# Great Hallingbury Highlights

#### Autumn 2023

Vol. 99

An independent publication giving news on matters affecting Great Hallingbury



### **Owl in Grass** Photograph courtesy of Tom Streeter

## Councillors

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7 The Grove, CM22 7TT

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email: njackson57@btinternet.com 07801 431645 Mr. Alan Pinnock

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#### Website:

https://e-voice.org.uk/great-hallingburyparish-council

## Uttlesford District Councillors

Mr. Geof Driscoll email: cllrdriscoll@uttlesford.gov.uk Mr. Neil Reeve email: cllrreeve@uttlesford.gov.uk

#### Essex County Councillor

Mrs. Susan Barker Tel: 01245 231250 Little Garnetts, Bishops Green, Barnston, Essex, CM6 1NF Fax 01245 231810 email: cllr.susan.barker@essex.gov.uk

#### Member of Parliament

Mrs Kemi Badenoch MP House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA email: kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

## **Contacts for Village Activities**

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Friends of a Crafty Spell (craft club) 07951 168212 Suzanne Cousins suze.cousins16@yahoo.co.uk

Cricket Club	
Keith Behagg	01371 872550

**History Society** Secretary; Claire Layer gthallhistory@gmail.com

#### Neighbourhood Watch

Coordinator Mark Coletta cllrcolettapc@gmail.com

#### Neighbours' Association

Secretary Val Waring greathallingburyna@gmail.com

#### Poppy Appeal

Coordinator Gill Sewell marjorierosegs@hotmail.com

#### St. Giles' Church

Associate Priest: Revd Dawn Jewson 01279 730288 rev.dawn.jewson@gmail.com 07930 902507 Village Contact: Pauline Beaumont 01279 653562 p-beaumont@tiscali.co.uk

#### Scouting Associations

Sally Bentley

#### Village Hall

**Bookings** Sarah Cox 01279 651757 sarahleefive@sky.com **Bookings** Val Walker 01279 964140 freestylepoodles1945@gmail.com

Venture 85 - short term loan of mobility aids, etc. 01279 653820 Monica Swann

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marjorierosegs@hotmail.com

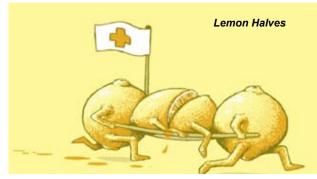
01279 504990

07776 936721

07979 450871

01279 504990

01279 902710



## Editorial

#### Wren Application Refused

This is great news for nearly everyone in the Village. The Planning Inspector rejected FKY/Wren Kitchens' application and you can read more about this on page 17 where you will note the caveat about any future moves by the applicant.

The fight against this large proposed development at the corner of Start Hill was spearheaded by Val Waring. She started by gathering information on how a Public Hearing worked and some of the rules around it. She learned the value of having an organisation that could be recognised as an interested party at a hearing and initiated the *Great Hallingbury Neighbours Association*.

Val spent time researching around the subject - how a logistics depot as proposed would work - what other cases might support our arguments. She ensured that each villager who would speak at the hearing concentrated on a different objection to the plans.

Then she did it all over again when Wren made an application direct to the Planning Inspectorate and there was another Public Hearing.

Many people in the Village supported her in these efforts with a core group of GHNA members taking on the footslogging work, on more than one occasion, of ensuring that everyone in the Village received letters detailing new aplications and how to lodge objections. Both our District Councillors and the Parish Council contributed but if ever anyone deserves to receive a community award, it is Val Waring. Thank you Val.

#### Flower Show

It is sad that, in the end, this year's Hallingbury Flower Show was cancelled. The show has been held for over 80 years alternately in Little Hallingbury and Great Hallingbury. It does take work to organise, especially the competitive classes, and this year there were just not enough people willing to work with the committee.

There is a whisper that next summer there will be an event of some kind in Great Hallingbury. I wish it every success.

#### **Village Activities**

Quite a lot happens in our Village and, if you love where you live, I do hope that more people will get involved. Great Hallingbury welcomes your participation in its events so, please, join in.

Editor

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## EASTON LODGE

In August the Gardens are often at their most tranquil, with volunteers and visitors slowing their pace and taking time to relax and enjoy the flowers, butterflies and bees; and taking away garden produce picked that day for a fresh supper! In the Spring and early summer insect numbers have been right down but we are ever optimistic that, following some rain and with fresh flowers, more will hatch out or cross the Channel hopefully the first Painted Lady we saw on 6 July was the outrider with more following in its wake! Our kitchen garden vegetables are now growing strongly, so there should be lots available for our visitors.



So what else are we looking forward to?

On 1st September, Essex Bat Group are leading a bat walk at the Gardens. Contact us to register your interest at enquiries@ eastonlodge.co.uk or leave a message on 01371 876979.

Our seasonal Apple and Bees Day will be on 17th September when visitors can help press apple juice, taste all sorts of apple and orchard produce, including a huge variety of apple cakes, and buy cider made from the Easton Countess apples in the Garden. For children there will be apple craft and a children's trail as well as the opportunity to climb into the treehouse. Take Note Concert Band will be with us, to up the tempo! There will also be a range of other activities and stalls. Our volunteers will provide locally sourced bacon, cheese or hummus rolls, homemade cakes and hot and cold drinks until they run out - or till 4.00pm.

Gates open at 11.00. Tickets are available in advance through Trybooking at £5.50 for an adult, children under 16 free. Tickets are also available on the Gate at £6.50. What3words for the entrance to the car park is stocky.bulletins.opponent

For more information go to www.eastonlodge. co.uk/whats-on.

Jill Goldsmith



### Essex County Council Cllr Susan Barker

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The Summer is traditionally a quiet time for Local Government with a much reduced meeting schedule, although a number of Briefings have been arranged at Essex on subjects ranging from Highway Permits to The Essex Water Strategy and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

continued in next column

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Great Hallingbury Village Hall

## QUIZ NIGHTS

## SATURDAYS 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2023 2ND DECEMBER, 2023

GREAT HALLINGBURY VILLAGE HALL 7 FOR 7.30 PM

£5 PER PERSON AT THE DOOR - TABLE OF 6 OR 8 OR JOIN ANOTHER GROUP RESERVE YOUR TABLE FROM SALLY (01279658751)

### GOOD PRIZES AND RAFFLE

BRING YOUR OWN FOOD AND DRINK

ENJOY A CONVIVIAL EVENING SUPPORT THE VILLAGE HALL

QUIZQUIZQUIZQU

At a meeting of the Anglia Great Ouse Regional Flood committee in July, I learned about the proposed Flood initiatives across East Anglia as well as the proposed Bedford to Cambridge Railway line through Cambourne, bringing more housing and more business to that part of the Country.

Full Council at Essex debated the expansion to ULEZ which was almost universally opposed. I was surprised to learn that only 850,000 vehicles in the country are non ULEZ compliant. We also debated the use of country roads by inappropriate vehicles causing *delays, destruction and despair* (as one of my colleagues put it) for other drivers. I know in Great Hallingbury there have been a number of instances of drivers ignoring the signs!

The Essex Pension fund goes from strength to strength with now over 180,000 members. It was a privilege to present the Annual report to July Council and also to report that, for the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row, the Fund received the highest level of assurance from internal audit.

Church Road is due to be closed at the end of August to have another go at sorting out the flooding which occurs there after heavy rain. I do hope this provides a lasting solution.

I have reported a number of potholes in the village for repair under the *member led* pothole initiative but I only have two batches of 18 holes I can prioritise across my whole division. The holes reported through this scheme are guaranteed to be repaired. Thank you to the local reisdents who sent me the details.

As always, if there are any issues that I can help with please do get in touch. You may be moving to Harlow Constituency but I will remain your County Councillor.

> Susan Barker Cllr.susan.barker@essex.gov.uk 01245 231250







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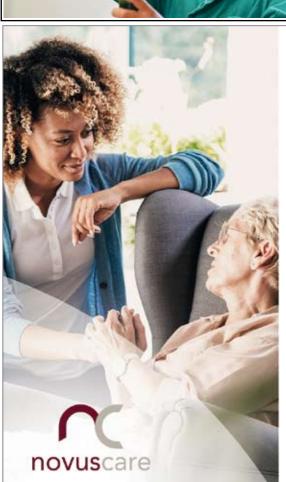
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### Kemi Badenoch **MP** for Saffron Walden



The Government has delivered on its 2019 manifesto commitment to recruit an additional 20,000 police officers by March 2023. In fact they exceeded it.

Delivering on this pledge and keeping our communities safe is one of my key priorities for our constituency. With an additional 500 officers, the largest and strongest force in its 182 year history, and an increased budget of nearly £364 million, Essex Police can deliver on the Government's priority to Get Crime Down.

They have already introduced new Town Centre Teams, boosted Neighbourhood Policing and introduced a new Rural Engagement Team (RET), helping to focus on cutting rural crime, anti-social behaviour in our towns and villages and working to keep local communities safe. Having recently joined the RET for a police ride-along and having spoken with residents and local farmers during roundtable discussions on rural crime, I know just how valuable these officers are for Chelmsford and Uttlesford.

The Government's Beating Crime Plan and the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act that I voted for in Parliament is helping to crack down on illegal hare coursing and unauthorised traveller encampments and gave greater powers to officers to tackle disruptive protests: all concerns that are frequently in my inbox.

However, I am keen to expand my understanding about how local residents experience and perceive crime, particularly rural crime. Rural crime can have a huge impact on our communities. Too often it goes unreported, and we need accurate information to reduce crime in our area. It is an important part of bringing forward changes and solutions which is why I'm encouraging residents to take part in my online rural crime survey, which is now live on my website: www.kemibadenoch.org. uk/kemi-badenoch-mp-rural-crime-survey-2023

I want to hear from residents, local farmers, business owners and anyone who has experienced or has concerns about rural crime in our constituency.



I will report back on the results of my survey and work with the local police and authorities to ensure our communities are safe for us all.

If you have any questions or feedback, do email me at kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament. uk

Kemi Badenoch M.P.

## Quiz

- 1. Which Italian volcano last erupted in March 1944?
- 2. "Sparky" is a common nickname for which job?
- 3. Launched in 1957, what was the first man-made earth satellite?
- 4. Which Nordic city is the world's northernmost capital of a sovereign state?
- 5. The title character of which 1749 novel by Henry Fielding is adopted by Squire Allworthy?

- 6. How many grand slam singles titles have been won by Andy Murray?
- 7. In which part of your body would you find the cruciate ligament?
- 8. In which European country would you find the Rijksmuseum?
- 9. What is the smallest planet in our solar system?
- 10. Who wrote the novels Gone Girl and Sharp Objects?
- 11. How many times has England won the men's football World Cup?
- 12. What is the capital of New Zealand? Answers on page 29



## The Hundred Parishes Society



The Hundred Parishes is blessed with an exceptional number of museums, all open at this time of the year.

Saffron Walden Museum was purpose-built in 1835. It displays a real treasure trove of material relating to the local area.

The Imperial War Museum at Duxford is enormous, displaying all kinds of wartime material - including its own listed buildings from each World War - as well as many aeroplanes, both civilian and military.



Great Dunmow Museum is housed in a former maltings. It encompasses displays about its former function as

well as broader elements of Dunmow history.

The Forge Museum in Much Hadham includes metal tools from the forge, while its own medieval wall paintings reveal an insight into Tudor fashion. Still in Much Hadham, the hamlet of Perry Green was for many years the home of sculptor Henry Moore. Today, the

Henry Moore Studio and gardens include an extensive outdoor display of his large works and indoor history of his life.



Ashdon Village Museum has an exceptional display of all aspects of local life in the 20th century - and an excellent tea room.

Great Bardfield has a small Cottage Museum and also a village cage, a former lock up.

Further information on each of these and many other interesting places can be found on www.hundredparishes.org.uk - either towards the end of the relevant Parish introduction, on What's On, or on the Attractions pages. We are, indeed, blessed. *Ken McDonald, Secretary* 



## The Appointment System Has Changed....

Routine appointments can be booked up to two weeks in advance. Please call after 10am Monday to Friday to book.

Same day appointments for urgent problems can be booked from 8.15 am Monday to Friday.

Appointment bookings should be made by telephone on 01279 730616 - please do not go to the surgery to book

The new telephone system offers a call back feature and an appointment cancellation option without having to wait.

In order to offer the best service, the Reception team will request some details:

- How can I help?
- Can you give me an idea of the problem?
- Is this an on-going, new or urgent problem?

The receptionist WILL NOT make a clinical assessment but needs this information to direct you to the most skilled Clinician specific to your problem, be it a GP, a nurse or another clinical specialist.

It is recommended that follow-up appointments are made at the reception desk before you leave the surgery - and be aware that Mondays are always the busiest day and maybe best avoided.

Consultations with GPs are now 15 minutes with a choice of face to face or telephone appointments, depending upon patient preference. However, patients are encouraged to use the NHS website to check the *how to treat common ailments* advice page to see if a GP appointment is needed before booking.

Eden Surgery Website

## Sound Insulation Grant Scheme



London Stansted provides

mitigation measures for aircraft noise impacts in the local community by the provision of acoustic insulation for properties.

This includes:

- Offering households subject to high levels of noise (69dBA Leq or more) assistance with the costs of relocating; and
- Offering acoustic insulation (applied to residential properties) to other noise-sensitive buildings that remain in education, healthcare, worship or community use that are exposed to medium to high levels of noise (57dBA Leq or more).

London Stansted has provided in excess of  $\pounds$ 1.4 million of noise insulation since the scheme began in 2004. With the recent expansion of the scheme, an additional 800 properties may be eligible for a sound insulation grant.

For further information on the SIGS scheme, and to check if your property is eligible, please see Stansted Airport's brochure or email community@stanstedairport.com.

### Start-up September



This September, start turning that great idea ... into a great business!

Uttlesford District Council, working in partnership with The Rebel Business School and other industry experts, is offering events and opportunities to support local entrepreneurs.

Join us for a whole month of activities, including an online training course, business coaching and webinars covering everything from marketing to finance.

You will find more details at https:// www.uttlesford.gov.uk/business/

## Great Hallingbury Community Speed Watch

Five new volunteers have joined the Great Hallingbury



Speed Watch team but more volunteers would be very welcome. The more volunteers we have, the more effective the scheme will be. Training is with the Essex County Council Speed Partnership and is one hour long done over Microsoft Teams. Please email cllrcolettapc@gmail.com if you would like to get involved.

Time and time again we hear reports of road users speeding through our Parish and something has to be done. Our Speed Watch team has already made its first foray along Church Road and more are planned shortly. *We don't want to catch anyone speeding*, *we just want drivers to slow down!* 

New sites to monitor road users' speeds are being sought including on the B1256 Dunmow Road.

The Parish Council has requested an Essex Highways Speed Survey on the Dunmow Road. Speeds must be 10mph over the limit in order for ECC highways to put up a Speed Indicating Display. The 40mph Vehicle Activated Sign by the Esso Petrol Station is now defunct and ECC doesn't support maintenance on these devices anymore. We are hoping that a new speed survey will prove our concerns that vehicles are far exceeding the 40mph limit on the Dunmow Road. We will keep you updated.

An application has been submitted for two pedestrian crossing signs on the B1256 in the Thremhall area, either side of the National Highways Cycle Path that crosses the Dunmow Road. The Parish Council has also requested village gateway signs for *Start Hill* to be placed just after you exit the M11 junction 8 roundabout.

## Little Hallingbury Cricket Club



Our Saturday team continues to

do well in the Bishop's Stortford league. We are in third place with half the season to play. Recent games included wins over Potter Street and Stansted, with Amit Kalyankar scoring 91. Unfortunately we lost a close match to Hatfield Heath. Our new bowler, Rishabh Dixie, continues to get wickets every game and has scored some good runs from low in the batting order.

Sunday has seen wins against Great Hyde Hall and Little Hadham and draws with Manuden and Chrishall. Our young players keep making good impressions with Hugo, Charlie Mugele and Beau McCardle all bowling well and also getting some runs.

Thanks to a Jack Petchey grant, we were able to take a party of colts to the T20 Essex match at Chelmsford. A group of 20 colts and parents enjoyed an entertaining match, with Essex coming out winners.

We held our colts BBQ in July, again thanks to a Jack Petchey grant. Over 80 colts, siblings and parents enjoyed a BBQ meal on a lovely summer's evenings at Gaston Green.

Our president, Colin Berthoud, presented Jack Petchey Achievement Awards to Danny Hunt and Aarush Soni. Both colts can be very proud of their achievements.



Keith Behagg

## Great Hallingbury

#### **Retired Greyhounds**

Our speaker for the April meeting was Elaine Sheppard. One of her own retired grey hounds accompanied her to the meeting. Minx is three years old and helps Elaine when



she is working with groups of disadvantaged people. She certainly proved how quiet and well-behaved greyhounds can be by sleeping throughout the evening - until the refreshments came out!

Elaine told us that she had been involved with re-homing greyhounds for a number of years but was now finding it difficult because people were unwilling to take on the expense. There are many looking for new homes as they *retire* at 18 months to four years. They make very good pets as, in general, they have a good temperament and are very laid back.

Annual Meeting The May meeting was our Annual Meeting and besides some changes to the committee we also elected a new President. We thanked Carmela Claxton for her work during the



last few years and Jan Baldwin was unanimously voted for to take her place.

With the serious business of the evening over we were then invited to take part in a fun treasure hunt. There was a numbered list of cryptic clues and items related to each clue could be found in the hall and outside. It had all been planned by Jan with a little help from Gill. Everyone enjoyed the hunt and the winners were pleased to receive their prize of a box of Belgian chocolates.

#### **Open Meeting**

At our Open meeting in June we welcomed twelve visitors from local Wis including the new County Chairman, Moyra, on her first WI visit as County Chairman. She was greeted by our President, Jan.



**Treasure Hunters** 

Our speaker was Charles Garland with his talk entitled, Dad's Army, the Nation's Favourite Comedy. Charles' anecdotal talk took us through the writing of the first script by Jimmy Perry on the train to Stratford, the acceptance of the idea by Michael Mills (the Head of Comedy at the BBC at the time), the offer of six episodes at first and the immediate success, much of it due to the actors who appeared in the first episodes. Several of the future stars did not agree to the offered parts immediately saying they would think about it or they were not sure. Fortunately, the cast was agreed with the actors taking the offered parts. The rest is history.



The show ran for 9 years, so 9 series and 77 episodes, all written by Jimmy Perry and produced by David Croft.

Charles himself worked on several well-known comedies before Dad's Army, including Hide-Hi, and had also previously worked with David Croft. He told us that, when the BBC decided to show all the 77 episodes again, he had the task of making each episode fit the regulation BBC 30-minute time slots. They were not all run for exactly the same length of time originally and now needed to last exactly 29 minutes 15 seconds. It took him over a year to achieve this timeconsuming task.

#### Future Programme

For our next meeting we will be hearing from Amanda Sutherland with her talk entitled, *My Creative Journey* and in August we have our *Members Day* when the committee get an evening off and the members provide everything. It promises to be a very convivial evening as we shall have wine tasting followed by a cheese and wine supper.

We welcome visitors to our meetings in Great Hallingbury Village Hall on the fourth Wednesday in the month at 7.30pm. We have a lot of fun and there are always excellent refreshments provided by our members.

> Gill Sewell, Secretary marjorierosegs@hotmail.com http://greathallingburywi.weebly.com



Facebook

Find us on

#### Love Your Village? Join the Litter Pickers



We all enjoy living here in Great Hallingbury

Sadly people passing through don't always show the respect for the village that we would like to see and leave their litter along the road.

So let's all get together on

#### Sunday, 22nd October, 2023

and smarten up the village by clearing away the litter (and don't forget the area around your own property)

Start at the Village Hall or the Hop Poles at 10am Finish at the Village Hall about noon for refreshments

Bags, grabbers and high vis jackets will be provided as required or may be collected from us if you would like to collect litter around your house and leave the bag outside your property on the day



Working together makes light work of a chore

Everyone can help Mark Bloomfield 0775387020

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## Physiotherapist

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### **District News** Cllrs Geof Driscoll and Neil Reeve

It is a chilly wet day outside as I write this; it's probably my fault as I said to someone yesterday that we need a little rain for the garden, so apologies to all. However, I am led to believe that



the hot weather will soon be back; after all it is summer and we are in the English countryside.

#### FKY/Wren Kitchens Planning Application (3<sup>rd</sup> attempt)

The hearing was held by the Planning Inspectorate yesterday (13<sup>th</sup> July) in the chamber at Uttlesford's offices in London Road, Saffron Walden. Although the result will not be decided for a couple of weeks by the inspector, I would like to thank all that responded with written submissions and the team who appeared in person yesterday. A great job was done by all.

#### UDC Chair Chooses Charities

As Chairman of UDC, I get to raise money for charity. There are many deserving causes in Uttlesford but I have chosen *Dementia Action Alliance* and *ACCURO - STRIDE* as two good charities to support during my year in office.

Funds raised will be donated to the Uttlesford Community Action Network and ringfenced, to be used solely in Uttlesford. UCAN works closely with the *Dementia Action Alliance* to provide support and social groups for people living with dementia and their carers.

ACCURO - STRIDE is a six-month life skills project for young adults in West Essex with a learning disability and, again, will be ringfenced for the project to start in Uttlesford in September. I am planning a number of activities to help raise awareness and funds for the two charities.

Please watch this space for news of events and locations: your support will be very welcome.

#### New Speed Camera To Tackle Road Safety Issues

Uttlesford Community Safety Partnership has funded a state-of-the-art speed camera as part of its aim to assist reducing casualties on our roads.

The TruCAM speed recording camera, which captures video evidence and uses high resolution images to instantly identify speeding drivers, will be used by the Uttlesford Community Policing Team in priority locations where communities have raised growing concerns about road safety in their towns and villages.

The purchase of the new TruCAM is part of a commitment to supporting the Safer Essex Roads Partnership's *Vision Zero* campaign to eliminate deaths and serious injuries on Essex roads by 2040.

#### Have You Tried Discover Uttlesford Yet

Just type in Discover Uttlesford on your search engine and, with the school holidays upon us, I am sure you will find plenty for your children to do as well as yourself. Exploring Uttlesford is taking a journey through history; from the ancient remains of Walden Castle and the Jacobean grandeur of Audley End House to the Royal Hunting Forest, Hatfield Forest. Whilst delving into our heritage you'll also discover some amazing places to eat and drink and a host of contemporary independent shops. Uttlesford is richly rural with footpaths and bridleways to explore, ancient woodlands and rolling farmland. There are many exciting things to do for all the family and a wealth of events that are testimony to the strong sense of community that permeates the district.

#### UDC Welcomes Work Experience Students

If you have had reason to visit the London Road offices of UDC this month, you may have seen a number of students shadowing and assisting officers. They have been introduced to how the council works and have spent time in Planning & Building Control, Communities, Housing and Environmental Services, IT, Environmental Health, Customer Services, Economic Development and Democratic Services.

This is the first time the council has run a corporate programme for work experience students. It introduces young people to the work that UDC does and shows them that it is an employer of choice and part of the Workforce Plan, seeking to create a workforce that is diverse and skilled for the future.

## Proposed LCTS 2024/25 Scheme For Uttlesford

UDC is asking for your views on how much support we should give to people who might struggle to pay their Council Tax bill. Councils run a scheme called Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) which is designed to help the most vulnerable.

The pandemic has left us facing some very big financial challenges. Our population is growing, people are generally living longer and the type of services that people need are changing. The cost of living is going up and, as things become more expensive, we also have higher costs.

That's why UDC wants to help to protect the most vulnerable people in our district. For 2024/25, we are proposing to maintain the scheme on the same basis as this year. This means that we are proposing to freeze the contribution rate so that the amount that LCTS claimants pay towards their Council Tax bill will be kept at 12.5%. This remains the lowest contribution rate in Essex and continues to protect pensioners and vulnerable and disabled residents and their carers on a low income.

You can now give your views on the proposals. If you don't want to respond online through the UDC website, you can ask us to send you a paper copy of the questionnaire. Just call 01799 510510 to request one.

After you've responded the results will be presented to district councillors in the autumn with the final scheme for 2024/25 being agreed in December 2023, to start on 1 April 2024. The consultation period runs until Monday 4 September.

#### Start-up September

This September, start turning that great idea ... into a great business!

Uttlesford District Council, working in partnership with The Rebel Business School and other industry experts, is offering events and opportunities to support local entrepreneurs. Join us for a whole month of activities, including an online training course, business coaching and webinars covering everything from marketing to finance. You can find out more at www.uttlesford.gov.uk/ business/startupseptember

#### Ward Surgeries

Please note that these surgeries are for you to discuss issues that you may have with UDC that we, as your District Councillors, can help or represent you where possible. Please do come along and have a chat. You do not need to arrange an appointment as they are walk in surgeries.

They are held on the first Tuesday of each month at Great Hallingbury Village Hall,

2 - 4pm and on the third Friday of each month at the Dukes Head PH, Hatfield Broad Oak, 2 - 4PM.

And the normal reminder. that should you need to contact us, you can email us on the following addresses.

cllrdriscoll@uttlesford.gov.uk cllrreeve@uttlesford.gov.uk



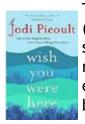


#### Wish You Were Here by Jodi Picoult

Diane O'Toole is about to leave for the Galapagos Islands. She and her surgeon boyfriend, Finn, have been saving for several years for this holiday so, when the first cases of Covid 19 appear in Manhattan and Finn is needed at the hospital, they decide that Diane should still go.

En-route to the islands, her luggage is lost and then, on arrival, she discovers that the island is under guarantine. She has the chance to go back to New York but decides to stay. The fact that the hotel where she was expecting to stay has closed comes as yet another nasty surprise. Luckily, she is befriended by one of the local women who knows somewhere that she can stay.

She soon realizes that she cannot understand what the locals are saying, the bank is closed, the island has no ATM's and there is no proper internet connection. Not the holiday she was expecting! She is able. however, to receive the occasional email from Finn and learns that the situation with Covid in New York is worsening by the Before long, she realises that she is dav. beginning to enjoy her time on the island and, as they get to know her, the local people are friendly and helpful. With the help of Gabriel, a former tour guide, and his troubled teenage daughter, she discovers the incredible animals of the island and the seas around it and the startling contrasts between lush green vegetation and the rocks of volcanic eruptions.



This takes us to page 182 fodi Picoult (paperback). What happens next seems impossible! But, when you read the author's research notes/ explanations at the end of the book, it begins to make sense.

#### Klara and the Sun by Kazuo Ishiguro

Klara, the fact is, there's growing and widespread concern about AFs right now. People saying how you've become too clever and they're afraid because they can't follow what's going on inside you any more.

Klara is an AF, an Artificial Friend - a solarpowered android bought by Josie's mother to provide companionship for her daughter. The book is set in a futuristic America and we see this Brave New World through Klara's eves. As you might expect, she has been given considerable physical powers but she has also been endowed with emotions and is capable of love and devotion to her human friend. Josie is often ill which is due to her lifting, a process of genetic modification to increase intelligence in children. It turns out that Josie had an elder sister who died after she had been *lifted* - which may explain why Josie's mother is beset with feelings of guilt.

Besides being solar-powered herself, Klara also feels that the Sun has special powers and can heal and nourish people. She calls on the Sun to help Josie get better and, one morning, her faith is rewarded. Josie's health had recently taken a turn for the worse but as the sun's rays flood her bedroom, she begins to make a miraculous recovery.

Unfortunately, Klara is not so lucky .....

Al is very much in the news these days and the advancement of this field of science is beginning to cause disquiet in circles

outside the purely scientific. In 100 years' time, this book might be classified as "history"!



Suspend Your Disbelief!

History Society



Autumn Programme 2023

## The Huguenots in Britain

By Dr Kathy Chater Wednesday 13th September





## The White Ship Disaster

leading to civil war between Matilda and Stephen

By Julian Whybra

Wednesday 11th October

## The Restoration of St Barnabus Barn, Thorley

By Bill Hardy Wednesday 8th November



Meetings are held in Great Hallingbury Village Hall at 8pm

Everyone is Welcome, so please join us!

## Great Hallingbury Neighbours' Association

#### Wren's Application Overturned by Planning Inspectorate

If you have been keeping up with the Wren/ FKY Ltd fiasco, you will recall that the latest application was made, not to UDC, but directly to the Planning Inspectorate. Once again, those of us from the GHNA that had a few hours to spare posted letters and a template through as many doors as possible in an endeavour to once again garner plenty of support to object to this logistics centre which was seeking operations 24/7 every day of the year.

Many people thought that, as it was the same company making applications time and time again, once they had lodged an objection, that objection would carry forward to the next application. That, I am afraid to say, is simply not the case. Each time an application is made the whole process begins again with a new application number and therefore we must object once again.

It was imperative to explain to people that, although objections lodged counted, simply saying I don't agree with it does not really tell the authority anything at all. There were, and remain, very many valid reasons why people have objected. Those included, but not limited to, excess noise; light and air pollution (especially to those living in the immediate vicinity); loss of privacy; excess traffic on a country lane which is simply not designed to take bulk traffic (since the new junction at Harlow has opened, we have seen an increase in traffic when the M11 roundabout at junction 8 has been closed or when there has been an accident on the M11); we only have about 0.6 of a mile of pavement along a road that measures almost 3 miles and with nowhere else to put pavement due to ditches, front gardens of houses etc.; Impact on heritage, including to the listed building opposite.; value of the Countryside Protection Zone (CPZ); ecology reasons; the fact that the junction with the B1256 is already an accident blackspot. The list is endless.

The Inspector must have thought so too as, rather than deal with this application on paper, he decided that a hearing was in order. So, on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> July, about 20 of us trooped off once more to the council offices in Saffron Walden. We each gave our own reasons for objections. The Inspector also heard from UDC representatives, local councillors, Parish Councillors and, of course, the Applicants themselves. At the conclusion of the hearing the Inspector said he would hope to have a response in a couple of weeks or so.

Thus, we had done all we could; the only thing now was to wait until 1<sup>st</sup> August, the target date for a decision. So, what a surprise, a very pleasant one, when on the morning of Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> July, we were notified that the Inspector, having had due regard for all the submissions made by way of objections as well as the oral representations made from both sides and UDC as well, that he was **REFUSING** the application.

Without wanting to be the merchant of doom and gloom, Wren could apply to the High Court for a Judicial Review, (it would be incumbent on them to meet a threshold) or even make yet another application (although there would need to be material changes to any new application).

A time to celebrate.

Val Waring



### **Revitalising the Community Library** A Tale of Restoration and Literary Delights

In March 2010, Great Hallingbury Parish Council boldly decided to rescue the red telephone box which has stood proudly, but forgotten, at the end of Church Lane for many years, a sad victim of the emergence of the digital communications era.



Rather than seeing the phone box taken away on a skip lorry, the Council purchased it from British Telecom for a mere £1. They believed the humble structure had become too much of a beloved landmark. (*The Church is on your right just past the red telephone box / Once you get to the red telephone box on your left, the Village Hall is two hundred yards ahead on your right*. You get the picture!)

A working group was formed and one sunny Saturday a team of dedicated volunteers embarked on a mission to breathe new life into the weathered phone box. They meticulously scraped off flaking paint, painstakingly removed the Perspex window panes (held in place by stubborn metal pegs and star grip washers) and addressed the decaying wooden door.



Phone Box when Renovation Started

The door required expert attention and was transported to a nearby workshop for restoration.

A *few weeks* turned into a labour of love, as the phone box and its door were meticulously restored.

When the work was finished, a vibrant *hot cherry* red paint now adorned the box, transforming it once more into an iconic symbol of the village.

But the question remained — what purpose would this newly revived structure serve? Its small size limited the possibilities. Initially, it was proposed as an information centre for the village and a place to display local adverts. However, concerns arose about there being insufficient footfall to turn this creditable idea into a viable and sustainable project.

Then Heather Pinnock, a member of the local book club and a passionate reader, had a brilliant idea. She proposed transforming the space into a community library.

With the blessing of the Parish Council, Heather's husband, Alan Pinnock, undertook the task of rededicating the phone box. Shelves were added and, over time, Heather filled them with her own collection of books.

Though Heather is no longer with us, her legacy lives on.

The Parish Council recently approved further renovations and Alan, once again, rose to the occasion. He expertly fixed loose panes and installed additional shelving, ensuring the library was maintained in its best possible condition.

We are incredibly fortunate to have our little community sharing library. It requires minimal upkeep; regular tidying up takes place every few weeks.



However, the heart of this library lies in its books. As villagers, we are responsible for keeping it well stocked so it becomes a vibrant little space to visit. The shelves are filled with captivating fiction, spanning a wide range of genres – from timeless classics to gripping thrillers, detective books and spine-chilling horrors to heartwarming chick lit and thought-provoking war time stories.

If you haven't yet explored the treasures within, we invite you to wander up and indulge in the joy of browsing at your leisure. There is only one humble request: for each book you take, kindly replace it with another in a similar condition. This way, we can all relish the literary wonders that our community library has to offer.

Alan Pinnock working on renovations Recently, an exciting addition found its place in the library – a geocache library book cache. This treasure, securely fastened to the shelves, is part of

a worldwide adventure. Someone hid the book and shared the GPS coordinates online. Geocachers, armed with their trusty phone apps, embark on a quest to locate it. Once found, they sign the book, return it to its spot and continue their thrilling journey. Our community library is now home to one of these millions of geocaches scattered across the globe.

The story of our community library is one of resilience, collaboration and the power of shared knowledge. It stands as a testament to what can be achieved when a village comes together to preserve its heritage and foster a love for books.

So, let us embrace this treasure trove of books, ensuring that the shelves remain brimming with stories, waiting to be explored and cherished.

Val Waring





## Hidden History in Great Hallingbury

My brief is to point out objects and facts not obvious to those without access to a lifetime in the Village. As per Julie Andrews, let's start at the very beginning.



This rock is a geode, the oldest complete object ever found that was created in Hallingbury. I say this with confidence because it was found at the bottom of the deepest hole ever dug in the village when the motorway extension was done some 30 years ago. Undisturbed by the ice age, it lay forming in sediment deposited millions of years ago. There are older rocks found in the village but they are glacial eratics [more later].



Inside, almost certainly, there are crystals as can be seen in this picture, the big brother, found next to it but broken by the machines. Complete it was

nearly 5 ft. wide and similar in shape.

You may think there are no fossils to be found in the area. Difficult to believe, but long ago the whole area was under a shallow sea near the equator. Found, again from the motorway workings, there are amonites and other sea life trapped in shale/mudstone from that period.



Glacial eratics are relative newcomers to the village, a mere ten's of thousands of years, of which the biggest is probably the stone standing up at Harps. It is nearly 6ft tall and weighs over 3 tons. It is known as a pudding stone for obvious reasons. A



lava bomb, ejected 300/400 million years ago in what is now northern England or Scotland, migrated south with the ice age and was left buried at Hanginghill Spring were it sat until hit by a plough in the 1970's.

I find it incredible to think that millions of years of history can be found within 100 metres of each other.

If anyone wants to see any of these objects or has interesting items hidden away, please let me know.

Alan Pinnock

## Easy Eating

Autumn Baked Roasted Squash Tart



#### Ingredients

25 cm x 4 cm deep shortcrust pastry case Small leek, shredded and washed Small red onion, peeled and chopped

- 3 cloves of garlic, crushed
- 4 tbsp olive oil
- 1 kg raw squash, cut into chunks, seasoned and roasted till soft (this will yield approx 450 gm flesh)
- 1/2 pint milk
- 2 medium egg yolks
- 2 medium eggs

115 gm grated cheddar

Bunch of parsley roughly chopped

#### Method

- 1) Heat the oven to 190C or gas 5
- Heat the oil in a pan and add the leeks, onion and garlic. Cook for about 10 minutes to soften.
- 3) Chop the roasted squash and place in a bowl then add the leeks, onion and garlic and mix well.
- Whisk eggs together and brush a little over the pastry case (this will help it not go soggy)
- 5) Whisk in the milk and chopped parsley, season with salt and pepper.
- 6) Spoon the vegetables evenly over the base and scatter over cheese.
- 7) Pour over half the egg mix, place on a baking tray and take to the oven.
- 8) Carefully place in the oven and fill right up - this prevents spillage as the tart is full to the top!
- 9) Bake for about 40 45 minutes until firm to touch.

Serve hot or cold

**Rosemary Nugent** 

#### Raspberry and Almond Galette

#### Ingredients

300 gms Raspberries or Blackberries or any other seasonal berry

1 tsp cornflour

3 tbsp caster sugar

#### Pastry

75 gm ground almonds

150 gm plain flour

- 1 ½ tbsp roughly chopped lemon thyme (plus a few extra leaves)
- 2 tbsp caster sugar

110 gm unsalted butter, cubed and chilled 1 egg

#### Method

- 1) Mix together almonds, flour, thyme, sugar and a pinch of salt.
- Rub the butter into the dry ingredients until it resembles fine breadcrumbs and gradually add half the egg until it comes together (This can all be done in the food processor if you have one)
- 3) Tip onto a work surface and shape into a disc, wrap and chill.
- 4) Heat the oven to 180C, gas 4, and put a large baking sheet in to heat up
- 5) Toss the berries, cornflour and sugar together
- Put the pastry disc between 2 sheets of baking parchment and roll out to a 30cm circle (it need not be exact)
- Take off top sheet of baking parchment, pile the fruit into the middle leaving a 5cm border, then bring the edges up In a rustic fashion.
- 8) Brush the pastry edges with beaten egg and sprinkle with 1 tbsp sugar
- 9) Slide onto the heated tray and bake for about 30minutes.

10) Cool and scatter over a few sprigs of thyme before serving with cream or crème fraiche



## Highlights from the Minutes of Meetings of Great Hallingbury Parish Council

15 May and 3 July, 2023

**Present** (at one or both meetings): Cllr A Townsend (Chairman), Cllrs D Barlow, M Coletta, N Jackson, A Noble, A Pinnock and A Smith, Mrs U Sydee (Clerk), District Cllrs G Driscoll and J Evans, County Cllr S Barker and members of the public

#### Election of Chairman 2023/2024

Cllr Alan Townsend was duly proposed, seconded and elected unanimously.

#### Election of Vice-Chairman 2023/2024

Two nominations were received. Cllr A Noble and Cllr M Coletta were both duly proposed and seconded. There was a split vote and with the Chairman's casting vote Cllr A Noble was elected.

#### **Co-Option**

It was agreed to co-opt Mark Bloomfield as he was the only candidate.

#### Planning Committee 2023/2024

Members of the Planning Committee 2023/2024 are Cllrs M Bloomfield, M Coletta, A Noble, A Pinnock, A Smith and A Townsend. Cllr A Townsend was agreed unanimously as Chairman. After a vote for Vice-Chairman, Cllr M Coletta was elected.

The Powers and Duties of the Planning Committee are to make comments on planning applications where a full Council meeting does not occur within the consultation period allowed. The quorum of the Planning Committee is three.

#### Working Groups 2023/2024

**Airport:** Cllrs D Barlow, M Bloomfield, A Noble, A Smith and A Townsend.

**Police & Neighbourhood Watch**: Cllrs D Barlow, M Coletta, N Jackson and A Townsend.

Parish Plan: Cllrs D Barlow, M Coletta, N

Jackson, A Pinnock, A Smith and A Townsend. Housing: Cllrs M Bloomfield, M Coletta, A Noble and A Smith. Playground: Unanimously agreed to

dissolve.

#### Representatives to Other Bodies

Neighbourhood Watch: Cllr M Coletta Road Safety: Cllr M Coletta Transport: Cllr A Noble Health: Cllr N Jackson Footpaths: Cllr A Pinnock Tree Warden:Cllr A Townsend UALC: Cllr A Townsend TPLPG (former USAG): Cllrs N Jackson and A Townsend. On standby: Cllr A Smith SAW (former SSE): Vacancy

#### Financial Report

A report of the receipts and payments for financial year 2022/2023 were examined and approved and the fixed assets reviewed. The Council wishes to have an external audit (AGAR3). The Council unanimously approved the Annual Governance Statement 2022/2023 (AGAR Section 1) and the Accounting Statement for 2022/2023 (AGAR Section 2).

#### Calendar Of Meetings 2023/2024

- 2023: 03 July, 04 September, 06 November
- 2024: 08 January, 04 March, 18 March (APM), 13 May

Meetings will start at 8 pm

#### Chairman's Activities

- Attended Little Hallingbury APM to get Speedwatch support
- EALC Executive Committee meetings
- Litter pick in Great Hallingbury
- Attended Parish Planning Forum
- UALC Committee meeting
- Meeting re S62A/2023/0017 Land at Tilekiln Green organised by District Cllr G Driscoll.
- Special EALC meeting about Essex devolution
- Local Council Liaison Forum
- UALC AGM where he was re-elected

Chairman

• Standards training

#### Woodside Green Road

District Cllr Driscoll reported that the recount of houses at Woodside Green Road had not been done.

#### Hallingburys' Speedwatch Group

Five new volunteers have now been trained but more are needed to be very active. It would be sensible to have another site along Dunmow Road.

#### Planning

Application No. / Site and Development / Decision (the Council's comments are shown in brackets) Application Decisions

UTT/22/0434/OP // Land North of Stansted Airport // Outline application for demolition of existing structures and redevelopment of 61.86 Ha to provide 195,100sqm commercial /employment development // Awaiting decision (No objections but improved access needed)

UTT/22/2829/OP // 10 Start Hill, Stane Street // Outline application with all matters reserved except access for the erection of two dwellings // Approved (Objections: Overbearing and not in keeping with area)

UTT/22/2964/FUL // 2 Howe Green Moat Barns, Howe Green // Change of use from a stable to a home gym // Approved (No objections but must not later become a dwelling)

UTT/22/3332/FUL // Latchings, Latchmore Bank // Conversion of residential outbuilding to self-contained dwelling with associated curtilage, car parking and landscaping // Withdrawn (Objections: over development, insufficient amenity space for family use, access via unadopted road)

UTT/22/3495/FUL// Great Jenkins, Jenkins Lane // Change of use of existing stables to one dwelling // Approved (Objections: change of use undesirable)

UTT/23/0138/FUL // The Hay Patch, Woodside Green // Application to make temporary stables/shelters permanent // Approved (No objections but must remain as stables and not dwellings)

UTT/22/3323/LB // Lodge Farm, Woodside Green // Change of use and conversion of barns and agricultural buildings to four dwellings // Approved (Objections: historic building)

UTT/22/3322/FUL//Lodge Farm, Woodside Green // Change of use and conversion of barns and agricultural buildings to four dwellings // Approved (Objections: as above)

UTT/23/0237/HHF // The Hall, Church Road // Removal of existing gates and erection of newly designed gates // Approved (No objections)

UTT/23/0625/HHF//Shoemakers, Woodside Green // Proposed two storey side extension // Refused (No objections as long as in keeping with the rest of property)

UTT/23/0634/LB // Woodside Green Farm, Woodside Green // Replace 20th century bay window with flush door and window arrangement // Approved (No objections as long as compliant with Grade 2 listing)

UTT/23/0635/LB // 89 Woodside Green // Replace uPVC windows and door with leaded timber windows and ledged and braced door // Approved (No objections.)

UTT/23/0693/HHF / 10 The Grove, Great Hallingbury // Proposed side extension. Extensions, alterations / enlargements to existing loft conversion / Approved (No objections.)

UTT/23/0709/HHF // The Old Pump House, 82 Woodside Green // Landscaping works to rear garden only. Proposed garden room. // Awaiting decision (No objections.)

UTT/23/0778/HHF // Hallington Wood, Bedlars Green // Detached single garage // Approved (No objections.)

UTT/23/0812/FUL // Mission Hall Woodside Green Farm // Change of use from holiday let to residential and conversion of garage to bedroom with link (resubmission of UTT/18/1919/FUL) // Approved (No objections.)

UTT/23/0985/FUL // 1 The Gatehouse, The Street, Great Hallingbury // Erection of one

detached dwelling with associated private garden, car parking and landscaping and removal of existing relocatable dwelling // Awaiting decision (Objections: all previous planning applications rejected; excess traffic on the narrow lane without footpath: destruction of historic landscape)

UTT/23/1015/FUL // Land South East of Great Hallingbury Manor, Tilekiln Green // S73 application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) of UTT/22/1528/FUL (amendment to UTT/20/0336/DFO - Details following outline approval UTT/16/3669/ OP for the erection of 35 dwellings) // Awaiting decision (No objections but must respect that this area is located within the Countryside Protection Zone)

UTT/23/1041/HHF // Fairview, Bedlars Green // Two storey rear extension // Approved (No objections but must be connected to the main sewage.)

UTT/23/1063/LB // Centuries, Church Road // Demolition of existing unsafe brick built double garage and separate prefabricated concrete workshop // Approved (No objections but must respect conservation area)

#### Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Section 62A Applications)

S62A/2023/0017 // Land at Tilekiln Green // Development of the site to create an open logistics facility with associated new access and ancillary office and amenity facilities // Awaiting decision (Strong objections largely as previously published but additional comments: Fifteen new dwellings being built approximately 200 metres along B1256 increasing number of houses affected: commercial development in a residential area: land classified as Protected Habitat Woodland: lies within Uttlesford Local Plan Countryside Protection Zone which offers our parish a buffer from the blight of one of the U.K's busiest airports: land one of last remaining ecological assets in Tilekiln Green area : other local commercial businesses do not have permission for 24/7 operation: area

already heavily impacted by Birchanger services and sharing same roundabout with Stansted Airport: residents have been subjected to environmental issues caused by airport and this development will subject them to excessive light pollution: heavy vehicles using small country road which already has speeding vehicles and copious amounts of potholes.)

Applications to be Dealt with at Meeting UTT/23/1138/FUL//Nonane,Tilekiln Green // Change of use of existing dwelling into guest house (Objections: increased traffic on dangerous blind spot without footpath or street lighting: inappropriate location for guest house as it is in a residential setting) UTT/23/1143/HHF // Highfield, Church Road // Installation of fifteen ground situated stand-alone solar panels to be placed at the rear of the garden facing directly south, tilted at an angle of 35 degrees (No objections.)

UTT/23/1455/FUL //Meadowside Cottages, Woodside Green // Erection of two detached dwellings with new vehicular access to public highway for the existing dwellings and associated private garden, car parking, and landscaping (Objections: Overdevelopment and overbearing: not in keeping with area: too close to high power cables. Contamination mentioned in documentation must be thoroughly inspected.)

UTT/23/1470/OP // Stansted Distribution Centre, Start Hill // Outline planning application with all matters reserved for the demolition of units 1B, 2A, 2B, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and structures at Pontins Yard and redevelopment for flexible commercial uses with realignment of internal access road, car parking, servicing yards, soft landscaping and other associated works. (Strong objections: current architecture of site optimally designed as low-profile development for safety reasons (within Public Safety Zone in Uttlesford Local Plan 2005) and as commercial development in predominantly rural residential Hamlet. Therefore building designs, heights and layouts minimised to prevent overpowering/ overbearing residential community and its rural setting. Proposed redevelopment contravenes Uttlesford Local Plan Policy AIR7 as proposal not low density development: under Policy S7, does not protect or enhance the countryside: under Policy GEN 2 Section H, will have overbearing effect on neighbouring properties i.e., Nonane, Thatched Cottage, Start Hill No10 and associated residents: under Policy GEN4 Good Neighbours, redevelopment will increase HGV movements along B1256 and through neighbouring villages (any additional HGV movements will have cumulative impact on already overloaded section of the B1256): referring to Policy ENV2 and NPPF section 199, 200 Listed Buildings, development will greatly impact special characteristics and settings of 11 Grade 2 listed assets, severely impacting Thatched Cottage and impairing settings of The Old Elm, Lewismead, Great Hallingbury End and Thremhall Priory: current restriction on business use of Stansted Distribution Centre, Mon- Fri 8am - 6pm, Sat 8am-1pm and no business hours on Sundays, but no mention of business hours in application. Concerns regarding processing and collection of wastewater as development not on mains drainage and current outfall into streams and rivers have signs of intense pollution. Verges overgrown, pathways poorly maintained on unlit fast 40mph stretch of B1256. Footfall to site limited to cars as cycleways insignificant to users from Bishop's Stortford who need to cycle round M11 junction 8 and no pedestrian access from Bishop's Stortford. With approval of Stansted North Industrial Development 1 mile from application site no need to increase current commercial building stock in this area.)

UTT/23/1641/HHF // 97 Woodside Green // Single storey front extension, two storey side extension and part single storey, part two storey rear extension. Rear dormer extension to loft space to accommodate loft conversion. Insertion of new first floor window to front elevation above front door (Objections: Changes to line of vision and overdevelopment: house will become too big for corner overlooking National Trust site.)

#### **Bedlars Green**

Cllr Pinnock asked if it would be possible to put the kerb near the post box to stop lorries encroaching the verge.

#### Layby next to Flitch Way Bridge

A member of the public stated this layby used as car park for dog walkers but others using it too who can sometimes be disturbing; rubbish often left behind; dog walkers are using it and the installation of a litter bin and/or dog waste bin would be beneficial. It was agreed to ask UDC for the litter bin and Essex Highways for a sign *This is not a public parking*.

Stansted Airport Insulation Scheme Link information is to be provided in Great Hallingbury Highlights. (Please see page 9)

#### Telephone box

Some maintenance is needed. Cllr Pinnock will check and see what needs to be done.

#### Neighbourhood Plan

District Cllr Evans, Uttlesford Cabinet Member and Portfolio Holder for Planning, spoke regarding Neighbourhood Plans. These form part of the development plan, fit into the Local Plan, complement it and do have effect. To complete one for the Parish is a lot of work. A steering group needs to be formed which is usually composed of Councillors and members of community. Help can be obtained from RCCE and Parishes can join together to produce a plan. It is useful to seek advice from independent professionals on landscaping and historical aspects which can then be used when submitting comments on planning applications. It has a duration time and needs to be reviewed

#### periodically.

#### Highways Matters

It was agreed to ask Essex Highways Liaison Officer for:

- New VAS or SID device for Stane Street (B1256) and a speed survey to be carried out.
- Hamlet gateway signs for Start Hill just off the M11 junction 8 - one either side of the B1256.

It was also agreed to submit an LHP Scheme Request Form to County Cllr Barker for two warning signs for pedestrians crossing the road ahead where National Cycle Route 16 crosses the B1256.

District Cllr Driscoll advised that the Local Highways Panel will now consist of four County amd one District councillors with one Parish representative.

#### Salt Bag Partnership

Cllr Barlow advised there is enough salt and it may still be stored at the farm. The Council does not need salt but would like to remain in the *Salt Bag Partnership Scheme* for Winter 2023/2024. It was agreed to ask ECC for another salt bin.

#### Electric Vehicle Charge Point Strategy

The Council considered responding to the this public consultation launched by Essex Highways but has declined.

#### **Councillor Communications**

Cllr Coletta suggested the Council have a group email and use Google Drive or WhatsApp for communication between meetings. It was agreed that a WhatsApp group will be formed for Councillors to use for information only to which the Code of Conduct applies.

#### Neighbourhood Watch

More signs have been put up. A Facebook group has been formed with 40 members already and information is received weekly. *(For more information please see page 33)* 



## Great Hallingbury Village Hall Ton Club

#### **Recent Results**

June

no 56	Dave Mugele
no 23	Pat & Peter Howlett
no 14	Val Walker
no 57	David Collins
no 4	Georgia McCarthy
no 9	Carole Morris
	no 23 no 14 no 57 no 4

#### August

lst	no 65	Village Hall
2nd	no 22	Ollie Smith
3rd	no 54	Carole Travell

A monthly draw with cash prizes for just £12 per year Half of each month's membership fees are paid out as prizes.

> You can still join the fun by contacting Lee Cox 07500 805281 cox\_L3@sky.com

Looking after the Village Hall takes money but this way LET'S SHARE SOME





## Parish Council Chairman

I am pleased to tell you that the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is now back, up and running. We also have a new

running. We also have a new Speedwatch Team who who have already been out and about in the village.

The Wren Kitchens' planning application, following the previous objections, was heard by the Planning Inspectorate at Saffron Walden Council Offices on 13<sup>th</sup> July. Everyone put their objections across in a most passionate way and it was a joy to see residents of Great Hallingbury band together to fight this outrageous proposal, along with the Parish Council and District Councillors. We now have to wait for the outcome.

With reference to the migrants being housed at Great Hallingbury Manor, the Government has announced an increase in numbers to 120. This seems far to many for the Manor to house.

Further to my report in the spring edition of Highlights, we have finally some news regarding the flooding by Captains. The Parish Council has been informed that Essex Highways will be carrying out repairs to the drainage problems on August Bank Holiday, 28<sup>th</sup> August, and will be closing the road. We understand they will also (finally!) repair the holes in the road here.

The Highways Agency has also stated that they will be closing Dunmow Road in Bishop's Stortford to continue road works on the M11 roundabout. It seems that we could be having major detours just to get into Bishop's Stortford!

It is such a shame that, whilst the rest of Europe is having some of the highest recorded temperatures, in the UK we are being flooded and having temperatures lower than normal for this time of year. I always think this is so sad for the children when they have just begun their summer holidays from school. Let's hope the weather improves very soon.

I must once again remind everybody that if you see a pot hole please report it on the Highways website. It seems the best way to get them fixed is to have *Ride Essex* coming through the village!

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for all the hard work they do on behalf of the residents of the village and, of course, Urŝka our Clerk who keeps everything running smoothly.

Alan Townsend.



### Hallingbury Flower Show Letter from a Previous Chairman

Although now living in Cheshire, the *Great* and *Little Hallingbury Flower Show* is still important to me, so I was surprised and saddened to hear that this year's show had been cancelled.

I am told the reason is lack of support for a greatly diminished committee and, in the end, Natasha Hale and the few remaining committee members had no alternative but to accept reality.

I had planned to be at Gaston House, exactly 30 after years after I first became chairman. I was associated with the show for more than 20 years and, such was its popularity, in 2007 I got it on satellite television.

In my time as chairman, it was routine for us to have six committee members from each

village. It was a way for the villages to work together and was one of the highlights of the year. Gaston House one year, Harps Farm the next.

I appreciate times and working habits, particularly for ladies, have changed, but I am still surprised that there are not



but I am still surprised Geoff Petts Announcing Award Winners at the Flower that there are not show in 2009

enough people in the two villages interested in keeping the show going.

To me, it is not a private event. It is part of village history and something that unites the Hallingburys. I hope it will be back next year.

Geoff Petts



### Accuro (Care Services)



#### Accuro and its Impact

Accuro is a small charity supporting local children, young people and adults with disabilities in West Essex by providing services that are fun, safe and inclusive. These services reduce social isolation and empower members by providing accessible social and leisure opportunities that allow them to develop life skills, gain confidence and self-esteem, and make friends.

Accuro offers a six-month life skills programme called STRIDE for young adults with a disability which alternates between Uttlesford and Harlow. Over the course of the six months, members take part in a wide variety of sessions ranging from topics such



as domestic skills and selfcare, to money management and

employment.

June this year, STRIDE's most recent members graduated in Harlow.

Accuro's podcast, *Accuro Out Loud*, is published monthly and for the June episode graduates of STRIDE spoke about their experience of the programme – what they learnt and enjoyed.

On graduation day, member Tom said, I like coming to STRIDE because it's a fun place to go, I have made new friends, we've been doing loads of cool activities like going to the bank, on the bus to Wetherspoons which was really fun, and I enjoyed helping out with all the ordering. STRIDE has been something for me to get out and do on a Saturday so that's actually been really good and I just enjoy seeing all new faces. I would recommend it so just come along and have a bit of fun. The podcast can be found on Spotify and most major platforms.

The charity also runs social and leisure

services across West Essex including a Saturday Play Cub in Saffron Walden, after school youth groups, Adult Friendship Schemes and a Holiday Project, providing activities for young people during the school holidays. Please visit: www.accuro.org.uk/ services

Families have called Accuro a *lifeline* and members have called their clubs their *happy place*. One parent has commented that Accuro provides local, affordable projects that build on friendships and trust whilst increasing independence and limiting isolation, while another said, Accuro gives our family respite and we have full confidence our child is safe and having fun.

#### How You Can Help

**Volunteering:** Accuro is always looking for volunteers in a number roles to help them continue to offer high quality services for people with a disability in the local community. Here are some of the ways you can help.

- Volunteering at clubs, supporting children, young people and adults with disabilities
- Helping at fundraising events in the community
- Assisting with social media, research and community engagement
- Promotion and distributing flyers in the community
- Collection tins
- Office duties supporting office staff with administration duties
- Become a Trustee offering your skill set and helping to guide the charity

Volunteering gives you the opportunity to make a difference, meet new people, share your skills and gain knowledge and confidence.



Andy, Accuro's gardening volunteer has said this of his



experience, I decided to volunteer as a gardener about a year ago as I enjoy working outside in the fresh air. Now I've seen first-hand what a difference the staff make to the lives of the people they help. So, if by giving a little of my time, I can make the environment the staff work in more pleasant, then it's no sacrifice at all because they deserve it, and more!

**Events:** Throughout the year, Accuro hosts fundraising events across West Essex ranging from music and comedy nights to festive wreath making workshops. By choosing to share or attend an Accuro event, you are supporting the charity and helping local people with a disability whilst enjoying a well-organised, fun night with friends and family. Please visit accuro.org.uk/events to keep up to date with future events.

Sponsored challenges: As well as regular events, Accuro offers sponsored challenges, from the Royal Parks Half Marathon to skydiving. Accuro is currently looking for people to take on their Accuro 50 Walking Challenge from 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023, a 50 mile, fully-accessible walking route across West Essex covering the area in which it provides services. Participants can take on the full challenge, which starts in Loughton and finishes in Saffron Walden, or choose a single section of the route to tackle, over 1, 2 or 3 days, with accommodation and transfer packages available. If you are interested in the Accuro 50, please visit: https://www.accuro.org.uk/eventschallenges/challenges/accuro-50/

**Sign up to the newsletter:** You will be the first to hear about the latest events, sponsored challenges, volunteer

opportunities, updates on services and learn more about the charity's impact. To sign up, please visit: https://accuro.beaconforms. com/form/563e899c

Accuro's Fundraising Manager, Sue Fishpool, said, We couldn't do what we do at Accuro without a strong relationship with the local community, so we are very grateful for the support of the Hallingbury community. A special thank you to St Giles' Church for stocking our 'Accuro 50' Challenge Walk Route Guide at their coffee morning and for being a stopping point along the route. Another thank you to the Old School Community volunteers for their help with collection donation tins."

For more information about Accuro, please visit: www.accuro.org.uk

Katie Bullett (Communications Officer) katie@accuro.org.uk



## Neighbourhood Watch



Our new Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, Mark Coletta,

has started a new facebook group that is being used to give NHW updates to all residents in Greatt Hallingbury.

Right now, you should find information regarding a free fire/smoke alarm scheme which is supported by Essex Fire and Rescue and learn of the work of Community Agents Essex which supports elderly and vulnerable people in the community. There are also the latest crime reports from Essex Police.

The QR code shown here will connect



residents directly to the Great Hallingbury Neighbourhood Watch Group on Facebook which already has more than 40 members.

Of course, Facebook is not for everyone but it can take less than five minutes to set up an account and you can always give yourself an alias. However, if there is someone in the village to whom I can send just one email each week and they can distribute the information to others in the village then that would be great. Residents can also message me through Facebook if they have a query relating to Neighbourhood Watch.

In the unfortunate event of crime, residents must report this directly to the Police on 999 Emergency or 101 non urgent crime.

The Facebook group will be updated with regular surgery dates to meet and chat with the local Police officers.

I have been investigating installing Neighbourhood Watch signage on the B1256 Dunmow road. This is not as easy as one might imagine as signs cannot be put on telegraph poles or speed signs and must be mounted above 2 metres to stop people hitting their heads on them. However, we have applied for signs to be put up at Kearsley Airways traffic lights, one in Start Hill and are seeking permission for one at the Esso Petrol Station.

Neighbourhood Watch is not just about crime but is affiliated with Essex Fire and Rescue and other organisations within Essex.

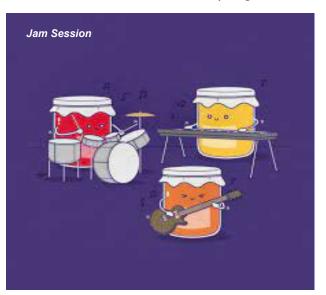
There is also a *Message in a Bottle* scheme created for vulnerable people, the elderly and residents living alone. Neighbourhood

Watch provides a small capsule into which you place a form you have completed with your name, medication, allergies and emergency contact details. Put the capsule in the fridge, ideally in the door where it can be found quickly. There are also two stickers one of which is



put on the front of the fridge and the other near the front door but not visible from outside. The emergency services are trained to look for these stickers as this system can save a lot of time and possibly someone's life by speeding up the gathering of critical information about a distressed resident. There is no registration required; just fill in the small form, put the capsule in the fridge and attach the stickers. Kits may be requested from the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator.

> Mark Coletta cllrcolettapc@gmail.com



### Pilgrimage

For centuries, people have made journeys to special places for a whole host of reasons. Some are drawn to visit the relics of saints which they believe may bring them healing, others want to set themselves a physical and mental challenge, still others want to *find themselves* along the road. Some are motivated by faith, others' reasons are more prosaic.

There's a wonderful film called *The Way* (Emilio Estevez, 2010) which tells the fictional story of a group of modern pilgrims of different nationalities who find company, friendship and challenge on the Camino to Santiago de Compostela, where the relics of St James are said to be held in the Cathedral. One endearing Dutchman among them admits he's mainly there to try and lose weight so that his wife finds him attractive again.

The French Camino - the one featured in the film - is 560 miles long but in 2019 I walked just the last part, from Sarria to Santiago. We walked 70 miles in 5 days and



in that short time I discovered something of the restorative power of walk, eat, sleep, repeat.

Just like the pilgrims in the Canterbury Tales, we exchanged our stories along the way. Periodically the faster walkers stopped to let us slower ones catch up and people helped each other out with plasters and stretch bandages when aches and pains started to manifest themselves.

At the beginning of this year, I went on a different kind of pilgrimage, this time to the Holy Land, staying first in Jerusalem then in Galilee. This was a specifically Christian pilgrimage with the aim of following in the footsteps of Jesus. It was my second visit to Israel/Palestine. Although there was still a great deal of walking, our fit watches



didn't quite hit 70 miles since we were transported from site to site in airconditioned luxury, courtesy of Nazareth Coaches (with free WiFi of course). But there were challenges, notably being expected on deck every morning at 8am, dressed and breakfasted, ready to start the day's excursions.

One of the phrases we heard most frequently on this pilgrimage was this is believed to be where Jesus..... fed the five thousand /taught his disciples the Lord's Prayer / walked on the water / ate the Last Supper..... In most cases, no-one is very sure where the exact spot is but actually it doesn't matter. Just knowing that Jesus walked somewhere nearby is incredibly special. Seeing road signs with names like Tiberias, Joppa, Jericho, Bethany, Capernaum brings the Bible to life, and as for sipping on a beautiful ginger and cassia tea in Manger Square in Bethlehem ...... wow! These are moments to treasure for a lifetime.

I shall be returning to the Holy Land in March 2024, this time leading a pilgrimage of my own through McCabe Pilgrimages. We'll spend a week split between Galilee and Jerusalem, culminating in the Palm Sunday procession into Jerusalem on our last full day. The trip is open to anyone, so do let me know if you'd like more details. I can honestly say that my two visits to date have brought new meaning to my life and deepened my faith, and I can't wait to share it with my fellow pilgrims.

> Revd Dawn Jewson rev.dawn.jewson@gmail.com

## St Giles' Nature Reserve

I am writing this as we prepare for the Butterfly Conservation Trust's butterfly count - an annual event allowing a countrywide glimpse of how butterfly populations are faring.

When I tell people that the churchyard is now home to 19 species of butterfly, I am often asked what they are. As numbers grow this is an increasingly difficult memory test, so I have decided to devote this quarter's piece to a list!



continued at foot of next column

## United Benefice Services

September - November 2023

G = St Giles' M = St Mary's

Sep 3	10.30am	Morning Worship
Sep 10	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sep 17	10.30am	Holy Communion
Sep 24	10.30am	Harvest Festival
Oct 1	10.30am	Harves Festival
Oct 8	10.30am	Holy Communion
Oct 15	10.30am	Holy Communion
Oct 22	10.30am	Morning Worship
Oct 29	10.30am	Joint Six Villages Service - Venue tba
Nov 5	10.30am	Morning Worship
Nov 12	10.30am	Holy Communion
Nov 19	10.30am	Holy Communion
Nov 26	10.30am	Morning Worship
	Sep 10 Sep 24 Oct 1 Oct 8 Oct 22 Oct 22 Oct 29 Nov 5 Nov 12 Nov 19	Sep 10     10.30am       Sep 17     10.30am       Sep 24     10.30am       Oct 1     10.30am       Oct 8     10.30am       Oct 15     10.30am       Oct 22     10.30am       Oct 29     10.30am       Nov 5     10.30am       Nov 12     10.30am

#### Please Note:

The patterns of worship in the Six Villages Churches are currently under review. Consequently, the forward schedule of services may be subject to change and you are advised to check our website at www.thesixvillages. org for the most up-to-date and accurate information.

The website has details of all services taking place across the Six Villages, and information about special events, our contact details and how to get involved.

#### continued from previous column

If you don't recognise a species, why not look it up - better yet, how about setting aside a patch of grass to leave wild though the spring and summer? Keep a watch on it - who knows what will move in!

The churchyard project runs every Saturday, weather allowing, between 10 and 1. If you are interested in helping out, do pop by or contact Russell on 07756142890.

Russell Robinson



#### THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

### POPPY APPEAL 2023

#### Tuesday, 24th October - Coffee Morning

with raffle and sale table

at Pantiles, Bedlars Green, Great Hallingbury. CM22 7TL 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

#### Friday, 10th November

Community Coffee Morning and Homemade Cake Sale

Raffle and convenient parking at **Bayford Hall, Howe Green House School** Great Hallingbury, CM22 7UF from 9.15am to 11.15am



The school will observe the two minutes silence at 11 am and the Last Post will be played.

## Calendar

#### September 2023

- 2 Library Van Bedlars Green 3 3.30 pm Woodside Green 3.40 - 4.10 pm
- 4 Great Hallingbury Parish Council Village Hall 8 pm
- Little Hallingbury History Society Brown Hares -History & Ecology - Little Hallingbury Village Hall
  8 pm
- 13 Great Hallingbury History Society *The Huguenots in Britain* - Village Hall 8 pm
- 16 Village Hall Quiz Night Village Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
- 19 History Society Visit to Welford Park
- 23 Library Van Bedlars Green 3 3.30 pm Woodside Green 3.40 - 4.10 pm
- 24 The Accuro 50 Challenge Walk see page 32
- 27 Great Hallingbury WI Residential Protection Officer, Bodyguard - Village Hall at 7.30 pm

#### October 2023

- 2 Little Hallingbury History Society Cheese & Wine - Little Hallingbury Village Hall at 8 pm
- 11 History Society The White Ship Disaster Village Hall 8 pm
- 14 Library Van Bedlars Green 3 3.30 pm Woodside Green 3.40 - 4.10 pm
- 22 Great Hallingbury *Litter Pick*
- 24 Poppy Appeal *Coffee Morning* Pantiles, Great Hallingbury, 10.30 - 12.30 pm
- 25 Great Hallingbury WI *My Life in Ladies Underwear* - Great Hallingbury Village Hall 7.30pm

#### November 2023

- 4 Library Van Bedlars Green 3 3.30 pm Woodside Green 3.40 - 4.10 pm
- 5 Little Hallingbury History Society *Craft Fair* Little Hallingbury Village Hall at 8 pm
- 6 Great Hallingbury Parish Council Village Hall 8 pm
- 8 Great Hallingbury History Society The Restoration of St Barnabus Barn, Thorley -Village Hall 8 pm
- 10 Poppy Appeal *Coffee Morning* Howe Green House School, 9.15 - 11.15 am
- 22 Great Hallingbury WI A Christmas Surprise -Village Hall at 7.30 pm
- 25 Library Van Bedlars Green 3 3.30 pm Woodside Green 3.40 - 4.10 pm
- 25 Village Hall Christmas Lights Switch On and Social Evening

#### December 2023

- 1 Village Hall *Flower Arranging Tea* Village Hall 1.30 for 2 pm
- 2 Village Hall *Quiz Night* Village Hall 7 for 7.30 pm

Come to the next Parish Council meetings - ask your questions - give your views. See how the Parish Council works for you.

Monday, 4th September 8 pm Village Hall Monday, 6th November 8 pm Village Hall

Highlights is an independent publication compiled and edited by C. J. Coultrup, Pantiles, Great Hallingbury and printed by Newnorth Press Ltd. E&OE This Newsletter is not the official record of the Great Hallingbury Parish Council; only the Minutes of Meetings are the true record. Neither the Council nor contributors are responsible for the accuracy of the contents. Content of advertisements is the responsibility of the advertiser. Contributions and dates for the diary would be welcomed. Thanks go to everyone who has contributed or helped in its production and distribution. Editor: 01279 655144 or gthallhighlights@gmail.com