

**T**oday, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May is breezy, damp and cool enough to put on a jumper but from the window in front of my desk stretches the English equivalent of a tropical rainforest, a feast for the eyes. The exotic plants and wild life of the latter are replaced by cow parsley, nettles and hardy perennials that are sufficiently persistent not to be beaten back by the health and vitality of nature's offerings. The birds are beautiful and varied. Bluetits nesting in a bird box, tiny wrens and the fattest pigeons I have ever seen. This wilderness is also the home to frogs and is frequently visited by a fox and his vixen and a muntjack deer. The fox and our new Jack Russell help to keep the rabbits at bay and once again I realise how lucky I am to live in this place.

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## we all need a place to stand

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Earlier this week I was fortunate enough to hear the Bishop of Huntingdon speak about the theology of place. He argues that place is much more significant than is generally recognised. *"That we all need a place to stand goes without saying but most people do not perhaps stop to reflect very deeply on what effect such places have upon them and why"*. He suggests that gradually we have lost our sense of place and that this can have an almost *dehumanising* effect on us. We do live in a world where people move frequently, juggle long working hours and family life, spend hours in traffic queues or in front of a computer and so it goes on. This



lifestyle can lead to a feeling of having no roots, no place that is memorable in our lives, of not belonging. Many of you who have lived here all your lives may disagree with me and may be right. For the rest of us, as we head into June and hopefully a good Summer with the right balance of sunshine and showers, take some time to think about this place and what it means to you. The fête on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> is not just another fête, the hedgerows and gardens that are alive with the wonders of creation are not just any old hedgerow; the cricket on the Green is our community; All Saints church is not just another church but a living symbol of Christ in this community, reaching out in love to all who live here.

I pray that you will have a wonderful summer and please take some time to reflect how this place, Datchworth, is so important in your life.

*Coralie*