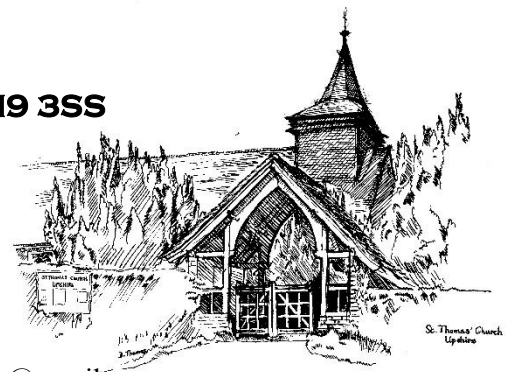


ST THOMAS' CHURCH, UPSHIRE EN9 3SS

NEWSLETTER

August 2025



Rector: Revd Peter Smith, 01992 767897
Team Vicar: Revd Jane Yeadon, 07960 604416. Email janeyeadon@gmail.com
Benefice Office: Abbey Church Centre, Waltham Abbey, EN9 1XQ. 01992 767897
Church address: Horseshoe Hill, Upshire, Waltham Abbey, Essex, EN9 3SS.
Website: <https://stthomaschurchupshire.com>
Email: lynanddavewackett@hotmail.co.uk

This Newsletter is free: donations to Lyn Wackett. Copy date for September Newsletter: 14th August

We are committed to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults. The PCC has adopted the Church of England's policies and best practice on safeguarding which may be found on the Church of England website and also on the Diocese of Chelmsford website.

SERVICES AND DIARY FOR AUGUST

NO SEEDLINGS THIS MONTH

- Sunday 3rd Seventh Sunday after Trinity
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
Readings: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 18-23. Luke 12:13-21
- Sunday 10th Eighth Sunday after Trinity
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
Readings: Genesis 15:1-6 Luke 12:32-40

2.30-4.30pm AFTERNOON TEAS in the church
- Sunday 17th Ninth Sunday after Trinity
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
Readings: Jeremiah 23:23-29 Luke 12:49-56
- Wednesday 20th 11.30am for 12noon COMMUNITY LUNCH in church – 07899 846711 to book. Please let us know if you have to cancel. Thank you.
- Sunday 24th Tenth Sunday after Trinity
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
Readings: Isaiah 58:9b-end Luke 13:10-17

2.30-4.30pm AFTERNOON TEAS in the church
- Sunday 31st Eleventh Sunday after Trinity
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
Readings: Ecclesiastes 10:12-18 Luke 14:1, 7-14
- Sunday 7th September Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
9.15am HOLY COMMUNION
Readings: Deuteronomy 30:15-end Luke 14:25-33

PRAYER REQUESTS

You are invited to offer names to be added to our prayer diary to remember those who are unwell or unhappy. First names only are required as God will know who we are praying for.

Contact Lyn Wackett on 01992 711573 or email lynanddavewackett@hotmail.co.uk

This month we pray for Laura, Alan & Pam, Lesley, Charlie & John, Anne, Pam & John, Barbara, Vernon, Mal, Sue, Ann & Cyril, Rosalind, Doreen, Maureen, Carol & George, Beverly, Terry, Jackie, Andrea & her Mum & Dad, Nina, Carmel & the Price family, Dave, Nigel, Lola, Pearl, Susan & Alan, Jackie & Linda, Graham, Christine, Chris, Izzie, Pennie and Sue.

Our mailing list to receive the electronic version is now in excess of 100 participants so if you are not one of those and wish to be included please send your email address to Kate at dalek16@btinternet.com or phone 02085083942. We are looking to reduce our 'paper footprint' for climate change by printing fewer copies – your contribution will help. Thank you.

THE VICAR WRITES

As the long days of summer begin to shorten and the first hints of autumn appear, our thoughts naturally turn to the harvest. For farmers and gardeners, this is the season of reaping what has been sown—months of preparation, care, and patience finally come to fruition.

In the life of faith, we too experience seasons of sowing and harvesting. The imagery of harvest is deeply woven throughout the Bible, reminding us that God is constantly at work in the lives of His people, cultivating growth, transformation, and fruitfulness. In Galatians 6:9, the Apostle Paul encourages us, "Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Just as the farmer must wait patiently through the growing season, so too must we wait for the fullness of what God is growing in us. Sometimes, the seeds God plants in our lives are visible; relationships deepened, prayers answered, spiritual growth, or a renewed sense of peace. Other times, the harvest is quieter and more inward: strength through trials, resilience in waiting, or hope that has slowly but surely taken root. Sometimes, we forget that growth takes time. Just as a seed in the ground doesn't sprout overnight, neither do the fruits of the Spirit emerge in an instant. Patience is required—patience with God and with ourselves.

As a church family, August offers us a moment to pause and reflect:

What has God been growing in your life this year?

Where have you seen unexpected fruit?

Is there a seed of faith that's just beginning to sprout?

The harvest God desires from us isn't just about external achievements. It's about the fruit He's growing in our hearts—the development of Christlike character. Galatians 5:22-23 tells us about the "fruit of the Spirit": love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

These qualities, like a good harvest, don't just appear out of nowhere. They grow through daily choices, through walking with God, and through engaging in the messy, beautiful work of loving others.

As we reflect on what God has grown in us, this season also invites us to pause to give thanks. Not everything we've sown may have blossomed the way we hoped—but God is always at work beneath the surface. He brings life from dry ground, and fruit from seasons we barely understood at the time.

Let's use this season to look back with gratitude, to notice the small (and large) harvests around us, and to celebrate the God who is always growing something good in and through His people. As we do that we also remember that the harvest we see today is not the end of the story—it's only a chapter in God's ongoing work in our lives. The seeds we plant now, the love we share, the faith we build, will all contribute to future harvests—both in our lives and in the lives of others.

As we head toward the new season ahead, may we do so with hearts full of thanksgiving. With hands ready to gather in the fruit of what God has already grown whilst also keeping sowing seeds of love, faith, and service, trusting that the Lord of the harvest will bring them to life in His perfect time.

Blessings,

Revd Jane Yeadon,

Team Vicar St Thomas, Upshire and Holy Innocents, High Beech

Benefice Youth Missioner MB 07960 604416

St Thomas Church, Upshire Bank details

St Thomas Church Upshire PCC

HSBC Bank

Sort Code 40 45 20

Account number 00724505

Any queries regarding setting up a Standing Order, giving a donation to the church, Gift Aid or about joining the Parish Giving Scheme please contact our Treasurer, Ruth Moore on 07852 668633

Ruth4366@gmail.com

If you are able to Gift Aid donations this increases your gift without any extra cost to yourself.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Each month we can create memorial dedications, wedding, anniversary or special occasion flowers -

Contact Kate Dale email: dalek16@btinternet.com. Tel: 02085083942



ST THOMAS' SEEDLINGS

1st Saturdays of each month (unless otherwise stated)

A free Stay and Play church group for children and those who care for them
Join us Saturdays 3-4pm for messy craft, play, songs and stories along with a welcome cuppa
St Thomas' Church, Horseshoe Hill, Upshire, EN9 3SS



GROWER'S CORNER

August still takes me back to being a child. Always playing outside and going on long bike rides in the forest. Watching the cricket at St Thomas'. The back field being harvested. The smell of tomatoes reminds me of my nan. She always grew them in her lean-to summer house. These small seemingly insignificant moments have now become cherished memories.

Update on the plots:

It seems most progress on the plots happens after work as our weekends have been hectic.

I have been trying to keep on top of the weeds, Stef's been re-jigging items on the plot to make space for the greenhouse. We have chosen its location and we have put the frame in on one side. I'm always getting ahead of myself and I'm thinking about how the greenhouse will look before getting down of the nitty gritty of putting together a life size puzzle. Moving greenhouses isn't the easiest but getting a secondhand one this size made it more affordable.

We were late planting things out so our glut of courgettes has yet to materialise. But hoping we soon will be in this predicament as I love them.

The tomatoes are in the bed in the polytunnel along with 5 different types of basil I sowed earlier. The fruit cage has been planted up hoping we reap the benefits next season.

Courgette Snack Recipe

Ingredients: Baguette, ricotta cheese, courgette, lemon, mint, olive oil and seasoning.

- * Slice crusty baguette on the angle. This will form the base of the snack
- * Whisk ricotta cheese (drained) in a bowl and some lemon juice and zest
- * Very thinly slice courgettes (using a mandolin if you have one. Watching out for your fingers)
- * Brush olive oil on both sides of the bread and place in a griddle pan. Take the bread out of the pan. Then lightly colour the thinly sliced courgettes in the same pan.
- * Place the ricotta onto the toasted bread, top with the ricotta first then add the courgettes and dress with some chopped fresh mint and seasoning.

A perfect snack to accompany your chilled drink of choice.

August to do:

- * Harvest crops- there will be plenty to pick in the garden/allotment.
- * Think about preserving any gluts. We had so many cucumbers one year. We made pickles and shared with friends
- * Harvest rain water if we do get any rain.

August sowings:

Sowing crops now will help prepare for the autumn too.

Crops to consider.

lettuce (keep out of the glare of direct sun), rocket, spring onion, radish and winter salads, including mizuna, mustard leaf and lamb's lettuce.

Flowers/shrubs

- * Keep deadheading flowers
- * Prune wisteria's (look up further guidance as to how and when to do this)
- * Collect seeds from the garden, label and these can be used for next season.

Tip: Use grey water (water from the bath, shower etc) to water your flower beds.

Have a lovely August bank holiday. Louise.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Thank you to the people who have sent in articles to be included in the Newsletter. Please keep them coming! Anything: maybe a poem you have written, what you have been doing in the garden, childhood memories, something that happened to make you smile, it all makes for interesting reading.

ANAGRAM Unscramble this 10 letter anagram: MEASURING. The answer will be found elsewhere in the Newsletter.

STAMPS Please continue to save your postage stamps and foreign or out of circulation coins as the charities we support can use them to raise funds. At present we collect the coins for Essex and Herts Air Ambulance and The British Legion and stamps for British Heart Foundation. Stamps and coins can be left with Lyn & Dave at 94 Upshire Road – please leave in the porch if no reply. Please leave about ½“ of envelope around the stamps. Thank you.

COMING UP AT ST. THOMAS’

1st Saturday of each month except August: 3.00-4.00pm Seedlings – messy craft, play, songs and stories for children and those who care for them.

2nd & 4th Sundays, 2.30-4.30pm Afternoon Teas

Sunday 7th September, 3pm for 3.30pm start – Enfield Brass Band Concert – Last Night of the Proms

Sunday 14th September, 2pm Fun Dog Show with Teas and a few stalls (postponed from Summer Fayre)

Friday 26th September: 10am-2.00pm Macmillan Coffee Morning with Cake Competition

Sunday 28th September: Harvest Festival with last of the Afternoon Teas, 2.30-4.30pm

Saturday 11th October: Quiz Night

Saturday 22nd November: Christmas Bazaar in the Village Hall

Wednesday 3rd December: Community Christmas Lunch

Sunday 7th December: 3pm for 3.30pm start – Enfield Brass Band Christmas Concert

50/50 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the 50/50 Club Bumper Draw in June who were:

1 st :	£40	No. 65	Kate Dale of Loughton
2 nd :	£30	No. 93	Ruth Bradley of Enfield
3 rd :	£25	No. 16	Eleanor Huxter of Claverhambury
4 th :	£20	No. 14	Sheila Gleeson of Waltham Abbey
5 th :	£20	No. 31	Steve Groves of Upshire

It is not too late to join Draw 16 of St Thomas’ 50/50 Club.

There will be monthly draws and the entry fee is £12.00 every six months (or £2 for every month of membership). Each member is entitled to a maximum of two entries, couples can have four. Please complete the form below and return it to me; payment by Bank Transfer is preferred or alternatively you may pay by cheque or cash to the address stated. Please let me know if you pay by Bank Transfer so I can include your number in the Draw (email lynanddavewackett@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01992 711573).

Our thanks to all our members for their support of St Thomas’ Church. Good luck to everyone who enters.

St Thomas’ Church 50/50 Club Draw 16

July to December 2025

I wish to become a member of St Thomas’ 50/50 Club and have paid by Bank Transfer to HSBC Bank, A/c St Thomas Church Upshire PCC, Sort Code 404520, A/c No: 00724505.

OR I enclose cash/cheque of £12 per entry (maximum 2 per person). Please make cheques payable to St Thomas’ Church Upshire PCC and return your entries to Lyn Wackett, 94 Upshire Road, Waltham Abbey, EN9 3PA.

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

ST THOMAS' CHURCH COMMUNITY LUNCHES 2025

Wednesdays, 11.30 for 12noon-2pm

20th August, 17th September, 15th October,

12th November (a week earlier than usual), 3rd December

Please book your place to confirm attendance: 07899 846711

If after booking you are unable to come, please phone to cancel, we can then offer a place to people on the waiting list.

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, HIGH BEACH

Sunday afternoon teas 2.00-5.30pm every week until Sunday 28th September. There will be free walk-in concerts by Asaph at 3pm on 17th August and 21st September. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the tranquillity of our churchyard whilst sampling home-made cakes, tea and coffee.

BARN DANCE IN THE FOREST

Sunday 3rd August, 2.30 – 4.00pm at the Church of the Holy Innocents, High Beach.

FREE live music, partner, circle and line dancing. Tea and cake £2.50

For more information: romfordceilidhband@gmail.com

ANAGRAM The answer to the anagram is GERANIUMS.

CRAFT MARKET

The Craft Market and Table Top Sale in Waltham Abbey Town Hall will be on Tuesday 5th August, then the first Tuesday of each month until December. 10.00am – 2.00pm. Admission free; refreshments.

UPSHIRE SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

Held in Upshire Village Hall, Mondays 2.00-4.30pm, Tuesdays 7.00-9.30pm No experience necessary.

Tuition and bowls available. It's fun to play! Contact Fred on 01992 711720 or Jean on 07733 084815.

Upshire Mothers' Union

Between 16th – 22nd June, Refugee Week, we celebrated the theme "Community as a Superpower" by highlighting the inspiring work of English for Women (EFW), a Mothers' Union supported project based in the Diocese of Chelmsford.

Founded by Heike Prentice, an Ordinand at Chelmsford Cathedral, EFW was later gifted to the community and embraced by Mothers' Union, continuing a legacy of empowering women. The project is about connection and community. It aims to reduce loneliness for women experiencing language barriers, many of whom are refugees or asylum seekers rebuilding their lives after conflict or trauma. Through welcoming, inclusive sessions, EFW helps women build friendships, gain confidence, and communicate in a new culture.

Chelmsford diocese is rich in diversity, with women from countries including Turkey, Latvia, Russia, Afghanistan, Moldova, Italy and Portugal involved in the project. "The sessions build confidence in conversational English skills and help participants understand British culture so they can develop a sense of belonging," says project assistant Kirsten Esden.

Volunteer Judy Halls sees EFW as a powerful extension of MU's roots. "Mothers' Union was created when women lacked equality, confidence and opportunity. We've stayed true to those principles. Often participants will start off hesitant, but over time, they grow in confidence. Our greatest success is when, after attending the sessions, they have the skills and knowledge to thrive in the UK."

The true power of this community lies not just in what is taught, but in what is shared. Volunteer Alison reflects, "I go in to help the learners, but I often find I learn a lot myself. It's a great community. We are different ages, nationalities, religions, and ethnicities, but we are also very much the same."

One participant puts it simply: "EFW is a very friendly and helpful community. I have learnt a lot about British culture and everyday life. I have met new people and made new friends."

EFW is proof that community is a superpower, capable of breaking down walls and transforming lives. It's more than language learning; it's the creation of a space where dignity is restored, and hope is rekindled.

At the end of June we hosted a Coffee Morning in support of Mothers' Union Summer of Hope Appeal.

Thank you to those who came along and supported us, and helped raise £80 for the appeal.

There is no meeting in August.

Further information on Mothers' Union contact Eleanor Huxter on 01992 892869

FUN DOG SHOW AND AFTERNOON TEAS – SUNDAY 14th SEPTEMBER

The Fun Dog Show which was due to be held at the Summer Fayre was postponed due to the heat. However, it was decided that we would still have a dog show and decided on the date of 14th September, with registration at 2pm. There will be classes of Prettiest Bitch, Most Handsome Dog, Best Puppy (under 12 months) Best Veteran (over 7), Best child handler (under 14), Best Condition, Waggiest Tail, the Dog the Judge would most like to take home, Best in Show. £2 per class, rosette awards for 1st to 3rd places, Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show. Judging by Vets from Medivet. There will also be a few stalls and our usual delicious afternoon teas.

THE BUXTON BANNER:

We are delighted to say that after almost 400 hours of work by 5 needlewomen from the locality, under the guidance of our dear friend Anthea Godfrey, the replacement Buxton Banner is finally finished and hanging in the church.

The banner replaces the one which belonged to the late Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, 3rd Baronet. During his lifetime the original hung in St Paul's Cathedral in the Chapel of The Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George, of which order he was a Grand Commander.

After his death it was removed from the Chapel and returned for hanging in this church, which he built.

Unfortunately, being made of silk fabric the original has now deteriorated to a state in which it can no longer be displayed.

By way of explanation, the Lion with the Mullets represent his Coat of Arms. The Red Hand of Ulster, top left, is the badge of a Baronet of the United Kingdom.

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COMMUNITY LUNCHESES: Why not join us for one of our Community Lunches held on the third Wednesday of every month . In the Summer, you will be treated to a hearty meal of home cooked ham (vegetarian option available) with a variety of salad accompaniments followed by a delicious dessert selection and a cup of tea or coffee in friendly company. All for £9.00. If you come on your own, you will not eat alone! For catering purposes please ring Pauline on: 07899 846711. As added bonuses, you will certainly not need to cook for yourselves and you will have the opportunity to take a look at our new banner.

WALTHAM ABBEY CHURCH

Music for Lunch – Saturdays at 12 noon. Refreshments available from 11.30am. Free admission with retiring collection.

At **HOME INSTEAD** Epping Forest we recognise that as we get older, you may need help to be able to stay living in your own home. We Tailor our care packages to meet your needs making it possible for you to stay living in your own home where you are happiest.

Our services include Dementia Care, Personal Care, Home Help, Companionship and much more.

Our monthly Memory Lane and Singing for the Brain Sessions are held at Theydon Bois Village Hall providing lots of fun complimented with refreshments served by our lovely Team. Why not contact us to find out more and to get a copy of our What's on Where Guide (WOW Guide) and future newsletters.

Telephone 01992 666777 or email: Victoria.rigby@homeinstead.co.uk

WALTHAM ABBEY FLOWER CLUB 2024

We meet on the 4th Tuesday in the month except January, June, August and December at Waltham Abbey Community Centre, Crooked Mile, EN9 1QD. Door open 1.45 for 2pm start.

We have an outing to the Mount, an open garden in Epping Road, Roydon on Thursday 3rd July. All welcome, £7 per person, contact Chris as below.

Our next meeting is on 22nd July: demonstration by Sion Rogers. All are welcome, raffle, sales table, tea, coffee and homemade cake. There is no meeting in August. Further details from Chris on 07792 594443.

WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Monthly talks on Friday evenings at 7.30pm at the Baptist Church, Paradise Road, Waltham Abbey, Essex EN9 1RL.

Next meeting: Friday 19th September Visitors welcome, donation of £2 per person requested.

WALTHAM ABBEY COMMUNITY POPPY PROJECT

Come and join our team working to create poppy displays around Waltham Abbey for Remembrance 2025.

Monthly crafting sessions: Saturdays 1.00-3.00pm in Waltham Abbey Library

21st June, 19th July, 16th August, 20th September, 18th October.

For more information, search 'Waltham Abbey Community Poppy Project' on Facebook, or email

walthamabbeydi@gmail.com

If you have other crafting skills and want to get involved, please come to one of the above sessions. **All welcome.**

I REMEMBER IT WELL

Do you remember the film 'Gigi'? In it Maurice Chevalier sung 'I remember it well' to Hermione Gingold except that his memory was not so good. "We met at eight", sung Chevalier, "no", replied Gingold, "we met at nine". "You wore a gown of gold" insisted Chevalier, "no, I was all in blue" replied Gingold! Often our memories play tricks on us but some things seem to stick. Life was at a much slower pace with less stress and more time to relax. People would often go out for a ride in their cars on a Sunday afternoon just to see the countryside, after all, the roads were empty and petrol was only around seven and six a gallon – about eight pence a litre! And there were no LTNs, congestion charges or ULEZs to bother us. Returning home we would watch one of the two channels on TV. On BBC the presenters would be wearing lounge suits and ties whereas the usurper, ITV was more relaxed but which had adverts, not commercial breaks. Then there would only be three items advertised in each advert and they would all be different whereas now, often similar products are advertised in the same commercial break the length of which seems to be interminable, one can make a cup of tea, cook the evening meal and still not miss any of the programme! And, of course, there was no sponsorship of programmes!

Now adverts must be truthful and honest so 'a Mars a day helps you work, rest and play' had to go as did 'Guinness is good for you'. I actually preferred London Stout or Mackeson although when I was in Ireland a few years ago the Guinness there tasted superior to that brewed here. Surprisingly on a visit to a friends' local in south-eastern Ireland I found all the regulars drinking lager with me the sole Guinness drinker! Do you use Oxo – the cubes make a very refreshing drink when dissolved in boiling water but did you know that they 'give a meal man appeal'. Well, that had to go as did the washing powder Omo due to its connotations when a packet was left in the kitchen window! Talking of drinks, one hardly ever sees the traditional mixers in pubs these days. Light and bitter was a regular as was mild and bitter, a particular favourite of mine. I never tried though, a 'mother-in-law' - a stout and bitter, it could be a bit sour I believe. In the winter months pubs would often have 'winter warmers' available. Generally served from traditional wooden barrels of about two gallons capacity they would be placed on the bar counter with the beer drawn through taps rather than pumps. My local had them from breweries in Horsham and Dorchester and the beers were certainly warming especially if mixed half and half!

Guinness produced a 'Black List' of mixers that could be imbibed with a Guinness. Cider and Guinness, known as a snake bite, was another favourite of mine and boy could that bite especially if the cider was scrumpy. For the toffs it was suggested that Guinness should be mixed with champagne, making a 'black velvet'. That originated from the death of Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's consort. Evidently in 1861 with everyone in mourning the steward at Brooks Club ordered that even the champagne should be put into mourning so mixed it with Guinness. It sweetens the Guinness making it much lighter but don't have more than one unless your bed is within easy reach! The Black List was used as a poster on hoardings but they also had it printed as a folded sheet handy for the pocket and visits to the pub. At a time when licensing laws dictated that pubs shut at 2pm for the afternoon and then after re-opening at 6 shutting at 10.30 and even 10 in some parts of the country, Guinness produced a leaflet detailing how it was possible to obtain a drink at any time of the day. One would have had to do a fair bit of travelling including a train journey where a buffet car was provided and also attending a pub next to one of the main markets in London which open around 4 in the morning. As I used to frequent Covent Garden, when it was a fruit and veg market, I can attest that beer at 5am is invigorating!

Who has a pre-paid gas meter? I have not used one in over fifty years but I understand that now a little 'stick' is charged up with credit and which is then inserted into the meter. I used to put in a 'Bamber' as the meter used shillings, 'gas coins' - University Challenge – do you get it? Shillings were also known as 'bobs' hence the expression 'bob-a-job' where young boys were sent out to run errands for householders. Promoted by the Scouts Association, the bob-a-job week ran for years until it was thought that sending young boys to people's houses was perhaps not such a good idea. Mind you, with inflation, it would probably be about £50-a-job these days. Talking of young children trying to extort money from adults, there used to be a couple of weeks of 'official' begging each year popularly known as 'penny-for-the-guy'. Old clothes would be purloined from one's parents and then stuffed with newspaper or rags in order to resemble a body. The head might be a balloon with a face mask attached or an old football. Then the ensemble would be paraded on the High Street or placed at some prominent spot often with a sign attached proclaiming 'penny-for-the-guy'. Hopefully passers-by would duly throw their pennies into the cup conveniently placed on the pavement and when full the resultant coins would be used to buy fireworks for the commemoration of the burning of Guy Fawkes who had tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament in the time of James I. Seeing the price of fireworks these days it would be more useful if the children had one of those contactless payment things! Many fireworks, when I was a youngster, were designed to be held when lit. Holding Roman Candles as they burnt away was exciting, sparklers could be used to write in the air and bangers were ideal for throwing at the feet of girls. Not such a good idea but at least the incendiaries were of limited power, not like today's monsters.

Money was tight and there were limited opportunities to try and obtain a fortune not like today where there seems to be all sorts of opportunities to bet. Of course one could purchase Premium Bonds, still going strong, although my ten has only ever gained me a win of twenty five pounds and that was a long time ago, of course I dare not cash them in as the next month might be the one when my numbers come up! The other way to bet apart from attending a racecourse was to do the football pools. My father religiously used to try and predict the eight score draws each week in the hope that he would win the £100,000 prize – a massive sum then which pales into insignificance compared to the Lottery wins of today. Oh! I remember it all so well! Adrian J Liddle

Footnote: I mentioned in my June article that a green woodpecker had been building a nest in a tree on our yard. Well, after having constructed the hole she disappeared, or so we thought. With no sighting of the adult, we were pleasantly surprised to hear squawking coming from the nest and to see a long bill protruding from the entrance. Then a few days later I found a young one on the ground unable to walk properly or to fly, it would have become fodder for one of our foxes so catching it up seemed to be sensible. It was very emaciated and weak so we presumed that the mother had come to grief. What to do? Luckily we had an old cat basket to put it in and take to the local PDSA. They suggested South Essex Wildlife Rescue at Orsett which is where we took it. Their experts will 'bring it on' and subsequently release it back into the wild once fully grown and strong enough.