

ROUNDABOUT

FEBRUARY 2024

GREAT TEY

NEWS, VIEWS AND EVENTS IN & AROUND GT TEY

EDITORIAL

A new year and may 2024 be good for everyone. Thank you to Great and Little Tey PCC and the Parish Council for their kind donations to the print fund, very timely as it happened because funds were very low.

There are a number of village events planned for the coming months listed in the following pages, so make a note of them in your diary and support your village. Ed.

RECYCLING UPDATE

Back in November we published an article issued by Colchester City Council about acceptable items for recycling. This led Ian Robertson to question whether it was correct that window envelopes could be recycled without removing the window film as advised on the council website. So he contacted the council and this was their response:

"Thank you for your comment, reference number: CO3/9856.

Thank you for taking the time to write in.

I have double checked the status of windowed envelopes with the Office responsible for our recycling contractors who take our materials away to recycle them. The guidance to remove windows on our website is correct.

I am not sure how this message was passed down or where it became incorrect speaking as the Business Improvement Manager!

Once again thank you for bringing this to my attention".

We hope this clarifies matters for you and the best of luck with the fiddly busines of removing the film!

GREAT TEY WI SOUP LUNCH



Tuesday 20th February
at 12 noon

Great Tey Village Hall

Soup and bread followed by a choice of
pudding all for £5.00

RAFFLE

This event always proves very popular, so please
book your seat in advance on 01206 210872



SEE INSIDE – PAGE 3 ►

A full agenda for the February Parish council meeting was not available before going to print but three working days before the date of the meeting, copies will be posted on the two village notice boards – one at the Village Hall and the other at the top of The Chase adjacent to the pub. The agenda will also be put onto the Great Tey Parish council web site and social media. Members of the public are more than welcome to attend these meetings.

D-DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY 6TH JUNE 2024

Many will recall the fabulous Beacon Lighting evenings which in 2018 marked the 100th Anniversary of the end of the WW1 and in 2022 the Queen's Jubilee. This year there will be another National Beacon Lighting event, this time to commemorate D-Day. The evening will commence with Bell Ringing at 6.30 pm followed by Scottish Pipers and a Buglar, before the Nation's Tribute is read and the Beacon lit at 9.15 pm. All of the activities will happen in the vicinity of St Barnabas Church, the Chequers and the Old Playing Field. National Fish and Chips day this year had been moved to the 6th so that it can be incorporated in celebrations as it was such an important meal for servicemen and others in 1944. The Chequers will therefore kindly be offering that dish over the course of the evening.



As part of the planning for the event we would like to include any locals for whom D-Day has particular relevance, for example they or a member of their family took part in the campaign, so please contact me on 07711732708 if you would like to consider that further.

Admission will be free but charity donations can be made on the day or by supporting the Village Weekend Raffle which is part of the Village Weekend event being held on the 14th/15th June. It is funds raised by that weekend that help meet the cost of community events such as the Beacon Lighting.

I look forward to seeing you at another memorable occasion so please hold the date!

Ian Ellis

NEWS FROM GREAT TEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP

Planning Application 231153 Land off New Barn Road

This planning application was considered by Colchester City Council planning committee on 30 November 2023. The chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Group attended the meeting and gave a presentation to the committee, asking them to reconsider the layout of the proposed development and to move a number of properties away from the boundary with existing dwellings. Regrettably this request was not accepted and the plans were approved by the committee. We will continue to liaise with the developers to ensure that the new dwellings are sympathetic with neighbouring properties.

Call for Sites and Roman River Corridor Proposal

As part of the review of their Local Plan, Colchester City Council issued a call for sites for development and green spaces, which ended on 5th January. The parish councils of Aldham, Great Tey and Marks/Little Tey have submitted proposals to protect the Roman River Corridor as a designated green space. The Neighbourhood Plan group has endorsed this proposal as it addresses many of the aspirations of the community expressed during our consultation process, specifically maintaining surrounding countryside and protection of wildlife habitats.

Update on the draft Neighbourhood Plan

The draft plan has now been passed to Colchester City Council planning department. It is subject to review by a planning inspector, after which there will be a further public consultation. We will advise the community when the consultation period is scheduled.

VILLAGE WEEKEND 2024 UPDATE

A reminder of dates for your calendar:

Sunday 9th June - Family Picnic & Cricket 2-4pm, Harold Fairs Playing Field. *Due to Father's Day on 16th June, we've moved the Cricket match date.*

Friday 14th June - 7-11pm – Quiz Night, Village Hall (booking details to follow)

Saturday 15th June - Fayre 12-4pm, Old Playing Field

Helpers welcome, including First Aiders for Saturday 15th June.

Please get in touch at email: gteycomgrp@gmail.com.

GREAT TEY WI

After our change of venue and time for last month's Afternoon Tea, we are back to normal this month at the Village Hall. We have someone from Colchester Zoo coming to talk to us about their conservation programme for the animals at the Zoo.

Look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 5th February, 2024 for a 7.30pm start.

Great Tey WI meets on the first Tuesday of each month for interesting talks, pleasant company and delicious cakes. All ladies are welcome to join us.

Great Tey WI Committee Member

SEWING CLUB

Although we are small in numbers we are big in giving out help and advice if needed.

We meet at 3pm - 4.30pm in the Village Hall on the first Monday of the month.

Anyone (male or female) is welcome to join us to progress with a project, to get advice on a sewing problem or even to find out how to thread your sewing machine.

This month we are meeting on Monday 4th February in Great Tey Village Hall.

Norma Tregoning

NOTE TO ALL VILLAGE HALL KEY HOLDERS

Please could all village hall key holders avoid entering the village hall during a Pre-School session, regular or private hire. This is due to safeguarding concerns when children are in the village hall.

Your support with this request is very much appreciated.

The Village Hall Management Committee

OPERATION MINCEMEAT

I have provisionally booked 53 seats (a coach full) for this show for the matinee performance (3pm) on Tuesday 17th September 2024. The price per person is £50.00 for ticket/coach AND a free ice cream in the theatre at the break.

If anyone is interested please text me on 07712 250458 and I will send you bank details first payment and your reference.

I have until 10th February to confirm the booking.

Many thanks, Norma Tregoning

SNOWDROP PLANTING IN THE VILLAGE

We hope to be planting snowdrops in the village on Saturday February 17th at 10.30.

Do come and join us. There may well be a slice of cake and a hot drink for the planters.

All you need to do is to turn up with a spade. We will provide the snowdrops. But if you are splitting your clumps or have any spare, do bring them along, the more we have the further we will get towards having sheets of these white little jewels to cheer up our winters.

It would be helpful to text me if the weather looks nasty, in case we decide to postpone the planting. Ann Bartleet mobile 07543635469.

We will assemble outside the Chequers.



VACANCY FOR VOLUNTARY ROLE OF TREASURER

on the Great Tey Village Hall Management Committee

Are you looking to make a difference in the New Year?

Do you have an interest in finance?

Can you spend 1-2 hours a month?

Duties of Treasurer include:

To support the Village Hall Committee



To ensure proper records are kept and effective financial procedures are in place for Cheque Signatories, Purchasing, Petty Cash/Float, Monthly Reconciliation



Assist the Village Hall Manager in preparing the annual accounts prior to independent examination



To attend the annual Village Hall AGM

For further information please contact Sally Brooks (Secretary)

07511 986618

GREAT TEY BELL RINGERS

Now that a shiny new 2024 is upon us, it's a nice time to review what the St Barnabas ringers got up to in 2023. And what a year it was. At a time when many bell-towers are struggling for manpower, we now have twenty five ringing members of the Essex Association at Great Tey.

The enthusiasm of our community band, coupled with their technical progress, is widely acknowledged in the ringing community. Four of our ringers attended the Essex training courses in April as students, with another four helping as instructors. This continued improvement in skills meant that in 2023 we were able to ring all 8 of our bells for church services, for the first time in many decades.

Our band was able to demonstrate this by ringing for the Coronation in May, both for the event itself, as well as a special Quarter Peal, an involved sequence of memorised ringing changes taking 45 minutes to complete. This is a recognised achievement and is only the second time this has happened with a Great Tey band since the 1980s. Just to show it wasn't just a one off, we rang two more quarter peals in October, allowing our youngest ringers to show off their skills.

Ringing is a team effort, with everybody responsible for sounding their one note out of the eight at the right time. Regular competitions are held to judge the accuracy of the striking of the bells from different bands and we were able to put up three teams into the county competitions this year. Whilst we didn't win, we performed commendably well, particularly given the relative inexperience of our band.

The long ropes in our tower can make our bells seem quite challenging, so it is a tribute to the growing profile of the band that we now see visiting ringers from outside of the area. Ringing is a national hobby, and one of the joys is to be able to ring the bells in a historic location that is new to you. In September we organised a Great Tey road trip to the churches in the Southend area, where our gang turned up en masse to ring bells in five different towers. With the inevitable pub lunch, of course.

We hold two practices each week, on Tuesday evenings and on Saturday mornings. You might be unaware of the Saturday practices, because we have installed a system to allow us to ring the bells virtually silently at times. Whilst it's not quite the same as normal ringing, it allows us to hone our skills whilst taking our neighbours into consideration. We also use the silencers for the first part of our Tuesday practice, which allows us to warm up in private. However, nothing compares to the sound of the real thing!

Talking of Tuesdays, we are very grateful to Terry and Natalie at the Chequers for opening the pub for us after our Tuesday practice sessions. We try to pay back the favour by bringing increasing numbers into the pub and it's good to see that other villagers are using the pub on Tuesdays as well.

At the end of 2023 we held our annual Christmas dinner at, (where else?) The Chequers. Twenty eight of us sat down to a great meal and were provided with some mini-bells for us to have a play with. Ringing is a social hobby, and it's good to see that some of the well known faces in the village are now part of the band.

We have great plans for 2024. Apart from the normal ringing for church services, we are also planning to have a special service to bless the bells on Sunday 12th May. Did you know that the patron Saint of bell ringing is St Dunstable? No, neither did I. You can also expect us to have a significant surprise in store for the village weekend.

So thank you to everybody for your support in 2023. You are part of something that is widely recognised as an ongoing success story from Great Tey. And if you fancy finding out about what we do, come and see us on a Tuesday or contact us via the pub. We even have our own Facebook page - Great Tey Bell Ringers. You can learn how to operate 400 year old machinery, as well as making a noise that can be heard miles away. What could be better?
Old Tugger

WINTER BOWLS LEAGUE

The season is now into the second half. No clear winner at this stage so there is all to play for. The skills on display, unlike the weather, has been very hot, in fact, scorching. It's been friendly competition and a mixture of ages competing from students to seniors.

WINTER BOWLS LEAGUE TABLE - 19/01/2024

Team	Played	Won	Drew	Lost	For	Against	Points
The Ringers	36	21	4	11	141	148	67
Hot Shots	36	21	2	13	175	136	65
Bowlderdash & Piffle	36	21	0	15	188	121	63
Youth Club	36	19	1	16	148	155	58
Gun 'n Roses	36	18	1	17	149	143	55
Poles Apart	36	14	2	20	127	160	44
Chequers	36	6	2	28	84	173	20

Why not treat Mum/Grandma to an old fashioned, festive teatime treat!

**Sunday 10th March
In
The Village Hall**

3.00 - 5.00pm

A cream tea with sandwiches, home made cake, flowers for Mum

Adult ticket £15

**More details from beginning of February from
Ann 07543635469**



NEW SEASON'S SEVILLE ORANGE MARMALADE

Thank you to all those who leave their jam/honey jars (with lids!) at Bucklers Farm. Do keep them coming!

From early February look out for the new season's Seville orange marmalade outside my gate. There will still be other jams/jellies and three fruit marmalade. Proceeds to Great and Little Tey church funds.

ROZ, 2ND TEY RAINBOWS

Hi, we are 2nd Tey Rainbows, and we meet on a Monday evening. We welcome girls aged 4½ to 7 years old.

We have lots of activities, trips and earn lots of badges! If your daughter is interested in joining us, please go to www.girlguiding.org.uk and follow the links to join us! We hope to meet you soon!

GREAT TEY FOOTPATH WALKING GROUP

In December we completed both of our annual seasonal end of year walks in Lawford, Manningtree for the Ramblers & Cyclists Carol Service at Lawford Church early in the month, and a local pre-Christmas walk followed by lunch at the Shoulder of Mutton in Aldham Ford Street. Both were well attended and really enjoyed by all. In January, 11 members ventured further afield to London via The Elizabeth Line at Shenfield and navigated four of the five Royal Parks starting with St James's Park, Green Park, Hyde Park and finishing up in Kensington Gardens. We were blessed with a lovely, mild, sunny day which brought out thousands of tourists and indeed locals enjoying the balmy January weather too. The walk was capped off with a delightful lunch at a Bella Italia in Queensway, Bayswater. Our grateful thanks go to Paul Burns for planning and leading this memorable walk.

Sunday 18 February 2024 - It's 'Snowdrop Time' and as the days get a little bit longer, a Sunday afternoon walk beckons. If you're interested in joining us, we meet at 2.30pm in Great Tey Village Hall car park. The walk will be 3-4 miles and take approx 1.5 - 2hrs.

Saturday 09 March 2024 - This is notice of our AGM and Social Evening which is to be held at 7.30pm courtesy of John Carr at Malt House Stables, The Street, Great Tey. If you plan to come along, would you let one of the two contacts listed below know as soon as possible please?

Sunday 07 April 2024 - Afternoon local 'Lambing Walk' 3-4 miles, meet Great Tey Village Hall car park at 3pm.

Sunday 28 April 2024 - Awayday walk to Orford and River Alde, Suffolk, 4-5 miles, cars leave Great Tey Village Hall car park at 9.30am.

For more information about any of our guided walks, then please contact one of the following:-

Peter Wakeling, 01206 211887, email: peteanddil@hotmail.com

Jane Pearson, 01206 210855, email: drjanepearson@gmail.com



Winter Morning Walk, early February Great Tey and Chappel

church tower glows amber
in early morning light
watercolour skies shift blue-grey then-pearl

We take the path between two houses
wind from the northwest turns up our collars
pond and ditch reflect the winter sun

footprints leave their marks on crossfield pathways
dog stops to sniff and snout at every step

sluiced of colour fields lie dun and fallow
bushy trees stripped back to pewter-grey and green
smudges of brown identify the hazels

spiky hedgerows shake and stretch
in the thin February air
catkins loose their pollen to the wind

Pattock's Farmhouse windows
look out on fresh-turned furrows
gleaming from the plough

hawthorn and hazel hedges flayed and split
their shorn growth shredded all over the road
how do they survive this winter mauling

in Bacon's Lane the sheep dog
who'd come bounding from the yard
is silent now

half-buried boulders mossed with age
strew the rail embankment
and soon the looming viaduct

alders crowd the winding boardwalk
their knobby blackened fruits hard with age
bob in the freshened breeze

by the river unprotected gardens
to the water's edge
last November the stream swept caramel
and surging to just below the bridge

vans run briskly on the Halstead road
as we turn for home
they're planting up the garden of the house
that's all but finished now
bow-fronted portico railed balcony
to take its place in village life again

at the fishing lake olive-clad angler
merges with the foliage

here in this hollow fallen branches clog
the sunken track
underfoot sweet chestnut leaves
colour drained and curling line our route

ivy and bramble the greenest things
in copse or hedgerow
their shrunk black fruits among the mottled fingers

colonising shaded ditch and bank
dog's mercury and arum
unfurl their leaves to join the ferns

it's spring we are expecting in the chilled
light air as are the birds that call and claim
their patch of this disputed territory

now the mid-morning light is flat and dull
as we turn up paths and driveways
to shake off muddied boots and turn the key

Paul Burns 1st Feb 2023

GARDENING NOTES February 2024

Making use of difficult gardening days! Checking out winter flowering plants

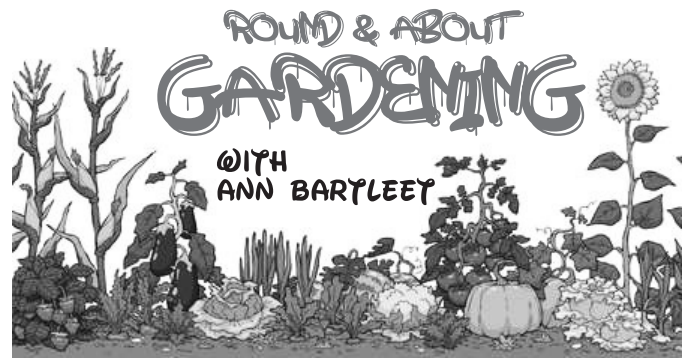
Just to add to the tricky autumn weather – the garden soggy and damp and raining dripping down the neck, it has now gone from a swamp to a very cold, rock hard frosted wilderness! So time to stay indoors and think about the shrubs I might have planted which would have cheered me up on a dreary winters day.

I have been looking at some newer varieties of plants that I have had in the garden for many years. These winter flowers have served me well, but it always good to see if there are newer varieties/cultivars that would be better or different.

Take for instance mahonia. I would always recommend this easy evergreen shrub with sweet scented winter yellow flowers. I have Mahonia Japonica in my garden. It makes a large-ish free flowering, very tolerant plant that will flourish in sun or shade. It doesn't mind being cut back quite vigorously to keep it the size I want. However, in recent years there have been improved cultivars. Mahonia Charity is smaller and a bit less vigorous and a 'good doer'! Now there is an even better type for a small garden called Winter Sun, more compact still and with larger, brighter flowers.

I am not a big fan of grasses in my border. I tend to think they look half dead by the end of the summer and as if I had forgotten to weed them out! However, I visited a friend the other day, who has four free standing, stately clumps of Miscanthus growing all alone in holes in her paving round a pond. They are about 8 foot tall and quite magnificent even if rather brown! Looking around this summer, I see that there is a new cultivar of this grass called Miscanthus Silver Charm. It is spectacular, its tall fluffy flower heads have a silver sheen in the summer, going progressively whiter as the season draws on. You could also grow it in a large pot too and it would look very handsome – I am almost won over!

I grow a winter flowering clematis scrambling through my wisteria on the front of the house. I am not sure why as it isn't very distinguished! It has rather drab whitish flowers speckled with rather dreary dull purplish spots. It's one virtue being that it is evergreen and scrambles up the bare branches of the wisteria and adds a little bit of colour. It is called clematis cirrhosa. I have just seen a much prettier cultivar called Clematis Cirrhosa



Landsdown Gem. It looks to be an attractive shade of reddish purple. If anyone grows it and finds it as attractive as it sounds, do let me know.

One last suggestion of a shrub that I would definitely have in my garden if I could. It is not that it is a new variety but when planting shrubs in the garden I did not know about it and now have no room! It has a very unmemorable name, but it has all the virtues. Its name is Viburnum plicatum Tomentosum Mariesii. There are lots of viburnum varieties but this is very special. It has beautiful lace cap flowers in late winter, berries in autumn and excellent autumn colour. Best of all it grows as if in layers. It is difficult to do it justice in words. Look out for it in the flesh or Google it and if you have room for one big shrub this would be an excellent choice.

EYES DOWN - BINGO

Hi Bingo Players.

The January 2024 turnout was smaller than usual due to the inclement weather. Hopefully the weather will improve and attendance will return to normal.

Thank you to all that came in January. As always a big thank you to all our Helpers. We all send our best wishes to Barry, one of our callers.

The February 2024 Bingo session will take place on Thursday, 8th February 2024 between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm at the Village Hall. Remember the more people that attend the greater the rewards!

We look forward to seeing you all. You may be the lucky one to win a cash prize or the raffle. Cup of tea and cake £2 and Bingo cards £1 for 6 games.

Tell your friends it's a great afternoon. Bingo is held on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Beryl Brewer



CHURCH NEWS February 2024

Good to see so many of you over the Christmas period!

Services in February

4th February 10.00am **Chappel** - Morning Worship

11th February 10.00 am **Little Tey** - Benefice Communion

14th February 7.30 pm **Little Tey** – Ash Wednesday
Compline

18th February 10.00 am **Great Tey** - Morning Worship

25th February 10.00 am **Chappel** - Benefice Communion
6.30 pm - **Little Tey** – Evensong

Lent Compline Services at Little Tey -7.30 pm on Wednesday
February 14th, 21st and 28th

Compline is a short contemplative service with a talk and prayers. On the 14th there will also be the imposition of ashes, as it is Ash Wednesday

Epiphanytide

We have just enjoyed the season of the **Epiphany**. This strange word is a direct translation from Greek *epiphaneia*, “manifestation”. Epiphany was traditionally celebrated on January 6th, commemorating the first ‘manifestation’ of Jesus to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi or the Three Kings.

Many myths have grown up around the ‘Three Kings from Persian Lands’. It is worth ‘googling’ them to learn more. They are often called ‘Magi’ The term refers to the Persian priestly caste of Zoroastrianism. As part of their religion, these priests paid particular attention to the stars and gained an international reputation for astrology, which was at that time highly regarded as a science. Their religious practices and use of astrology caused derivatives of the term Magi to be applied to the occult in general and led to the English term magic.

Candlemas

Traditionally, Candlemas was celebrated on the 2nd of February and marked the time when Jesus was presented to the congregation in the Temple. It became associated with the lighting of lots of candles, because it had been prophesied that Jesus was to be the ‘Light of the World’. Many countries have traditions associated with Candlemas, including the French who used to celebrate by making pancakes.

It was also thought to be the end of the Christmas season. Durham Cathedral, for example, still doesn’t take its Christmas tree down until Candlemas.

Christmas Flowers/wreaths in the churchyard

We would be grateful if everyone who has placed wreaths on graves at Christmas would remove them in the next week or so. The exception to the guidance

which discourages plastic flowers in the churchyard, makes an exception for wreaths at Christmas time, with the proviso that they will be removed once the Christmas season is over. We will be tidying up the churchyard early in February. Any wreaths still on graves by then will be put in the porch for the owners to collect. Thank you for your help.

Colchester
CHORAL
Society
directed by Ian Ray

Joseph Jongen **John Rutter**
MASS **REQUIEM GLORIA**

“moving, intimate, intense”

Saturday 16th March at 7.30 pm
St Botolph’s Church, Colchester

Tickets £20/ £6 under 25s from
www.colchesterchoralsociety.co.uk,
Mann’s Music, or at the door



Registered Charity No. 278894

THE GREAT TEY FRIENDSHIP/ BOWLS CLUB

I guess it’s a bit late to wish you all a Happy New Year; by the time you read this it will very likely be February already!!

The club’s numbers were down a bit at the start of the year but they are picking up now. We had a lovely Christmas lunch at the Chequers, the next item on our agenda will probably be a trip to a garden centre for tea and cakes. That’s in the future but the way time is going already, it’s possibly not that far away...

If you’re at a loose end on a Wednesday afternoon and fancy some friendly company, why not come to the village hall and see what we’re up to? Our next meetings will be February 14th & 28th. A friendly reminder to members - the 14th is the AGM, please bring your membership cards!

For more info on the club, do call Andrea on 01206 803541.



THE CHEQUERS

Advance notice of temporary time changes.

Bar:

Tuesday 20th February – 5:30pm – 11pm Wednesday 21st February – 5:30pm – 11pm
Thursday 22nd February – CLOSED ALL DAY
Friday 23rd February – 5pm – 11:30pm Saturday 24th February – 12.00pm – 11:30pm
Sunday 25th February – 12.00pm -8.00pm

Bar & Restaurant Opening Hours

Monday – Closed all day
Tuesday – 5:30pm - 10.30pm
Wednesday/Thursday – 12.00pm - 3.00pm 5:30pm-10.30pm (Food: 12pm – 2:30pm & 6pm – 8:30pm)
Friday – 12.00pm – 3.00pm 5.00pm – 11.30pm (Food: 12pm – 2:30pm & 6pm – 8:30pm)
Saturday – 12.00pm – 11.30pm (food 12.00pm – 2:30pm & 6.00pm – 8:30pm)
Sunday – 12.00pm – 8.00pm (food 12.00pm – 3:30pm)

UPCOMING EVENTS

February & March

3rd February, Saturday – 2:15pm – We will be showing the 6 Nations Rugby - Italy v England

11th February, Sunday – Open for drinks only – Kitchen closed for private function

14th February, Wednesday – Valentine's Night – pre-order menu available now on our Facebook Page, via email or for collection. Rose included & chocolates included.

18th February, Sunday 7pm– Quiz Night – £3/person (max 6 people/team). Please confirm/cancel your team because we have limited space, and the evening is very popular.

10th March, Mothering Sunday – Taking bookings

17th March, Sunday 7pm– Quiz Night – £3/person (max 6 people/team). Please confirm/cancel your team because we have limited space, and the evening is very popular.

31st March, Easter Sunday – Taking bookings

Tel: 01206 210814

Facebook Page: The Chequers-Great Tey. The new page has a hyphen in between words.

Please like our page if you would like to keep up to date with what is happening.

(The old page belongs to the previous tenant of The Chequers)

Instagram: The Chequers-Great Tey the_chequers_great_tey

Email: thechequersgreattey@gmail.com

Thank you for your custom and continued support.

Please note that copy deadline for the

March 2024

issue will be:

Wednesday 21st February 2024

PLEASE send all copy **BEFORE** noon on this day to the editor, David Edwards at

edwardsdj44@gmail.com

If you would like to make a donation to the print fund for Round & About Great Tey please use payment by BACS to Barclays Bank Account No 83141004 – Sort Code 20-97-40 including your name or organisation as reference if possible.