Parish Clerk.

Options on how to improve the maintenance and appearance of the war memorial on Fordham Road were explored. A request will be renewed to Essex County Council to install bollards inset from the road to prevent the area being used as a lay-by. Councillors are also reviewing options to establish a care and maintenance program.

A village footpath maintenance team has been established under the Parish Path Partnership Scheme. There are five volunteers who will shortly undergo training and hopefully will start work on some of our PROW in the Spring.

The draft Biodiversity Policy discussed at the November meeting was adopted.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on 8th February at the Village Hall, commencing at 7.00pm.

Please email any comments or views to the Parish Clerk at wormingford@outlook.com. Further information and the latest draft minutes and past copies of the Worm can be found at

<http://www.wormingford.org>



'One Day I Wrote her Name' by Edmund Spenser

One day I wrote her name upon the strand,

But came the waves and washed it away:

Again I wrote it with a second hand,

But came the tide, and made my pains his prey.

Abberton Rural Training News

Was one of your resolutions to get outside more? Meet new people? Learn something new? If so, enquire about one of ART's courses at info@abbertonruraltraining.org or call on 01245 975777.

Courses running this term in Wormingford, and the local area are:

Wormingford Colchester SEND Place to Grow
Wednesday/Thursday

Wormingford Colchester Carpentry Wednesday

Wormingford Colchester Horticulture level 1 and 2
Wednesday/Thursday

Wormingford Colchester Mix Trade Monday

Wormingford Colchester Textiles Wednesday

Abbeyfields Colchester Horticulture Monday



ART will also be hosting Therapeutic Art lessons soon at the Wormingford site. These lessons will be free of charge, and you will be able to relax, unwind and better your mental health through different art forms such as painting. If anyone would be interested in this, please contact Amanda at info@abbertonruraltraining.org or call us on 01245 975777.

Daisy from ART writes that ART had a fantastic 2023. One of the reasons for that was due to the support of some wonderful volunteers - who all received a planter from Perrywood GardenCentre in Tiptree as a thank you for their help. ART really couldn't do without the help and support of volunteers, who play a huge part in all ART do. ART are very grateful for the time, knowledge, support, and commitment of the volunteers and look forward to working with them in 2024, as well as looking forward to what 2024 itself brings - there is a busy term coming up! ART wish everyone a healthy and happy 2024. And, if either you or someone you know would like to volunteer or join a course, get in touch!

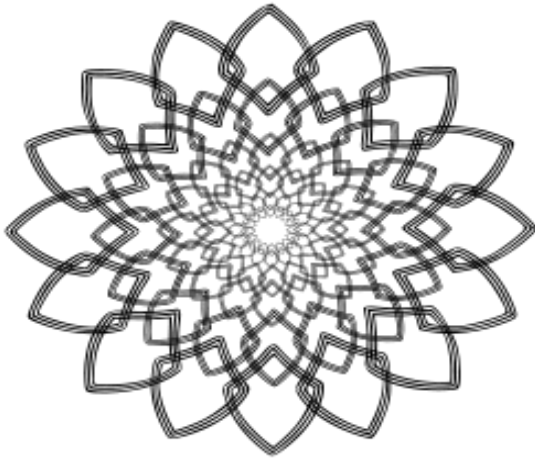
Gills' story

I started volunteering down at ART a few years ago and have been a regular ever since. I started off by joining the Horticulture class and I had a great time, working with the fantastic ART students and having a laugh with the superb and caring tutors and staff. It would be fair to say that there is never a dull moment at ART. I so enjoyed assisting and chatting to the students - and learning new skills myself.

Later on, I branched out a bit as I wanted to learn to build a cold store in my garden and needed to get some new skills to be able to do that. I did a carpentry course at ART and then a 'mixed trades' course, learning about basic plastering, bricklaying, tiling, roofing and plumbing. Although you should definitely not call me for a quote, I got a great deal out of doing these courses, especially the carpentry. Thanks to ART I've made a number of different items that I use everyday, including wooden raised beds for the children's gardening project that I run at Fordham School. I think the garden cold store idea might have to wait a bit longer though!

If you want to learn new skills like I did, then why not have a go? There's nothing to lose and you may even surprise yourself by learning something you thought you'd never be able to do. The same goes for volunteering with ART - you are sure to receive so much back from working with the students for a small investment of your time.





ST ANDREW'S CHURCH SERVICES

FEBRUARY and MARCH 2024

February 11th - 11.00 Matins.

February 25th - 11.00 Holy Communion.

March 10th - 11.00 Morning Worship.

March 24th - 11.00 Holy Communion.

Please note – St Andrew's Church will only have regular services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

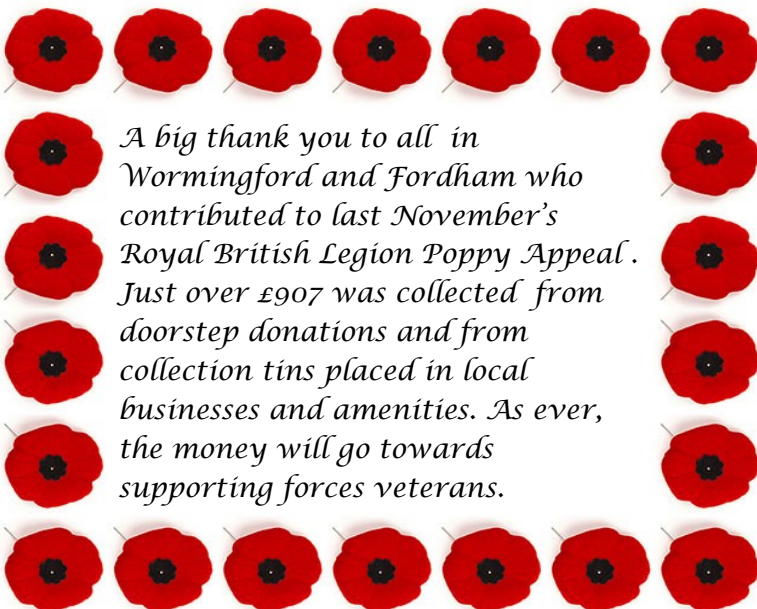
Word from the Vicarage.....

Back in September, I was sent a letter from my GP. Following some routine blood tests, I was being encouraged to sign up for a pre-diabetes course, which would run over 9 months, a course, which I knew as my father was already 6 months into it, took up a lot of time. Mindful of the time commitment, I was reluctant at first to even attempt to join a course, but having logged in to sign up, I found I could opt for a virtual course via an app, meaning I could fit it around my other commitments. My other reluctance to join the course, was probably a reluctance to have to change some of my lifestyle habits. I knew that I would have to examine what I was eating, particularly the carbohydrates and sugary treats, and look at ways of cutting some of my favourite foods out of my diet and I wasn't really sure I wanted to do that! In the end, I signed up, downloaded the app and am feeling the health benefits. Yes, I have had to cut down on some foods, almost fasting completely from some, and I have also been encouraged to take on more exercise, joining a gym and walking more. In many ways it has been a wake-up call, to do something now, and hopefully I will be able to have a healthier, diabetes free, future, alongside the other benefits that will be reaped through having a healthier lifestyle.



On the 14th February, Valentines day, it is also Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent. For many lent is a time when we might consider what we want to fast from, or indeed, take on, as we seek a healthier spiritual life. Lent is if you like a spiritual wake-up call, a time when we are called to examine our walk with Jesus, and either through the discipline of fasting, to use our fast as an opportunity to spend more time with God, through prayer and bible reading; or through taking something on, like a daily act of kindness, or weekly environmental pledge, we are encouraged to grow in faith. We might be reluctant to give up anything, or take anything on this Lent, but when we do the spiritual benefits may far outweigh the challenges.

May God bless you, Reverend Heather



A big thank you to all in Wormingford and Fordham who contributed to last November's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Just over £907 was collected from doorstep donations and from collection tins placed in local businesses and amenities. As ever, the money will go towards supporting forces veterans.

'Camomile Tea'

*We might be fifty, we might be five,
So snug, so compact, so wise are we!
Under the kitchen-table leg
My knee is pressing against his knee.
Our shutters are shut, the fire is low,
The tap is dripping peacefully;
The saucepan shadows on the wall
Are black and round and plain to see.
Katherine Mansfield*

Phil Cook writes.....

Dear Wormingford community,

by way of introduction, my name is Phil and I have recently joined the village with my wife and young daughter. I have joined the Parish Council and become a trustee of the Recreation Trust because I want to support the community, help to drive change where it's required and generally to make a difference. I have been amazed at how special and passionate our Wormingford community is and how warmly you have welcomed us as newcomers.

I wanted to bring to your attention a potential opportunity to apply for funding for more recreational equipment for the village through what is commonly known as a 'S106 contribution'.

So what is a S106? [This is the technical bit!] Under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, contributions can be sought from developers towards the costs of providing community and social infrastructure, if a need for this has arisen as a result of a new development taking place. This funding is commonly known as 'S106'.

S106 monies may only be spent on facilities where the new development has, at least in part, contributed to the need for the facilities and has actually started. This funding is available for capital projects only and revenue funding towards ongoing running costs is not available.



I've talked to my colleagues on the Parish Council and want to let you know that we would like to have a wish list in place for both a Community spend and a Leisure spend. We need to include a project title, estimated cost, details of the reason for the project and its benefit to the local community. Now we want to hear any suggestions you might have about how S106 money could be spent on a project for Wormingford.

One idea might be to provide a zip wire or outside exercise equipment, which would benefit older

children, teens and adults—both amenities are currently available in West Bergholt and Bures and seem much appreciated. These are just two options but I'm sure there are many more! Please get involved and help us by sharing any suggestions, or letting us know if you like the zipwire idea by contacting wormingford@outlook.com

Kindest regards and I look forward to updating you with the outcome in due course. Cllr Phil Cook



The Lupercalia was a pastoral festival of Ancient Rome, held annually from February 13th to the 15th in order to purify the city and promote health and fertility. Lupercalia was a bloody, violent and sexually charged celebration awash with animal sacrifice, random matchmaking and coupling in the hope that this would ward off evil spirits and infertility. It took place to honour the she-wolf who nurtured Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, and to please the Roman fertility god Lupercus.

Lupercalia was also known as 'dies Februatus', due to a purge called 'februa'. It may also be the basis for the month named Februarius –or February. Although Valentine's Day shares its name with a martyred Christian saint, some historians believe the day is actually an offshoot of the Roman Lupercalia.

Coffee
Morning
Bacon Rolls, Cakes

Saturday 2nd March 11.30am
Wormingford Village Hall

All proceeds to Wormingford Recreation Trust

From the Archives.....

In the February edition of The Worm 2001, Brian Tansley wrote;

‘The Recreation Trust Committee has been told that there is a lot of dog muck being left on the playing field again. Please clear up after your dog and put your muck in the bins provided.....

In the March edition of The Worm 2002, Brian Tansley wrote;

At a recent meeting of the Recreation Trust Committee , there were more complaints about dog muck on the playing field. There is no reason why children or walkers should have to get messed up with dog muck. There are bins on both sides of the playing field so there is no excuse for not clearing up after your dog. Various views were discussed on how to stop this problem. Any one reported to the Borough Council will be fined £1000....The other option is to ban dogs from the playing field altogether. We are reluctant to do this as the field should be for the use of everyone But children, sportspeople and strollers need to be able to use the field without worrying about dog muck. **So dog owners please -CLEAR UP, OR CLEAR OFF– the choice is yours.**

Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose!

To keep your marriage brimming
With love in the loving cup,
Whenever you're wrong, admit it;
Whenever you're right, shut up.

Ogden Nash



'To My Dear and Loving Husband'
Anne Bradstreet

Thy love is such I can no way repay;
The heavens reward thee manifold, I pray.
Then while we live, in love let's so persevere,
That when we live no more, we may live ever.

