

Residents have shared why they love the village of Aldham.

Tony and Claire Gearey, both 58, run the Aldham Grapevine magazine which has been keeping the village up to date on events and goings on in the village over the last 20 years.

They started running the Grapevine eight years ago and have been in the village since 2005.

It is released every three months and there are four issues a year.

The free magazine is distributed to every house in the village.

Mr Gearey who is also a parish councillor, said: “We love the place, the whole village just gets on with each other.



The Aldham Grapevine team - Tony and Claire Gearey (*Image: Tony and Claire Gearey*)

“We’re good neighbours, all looking after each other, people who have grown up here.

“Everyone loves being around here, we are close to the A12 but part of the countryside

“We have lovely walks as well; it’s such a lovely place to live.”

David Thompson, 63, has lived in Aldham for five years now.

The *Gazette* recently revealed Mr Thompson is the new owner of the Mill Race Garden Centre site.



Resident - David Thompson (Image: NQ)

Speaking about the village, he said: “We’re right on the Colne valley.

“It’s a lovely area to live. We’re outside of the city but right close to it.

“We’re close to the A12 and Marks Tey railway station.

“It’s very quiet and peaceful, we don’t get a lot of criminality.

“It’s a really safe, clean, nice environment to live in. Aldham really is nice and that’s why my grandchildren are here.

“This is not a five-minute thing, it really is nice.”

Ben and Emily Lambert-Green run Crapes Fruit Farm, in Rectory Road, which they took over in July.

Mr Lambert-Green, 33, grew up in the village.



Ben and Emily Lambert-Green run Crapes Fruit Farm in Rectory Road (*Image: Ben and Emily Lambert-Green*)

He said: "Aldham is a beautiful part of rural Essex, a gentle village, with friendly people who are very supportive of the farm.

"Crapes Farm has been here for over 100 years, and the barn for a lot longer.

"It's as much a part of the village as the landscape itself.

"People often visit with fond memories and the impression the farm has left on them.

"I feel like we are carrying on a legacy of stewardship, whilst finding new or forgotten ways to support and regenerate nature whilst feeding the local community.

"Growing up in Aldham could sometimes be isolating but the space to think and explore nature hugely outweighed that.

"You become so familiar with the landscape and lie of the land, places and features that become so well known in your own world, specific trees, a bit of river, a hillock or corner of a field.

"Once I grew into a teenager the isolation went, when I realised how close Colchester, and London both were."

Alan Knot, 56, has lived in Aldham for 15 years. He is the village bar chairman and one of the karate instructors at the club within the village hall.



Alan Knot is the village bar chairman and one of the karate instructors at the club within the village hall. (Image: Alan Knot)

He said: "I enjoy the village life and being part of the community and having good neighbours and friends.

"Also the peace and quiet, although the road is a nightmare and pylons will make it worse.

"I run the bar as we wanted to be a focal point of the community.

"I run it with a great committee and volunteers and really could not do it without them.

"I like the generation mix and has help my children to socialise with so many different people.

"I don't like saying diverse as that feels like a tick box exercise.

"I do wish we had more visitors and funding and would love to personalise it a bit so it looked like a bar."