

Great Hallingbury Highlights

Summer 2023

Vol. 98

An independent publication giving news on matters affecting Great Hallingbury



Bluebells in Broom Plantation, Hallingbury Road

Photograph courtesy of David Barlow

Councillors

Parish Council Chairman:

Mr. Alan Townsend Tel: 465790
7 The Grove, CM22 7TT
email: ajt1952@btinternet.com

Parish Council Vice-Chairman:

Mr. Andrew Noble Tel: 832837
Lewismead, Tilekiln Green, CM22 7TQ
email: agnoble@aol.com

Parish Councillors:

Mr. David Barlow Tel: 657182
128, Bedlars Green, CM22 7TL

Mr. Mark Coletta Tel: 07894 209737
Thatched Cottage, Start Hill, CM22 7TA
email: mark118118@yahoo.co.uk

Dr Neil Jackson Tel: 654983
Monksway, Woodside Green, CM22 7UU
email: njackson57@btinternet.com 07801 431645

Mr. Alan Pinnock Tel: 659071
128A Bedlars Green, CM22 7TL
alanpinnock@hotmail.com Mobile: 07939 603507

Mr. Andrew Smith
Old Elm, Tilekiln Green, CM22 7TH
email:

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Mrs. Urška Sydee Tel: 07432 297142
48 The Forest, Hatfield Broad Oak, CM22 7BT
email: greathallingburyipc@outlook.com

Website:

<https://e-voice.org.uk/great-hallingbury-parish-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

1st Great Hallingbury Brownies

Brown Owl Heather Hays 01279 651851
philipandheatherhays@googlemail.com
Alison Hutley 01279 503804

Bridge on Sundays

Organiser Christine Coultrup
bridgeonsunday@gmail.com 01279 655144

History Society

Chairman Christine Coultrup
cj@coultruponline.com 01279 655144

Neighbours' Association

Secretary Val Waring

Poppy Appeal

Coordinator Gill Sewell 01279 504990
marjorierosegs@hotmail.com

St. Giles' Church

Associate Priest: Revd Dawn Jewson 01279 730288
email: rev.dawn.jewson@gmail.com 07930 902507

Village Hall

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

Great Hallingbury WI

Secretary Gill Sewell 01279 504990
marjorierosegs@hotmail.com



Editorial

King Charles III designated the third day of the coronation celebrations ***The Big Help Out***, to recognise the contributions of volunteers and to encourage more people to become involved.

The residents of our country have a magnificent record for their charity; the way people opened up their homes to Ukrainian refugees last year and the huge amounts of money raised for humanitarian aid needed to cope with a disaster anywhere in the world. But these are all individual acts and it seems that we are not so eager nowadays to join with others and support activities in our local communities.

At one time here in Great Hallingbury we had a company of guides and a brownie pack, a football team and a cricket team but, alas, no longer. The church was well attended and looked after by two churchwardens but now St Giles' is without anyone in that office. The Flower Show this year is in danger of being the last after over 80 years because of a lack of help in the organisation.

The recent Annual Parish Meeting was attended by the Parish Councillors, of course, and representatives of our local organisations presenting reports on their activities but so few residents came to listen to the proceedings and meet and mingle afterwards.

In a recent article, William Hague noted that, in eight years, the proportion of people who volunteer in their communities each month has fallen from 44 per cent to 34 per cent. Certainly there has been an increase in online socialising, especially due to covid, but living on line can be lonely. William Hague went on to say that *the effect on young people is tragic. Many now report they have more friends online than in real life, while surveys show they have fewer friends than in previous generations. 10 per cent of them say they are lonely. That might not sound like a big proportion but*

it means that somewhere out there, in a bustling, crowded, fairly prosperous country, there are over half a million young adults who are so lonely they will confess that to a pollster. And loneliness is now being considered a health hazard.

That all seems so sad. So, **please**, do get involved with others in the Village and let's try to make ours a more social society. There are two opportunities approaching: on 1st July there will be a social evening in the Village Hall where you can just turn up, bring your own drink and nibbles, and meet other village residents. And perhaps lend a hand with the Flower Show on 16th July so that this one is not the last.

Editor

CONTENTS

2	- Details of Councillors
	- Village Contacts
3	- Editorial
5-6	- Great Hallingbury Village Hall
7	- Great Hallingbury Highlights
	- London Marathon
8	- Easy Eating
9-10	- Essex & Uttlesford Recycling
10	- Ton Club Results
11	- Neighbours' Association
13-14	- Great Hallingbury Parish Council
15-16	- RISE Performing Arts
17	- Chairman's Message
18-19	- Photographer's Choice
20	- Bridge on Sundays Club
21-22	- Annual Parish Meeting
22	- Litter Pick
23	- Citizens' Advice
	- Great Hallingbury W.I.
25-26	- District News
27	- Book Corner
28	- Easton Lodge
	- Little Hallingbury Cricket Club
29	- Essex County Council
	- Hallingbury Flower Show
31	- Great Hallingbury History Society
32	- St Giles' Nature Reserve
	- St Giles' Parochial Church Council
33	- Thoughts from St Giles'
34-35	- Events in Great Hallingbury
	- St. Giles' Services
38	- Calendar

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Great Hallingbury Village Hall



Reporting to the Annual Parish Meeting, the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee took great pleasure in announcing that the previous year had seen normality and stability return to the Village Hall after all the uncertainty and disruption caused by the pandemic.

All the regular users and clubs are operating again. There are three U3A table tennis clubs, Bishop's Stortford dog training club, a craft club called Crafty Spell and a preschool children's activity group called Little Learners. The Great Hallingbury Womens' Institute, Great Hallingbury History Society and a Bridge Club continue to meet on a regular basis as well as the Parish Council and the District Councillors' surgeries on a monthly basis. Amongst the hirers the National Childbirth Trust now holds two to three classes every week here in the hall. Whilst feedback regarding the hall from a health and safety aspect has always been extremely good, it was particularly pleasing to hear it from the NCT area coordinator upon an inspection.

Running the Hall

The Village Hall is operated as a charity by a committee of residents who are trustees and they have always prided themselves on creating a safe and welcoming environment for the community to enjoy. All risk assessments are regularly reviewed and updated accordingly. There is an annual fire inspection of equipment by an outside authorised company and electrical fixtures and fittings are also checked by a certified electrician. There is an Equal Opportunities Policy in place and a Safe Guarding Persons Policy. All of these are available to existing and potential hirers for their peace of mind.

The booking system is now totally electronic,

although not online as we do like to meet potential hirers in person.

Recent Events

Last summer, a flagpole was erected within the grounds to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II with an appropriate plaque.

The hall was the chosen venue to host the Great and Little Hallingbury Flower Show in July 2022. We were grateful for the publicity and, more importantly, were proud to be part of a great annual community event.



In early September, the Village Hall accommodated the Great Hallingbury Neighbours' Association for a well attended social evening. This particular group was originally formed to oppose an application by Wren Kitchens for a logistics site at the Start Hill end of the village.

The Village Hall and field also supported a Tudor History Weekend in October which was coordinated and managed by St. Giles' Church. Again, it was lovely for the Hall to be involved in another large community event which raised much needed funds for the church.

Refurbishment

In August, the hall was closed for business due to the laying of a new floor in the main hall area and foyer; essential work given the past history of the floor and the problems that went with it. The cost was around £19,000 of which a majority of the work and cost went underground. However, due to the generosity of organisations, grants were secured for £9,500 for the project.

The Hall was then completely redecorated, having last had a makeover in February 2017. There is continuing good feedback on the new air source heat pump system which was installed eighteen months ago. Going forward, the Village Hall will be replacing the existing carpark gates and

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improving the lighting of the car park. An investigation of the ramp area to the front and side the building is needed and the execution of any necessary remedial work as this has been identified as the most probable cause of the deterioration of the floor within.

Funding

The Ton Club, now in its fourth year, is a monthly cash prize draw and so far around £2,500 has been raised for the hall. In addition, there were four fundraising events for 2022; three Quiz Nights, raising around £950 and a Christmas Flower Arranging Demonstration with afternoon tea which brought in another £250.

The Hall's pricing strategy has been carefully reviewed against the budget and especially mindful of the uncertainties surrounding energy costs. We are happy to report that the Hall is in a healthy position financially.

People

The existence of the Village Hall is paramount to myself and all the committee but, like so many other community venues, businesses and services, it has experienced its fair share of problems over the last few years. So, as important as anything I have mentioned so far, is the recognition of people and their kindness, generosity, time and dedication in keeping the Hall alive.

Very briefly, I would like to thank:

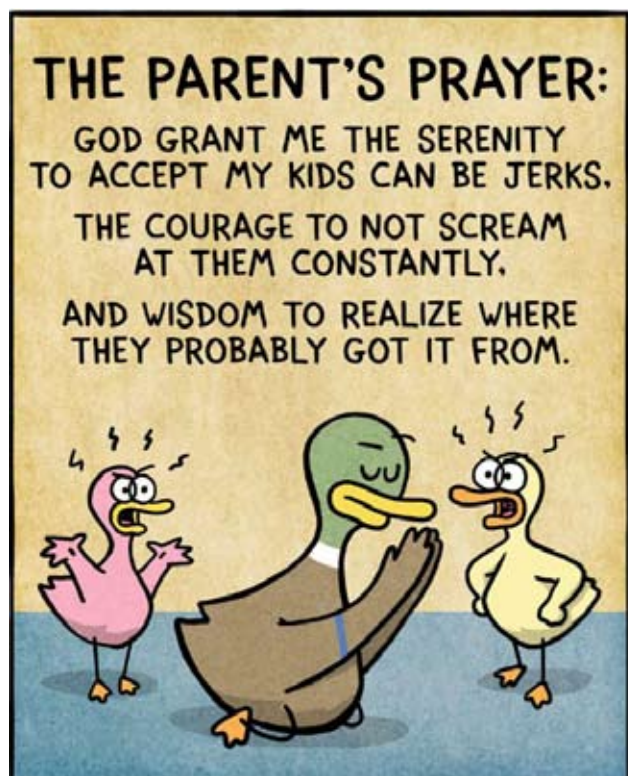
- Great Hallingbury Parish Council who are generous with their donations, support and attention to what we achieve
- County Councillor Susan Barker and the Rural Community Council of Essex for their continued support.
- Uttlesford District Councillors Geof Driscoll and Neil Reeve
- The committee for all their time, effort, support and opinions throughout the year.
- Unfortunately for the committee, Mr. Martin Mugele has called time. A special mention and thank you to Martin who

served as a member and Chairperson for ten years. His wit, knowledge and dedication were always much appreciated and he will be missed.

- Mrs. Christine Coultrup, our treasurer, for all her time and effort with many administration tasks and In particular her work securing grants
- A special mention for Mr. Alan Pinnock who represents the Parish Council on the committee. He gives so much time to the more specialised maintenance issues of this Hall and is always eager to support us. He is also now the dedicated Quiz Master and provided last year's Christmas Tree and lights.
- Bookings for the hall have become a mine field with the volume of hirers and their requirements. Thanks go to my wife, Sarah, for all her work in promoting the hall and keeping the administration side running smoothly.

I'm sure we can look forward to another good year with all your much appreciated support for our Village Hall which is the last community building we have in Great Hallingbury.

Lee Cox, Chair Person



Great Hallingbury Highlights

Annual Parish Meeting 2023

Great Hallingbury Highlights is delivered to every house in the village so you all see what is happening with the magazine as it goes along. There are four issues a year with some advertising - not more than six pages usually - which provides income to supplement the grant we receive from the Parish Council to cover the printing costs. Many thanks to the Parish Council for their continued support.

The magazine seeks to cover activities that happen in the Village or in which some residents are involved. For instance, information of the success of some of the Great Hallingbury youngsters who play cricket with the Little Hallingbury Cricket Club has been included. Please do send to the Editor any similar news or suggest where information might be found.

If anyone has a particular interest or hobby and would like to write an article about it, **Great Hallingbury Highlights** would be delighted to hear from you. And there is always a need for photographs for the front cover.

You may have noticed that announcements of various activities and meetings in the Village are now grouped together in the hope that this will make it easier for people to quickly remind themselves of events and attend them.

Sometimes the timing of the publications does not always best suit some of the events happening in the country. The coronation of King Charles III is on 6th May and the summer issue of Great Hallingbury Highlights should go to the printers by 10th May, so not a lot of time to include any reports on activities.

The Spring 2023 issue was volume 97 which means that the winter edition this year will be the hundredth in this format. Ideas on how to make this a special edition would be welcomed. *Christine Coultrup, Editor*

London Marathon Congratulations!

Nikki Griffin lives in Bedlars Green and she has become a long distance runner. This year, she entered the London Marathon, raised good money for charity and finished the course. Here are her comments:

I had the most fantastic day. The atmosphere the whole way round this iconic route was just one great big carnival!

It was absolutely amazing with bands playing, drums banging, people shouting and screaming encouragement to you. Some were handing out sweets and fruit to keep you going and children were holding their hands out for high fives as you ran past. There were also home made posters and banners with some very comical statements and words of encouragement to keep you going.

It was out of this world and very emotional too, especially when I spotted friends and family in the crowd.

Just running through all the different land marks in itself was wonderful. The 26.2 miles seemed to have gone in a flash, especially now it's over. (I have entered next year's ballot, so fingers crossed)!

I recovered well and felt amazing, although stairs were still some what of a challenge two days later!

This is my favourite picture just before I crossed the Finish Line. My emotion was really bubbling up as I knew I'd done it!



Easy Eating

Sausage Plait

Ingredients

- 1 packet ready rolled puff pastry
- 1 small apple peeled and grated
- 1 tbs red onion marmalade
- 8 sausages skin removed (use good quality)
- 2 tbs chopped parsley
- 1 beaten egg
- salt and pepper

Method

- 1) Heat oven to 200C/400F/gas 6
- 2) Combine the sausage mixture, apple, marmalade and parsley in a bowl and season.
- 3) Unroll the pastry and place on a lightly floured board.
- 4) Place the sausage mix down the middle of the long length of the pastry.
- 5) With a sharp knife, cut slits 3cm/1" away from the sausage mixture to the edges of the pastry slanting away from you.
- 6) Fold the pastry strips alternately over each other to give a plait effect.
- 7) Brush with beaten egg.
- 8) Bake for approximately 40 minutes, reducing the temperature to 150C/300F/gas 2
- 9) Allow to stand for 5 minutes before serving. Delicious cold as well.



Rick Stein's Tea Loaf

Ingredients

- 3 Earl Grey tea bags
- 2 eggs
- 350g mixed dry fruit
- 200g soft brown sugar
- 250g self raising flour
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- zest of a lemon

Method

- 1) Make a smallish pot of Earl grey tea and let it brew.
- 2) Weigh dried fruit into a mixing bowl.
- 3) Pour hot tea over the fruit and allow it to stand for at least 3 hours or even overnight. It will swell up the fruit and not much liquid will be left.
- 4) Mix all the ingredients together (the mix should be fairly stiff)
- 5) Place in a lined loaf tin
- 6) Bake at 160 C for about 1 hour 15 minutes
- 7) Test with a skewer which should come out clean. If it is browning too much lay a piece of foil over it.
- 8) When cool, slice. It is best buttered but not essential.

Essex County Council

Cllr Susan Barker



Having been on so many doorsteps during the local election campaign, I feel that I need to write about what goes in your waste bins.

The waste hierarchy seeks to

1. Reduce the amount of waste you create
2. Re-use wherever you can
3. Recycle whenever possible

Ideas for reducing waste created include such things as:

- not purchasing goods in polystyrene packaging that is not, at present, economical to process
- purchasing items like glass cleaner as refills
- using products such as Eco Eggs or Soap nuts for laundry
- freezing left over food immediately so you don't end up throwing it away.
- For smaller families, sliced loaves can be frozen and thawed a slice or two at a time.

All little things but they will save you waste and money.

Items of clothing that you no longer need can be sold on line, taken to a Charity shop or Charity Bin rather than put in the general waste and local vets may like old bedding and towels.

Many villages have a book exchange point, some housed in old BT phone boxes, as ours in Great Hallingbury, so the book is getting another outing.

And then we come to recycling. Many houses have a black bin full to overflowing and so many items in there that ought to be in the green recycling bin.

So - the Uttlesford system allows you to recycle

- clean glass bottles such as wine and jars such as jam and pickle
- plastic bottles such as milk, shampoo,

lemonade and ketchup

- Yogurt pots and plastic trays such as mushroom or grape containers
- Cans such as beans or tomatoes, aluminium cans such as cola or beer
- Loose paper, newspaper and cardboard, from corn flake packaging to toilet roll centres
- Pressurized containers such as deodorant or polish can go in there too and empty lotion or hand cream tubes.
- **No Food!**

The black bin then, in most households, should be made up of small bits of plastic such as the cover for a container of mushrooms or a pizza; nappies, light bulbs, odd bits of mixed materials such as a disposable razor, an old biro and polystyrene. Pet waste should also go here. **No food !**

All food leftovers should go in the caddy as well as dead flowers and contaminated packaging such as a bag that has jam from a doughnut on it.

There are some other items, such as small electrical items, that need to go to the dump (or some libraries or shops will take them). Batteries and printer cartridges can be disposed of at some supermarkets or at the recycling centres for household Waste.

And when there are big things that have had their day, then UDC offers a bulky waste collection or items can be taken to the dump. If that is not practical, then AO offers a paid for electrical item collection - you just book it on line - (they have a machine called Big Bertha which takes the machines apart to recycle) or pay the extra when you order a replacement. If you use a waste carrier to get rid of waste, make sure that you see their licence and get a receipt for your waste. If it is dumped you will be liable.

And why does it all matter?

Waste is a strange business in an Authority such as Essex. This is because each District Council collects its waste and then Essex

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County Council is responsible for its disposal. UDC collects your recycling which goes off to be sorted and reused. For people using the garden waste bins this, of course, goes to be composted, as does the kitchen waste. For each tonne that UDC recycles, Essex pays UDC a recycling credit. This is at a level that is below what it would cost Essex to dispose of the waste but is an important source of income to the District.

By recycling more, UDC's recycling credit increases and Essex' cost reduces because less waste attracts a lower landfill charge. A win win situation.

So before you put anything in your black bin just pause and consider whether it can go in one of the other bins.

Susan Barker 01245 231250

A Well Planned Retirement



Outside the Bristol Zoo, there is a parking lot for 150 cars and 8 coaches, or buses. It was manned by a very pleasant attendant with a ticket machine who charged cars £1 and coaches £5.

This parking attendant worked there solidly for all of 25 years. Then, one day, he just didn't turn up for work.

"Oh well", said Bristol Zoo Management, "we'd better phone up the City Council and get them to send a new parking attendant..."

"Err ... no", said the Council, "that parking lot is your responsibility."

"Err ... no", said Bristol Zoo Management, "the attendant was employed by the City Council, wasn't he?" "Err ... NO!" insisted the Council.

Sitting in his villa, somewhere on the coast of Spain, is a bloke who had been taking the parking lot fees at Bristol Zoo, estimated at £400 per day, for the last 25 years.

Assuming seven days a week, this amounts to just over £3.6 million



Great Hallingbury Village Hall Ton Club

2023 Results so far

January

1st prize	no 51	Laura & Jaco Schoemann
2nd prize	no 60	Jill & Roger Hathersich
3rd prize	no 49	Carole Travell

February

1st	no 41	Alan Walker
2nd	no 92	Tom Banister
3rd	no 21	Kevin Johnson

March

1st	no 39	Carole Miller
2nd	no 79	Dave Barlow
3rd	no 15	Toby Juggurnauth

April

1st	no 44	Pauline Beaumont
2nd	no 50	Jan Baldwin
3rd	no 43	Mark Bloomfield

May

1st	no 61	Sue Gray
2nd	no 85	Lynn & Bruce Nash
3rd	no 8	Alex Stuebler

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Great Hallingbury Neighbours' Association

Wren Kitchens' Application for a Logistics Centre

On Wednesday, 8th February, the planning meeting was held at UDC offices in Saffron Walden to decide whether or not the application from Wren Kitchens (part of FKY Ltd) for a logistics centre at Tilekiln Green should go ahead. The village was well represented by members of the public (including members of GHNA), as well as representations made by local councillors and the Parish Council. Various objections were mooted by members of the public, from the loss of flora to the wildlife being forced off the land, the fact that the land is within the Countryside Protection Zone, to the safety of non-road users. Also covered was the unsuitability of a logistics centre so close to residential areas, specifically one that would have unloading and re-loading of vehicles from 4 am onwards. The many serious accidents which have already occurred at the junction of Start Hill and the fact that there is a 14th century coaching house opposite the site which could be subjected to damage were also noted.

The UDC Planning Officer had recommended that the Planning Committee allow the application. After all parties had spoken (the applicant included as well as experts), the Committee debated whether to allow the logistics centre to be given the green light. The upshot of the meeting and debate was that the application was refused

unanimously by the Planning Committee. For anyone wanting to look at the reasons for refusal, they can be found on the planning portal under UTT/22/0267/FUL.

The villagers present were all delighted, of course, but very much aware that the applicant, FKY Ltd (with Wren Kitchens being the operator), had six months to appeal.

New Application Submitted

On Thursday, 13th April, 2023, a notice appeared in the Dunmow Broadcast to say that FKY Ltd was making a new application under provision S62a directly to the Planning Inspectorate. This application has now been validated under Application number S62A/2023/0017.

We understand that objections submitted to UDC against the original application will not be forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate and we all need to lodge our objections once again. These must reach the Planning Inspectorate no later than 26th May, 2023.

Full details of the application may be found at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/section-62a-planning-application-s62a20230017-land-at-tilekiln-green-stansted-great-hallingbury> or you can following the link [Bit.ly/3osGwZK](https://bit.ly/3osGwZK)

The GHNA has met and prepared some guidance notes on how to object and the reasonable grounds for so doing which have been distributed around the Village. Most importantly, please don't forget the deadline for objections is 26th May.

It will be a sad day for Great Hallingbury if this application succeeds so please, do send your objections before 26th May.

*Val Waring, Secretary
Great Hallingbury Neighbours' Association*

**What do you call
a magician who lost
their magic?**

lan

**What has four fingers
and a thumb,
but isn't alive?**

A glove




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Highlights from the Minutes of Meeting of Great Hallingbury Parish Council

Monday 6 March 2023

Present: Cllr A Townsend (Chairman), Cllrs D Barlow, M Bloomfield, N Jackson, K Juggurnauth and A Pinnock, Mrs U Sydee (Clerk), District Cllr G Driscoll and four members of the public

Telephone Box

The windows on the old telephone box need to be repaired.

Traffic

A resident queried the reason for the diversion of traffic through the village and was advised it is due to the motorway works.

Village Emergency Plan

It was noted that this needs updating.

Paths and Highways

It was noted that pathways from Thremhall Priory to the Audi garage need clearing. The M11 junction is badly littered and temporary signs left lying about which is a matter for Highways England.

Neighbourhood Watch

Additional signs were requested along the Dunmow Road

Memorials

The Village Hall Committee wishes to place a memorial bench or plant a tree on the Village Hall field. The Council has no objections in principle and Cllr A Pinnock will report more details at the next meeting for final approval.

Chairman's Communications

Cllr A Townsend reported:

- Met with County Cllr Susan Barker and a specialist on site near Captains to discuss the flooding on that section of the road. It was agreed that Essex Highways would visit

- Attended and chaired UALC meeting
- Visited site re planning application UTT/22/0267/FUL with District Cllr G Driscoll
- Attended EALC Executive Committee meetings
- Met the new UALC secretary
- Zoom meetings with clerk
- Checked defibrillator weekly

Uttlesford District Council

Cllr G Driscoll reported:

- The Budget was accepted and no services will be reduced.
- All monies received from increased grants will be put in fund towards higher cost of living grants for those not getting benefits and therefore not eligible for other help.
- Elections - ID needed

Airport

Cllr K Juggurnauth advised that the Sound Insulation Grant Scheme had been published.

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 as previously detailed // Awaiting decision (No objections but improved access probably needed)

UTT/22/0267/FUL // Land at Tilekiln Green, Start Hill. Creation of an open logistics facility with associated new access and ancillary office with amenity facilities // Refused

UTT/22/2829/OP // 10 Start Hill, Stane Street. Outline application with all matters reserved except access for the erection of two dwellings with new access // Awaiting decision (Objections: It is overbearing and not in keeping with host property next door.)

UTT/22/3096/FUL // 1 and 2 Greenways,

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Woodside Green. Demolition of two existing dwellings and proposed construction of one replacement dwelling and cartlodge - amendments to that approved under UTT/20/2753/FUL // Approved (No objection but must plant native species to act as screening for curtilage to the southern aspect. Concerns were raised about additional contractors' traffic during demolition and re-erection, the mud on the road and erosion of the road due to heavy vehicles.)

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 it must only be used as a gym and not later turned into a dwelling)

UTT/22/3184/FUL // Land Southeast of Great Hallingbury Manor, Tilekiln Green. Application to vary condition (approved plans) of planning application UTT/20/0336/DFO (added by UTT/22/1567/NMA)

// Withdrawn (No objections.)

UTT/22/2813/FUL // Hockerill Sports Club, Beldams Lane. Replacing container used for changing with a 10 x 5m timber building with 2 changing rooms and store room // Approved (No objections.)

UTT/22/3332/FUL // Latchings, Latchmore Bank, Little Hallingbury. Conversion of residential outbuilding to self-contained dwelling, with associated curtilage, car parking and landscaping // Awaiting decision (Objections: over development of the plot with insufficient amenity space for family use. The 'track' is an unadopted road therefore no services will be able to access the site.)

UTT/22/3472/HHF//Shoemakers, Woodside Green. Proposed two storey side extension and internal alterations // Refused (No objections.)

UTT/22/3495/FUL // Great Jenkins, Jenkins Lane. Change of use of existing stables to one dwelling // Awaiting decision (Objections: it is a change of use from stable to dwelling. It should remain a stable.)

Applications Dealt with at Meeting:

UTT/23/0138/FUL // The Hay Patch, Woodside Green. Application to make temporary stables/shelters permanent (No objections if it remains as stables and is not developed as a dwelling.

UTT/22/3322/FUL and UTT/22/3323/LB// Lodge Farm, Woodside Green. Change of use and conversion of barns and agricultural buildings to four dwellings (Objections: it is a historic building and should remain as such. The village should not lose another historic building.)

Late Planning Matters

UTT/23/0404/FUL // Land North of The Gatehouse, The Street. Proposed detached house, garage/store and related works including upgraded access (Objections: it is part of historic landscape of Hallingbury Place. It is a green field site and therefore should not be developed.)

UTT/23/0337/HHF // 2 Howe Green Moat Barns, Howe Green. Proposed loft conversion within the current garage for additional study space, new proposed side door and side window and the replacement of a garage door (No objections.)

Dog Control Signs

Cllr M Bloomfield requested a sign *dogs must be kept on the lead* and a dog waste bin be installed at Bedlars Green. The Clerk was instructed to write to UDC so requesting.

Trees

Cllr D Barlow noted that some trees around the Bedlars Green Pond need work done.

Did you hear about the actor who fell through the floorboards?

He was just going through a stage.

RISE Performing Arts

A new group is starting in Great Hallingbury Village Hall and here they tell us something about themselves.



HOW DID RISE PERFORMING ARTS COME ABOUT?

Two people met 7 years ago through work, worked closely together and shared the same dream for their future. The only natural thing to happen next: Start their own School. RISE Performing Arts School is that dream.

WHO ARE WE?

Sam trained at Masters Performing Arts School, graduating with a Diploma in Dance and Musical Theatre. This led to her working in the industry for several years doing jobs such as Music Videos, TV Commercials and a professional dancer in the London 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony. Since then, Sam has put her time into teaching which she's done for the past 14 years.



Matt graduated from East 15 drama school. After leaving, he went straight into teaching which he's been doing for 8 years. While teaching, he had an opportunity to write and direct a performance which

was taken to The Fringe in Edinburgh and was a great success, gaining high praise from critics.

He has also worked in TV behind the scenes on shows such as *Jimmy Carr's, I Literally Just Told You* and *Mo Gilligans Late Late Show*. Along with this he has experience as a videographer working for Capital One DJ's, social media influencers and businesses across Essex and London.

Both Sam and Matt have a passion for teaching and for giving their students the kick start

they need to get into the industry if they so wish or allowing the students to express themselves in a hobby that they enjoy.

ANOTHER PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL? - NO!

Performing Arts is a great way for children to be physically active, learn social skills, meet new people, gain confidence and keep their minds active. Children should be given the opportunity to be in a world where their potential and well-being is of high importance when taking part in their chosen hobby.

We pride ourselves on our students being the face of our school. Each student who joins our school is not just another number; we prioritise the individual and their own personal growth.

Passion is the foundation of our school not growing it quickly. We would never expand if it would be detrimental to our current student base. As our students grow and discover new skills, talents and confidence, we will grow with them. There is no sense in rushing things but the possibilities are endless and everyone that comes through our door is automatically part of the RISE family.

WHAT DO RISE DO?

Musical Theatre, Drama and Dance, oh my!
MUSICAL THEATRE

RISE Performing Arts aims to create performers who are experienced in acting, singing and dancing: the three core elements to any Musical Theatre piece. Talking from personal experience, there is no bigger thrill than performing a Musical Theatre number on stage. And who would we be to deny that feeling to our performers.

DANCE

Dance is an art form that allows a person to express themselves through movement. Not only does it help keep you fit and strong but it's a fun



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activity to do with your peers. At RISE we believe that dance can give a person the opportunity to build their confidence and mental and physical strength. This a key focus we have and will implement in our classes.

DRAMA

Humans have told stories since the dawn of time and one of the ways we have done this is through the dramatic arts. We entertain by putting on someone else's skin and taking our audience on a journey. Here at RISE, we believe that drama can allow our students to build confidence and develop key social skills they'll use throughout their life, not just on stage but also in the outside world. Students will learn improvisational skills, script work and various techniques to make them the best possible performer they can be.



ACTING TO CAMERA/FILMING

Performing to camera is vastly different to performing on stage. Unlike many, RISE will offer many opportunities for their students to hone their skills in front of a camera. RISE Performing Arts understands that the majority of today's performers not only need stage presence but they need to be comfortable in front of a camera as well. This is not only beneficial for someone who wants to enter the industry but it will be a great form of confidence boosting in day to day lives. We love bringing our students out of their shells and we believe we have reached a great milestone when they feel confident in front of a camera, as it can be daunting. Our students will learn the nuances of acting on stage and on screen, along with how a set works and the process from start to finish.

IS IT AFFORDABLE?

Money is not why we started RISE. We both share a passion for teaching and performing

arts so we wanted to make sure our prices were great value for money. By being in the teaching game for many years we've learned a lot along the way, which is why we decided to not only offer upfront payments but also half termly instalments to assist everyone.

The first class is FREE. Prices, based on a 12 week term, are £175 (£161 with a free taster). Sibling discounts and payment instalments are available.

HOW CAN YOU FIND US?

We found the perfect hall, Great Hallingbury Village Hall. We loved it as soon as we saw it. It's the perfect size to suit our needs and the area is lovely.

We want, too, to contribute to this welcoming community, be that via performances at local events, charity work for local causes or just putting smiles on people's faces when our students smash a performance.

WHATS OUR GOAL?

Here is a short list of what we would like to achieve in our first year as a school:

- A bustling and busy school where everyone treats each other like a second family.
- High quality performances to show off what our students can do plus entertain the community.
- Our students to gain extensive knowledge of all aspects of the arts.
- Developing our students' technique and skillset one step at a time.
- Pushing our students to reach new heights and have a clear path of progression from day one to the end of the year.

Our main goal is to make sure that all our students have fun, feel safe and make new friendships which will last a lifetime. If that happens, all the work we've put into RISE Performing Arts would have been worth it.

Classes for children aged 7years+ run every Monday 4.30 pm - 7.30 pm at Great Hallingbury Village Hall.

Parish Council Chairman



By the time you read this, King Charles III will have been crowned, we will all have had an extra day's holiday and the local council elections will have taken place.

We were not required to have an election for Great Hallingbury Parish Council as there was only the number of candidates for the positions available. Two councillors did not stand this time and I wish Julie Baldwin and Kaylash Juggurnauth all the best for the future and thank them for their contribution to the Parish Council and their hard work for the Village. Hopefully, when the time is right, they may once again take up the mantle of being a Parish Councillor. Making up the numbers were two new candidates, Andrew Smith and Mark Coletta, and I welcome both to Great Hallingbury Parish Council and look forward to working alongside them.

As you may have read previously, the Neighbours' Association and Parish Council succeeded in getting the Wren Kitchens planning application refused. This was in February. However, our victory may be short lived as Wren has put in another application but this time direct to the Planning Inspectorate, by-passing Uttlesford Planning Department. We will once again be fighting this and Val Waring and the Neighbours' Association have leapt into action. We do not yet know when it will be heard but, hopefully, everybody's objections to the application will make them see sense and refuse it.

On a happier note, we had a litter pick in March, again organised by Mark and Joanna Bloomfield. It was really lovely to see so many people turn out on such a wet Sunday. The downside once again was just how much rubbish was collected. You may have seen the pile of pink bags outside the Village Hall which were promptly collected

the next day by UDC.

Three months on since my meeting with County Cllr Susan Barker and her Highways buddy and still nothing has been done about the flooding outside Captains. Now the road is now starting to break up. May I point out that it is everybody's responsibility to report pot holes to Essex Highways, as more and more are appearing, especially it seems around drain covers.

I would like to thank all the local societies that came along to the Annual Parish Meeting to tell us about their activities and then stayed to partake of cheese and wine while having a chance to chat with everybody. It was so nice to all be together again.

The Government has announced that migrants will no longer be housed in hotels but instead use ex-military sites. Hopefully we will be able to use Great Hallingbury Manor again in the near future.

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, Urška, our Clerk, for making everything run smoothly.

Alan Townsend.



Photographer's Choice - David Barlow

Turnstone - I love watching Turnstones rootling about for their food on beaches. This one in St Ives, Cornwall, had flown up onto a building, giving a different perspective



Clouds - over the Forest on a sunny and cloudy day

Harebell - these beautiful flowers appear in July in chalky grassland. This one is in the old rabbit warren area by Hatfield Forest Lake. Also known as *Witches Thimbles*, *Fairy Bells* or *Devils Bells*.



Lobster Fisherman - up early, about 6 am, on holiday in Cornwall (Port Gauvergne), walking the dogs and my new granddaughter in her pushchair. The sea was dead calm with beautiful light. The lobster fisherman was out checking his pots.

Grey Lag Goose - always present on Beggars Hall Lake during the Spring, through until Autumn. There were at least five breeding pairs in 2022 and between them they raised 25 goslings which survived to adulthood. This was a good year for them! The first goslings (5) that I saw this year were born about 15th April.



Stump Puffballs - there are many types of puffball. Stump puffballs grow mostly on decaying wood. However, this group is growing on an old stem of Travellers Joy (Wild Clematis) which is growing through an old hawthorn tree in Hatfield Forest. I just like the white against the stripes of the stem.



Silver Birches in Snow - when snow falls I'm always drawn to the Silver Birches in the new quarter of the Forest. I love the black parts of the bark against the snow.

Tawny Owl - this tawny owl is in an old Ash tree in Hatfield Forest, the photo taken in late December. One assumes that owls are always successful in rearing their young but a few years ago this owl lost its owlets (3) to a flock of marauding jays and jackdaws who are always trying to oust the owl from its nest!



Eye Tree
- a Silver Birch tree in the Forest. It's watching me!



Stormy Sea in Cornwall - a ferocious sea in April. Even most of the surfers had given up and were sat on the beach watching the show



**We have some fine photographers in the village.
Why not send me your favourites amongst the photographs you have taken.**

Bridge on Sundays Club

Annual Parish Report 2023

The *Bridge on Sundays Club* was established more than 25 years ago by Bob and Diane Parker who live in Little Hallingbury and it was held in Little Hallingbury Village Hall. Even before covid, Bob had been hoping to find someone to take over the club so that, after the enforced break during lockdowns, he was reluctant to restart.

I'm a new bridge player, having started to learn about five years ago. I had always enjoyed the evenings in Little Hallingbury and hoped that we could restart the club so I agreed to do just that but move the meetings to Great Hallingbury Village Hall.

The *Bridge on Sundays Club* meets twice a month on a Sunday evening to play bridge. We usually play what is called duplicate bridge in which each table plays the same dealt cards in turn. The range of playing skills is very broad, from people who have only been playing a year or two to some skilled players who have played for a couple of decades or more, but we all play each other. One key facet is that we welcome players who do not have a partner. Bob Parker is the host and he will play with someone who arrives on their own or we pair people on the evening. We manage things so that everyone who comes will be able to play.

The evenings are relaxed and enjoyable, with a break for coffee and biscuits, and the players find our hall - and its heating - attractive. We regularly have six tables (24 people) playing and sometimes more which is better than many of the other local clubs around.

So, if you play bridge or would like to start again, please contact me and you will be very welcome.



Christine Coultrup
Organiser

Wanda's Dishwasher Stopped Working

So She Called in a Repairman

Since she had to go to work the next day, she told the repairmen, 'I'll leave the key under the mat. Fix the dishwasher, leave the bill on the table and I'll send you a cheque.'



'Oh, by the way, don't worry about my dog, Spike. He won't bother you. But whatever you do, do NOT, under ANY circumstances, talk to my parrot!

'I must stress to you: DO NOT TALK to my parrot!!!'

When the repairman arrived at Wanda's house the following day, he discovered the biggest, meanest looking dog he had ever seen. But, just as she had said, the dog just lay there on the carpet watching the repairman go about his work.

The parrot, however, drove him mad with his incessant shouting, cursing and name calling.

Finally the repairman couldn't contain himself any longer and yelled, 'Shut up you stupid, ugly bird!'



To which the parrot replied, 'Get him Spike!'

See - some people just don't listen!

What always ends
everything?

The letter g

Annual Parish Meeting 2023

Each year there is a Parish Meeting which is open to all residents when the Chairman of the Parish Council reports on its work and representatives from village organisations present information on their activities. Here are highlights from the Chairman's Report and you will find other reports elsewhere in this magazine.



Chairman's Report

Our eight Parish Councillors work as one body for the good of our village and all councillors are also part of working groups such as Planning, Housing, Neighbourhood Watch and Airport and are representatives on Road Safety, Footpaths and Health matters. I also represent us on the Uttlesford Association of Local Councils (which I currently chair) and sit on the Executive Committee of the Essex ALC. The Parish Council holds six meetings each year when we review information gathered and comment on proposals and Local Government issues within our District and County.

Finance

The precept for the Parish portion of your council tax will not be raised in 2023/24, following careful consideration of our budget. The Parish Council continues to support the Village Hall, having taken over the maintenance of the hall field, and *Great Hallingbury Highlights* along with Stansted Airport Watch, Essex Air Ambulance, Uttlesford Community Travel and Accuro.

Planning

The Parish Council has considered and commented on 47 planning applications over this past year, yet again an increase on the previous year. Whilst in general we have had little reason to object to the proposals, relevant comments are made where necessary, whether in opposing the application or in support of it, for the good

of the surrounding area. However, we do stress that new builds must connect to the mains drainage.

The Parish Council opposed the application from Wren Kitchens for a distribution depot at the top of Tile Kiln Green and attended the UDC Planning Meeting to give evidence, along with our District Councillors and members of our Neighbours' Association. We won that day but must be aware that Wren still has the right to appeal.

UDC's Local Plan has still not been finalised and has been pushed back until October.

Highways

We continue to report pot holes and other road defects.

As always the big concern is speeding through the Village, and the lack of any enforcement. Sadly Essex County Council has withdrawn funding for the Highway Rangers so we are glad they managed to carry out work on the footpath before they were disbanded. We have worked with County Cllr Susan Barker to resolve the flooding problems by the bridge at Captains.



Bedlars Green

Work is still ongoing to restore the area around Bedlars Green.

Trees

The Parish Council has planted five Hornbeams in the Village and there are three Flowering Cherry Trees at The Grove put in by Uttlesford

Neighbours' Association

I am very pleased that we now have a Neighbours' Association which has been working so hard on the Wren Kitchen application. My thanks to all involved.

Thanks and Acknowledgements

Our thanks to Mark and Joanne Bloomfield for organising litter picks in October and March this year as well as to everybody who comes along to help.

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Thanks to Christine Coultrup for continuing to produce *Great Hallingbury Highlights*. This excellent free magazine goes to every house in the Village through Christine's army of distributors. Please do read this when it arrives as it is all about our Village.

A big thank you to Lee Cox and his team who look after and keep the Village Hall running smoothly.

Finally, my thanks to all my fellow Councillors and to so many villagers for their continued support during the past year and special thanks to Urška, our Clerk, who works so well to lighten the Chairman's load.

*Alan Townsend
Chairman*

Great Hallingbury Parish Council

Great Hallingbury Litter Pick



Yet another successful litter pick! We certainly did fill the area in front of the Village Hall.

A good turn out of support from our regular residents and some new residents too.

Thank you to our lovely ladies who supplied everyone afterwards with hot drinks and cake which was much appreciated by all.

Hope to see you all again in the autumn for our October litter pick.

**One for the diary
Sunday, 22nd October**

Best wishes to you all

Mark and Jo

Dead Duck

A woman brought a very limp duck into a veterinary surgeon. As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest.

After a moment or two, the vet shook his head sadly and said, "I'm so sorry, your duck, Cuddles, has passed away."



The distressed owner wailed, "Are you sure"? "Yes, I am sure. The duck is dead," he replied.

"How can you be so sure"? she protested. "I mean, you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something."

The vet rolled his eyes, turned around and left the room, and returned a few moments later with a black Labrador retriever. As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table, and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head.



The vet patted the dog, took it out, and returned a few moments later with a cat. The cat jumped up on the table and also sniffed delicately at the bird from head to foot. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly and strolled out of the room.

The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100 per cent certifiably, a dead duck."

Then the vet turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill, which he handed to the woman. The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "£1,020!" she cried. "£1,020 just to tell me my duck is dead"?

The vet shrugged. "I'm sorry. If you'd taken my word for it, the bill would have been £20, the additional £1000 is for the lab report and the cat scan.

Are you missing out?

No Gas Supply?

Are you off-grid? Homes not connected to the gas grid may be eligible for a £200 Alternative Fuels Payment. If you have an electricity supplier, check your bank or energy account to see if you received the payment in February. If you're on a prepayment meter, vouchers should have been sent by text, email or post. If you don't have an electricity supplier or have not received the payment, you can apply now. **But don't delay!** Applications close on 31st May. Access <https://www.gov.uk/apply-alternative-fuel-bill-support-if-not-automatic>

citizens
advice

Low-cost broadband

Discounted *Social Tariffs* packages are available for households on Universal Credit or other types of financial support. These offer superfast speeds for as little as £12 a month. For more information go to <https://www.uswitch.com/broadband/guides/broadband-deals-for-low-income-families/>

Healthy start vouchers

Missing out on vouchers for milk, vitamins and healthy food? These may be available to you if you are on a low income and are pregnant or have a child under the age of 4. Speak to your midwife or health visitor or go to <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>

Discounted Travel

If you've been claiming some income-related benefits for three months, you may be entitled to a Jobcentre Plus Travel Discount Card which can cut the cost of rail and bus fares by up to 50%. Ask at your local Jobcentre Plus.

Warm Homes Team

Help with energy costs or grants to reduce the amount of energy you use are available if you are struggling to pay your bills. More information at 01799 618858 or warmhomes@uttlesfordca.org.uk

Uttlesford Citizens Advice
Barnards Yard, Saffron Walden CB11 4EB
01799 618840 help@uttlesfordca.org.uk www.uttlesfordca.org.uk

Great Hallingbury W.I.



Ex-Pat Experiences

For our first meeting of 2023 in the Village Hall in February we welcomed Anne Small who had entertained us last year with her talk as an Ex-pat wife. Her *Return to Reality* talk was also interesting. She told us of her continued work for charity and learning to live in a small house in Old Harlow with three sons and no help! She displayed pictures of her winning photos and we heard about her wins in television competitions.



Our competition for a painted stone was won by Rosemary. A very enjoyable meeting.

Easter Themes

The March meeting was very well attended as members were anticipating another interesting hands-on experience with a demonstration by Rosemary. Easter biscuits were the theme and we thoroughly enjoyed decorating the biscuits with cut out shapes and balls of icing.



The competition for an Easter bonnet was won by Lesley. Another fun evening with new experiences for some of us!

And to Come

There is a full programme for the year ahead with our Annual Meeting in May. June is our Open Meeting and we will be welcoming Lindsay Whitehouse whose talk is entitled *My Life in Prison*.

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

Gill Sewell, Secretary

The Physiotherapist

JULIE HERBERT MCSP BSc (Hons) MAACP

Associate NATALIE HILLIARD MCSP BSc (Hons).

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District News

Cllrs Geof Driscoll and Neil Reeve

Neil and I would like to take this opportunity to say how much we have enjoyed being your District Councillors over the last four years and are looking forward to continuing that honour after the upcoming elections, should we be lucky enough to be re-elected. The duties of a District Councillor are many and varied, some dull and some exciting, but all to support you, the residents. A task we hope we have managed to do.



New-look council website

The site, which was launched at the end of March, has a new homepage using a crisp, bright, eye-catching and simple design to make it much easier to use and more customer focused. Other improvements include new feature panels to publicise projects, drop down navigation lists giving visitors an alternative and quicker method to find information and a districtwide silhouette skyline added to footer. UDC has also made some changes to the way the site works to make it more accessible to all users and to improve security. <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk>

Emergency Alerts on your phone

The government is rolling out a new Emergency Alerts system and a test alert was sent on 23rd April, 2023. The alerts will be used to let you know about emergency situations (like severe flooding) through your mobile phone. The alert will be accompanied by a loud sound, even if your phone is on silent.

If you are living with an abuser, the alert could put you at risk because it might let your abuser know you have another separate or secret phone. If you are worried about the alerts, Refuge has put together two videos on how to turn them off, both on Android phones and on iPhones.

If you're afraid of your partner, the helpline team is here to support you. You can call them free 24 hours a day on 0808 2000 247 or live chat with them Monday-Friday, 3-10pm, by going to nationaldahelpline.org.uk.

Be Fraud Smart

Planning to book a holiday or maybe a short break away, remember to do your research. If something looks too good to be true it probably is. Stay scam savvy by reading online reviews from reputable sources before making any bookings. You can also confirm if an accommodation really exists by verifying the address through web searches and online maps. Always check that a travel company is a member of a trade body e.g., ATOL

For more fraud prevention advice, please visit our website and you can find help and advice at <https://www.essex.police.uk/police-forces/essex-police/areas/essex-police/au/about-us/help-us-help-you/> For advice on steps you can take to help secure your belongings, protect yourself and prevent yourself from becoming a victim of crime, visit www.essex.police.uk/cp

Can't pay your Council Tax

If you are having any difficulty in paying your Council Tax don't just stop paying! If you can make any payment at all, pay as much as you can, even if it's not the full instalment amount. Get in touch with the Council Tax team immediately for advice. They will guide you through what might happen next and will always try to make an affordable payment plan to prevent you from falling behind into even more arrears. Our team can discuss your circumstances to see if you may be entitled to claim a Council Tax discount, exemption or reduction. If you're on a low income you may qualify for Local Council Tax Support (LCTS) which is administered by our benefits team.

Exceptional Hardship Fund (EHF)

This fund has been set up to support our most vulnerable customers who have seen a

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reduction in the Government support which helped to pay their Council Tax Liability or for those who are suffering financial hardship due to unforeseen circumstances. These support payments are set up to provide short term relief and therefore should not be seen as a long-term solution to debt problems. Applicants will need to ensure they have taken all reasonable steps to resolve their own situation prior to application. You may already qualify for certain benefits and useful information may be found on the UDC website for Debt management advice, Housing Benefits or the Local Council Tax Scheme (LCTS)

Ward surgeries

Should Neil and I remain as your Ward Councillors after the May election, the surgeries will continue in the same pattern:

- First Tuesday of each month at Great Hallingbury Village Hall 2 - 4pm
- Third Friday of each month at the Dukes Head PH, Hatfield Broad Oak 2 - 4PM.

All are welcome and appointments are not necessary.

Meanwhile, should you need to contact us, you can email us on the following addresses.

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



Middle of the Night

A man and his wife are awakened at three o'clock in the morning by a loud pounding on the door. The man gets up and goes to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, is asking for a push.



'Not a chance,' says the husband. 'It's three o'clock in the morning! He slams the door and returns to bed.'

'Who was that?' asked his wife.

'Just some drunk guy asking for a push,' he answers.

'Did you help him?' she asks.

'No. I did not. It's three o'clock in the morning and it's pouring out there!'

'Well, you have a short memory,' says his wife. 'Can't you remember, about three months ago, when we broke down and those two guys helped us? I think you should help him and you should be ashamed of yourself!'

The man does as he is told, gets dressed and goes out into the pounding rain.

He calls out into the dark, 'Hello, are you still there?'

'Yes,' comes back the answer.

'Do you still need a pursh?', calls out the husband.

'Yes please!', comes the reply from the dark.

'Where are you?' asks the husband.

'Over here on the swing!', replies the drunk.

What gets bigger the more you take away?

A hole

Book Corner



Book Corner

The Reading List

by Sara Nisha Adams

Mukesh Patel is a lonely widower who leads a quiet life in the London Borough of Ealing after losing his beloved wife, Naina. Mukesh, unlike his late wife, has never been a reader but when he finds a library book, *The Time Traveller's Wife*, he decides to read it before returning it to the library. He connects with this epic love-story so much that he goes to the small local library to find more stories.

The first person he meets is Aleisha who, when Mukesh asks for some guidance in choosing books, is unhelpful and just suggests that he browse the shelves himself. A little later, one of the regular users of the library returns a book, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and says that *It's a classic - a book everyone should read*. As she shakes it to remove any odd bits of paper, a list of books falls out with the heading *Just in case you need it*.

The next day, Aleisha overhears a conversation one of the librarians is having with someone, and soon realises that it was the old man who had asked for help. By now, she is regretting her behaviour and makes a decision to try and coax him back to the library. Her ploy succeeds and a friendship develops between the two of them that begins with their discussions of the books on the list. Both have issues in their home lives which these books help them to overcome.

The List! *The Time Traveller's Wife* - *To Kill A Mockingbird* - *Rebecca* - *The Kite Runner* - *Life Of Pi* - *Pride And Prejudice* - *Little Women* - *Beloved* - *A Suitable Boy*



If you have read all or even just some of these books, it will help you understand and appreciate the problems faced by Mukesh and Aleisha. Perhaps you have some favourite books that you think everyone should read?

The Underground Railway

by Colson Whitehead

I wake up every morning in a house that was built by slaves, stated Michelle Obama at the 2016 Democratic Convention. Her words seemed to come as a surprise to many - those who had either forgotten or had never known that black hands, enslaved by white masters, had built The White House.

The Underground Railway was not, in fact, underground and it wasn't an actual train! It was a network of people, both white and black, who worked together from the late 1700's to help runaways from slave-holding states to travel to states in the North and to Canada where slavery was illegal.

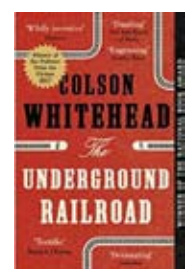
In this book, however, the author decided to make it a real train on wheels, running hundreds of miles underground with stations and *stationmasters*. Whether this adds more drama and excitement to the story is for you to decide!

Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia where conditions are especially rough. We see through Cora's eyes what it meant to be a slave in 19th century America: a chattel to be bought, sold or abused on a whim, worked to death literally and, in the event of a failed escape attempt, tortured and murdered as an *example* to others.

Cora, however, is a young woman of considerable courage so when Caesar, a slave recently arrived on the plantation, tells her about the free North where he once lived and the way out of the nightmare of plantation life - on the Underground Railway - she agrees to run away with him.

If you want to know whether they succeed, you will have to read all 366 pages of the book! (Paperback)

Jan Baldwin



THE
FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF

EASTON LODGE

June is a lovely month at the Gardens and there is an ever changing cast list of flowers to look forward to. The roses are in their full first flush, bringing colour to many corners of the Italian and walled kitchen gardens; the waterlilies are in flower; the last wave of blossom is on the trees - the robinia and the Indian horse chestnut; and the shrubs and climbers are also bringing colour, including the periploca, a remnant from the Peto treillage pergola. If you are lucky you might see the splendid vulgarity of the voodoo lily (or be unlucky and smell the rotting flesh scent it puts out for a day!).

Foxgloves and poppies dot the Gardens and other wild flowers we look out for are the common spotted orchids in the Glade, grass



vetchling, which we sometimes have, and bee orchids. The bee orchids never seem to be in same place twice but we think we have seen some coming. The bees, butterflies and damsel flies will be flitting around, hopefully enjoying warm June sunshine!

So it is a good month to visit the Gardens for our **Nature Day** on Sunday 18 June or on an Open Thursday (except June 22 when the Gardens will be closed for our AGM). On our **Nature Day** we will have bug hunts, a wildflower walk, fairy stories and a trail for children. We will be joined by the Essex Bat Group, Essex Wildlife Trust and the RSPB. There will be a plant stall and craft sellers and *Woodwind of Stortford* will play some lovely summer music too. Children also love the treehouse and get free entry; dogs are welcome on leads and refreshments are available.

continued at foot of next column

Little Hallingbury Cricket Club

Summer Season Ahead



The colts under 13 and under 11 teams have finished their matches in the indoor league at HECC. The under 13s finished off with a fine win over Bishop's Stortford with Danny Hunt and Leo Clayton starring with the bat.

We have been practising in the Leventhorpe Sports Hall with five lanes being used by young and older colts, together with a few senior players. The nets have been well attended with up to 25 cricketers taking part.

Our practice evenings start on Wednesday, 10th May, at Gaston Green with a 6 pm start. All boys and girls are welcome to come along and enjoy the facilities and coaching.

We will be running the popular *Allstars Cricket* again this summer for 5 to 8 year olds. This will be for 8 weeks starting Wednesday, 7th June, 5 to 6 pm. Please register online if you are interested.

We are also arranging a trip for the colts to the Essex against Glamorgan Vitality Blast 20 over match at Chelmsford on 16th June, with the colts getting free tickets thanks to a Jack Petchey grant.

Our under 11 team has been entered in the West Essex competition and the under 14s will be playing in the West Essex cup.

Looks as if we are in for a busy summer. All we need is some sunshine.

Keith Behagg

continued from previous column

For more information go to the Trust's website: www.eastonlodge.co.uk
 Open Thursdays, 11.00-3.00, last entry 2.00.
 £5 on the Gate. 18 June Open Day 11.00-5.00, last entry 4.00. £6.50 on the Gate or £5.50 if bought in advance via the Trust's website or through www.Trybooking.com.

Jill Goldsmith

Essex County Council

Cllr Susan Barker

Great Hallingbury Annual Parish Meeting



Essex County Council spends around £2m a day on Adult Social care, £1.48 million on Schools, £447,000 on Children's Services, £301,000 on Child Care, £262,000 on Environmental and Waste issues, £202,000 on Highways, £142,000 on Home to School transport and Concessionary Fares and £40,000 a day on Libraries as well as countless other services such as Trading Standards, Registration and Coroner's services.

To maintain these services we have raised the Council Tax this year by 1.5% and the Social Care precept by 2%. A total of 3.5% rather than the maximum of 5% that most Councils have added. We have managed to find some extra money for Highways - £9m from our own resources and an extra £5.455m has just been awarded by Central Government. With the improving weather you will see more work on the roads but please, do report potholes on the online Highways site.

During the year I have managed to attend a number of Parish Meetings and would like to thank your Chairman and Councillors for making me feel so welcome. The issues in the Village that are raised with me are about the speed of traffic, the difficulty of walking with no pavements in places and the flooding. I did see some roadworks in Church Road the other day so I do hope this may finally be sorted out.

Essex has moved to a new booking system for visiting the Recycling sites in Essex. This is a nine month trial and there will be some consultation over the summer so please, do feed back your views. Unfortunately, last week Hertfordshire decided not to allow Essex residents to use their sites. I will be speaking to the relevant officer at Essex to see whether there is some room for negotiation.

I will have some grant money available in the new financial year if any village groups are planning a project.

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

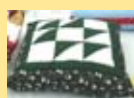
HALLINGBURY FLOWER SHOW

*Sunday, 16th July, 2023
Gaston House*

It's time to prepare your competition entries

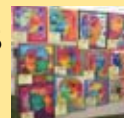


Tend your flowers and vegetables so that they will be at their prime in July



Complete that piece of craft so it is ready for judging

Choose the photographs you will submit



Finish the painting you are going to enter



Get ready to start cooking when you have details of this year's classes

It all helps to make the Flower Show interesting and fun

Schedules and entry forms will soon be available from Little Hallingbury Post Office, Great Hallingbury Village Hall and online at hallingburyflowershow.uk

Don't miss the Tea Tent and Entertainment



***PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE
Lend a hand on the day and
do your bit for this great
Village event***

contact Natasha at n.hale1@aol.co.uk

FULLY OPEN
 from 20th May 2023



Cammas Hall
Fruit Farm • Tea Barn • Farm Shop

Open Tuesday
to Sunday
and August Bank Holiday

A great fun day out for all the family!

- Pick-your-own & freshly ready-picked produce*
- Farm Shop

- Tea Barn - great coffee and homemade food
- Children's Play Area

- Nature Trail
- Maize Maze (August to October)
- Seasonal Events

Strawberries • Gooseberries • Raspberries • Onions • Blackberries • Blackcurrants • Sweetcorn • Cherries
 • Blueberries • Sunflowers • Pumpkins... *when in season*
 & other local produce including honey & jam from the farm

The highest quality fresh produce in beautiful countryside surroundings

*Please pre-book to PYO

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Great Hallingbury History Society *Report to Annual Parish Meeting*



The History Society continues to meet most months with a regular attendance of around 20 which is predicably affected by winter weather and dark nights.

Each time, there is a speaker and topics have included the saving of Audley End House by the Countess of Portsmouth, the wonderful Forge Museum at Much Hadham, which contains an unusual and contemporary painting of Elizabeth I dressed as King Solomon, and the fascinating story of the Uttlesford Hundred, explaining the role of topography in the development of the Uttlesford District.

Judy Simmonds continues to nourish speakers, members and guests with her delicious cakes which provides a relaxed atmosphere for everyone to chat to the speaker and one another.

A trip to Copped Hall in July was a great success. The History Society teamed up with Great Hallingbury WI to ensure sufficient numbers and, indeed, we had to split into two groups to be shown round. The drive and dedication of the volunteers who are working to restore this house to some of its former glory has to be admired! The walled garden was a particular delight as it revealed its splendour in the warm sunshine.



The Tudor Weekend at St Giles' in October provided the History Society with the perfect

setting to encourage new members and a dozen new contacts were added to the mailing list which currently stands at 50. They had two excellent speakers: our own Philip Hays, who explained the role of the Morley family in the history of the Village, and the author Julia Fox who spoke about the Lady Rochford, Anne Boleyn's sister-in-law and daughter of Lord Morley.

Links between Little Hallingbury and Great Hallingbury History Societies have been rekindled, with members from each attending the other's meetings at no additional cost, and an informal lending library amongst members is due to start at Great Hallingbury next month with people bringing along history books that they are willing to share.

Whilst doing preliminary excavations in February, preparatory to building some new houses, the tile kiln for the



eponymous Tile Kiln Green was uncovered alongside Stane Street and Colchester Archaeological Trust, who are doing the excavations, have been invited to share their discoveries with the Society at the start of next year.

Finally, there is a trip planned to Finchingfield Guildhall on 17th May and another to Welford Park in Berkshire on 19th September in recognition of the centenary of the auction of Hallingbury Place. The current owner, James Puxley, is a direct descendant of the Houblon family, the original owners of Hallingbury Place.

Details of the History Society's imminent activities may be found towards the back of this magazine.

*Claire Layer, Secretary
gthallhistory@gmail.com*

St Giles' Nature Reserve

The wet and windy winter is finally over. The weather has been so poor that our activities have been greatly curtailed. However, fingers crossed, Spring finally seems to be with us!

We have had our first mow of the churchyard and the wild flowers have started to put in an appearance. The cowslips behind the church are abundant and we had a great show of snow drops due to the work of the



Cowslips



volunteers in clearing scrub and moving plants around.

And we are looking forward to the Pyramid

orchid count. In our first summer, 2020, we had six. Last summer the number had gone up to an even 100! At this rate the churchyard will be a dazzling display of purple before too long!

On a sadder note, last summer was so hot and dry that butterfly numbers nationally were hard hit. We did notice a drop off in numbers in late summer and will be watching closely to see if numbers recover.

As ever we are always looking for volunteers. If you would like any information, do call me on 07756142890 or pop by on a Saturday morning between 10 am and 1pm.

And why not join us for the Beer Festival in the Churchyard on the afternoon of the 3rd June!

Russell Robinson



Pyramid Orchid

St Giles' Parochial Church Council

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting



During the last year, our Priest in Charge, Rev'd Canon David Herrick, retired. Our new Priest in Charge is Rev'd Dawn Jewson and she is assisted by the Curate, Rev'd Becc Challis, and Caroline Harding, our Licensed Lay Minister.

While we have for some time been a United Benefice with St Mary's, Little Hallingbury, another change is that we are now effectively part of a United Benefice of Six Villages (although this has yet to be finally approved officially), viz St Mary's - Little Hallingbury, Holy Trinity - Hatfield Heath, St John's - Bush End, St Mary's - Sheering and St Mary's - Hatfield Broad Oak.

The clergy are responsible for all six churches and arrange services to the best of their ability. There are usually two services each month in St. Giles'. All services are listed on the website. Just put in *St Giles' Great Hallingbury* and follow the links. It is easy to find information on services, clergy and all of the Six Villages Churches.

St Giles' has undergone a Quinquennial Inspection - a sort of MOT for the building - and a report produced on the matters that need attention. Much focus has been on works relating to the report for which quotes and grants have been sought. Some of the works have been completed but others are dependant on more funds being available.

The Churchyard has also received attention. Gravestones have been checked for safety and where they have fallen the families of the deceased have been contacted where possible.

A tree survey has been carried out and remedial work identified, some of which has been completed.

The Gardening Club will be meeting again on the first Saturday of each month from April.

Freda Townsend

Thoughts from St Giles'

The weather seems to be teasing us as I write this in late April: we see buds and shoots peeping out all around us, but some chilly days remind us that it's still winter. But we can see the signs of hope and look ahead to warmer times.

In January I escaped the cold for a week as I undertook a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, visiting some of the sites in Jerusalem and Galilee where Jesus is known to have lived and ministered. Last time I was there, ten years ago, it snowed heavily in Jerusalem!



However, this time we enjoyed a positively balmy 15 degrees, with Galilee reaching a high of 24 degrees. In the photo you can see me and husband Andrew on the shore



of the Sea of Galilee, on what is thought to be the beach where Jesus, after his resurrection, cooked breakfast for his friends and reinstated his disciple Peter who had previously denied him three times. It's a wonderful place of restoration and renewal

In our churches, we are still in the season of Easter right through to Pentecost on 28th May. We continue to remember Easter morning and that joyful expression of hope brought alive by our belief in Jesus' resurrection, his bursting from the tomb three days after his death.

But if you're not in a place where joy or hope is in abundance right now, we'd love to help. Whenever we have a service (see our pattern of services elsewhere in this magazine) pop into church and someone will be very happy to pray with you if you would like that; alternatively you can request prayer via our website: thesixvillages.org (click on the 6VillageLife tab, then Prayer). And please know that we pray every week for the needs of the world and for our local community, especially for those who long for that sense of restoration and renewal.

With my love,

Dawn

rev.dawn.jewson@gmail.com
Associate Priest of Great and Little

If you have me, you
will want to share me.
If you share me,
you will no longer
have me.
What am I?

A secret



Events in Great Hallingbury

Trip to Welford Park
on Tuesday 19th September 2023



Great Hallingbury History Society has booked a guided visit to the beautiful Welford Park, Berkshire, home of the descendants of the Houblon family, the last owners of Hallingbury Place.

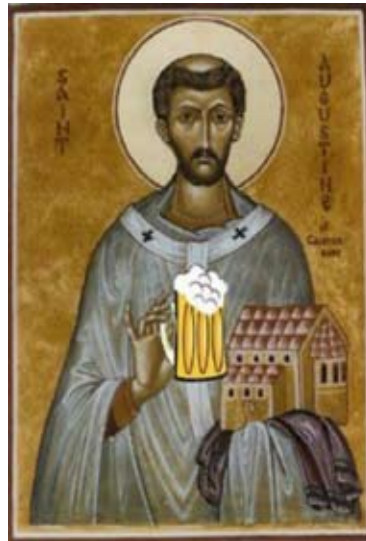
The cost of the trip is £20. There will be a tour of the house and grounds, an area for us to eat our own packed lunches and tea and cake before returning home.

Meet at 9am at "Pantiles" Great Hallingbury for a car share or alternatively drive directly.

To book, contact Claire Layer on 07776936721 or by email at gthallhistory@gmail.com

THE DRINKING AT ST GILES

HALLINGBURY MORLEY EVENTS
RAISING FUNDS FOR THE CHURCHES IN THE HALLINGBURYS



EXHIBITION OF LOCAL ARTISTS
REDOCHURCH BREWERY - PROSECCO - SOFT DRINKS

BEER & PROSECCO

HOT SAUSAGES & CREAM TEAS



ART EXHIBITION

RAFFLE AND TOMBOLA

St Giles Church, Church Road,
Great Hallingbury, Essex CM22 7TZ

Contact Russell on 07756142690 for info



Fund Raising
for St Giles and St Mary's,
the Churches in the Hallingburys

Great Hallingbury History Society



Standing up to the War Office

By Dr Vivien Newman

Wednesday 14th June 2023

Meetings are held in the Village Hall at 8pm

Entrance Fee Including Refreshments:

£3.00 for Members

Membership £10 pa

£5.00 for Non-members

Everyone is welcome, so do join us!



Big Moments of summer fun!

Sign up today at
allstarscricket.co.uk or at the centre

Join us at: Little Hallingbury Cricket Club at Gaston Green CM22 7QR

Session dates: Wednesday June 7th - weekly for 8 weeks

Session timings: 5pm

Contact: Go to - allstarscricket.co.uk - search 'Little Hallingbury Cricket Club' and sign up.
For info contact Nick Thorne - nickthorne59@gmail.com



HALLINGBURY FLOWER SHOW

*Sunday, 16th July, 2023
12 noon to 4 pm*

**Gaston House,
Gaston Green, Little Hallingbury
CM22 7QS**

Competition Classes for your flowers,
produce and crafts
Special children's classes

Schedules and entry forms available shortly from
Little Hallingbury Post Office, Great Hallingbury Village Hall
or online at hallingsburyflowershow.uk

Tea Tent and Entertainment

If you can help on the day, please
contact Natasha at n.hale1@aol.co.uk



22nd-24th September 2023

The Accuro 50
50 mile challenge walk across West Essex

The Accuro 50 will lead you through some of the best walking routes in West Essex with stunning countryside, woods and villages, providing a wonderful backdrop to an unforgettable challenge. Starting at Loughton Tube Station and linking the whole region where Accuro delivers projects, the challenge finishes at the iconic St Mary's Church in Saffron Walden.

There are 3 distance options to choose from over one, two or three days, and accommodation and transfers to the route are available if required. There are sponsorship and self-funding options too!

Any questions?
fundraising@accuro.org.uk
01279 870297

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Scan the QR code to find out more or register for the Accuro 50

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United Benefice Services

June - September 2023

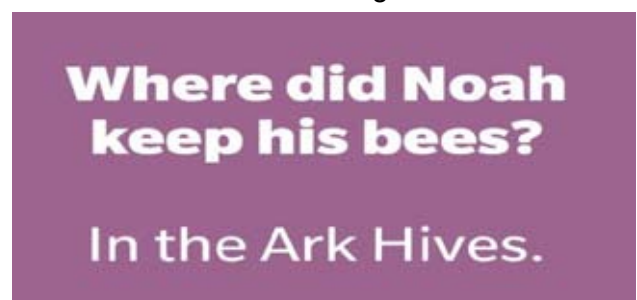
G = St Giles' M = St Mary's

M	Jun 4	10.30am	Morning Worship
G	Jun 11	10.30am	Holy Communion
M	Jun 18	10.30am	Holy Communion
G	Jun 25	10.30am	Morning Worship
M	Jul 2	10.30am	Morning Worship
G	Jul 9	10.30am	Holy Communion
M	Jul 16	10.30am	Holy Communion
G	Jul 23	10.30am	Morning Worship
	Jul 30	10.30am	Joint Six Villages Service - Venue tba
M	Aug 6	10.30am	Morning Worship
G	Aug 13	10.30am	Holy Communion
M	Aug 20	10.30am	Holy Communion
G	Aug 27	10.30am	Morning Worship
M	Sep 3	10.30am	Morning Worship
G	Sep 10	10.30am	Holy Communion
M	Sep 17	10.30am	Holy Communion
G	Sep 24	1030am	Harvest Festival

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.



**Where did Noah
keep his bees?
In the Ark Hives.**

GREAT HALLINGBURY SOCIAL EVENING

SATURDAY 1ST JULY 7PM to 11PM (ish)

at Great Hallingbury Village Hall



The Wren Kitchens saga has recently brought the local community together through the hard work of our Residents Association. There is also the new housing area - Mead Field Drive. So we, as a committee, thought it would be a good idea to hold an informal social evening so we can all get to know each other a little better. Everyone is invited. This is an opportunity for everyone to come along and meet all those people in the village whose faces you may know but who you've never had the opportunity to talk to before.



Bring your own drinks, nibbles and glasses.



Weather permitting, July - hopefully! outdoors will be an option for your children to play - so please bring a blanket etc. Seating and tables will be provided inside the hall. Please contact Lee Cox (Chair Person - Gt. Hallingbury Village Hall) on 07500 805281 for any further information.

Calendar

June 2023

- 3 The Drinking at St Giles' + Art Exhibition 1 - 5 pm
- 5 Little Hallingbury History Society - *Essex Traditional Farm Buildings* - Little Hallingbury Village Hall at 8 pm
- 10 Library Van - Bedlars Green 3 - 3.30 pm
Woodside Green 3.40 - 4.10 pm
- 14 Great Hallingbury History Society - *Standing up to the War Office* - Village Hall 8 pm
- 28 Great Hallingbury WI - Open Meeting - Great Hallingbury Village Hall at 7.30 pm

July 2023

- 1 Library Van - Bedlars Green 3 - 3.30 pm
Woodside Green 3.40 - 4.10 pm
- 1 Great Hallingbury Neighbours Association *Social Evening* - Great Hallingbury Village Hall 7 - 11 pm
- 3 Great Hallingbury Parish Council - Village Hall 8 pm (date to be confirmed)
- 3 Little Hallingbury History Society - *Making it all fit - new archaeology discoveries in Bishop's Stortford* - Little Hallingbury Village Hall at 8 pm
- 16 Hallingbury Flower Show - Gaston House 12 noon to 4 pm
- 22 Library Van - Bedlars Green 3 - 3.30 pm
Woodside Green 3.40 - 4.10 pm
- 26 Great Hallingbury WI - *My Creative Journey* - Great Hallingbury Village Hall at 7.30 pm

August 2023

- 12 Library Van - Bedlars Green 3 - 3.30 pm
Woodside Green 3.40 - 4.10 pm
- 23 Great Hallingbury WI - *Members Day* - Great Hallingbury Village Hall at 7.30 pm

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 (date to be confirmed)
- 4 Little Hallingbury History Society - *Brown Hares - History & Ecology* - Little Hallingbury Village Hall at 8pm
- 13 Great Hallingbury History Society meeting
- 16 Village Hall Quiz Night - Village Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
- 19 Great Hallingbury 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
- 27 Great Hallingbury WI - *Residential Protection Officer, Bodyguard* - Great Hallingbury Village Hall at 7.30pm

Come to the next Parish Council meetings - ask your questions - give your views. See how the Parish Council works for you. (Dates to be confirmed)

Monday, 3rd July **8pm Village Hall**
Monday, 4th September **8pm Village Hall**