

Panfield Community Association



Incorporating
Outreach
&
Neighbourhood Watch

To Inform & Promote The Panfield Community
Twinned with Auneau-Bleury-Saint-Symphorien

RAP MAGAZINE

RAP is published bi-monthly: February, April, June, August, October and December. Contributions from clubs and organisations for insertion in RAP should be with the editor by the Copy Closing Date published on the back page of every edition.

You can advertise in this magazine at the following prepaid rates:

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FULL PAGE	£20	£56	£110

Cheques should be made payable to:

The Panfield Community Association.

Contact: Dave Ockelford (RAP Editor) Panfield Village Hall,
Kynaston Road, Panfield, Braintree, Essex CM7 5AQ.

Telephone: 07463 770311 or email: editor.panfield_rap@btinternet.com

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Panfield Village Hall Hire



The Village hall is available to hire for one-off events, regular bookings, clubs or groups.

To check availability and to secure your event please contact the Bookings Clerk, Julia Wilson;

email - panfieldvillagehall@gmail.com,

call 07711 079122 if you have any queries,

or use the online booking link;

<https://panfieldcommunityassociation.co.uk>

Hall Hire Charges

Clubs (per hour – minimum 12 sessions per year) £15

Hourly Hire £18

Half Day (9:00am–1:00pm or 1:30pm–5:30pm) £50

Evening (6:00pm–11:30pm) £70

Full Day (9:00am–5:30pm) £100

A returnable deposit of £50.00 is required against any damages

Charges include use of kitchen facilities, crockery, glasses, tables, chairs and WiFi.



**Panfield Community
Association**

Registered charity since 1975

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Happy New Year and welcome to 2026. I hope you all enjoyed your Christmas and New Year celebrations.

As we move through the winter months, I would ask that we spare a thought for members of our community who may find the colder weather more challenging. A quick neighbourly check-in can mean a great deal and would, I'm sure, be very much appreciated. And if you yourself are struggling or need a helping hand, please don't be afraid to reach out.

On that note, and in case you are not aware, there are several ways of keeping in touch within our community in addition to this magazine. We have the Panfield Community Noticeboard on Facebook, as well as two Community WhatsApp groups. The first, **'Keeping Panfield Safe'**, is used to share alerts and important safety or security information. The second, **'Panfield Village Social'**, is for all other community matters that aren't appropriate for the safety group.



Keeping Panfield Safe link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/JkQKjoSTY5x9RYT44KpDRK>

Panfield Village Social link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/KPYkpbzPKcTgKvS42P8cPIS>

If you need help joining any of these, please contact any of the Parish Councillors or community members.

Last year was an amazing one for Panfield, with many very successful events, and I'd like to give you a heads-up on just some of the activities we are planning for the year ahead.

Baby and Toddler Group

We are hoping to revive this much-missed group early in the year. We know there are young mums and dads in the village who would welcome a place to meet, chat, share experiences (and drink tea!) while their children play safely. When up and running, this is likely to be held every other Friday morning. Please keep an eye on our noticeboards and the Community Facebook page for updates.

Beetle Drive – Friday 20th March, 2pm

After a successful 'practice run' last year – mainly because none of us knew how to play – this event proved to be great fun. Whether you know the rules or not really doesn't matter; I can guarantee a very enjoyable and hilarious afternoon.



Race Nights – March and November

Following the success of last year's event, we are hoping to hold two Race Nights this year. Dates are still to be confirmed, so please watch for updates on our noticeboards and the Community Facebook page.

Quiz Night – Saturday 25th April, 7pm

Another of our ever-popular quiz nights is planned for April. These are always sell-out events, so please book early to avoid disappointment. We are also hoping to hold a second quiz later in the year.

Garage Sale – Saturday 30th May, 9am–1pm

Last year's garage sale was incredibly successful, particularly with the VE theme in the hall. We would very much like to do something similar again this year, although plans are still at an early stage.



Panfield Fete – Saturday 13th June, 12–4pm



Our annual village fete and dog show is always a wonderful occasion – great fun, a chance for the whole village to come together, and an important way of raising much-needed funds for local charities.

There will be many more events taking place throughout the year, so please keep an eye out for updates. Thank you, as always, for supporting our events. We look forward to seeing you at many of them during the year ahead.

Kind regards,

Caroline

Chair of Panfield Community Association

Mobile 07837 803198. Email: pca@panfieldvillage.uk

PARISH COUNCIL

We do hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas holiday and that 2026 got off to a good (if rather chilly!) start.

Every January, Panfield Parish Council sets its budget for the year ahead. This includes the parish precept which is the small part of your Council Tax that directly funds local services, facilities and projects in Panfield.

This year’s budget includes a percentage increase in the precept. We recognise that any increase matters to residents, particularly at a time when household costs remain high. Percentage increases for Parish Councils can also appear more significant when compared with County and District Councils, as a relatively small monetary increase can result in a higher percentage change.

For that reason, it is important to explain what this means in real terms. Despite a 13.5% increase, the actual cost increase to households remains modest.

For most residents, this equates to well under £1 per month, with a Band D property contributing £1.02 per month extra towards parish services. Even for the highest band properties, the increase is £2.03 per month.

Council Tax Band	2025/26 Annual precept	2026/27 Annual precept	Annual increase	Monthly increase
Band A	£60.19	£68.35	£8.16	£0.68
Band B	£69.59	£79.57	£9.98	£0.83
Band C	£79.01	£90.79	£11.78	£0.98
Band D	£89.83	£102.02	£12.19	£1.02
Band E	£109.59	£124.46	£14.87	£1.24
Band F	£129.35	£146.90	£17.55	£1.46
Band G	£150.02	£170.37	£20.35	£1.70
Band H	£179.66	£204.03	£24.37	£2.03

In setting the budget, the Council has worked hard to balance affordability with long-term sustainability. Staffing costs have been the biggest challenge this year, following Government changes including increases to employer National Insurance contributions and nationally prescribed pay scale increases. These pressures were not anticipated when previous small precept increases were set.

Good practice guidance for Parish Councils suggests that clerking costs alone should account for around 50% of the precept in small parishes. In Panfield, staffing costs represent approximately 54% of the precept, which covers not only the Clerk but also the Parish Ranger. Given the pressures on our finances, retaining both roles at their current levels is essential. Their expertise supports the day-to-day running of the parish, reduces reliance on external contractors, and plays a key role in securing external grant funding to support future projects.

Looking ahead, there remains uncertainty around future Government policy. Changes to VAT, PAYE or inflation can have significant impact on a small parish council. Although Panfield is a relatively small parish, it owns and maintains community land including playgrounds, allotments, and voluntarily cuts grass verges across the village. While some Essex parish councils charge less, a significant proportion charge more. Panfield continues to keep costs low while delivering a wider range of services than many parishes of a similar size.

One of the major projects planned for the coming year is the Allotment Improvement Plan. The Council is looking forward to making the allotments more accessible and fit for purpose, with raised beds and smaller, more manageable plots. The aim is to encourage former allotment holders to return, while also inspiring a new generation of gardeners to get involved.

Grant funding will be actively pursued to support this work and minimise the impact on parish finances. Using the expertise of the Clerk, the Council hopes to fund the majority of this project through external grants, similar to the success of the 2024 playground project, which has become a much-valued asset within the wider area.

On another topic, we received some feedback from a new resident who praised the volunteers in the Speedwatch group for helping to keep Panfield safe: we

Continued overleaf

have passed on the message to Paul Summers who organises the group – and we would like to add our thanks to all our volunteers. If you have any spare time and would like to join Speedwatch, please contact our Clerk (details below) who will forward your interest to Paul.

Councillor Julia Hill took part in the Teams meeting for Police and local Parish Councils in November. PC Draper reported that, generally, crime is down for the Braintree area. Cllr Hill gave details of an increase in speeding through Panfield, also of the event which was reported on the Keeping Panfield Safe WhatsApp group which involved two men touting for building work using a van that did not seem to be registered. PC Draper will investigate this. Panfield is a No Cold Calling area, and no-one has a licence from Essex County Council to peddle goods or services door-to-door.

PC Draper recommended the web site www.askthe.police.uk which has a lot of answers to various questions, such as “where do I report an abandoned vehicle?” or “how do I contact my neighbourhood police team?” If you have any issue you would like Cllr. Hill to raise at the next meeting, please contact our Clerk, Michelle Baker:

clerk@panfieldparishcouncil.uk

Tel: 01376 773018

Please note that the Clerk’s office hours are:

Mon: 10.00 – 12.00; Weds: 13.00 – 15.00; Fri: 16.00 – 18.00

Residents can also put a letter, addressed to ‘The Clerk, Panfield Parish Council’ in the box on the Village Hall. Please remember to include your name and contact details. If you have any ideas for projects to improve our village, or any concerns you think the Parish Council may be able to help with, please contact our Clerk. We would also like to hear of any new residents moving into Panfield so that we can say hello and deliver a welcome pack to them.

A quick reminder: for problems with Public Rights of Way, roads, signs and pavements, contact Essex County Council Highways at www.essexhighways.org. For fly-tipping, dog-fouling and graffiti, contact Braintree District Council at www.braintree.gov.uk

Cllr. Jean Dilworth



**ESSEX
LNRS**

**LOCAL
NATURE
RECOVERY
STRATEGY**



Small actions, big impact for nature recovery

Nature recovery begins with all of us. The Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has now launched and outlines how everyone in Essex can play a role in reversing biodiversity decline. Whether it's creating a wild patch in your garden, volunteering at a local habitat project or contributing your ideas to your town council, the LNRS makes it easy to get involved.

At the heart of the LNRS is an interactive map that shows opportunities for wildlife enhancement across the county. Even small changes in your neighbourhood can add up to big gains for nature. You can explore actions, get involved, and find your local area's priorities on the Essex Nature Partnership website.

Start your journey to support nature recovery:

www.essexnaturepartnership.com



OUTREACH *from Panfield Church*

Priest-in-Charge: Rev Rod Reid

The Deanery, Deanery Hill, Braintree CM7 5SR

Tel: 01376 322892

email: panfieldchurch@panfieldvillage.uk

Secretary: Bridget Smith

4 Church End, Panfield

Tel: 328907

Church Hall Booking: Bridget & David Smith

4 Church End, Panfield

Tel: 328907

Church Wardens: David & Sara Peak

2 Church End, Panfield

Tel: 321045



Dear Friends,

January 2016, I was licensed as Panfield's new Vicar. My goodness how 10 years has flown by!

The parish marked the occasion as part of our Plough Sunday lunch early last month, and presented me with some wonderful gifts, including a raffle ticket book! You might read that and think what an odd present. Well, as I look back on the last decade, it has been a privilege to walk with so many people through Sunday services, funerals, weddings and christenings. Renewal of Vows services, Christmas and Easter celebrations as well as all the events over the years too. At all our fundraisers we always have a raffle, these are now legendary, and not necessarily for the best reasons! Therefore, the sheer joy these raffles have brought meant receiving a raffle ticket book as one of my gifts was actually very fitting indeed.

That 'looking back' is something I am sure we all do from time to time, and not least as we begin a New Year. That said, there does seem to be something at the moment of enjoying nostalgia. For me, I think I am most nostalgic about the 90s, it was a formative time and so with many of my friends we reminisce over the music, the culture, the events of that time. For others, for you, I am sure there will

be different times or seasons of life for which you are nostalgic. I looked up the dictionary definition, and it says that nostalgia is ‘a sentimental yearning or wistful affection for the past, often a happy memory’.

As we look to the world around us, who would blame us for wanting to return to something that brings back happy memories. The world today is full of noise, full of anger, and division with little time for conversation, patience and kindness. Looking back then can soften that harshness and selfishness we see around us today and make us feel a little more hopeful too.

Hope and an inherent sense of yearning for what could be, as well as what was, is so important to me. Part of that is my Christian faith reminding me of two things,

Continued overleaf



firstly that God is in everything the good, the bad and the ugly, but also that my story, my experience is not isolated but part of something much bigger that goes before me and will endure afterwards too.

Acknowledging, we are part of something more helps us to reset how we experience life. That is not to say the world will get any quieter or less angry, nor does it mean we shouldn't value nostalgia and happy memories, but it does give us a place then to look forward, to recognise that while we can't change things on global scale, (if only!), we can change things in our day to day, in our community and with the people around us.

For the church, we will soon step into Lent, often caricatured as a time of giving things up. Instead, maybe we could look to spend some time in Lent, not just looking back, but looking forward. Where do we want to be? What do we want to achieve? How are we going to get there? And finally, what can I do to make it all just a little better for those around me?



For me, I am looking forward to many more years with you as your Vicar, to more raffles, carol singing, and everything else that takes place in between. As I do so, I can't pretend the world still doesn't leave me anxious, but I am hoping to focus on what I can do about it. That may not be much, but if we all tried, just maybe we could make this a better world for us all.

With every blessing,

The Revd Rod Reid

Church Services

February	1st	11am	Holy Communion
	8th	11am	All Age Service
	15th	6pm	Evensong
	18th	7pm	Ash Wednesday - Holy Communion
	22nd	11am	Holy Communion

March	1st	11am	Holy Communion
	8th	11am	All Age Service
	15th	6pm	Evensong
	22nd	11am	Holy Communion
	29th	No Service at Panfield – 10 am at St Mary's, Bocking	

April	3rd	12 noon	Good Friday Service
	5th	11am	Easter Day Holy Communion
	12th	11am	All Age Service
	19th	6pm	Evensong
	22nd	11am	Holy Communion

Church Hall Hire: The Church Hall would be a suitable venue to hire for use after funeral wakes etc., and for parties and clubs. For more information contact Bridget: **Telephone: 01376 328907, Mobile: 07849 894244**



PANANZA LOTTERY

December Winners

	Initial	Ticket	Street
£75	G	119	Kynaston Road
£50	TB	33	Kynaston Road
£25	VB	300	Ashton Cottages
£25	MF	213	Kynaston Road

Congratulations to this month's winners!

January Winners

	Initial	Ticket	Street
£75	EI	50	Kynaston Road
£50	GH	115	St Mary's Close
£25	MG	120	Kynaston Road
£25	SV	408	Ketleys View

Congratulations to this month's winners!

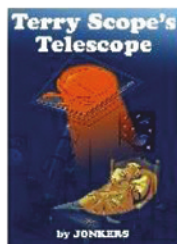
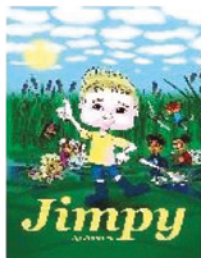
Thank you to everyone who entered our monthly draws.
Your entries have helped to raise money for the village.



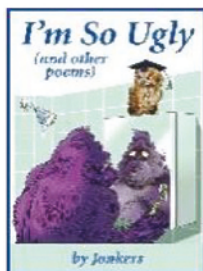
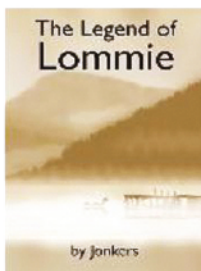
Panfield Community
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Large (60x76cm) - £190

Graphite Pencil Drawings

Mini (approx. A6) - £25

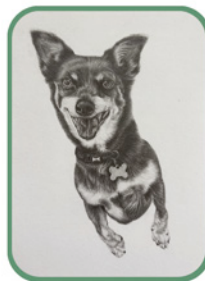
A5 - £35

Contact:

art.rachael@outlook.com

07473905836

Based in Panfield



Our current shopping list 2026

Food items

- UHT/Long Life Milk
- Teabags 40's/80's
- Sponge puddings
- Tinned/packet custard
- Sugar 500g
- Tinned tomatoes



Donate money

We are having to buy food to fill our food boxes. A monetary donation will help us to do this. Search for us on JustGiving



W: braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/collection-points/

T: 01376 330694

We ask for small packs as larger packs do not fit in our boxes making it difficult for our clients to carry home.

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5, 19 March

9, 23 April

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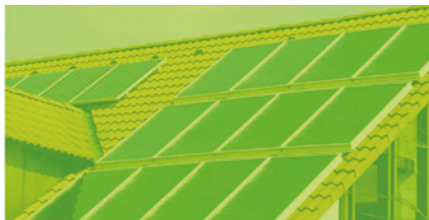
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The Bell Inn



THE BELL INN

Welcome

A very warm welcome awaits you from Graham and all the staff at The Bell Inn at Panfield. As a Greene King tenant we serve Greene King Ales, Guest Ales, Premium Lagers, Ciders, Gins, Wines, Non-Alcoholic Beers & Ciders and Soft Drinks.

We serve food lunchtimes and evenings everyday.

Monday – Saturday 12.00pm till 2.00pm.

Tuesday – Thursday 6.00pm till 8.00pm.

Friday – Saturday 6.00pm till 9.00pm.

Sunday is Roast Day! Served 12.00pm till 3.00pm.

Our Roasts are Beef, Leg of Lamb, or Roast Chicken Supreme. Our meat is supplied by our local Butcher who we have used for over 20 years.

We also have our Main Menu and Snack Menu available everyday Lunch and Evening. We also have our over 55's Lunch Menu available Monday – Friday 12.00pm till 2.00pm, Main Course and Dessert with Tea or Coffee for £14.95.

We can cater for all events on site or at an outside venue.

Bingo Night

Wednesday Night is Bingo Night, with cash prizes and once a month we have a game of Boozy Bingo too, arrive at 7.30pm and eyes down at 8.00pm, bookings a must as limited tables.

We also have a lot of events this year from quiz nights to live music and our annual beer festival. See inside the pub for more information and follow us on Facebook.

Our Events 2026

14th February	Valentine's Day with 'Lovan S' Live - Book Now!
14th March	80's & 90's with Rob
15th March	Mother's Day - Book Now!
3rd April	Karaoke with Colin
5th April	Easter Quiz Night
24th April	Live Music
9th May	'Around the World' Foodie Night
22nd May	Live Music
13th June	Panfield Fete!
21st June	Father's Day - Book Now!

LOCAL HELP LINES

Clerk to the Parish Council.	01376 773018
Panfield Church - Revd. Rod Reid	01376 322892
Braintree District Council.	01376 552 525
Community Agent (chivonne.claydon@caessex.org.uk)	07540 720 603
Community Agents' office (www.essexwellbeingservice.co.uk)	0300 303 9988
Shalford Primary School	01371 850 336
British Gas (electrical emergencies)	105
British Gas gas leaks / carbon monoxide	0800 111 999
Anglian Water	03457 145 145
Panfield Dedicated Police Officer & PCSO.	07812 065 122
Crimestoppers (Freephone)	0800 555 111
Essex Police Non-Emergency	101
Braintree Station (Greater Anglia)	0345 600 7245
Traveline (Public Transport information).	0871 200 2233
Stansted Airport	0844 335 1803
Mid Essex Hospitals	01245 362 000
Childline (Freephone)	0800 1111
Essex Young People's Drug & Alcohol Service	01245 493 311
Samaritans	116 123
Alcoholics Anonymous	0800 917 7650
Citizens Advice (Braintree, Halstead and Witham).	0808 278 7852
National Debtline (Freephone)	0808 808 4000
Age UK (Freephone)	0800 678 1602
Relate (relationship counselling)	0300 003 0396

Mobile Library

The Mobile Library visits Meadow Close at 1:30pm to 2:00pm.

Next visits: 2 February, 23 February, 16 March

Office Hour at Panfield Church

Revd. Rod Reid is in Panfield on Tuesdays from between 5pm and 6pm. This hour will begin with a short service of Evening Prayer followed by a discussion time for general enquiries, to book weddings or baptisms, discuss churchyard matters or for other pastoral conversations. Items for Braintree Foodbank can also be dropped off in church at this time.

Copy Closing Date for next edition of RAP & OUTREACH – 15 March 2026

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