

Great Hallingbury Highlights

Summer 2021

Vol. 90

An independent publication giving news on matters affecting Great Hallingbury



Hatfield Forest

Photograph courtesy of David Barlow

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Editorial

It is with relief that we are all moving towards the lifting of restrictions relating to the Covid-19 pandemic; relief and some anxiety that something may happen to set us all back again. We are looking forward to that restaurant meal or drink in a pub or greeting friends or, probably top of many lists, just being with your family again and behaving normally.

If asked, I would never have expected people to accept such curtailment of their freedoms as we have experienced over the last fifteen months. We have certainly lived through an extraordinary period.

As always when we find ourselves in dire circumstances, there have been some silver linings. The generosity of people to others around them, the help given and the care shown; the discovery by many who would not otherwise have done so of new electronic tools which have allowed us to keep in touch with each other - zoom, Microsoft rooms, video communications; reduced commuting and working remotely; improved air quality in places where there has been a traffic reduction and, in Great Hallingbury, less aircraft noise. Not everyone will like or approve of all of these and they will not necessarily continue.

Then, of course, a whole section of the population has carried on working as before with little change.

But we have all suffered from the mask wearing and social distancing - it just doesn't feel right. May our wonderful vaccination programme now save us from all that!

Great Hallingbury's Annual Parish Meeting was held on zoom towards the end of March when the Parish Council Chairman and representatives of clubs and village organisations talked about their activities over the previous two years. The gist of these reports will be found in the pages of this issue of *Great Hallingbury Highlights* and will remind you of all that happens in

our village. Please do join in with these organisations or, if your interests are not covered, start something new. The Village Hall is always a good place to meet.

You will all be aware of house building around the village so our numbers will soon be swelling and that will mean more people to get involved in our village life. Now could be a good time to start or expand an activity group - art class, photographic club, sewing group - the possibilities are myriad, whatever takes your fancy.

We would all like and benefit from an even more vibrant village society.

Editor

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Cammas Hall Farm Wins National Farm Retail Award



Cammas Hall Farm has won PYO of the Year in a national award ceremony which celebrates the very best of the farm retail industry.



Cammas Hall Entrance

Cammas Hall was announced as one of the winners across eight categories in the prestigious awards organized by the Farm Retail Association (FRA). The judges declared that Cammas Hall is *how a pick your own should be, professionally run with the layout of healthy, tidy and clean crops meticulously planned to be as efficient as possible, with a view to coping with future expansion.*

Cammas Hall's owner, Jonathan Lukies, said: *I am overjoyed to receive the FRA award for the best Pick Your Own Farm 2021. It is recognition of a huge amount of hard work and dedication by Cammas Hall's incredible team. A massive thank you to them, to all of our wonderful customers and of course the FRA!*



Jonathan Lukies in the Strawberry Fields

It has been a rollercoaster ride since my grandfather started our PYO in 1966 and in recent years the business has grown considerably with the help of our Tea Barn, Farm Shop and numerous events. We

continue to stick firmly to our ethos of supplying the highest quality local produce whilst providing an enjoyable friendly experience to all of our customers. The last 12 months have brought additional challenges but we are proud to have maintained our standards throughout

Cammas Hall Farm, Needham Green,
Hatfield Broad Oak, CM22 7JT
helen@cammashall.co.uk / 01279 718570
www.cammashall.co.uk

Battle Rewards



A captain had sent some of his men off to fight for their country in the southern Atlantic.

Upon returning to England, three sailors who had distinguished themselves in battle were summoned to the captain's office.

'We wanted to let you know your efforts were appreciated so we have decided to let each of you choose two points on your body. You will be given two pounds sterling for each inch distance between those parts. So, what will it be?'

Sailor 1: 'The tip of my head to my toes, sir.'

Captain: 'Very good. That's 70 inches which comes to £140.'

Sailor 2: 'The tip of the finger on one outstretched hand to the tip of the other, sir.'

Captain: 'Even better. That's 72 inches which comes to £144.'

Sailor 3: 'The palm of my hand to the tip of my left pinky, sir.'

Captain: 'That's a strange but fair request.'

As the captain begins the measurement: 'What! Where is your left pinky?'

Sailor 3: 'South America, sir.'

1st Great Hallingbury Brownies



2021 Annual Parish Meeting Report

2019 was another busy year for the Great Hallingbury Brownies. 2020 was a very different year.

In 2019 the Brownies continued to meet on Monday evenings at the Village Hall, playing games and doing badge work which they really enjoy, especially singing and activity games. They also used the Peachey Room on a regular basis for craft work and quieter activities.

That year the Brownies also played a very active part in village life, taking part in the Annual Remembrance Sunday Service at St. Giles' Church as well as in the Mothering Sunday service when the Brownies sang a song and spoke of their love for their mums.



The Brownies gave a display of maypole and country-dancing at the Hallingbury Flower Show at Gaston Green House in July 2019 and in September that year they organised their own stall at the Harvest Fayre in St. Giles' Church, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

Food often features in Brownie meetings! As part of their Healthy Eating Badge, the Brownies organised a menu for a Healthy Picnic which took place in the Village Hall Field. In April 2019 Alastair Dibbs, a chef and a Brownie parent, taught them how to make their own edible *Brownies*. The smell in the kitchen was delicious. At Christmas they enjoyed making their own

Christmas cake which was served at the *Carols in Candlelight* service. The Brownies were pleased to raise £600 at this service for the Great Ormond Street Hospital - an all-time record for the 1st Great Hallingbury Brownies.

2020 began in a similar way to previous years. The Brownies made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, choosing their own tasty fillings and washing up their own plates. In preparation for a Brownie enrolment, they decorated cup-cakes to be served to their parents. This activity was part of the new Brownie Programme, as was making Valentine Cards for their parents.

In March they started to prepare for the Mothering Day Service but, on the previous Monday, the lockdown was announced so the service was not held. Fortunately, the Brownies had planted violas for their Mothers which they were able to take home. Cards, which they had made for their mothers containing their special thoughts, were posted to them.

During the lockdown Brown Owl has kept in touch with the Brownies through telephone calls, cards and Christmas Gifts. They have been encouraged to keep safe and help others in their family bubbles by doing a good turn every day. Some Brownies have been successfully doing badge work at home.

Alison and Brown Owl have recently completed successfully safeguarding training online.

The Census Subscriptions have been paid to Headquarters for 2021 to enable the pack to continue. We wait to see how future Brownie Meetings may be held because of the pandemic.

May we take this opportunity to thank all those in the village who continue to support the pack, including the members of the Village Hall Committee, and thanks to our families for their ongoing help and support.

*Brown Owl - Heather Hays (01279 651851)
philipandheatherhays@googlemail.com*

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Great Hallingbury Village Hall

Report to Annual Parish Meeting 2021



An unprecedented year for so many reasons fell unfortunately upon this world, bringing with it the aspects of the good, the bad and the ugly.

As a Village Hall, we have, like so many other community venues, businesses and services, experienced our fair share of problems. These have ranged from structural issues that have come to light as well as the obvious loss of revenue. This however falls into insignificance given the plight of other people's situations and the sorrow this virus has sadly brought with it.

The Covid-19 Impact

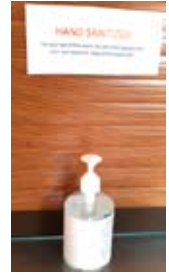
On Monday 23 March, 2020, Great Hallingbury Village Hall was closed for business upon the Government's directives surrounding the national lockdown. The Prime Minister had, on the 16 March, given to the public guidelines surrounding non-essential contact and travel. All our regular clubs were contacted with this information and we cancelled all outside/private bookings for the next four weeks immediately before the national lockdown. This unfortunately remained a permanent decision for outside/private bookings and events for not only the remainder of 2020 but until the present time.

With regards to the Covid-19 virus and the potential safe usage of the hall, we acted quickly in following the strict guidelines surrounding health and safety issues. A



number of necessary measures were put into place including a track and trace *tap in* system, a one-way flow system to maintain social distancing, hand

sanitisation stations and the closure of various parts of the building in order to control people's movements within it. A lot of time and effort was spent making this happen and I thank the committee for their time and input.



Regular Clubs and Hirers

Throughout the last twelve months it was decided to allow our regular clubs and hirers to use the hall only when the government rules allowed us to do so. We were minded that this was an ever-changing landscape. This decision was made once consultation and agreement with our insurance company and the Village Halls and Community Buildings Advisor from the Rural Community Council of Essex had been completed.

In brief, the hall and grounds were used on several occasions by Bishops Stortford Dog Club and a Dance School where one teacher to three pupils were present.

There has been regular contact with all our clubs throughout and they are totally appreciative of the current situation. All will continue their use and hire of the hall once government guidelines allow it. This is great news for the future financial income of the hall.

The necessary Risk Assessment surrounding the hall opening was completed back in June last year and is under constant revision. The terms and conditions of hire have been revised following the virus so the hall is in a position to open for business once the green light is given.

Financial Impact

Our Treasurer reports that, unsurprisingly, the lockdowns have affected the Village Hall's finances. Our rental income in 2020 was barely one third of the previous year whilst our expenditure on maintaining the hall was virtually unchanged. All our fund raising events had to be cancelled. In addition, we had

contracted to install a wifi hub in the hall in August which we hope will facilitate business meeting and training hirings. We were, therefore, very pleased to receive a grant from the Parish Council as in previous years plus a contribution to the wifi costs.

Our fundraising monthly prize draw, the Ton Club, continued throughout the pandemic and winners have been advised by telephone and email and winnings paid by bank transfer. I would like to thank all those who purchased number(s) and supported us yet again with the Ton Club monthly fundraising draw. We now have reached 100 numbers sold for its third year of existence.

Problems with the floor came with the lack of use of the hall during the lockdowns and these were severely exacerbated by poor performance of the new heating system which was installed just before going into the first lockdown. This has led to costs with flooring specialists and probably additional money will be spent on the heating system, most of which will fall into the first part of 2021.

Fortunately, Village Halls, as part of the Leisure and Hospitality industry, qualified for support from the government and, after a scramble to get a rating valuation for the hall and get ourselves on the business tax register (although rates are waived on community buildings), we received £10,000. This will replace the lost hiring income and help towards the extra costs of resolving our problems occasioned by lockdown. A further similar government grant has been paid in 2021 which we hope will again replace our lost income and cover the further costs we anticipate relating to the heating and flooring.

Acknowledgements

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to Mrs. Christine Coultrup for all the administration work she has carried out during the last months. This includes the dissemination of the necessary and constant emails from both council

and government guidelines. Also liaising with our insurance company, contractors regarding the heating and flooring issues and implementing the WI-



FI system we now have. I would also like to include Mrs. Valerie and Mr. Alan Walker who have been responsible for maintaining the hygiene and security of the hall. They have also overseen the constant wave of contractors and their attendance whilst resolving various heating, plumbing and floor issues.

I would also like to say a huge *thank you* on behalf of our committee to Great Hallingbury Parish Council. As always, they are so generous with their donations, support and attention to what we achieve for our Village Hall.

The fantastic and unbelievable financial support from our government has been, quite frankly, a life saver for the continued existence of our hall. I'm sure we can look forward to a good year with light now at the end of this long tunnel.

To end and continue with some positivity from this terrible chapter in world history, it has been wonderful to see so many local residents using the field to walk their dogs and teach their children to ride bicycles in the safety of the closed Village Hall carpark whilst all adhering to the lockdown guidelines. Using our hall and field as a focal point to their daily exercise hopefully will become a regular part of their life, long after this virus has gone.

*Lee Cox, Chair Person
Great Hallingbury Village Hall Committee*

**Did you hear about the
claustrophobic
astronaut?**

He just needed
a little space

Footpaths in Great Hallingbury Report to Annual Parish Meeting 2021



The last year has seen a renaissance in the use of the village footpaths. It has reminded us how important are these rights of way. There are few problems that restrict access within the parish but if you come across one please contact me and we will try to sort it out.

The local landowners must be thanked for allowing some deviations during lockdown, especially as the forest was closed.

If you are relatively new to the village, or you just like walking, you may be interested in joining a proposed village footpath walk, provisionally arranged for Sunday, 11th July. Hopefully it will take in some paths you didn't know were there! Please let me know if you are interested.

Thank you for respecting the countryside.

*Alan Pinnock, Footpaths Representative
01279 659071 / 07939 603507*

Essex County Council County Cllr Susan Barker



Dear Residents

Thank you to those who supported me in the recent Essex County Council elections. I am delighted to have been returned for a sixth term to the County Council.

I enjoy the role as an Essex Councillor and working with Parish Councils for the benefit of their community and residents.

Current issues in the village concern additional signage for the Flich Way bridge and the speed of vehicles as more of us are out and about walking.

I met recently with the Chairman of the Parish Council to walk from The Grove to the Church and have asked for the vegetation to be cut back to widen the area available to walkers.

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



**There was a time
when paper bags were
being blamed for the
destruction of trees -
and plastic bags were
the solution!**



News from Little Hallingbury School

The children and staff were very pleased to return to some form of normality when schools reopened to all pupils on the 8th of March. This term, the school has launched a new style of newsletter to celebrate the learning and activities that are taking place in each class.



We have been so pleased to return to our class, to see all our friends and get back into school life. Two of the biggest things we have been learning about and debating are who we think are the 'Greatest Britons' and choosing a production for the class, which we will be making a film of next term. For our 'Greatest Britons' work, we are suggesting and learning about heroes who have had a positive impact on Great Britain and the world. We have been debating who is the greatest. At the moment, we are in round one and writer William Shakespeare, computer scientist Ada Lovelace, engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel and physicist Michael Faraday have already gone through. Who will be joining them? Who would you choose? For our production, after looking at about ten class nominations, we have chosen the 'X Factory', in which a school is turned into one great talent show!



Lime has also been thinking about ways to feel good about ourselves. The aspect of 'Five Ways to Wellbeing' that we looked at was 'Give'. We might give to others – our time, our patience, our listening skills, compliments, help, advice, encouragements, support, trust, knowledge and so much more. Here is an example of one of our ideas. In a Christian theme, Danny has created a stained glass window effect in a pair of hands. The left hand symbolises fire and the flame of the Holy Spirit, reaching out to give. The other hand symbolises ice or water, representing the fish given in the feeding of the 5000. Look closely, as the hand on the left of the picture also shows a figure kneeling down, arms wrapped lovingly around someone precious, giving comfort, love, support, life and care.



This term our topic is Building Locational knowledge. We had great fun locating the hemispheres, the equator and the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn on inflatable globes. Our challenge was to find the latitude and longitude of different countries. We combined this task with our computing lesson, inputting co-ordinates in Google Earth.



Oak class celebrated Easter by adapting their daily mile. Children had to run, pick up an egg and then complete a challenge. Children found themselves running, jumping and hopping around the field.





Sycamore Class

We have been writing book reviews to celebrate World Book Day. We designed and made interesting contributions towards our two KS2 corridor displays, which included photos of reading in unusual places!



As part of the National Day of Reflection to mark one year from the first day of the Covid 19 lockdown periods, we created our own Collaborative Artwork, which we pieced together and photographed.



Ash Class



Ash class has been enjoying creating PERILOUS POTIONS in English, which is linked to our book George's Marvellous Medicine. We read and discussed William Shakespeare's 'Double, double toil and trouble' from Macbeth and how it is similar to the rhyme George sings when he is creating the gruesome medicine for his Grandma. Inspired by this the children then made their mixtures using lots of disgusting ingredients.

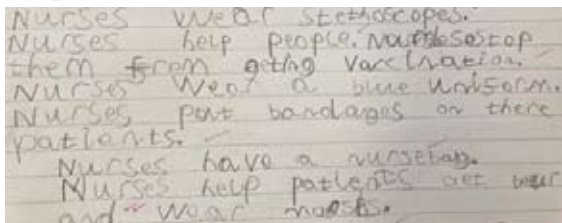


Ash class has also been enjoying being outside to learn some new tennis skills in our P.E lessons. In pairs, we have been working on a different skill each week using some very helpful LTA videos. The children began by throwing and catching the balls to each other thinking about where they want the ball to go and how they have to position themselves in their space. Next, we moved onto adding in some rackets and thinking about the same positioning. Each week the children are progressing and enjoying it more and more. Watch out Wimbledon!



Pine Class

In Pine Class we have been learning about 'People Who Help Us' in our community. This week we have been thinking about 'Doctors and Nurses.' We have also been using 'bossy verbs' to write instructions for planting our seeds.



The Hundred Parishes Society



Aviation

Many of us wait anxiously for the outcome of the recent public inquiry into a possible increase in the passenger cap at Stansted Airport, yet the local community's love-hate relationship with Stansted Airport is only the latest in a series of significant aviation events that have occurred within the Hundred Parishes.

In a field at Standon Green End, in the parish of Thundridge, a monument marks the spot where Italian balloonist Vincenzo Lunardi landed in 1784 after completing the first manned flight in England. He took off from London beneath a balloon filled with hydrogen.



In 1913, Bentfield Hucks was the first Englishman to loop-the-loop in his Bleriot aeroplane. He was born in 1884 in Bentfield

Cottage, Stansted Mountfitchet, and thus acquired his unusual forename.

Duxford airfield, now the site of Imperial War Museum, Duxford, first became operational in World War I. Some of its buildings, constructed by German prisoners-of-war, still stand. In 1938, Duxford was the first airfield to take delivery of Spitfire fighter planes. Frank Whittle flew regularly from here while he was developing ideas that eventually led to the invention of the turbojet engine just before the end of WWII.

Altogether twelve military airfields operated within the Hundred Parishes during WWII. Andrewsfield, straddling the parish boundary between The Salings and Stebbing, was the first American-built base in Europe, becoming operational in 1943. Stansted was another American-built airfield. Thousands of Americans were based in this area; many



never saw home again.

Many of us have enjoyed the relative peace that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought to our skies, in particular discovering the joy of walking in the countryside. It is sad that it has taken so many deaths to remind us of the quality of life that exists right here, without the need to fly.

Ken McDonald, Secretary
www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Turn from Your Sin



An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening of religious service when she was startled by an intruder.

As she caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables, she yelled, 'Stop! Acts 2:38!' (Turn from your sin.)

The burglar stopped dead in his tracks. Then the woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, 'Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture at you.' 'Scripture?', replied the burglar. 'She said she had an axe and two 38s!'



Highlights from the Minutes of a Meeting of Great Hallingbury Parish Council

1st March, 2021, on 'Zoom'

Present: Cllr A Townsend (Chairman), Cllrs J Baldwin, D Barlow, M Bloomfield, K Juggurnauth, A Noble and A Pinnock, Mrs U Sydee (Clerk), District Cllr G Driscoll and two members of public

Speeding Traffic

A resident, a keen runner, expressed concerns over speeding traffic through the village which affects the most vulnerable - runners, pedestrians and cyclists. Councillors explained that speedwatch cannot take place currently because of Covid-19 restrictions but will resume as soon as possible.

Village Hall Field - Trees

Cllr Townsend reported that the tree on the Village Hall field will be cleared when possible. He had spoken to the appropriate UDC officer who has agreed to give five trees in October to plant on this field.

Uttlesford District Council

District Cllr Driscoll reported that the UDC budget for the next year had been set.

Highways

A pothole near the Hop Poles had been reported and subsequently repaired. Verge parking on the B1256-Dunmow Road was discussed but there is nothing the Parish Council can do as it is a Highways matter or the landowners as the parking is on their verges.

Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Baldwin advised that people should be aware of scams which are prevalent.

Woodside Green Road

The Parish Council would like a recount of the houses on this road. District Cllr Driscoll agreed to ask Essex Highways liaison officer again if a recount can be done.

Bedlars Green Parking

Hatfield Forest has asked for red lines to be put round the whole forest but it is not yet known whether that will be done.

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to the North Essex Parking Partnership officer. If verges are destroyed because of the parking they could possibly help but it would have to be the owner of the land contacting them. If the Parish Council wishes to get yellow lines it would have to go through the LHP Scheme.

Playground

Cllrs Bloomfield and Baldwin agreed to investigate further the possibility for a playground. It would be essential to go on a course provided by EALC to see all that is involved.

Village Hall Field - Hedges

It was agreed to leave the hedges as they are currently and discuss further in October.

Local Plan Consultations

The Council considered responding to the UDC's consultations on Leisure, Culture and Healthy Lifestyles and on Transport but there are no comments to be made at this stage

Forest View

Letters received from residents were noted and have been emailed to the UDC Enforcement department.

Remote Meetings

It was agreed to write to our MP, Kemi Badenoch, requesting changes to legislation so that local authorities are permanently allowed to hold remote meetings.

Funeral Fees

A proposed raise of funeral fees is an Essex County Council matter and feedback will be sought.

Banking Arrangements

The Chairman gave an update on the Council's banking arrangements. The changes requested by the Council a few years ago are still not in place despite the Council submitting all relevant papers and

even visiting the Bishop's Stortford branch. Cllr Noble undertook to contact the bank to make changes. The Council wishes all Councillors to be signatories. The Clerk will seek information on the possibility of changing banks when time permits.

Planning

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

a) Application Decisions

UTT/19/2894/FUL // Land at South View, Start Hill // Erection of two new detached dwelling houses // Awaiting decision (No objections)

UTT/19/2951/FUL // Land East of M11, Howe Green, Howe Green // Application to vary conditions 8, 9 and 10 of UTT/18/2935/FUL relating to drainage // Awaiting decision (No objections)

UTT/20/1098/FUL // Land to The East Of Tilekiln Green // Construction of 15 new dwellings, including 6 affordable dwellings, vehicular access and associated parking and landscaping // Awaiting decision (No objections as such but there should be provision for electric car charging enough parking spaces due to increasing numbers of cars to each household)

UTT/20/1034/OP // The Hop Poles, Bedlars Green // Outline application, with matters of appearance, landscape and scale reserved, for proposed development of 8 chalet style houses with associated parking and access and play area // Awaiting decision (Objections: it is overdevelopment; there are concerns about the access and parking as the road is too narrow)

UTT/20/1391/HHF // Little Jenkins, Jenkins Lane // Erection of proposed pool room and swimming pool // Awaiting decision (No objections)

UTT/20/2758/AV // Dunmow Road, Birchanger // Erection of one non-illuminated advertising sign for new development // Awaiting decision (No objections)

UTT/20/2739/FUL // Woodside Green Farm, Woodside Green // Construction of two maneges on pasture within the farm //

Awaiting decision (No objections but lighting for the manege should be restricted)

UTT/20/2753/FUL // 1 & 2 Greenways, Woodside Green // Proposed demolition of two semi-detached dwellings and construction of one replacement dwelling // Awaiting decision (No objections)

UTT/20/2754/OP // Land South of Greenways, Woodside Green // Outline application with all matters reserved except access for the erection of one dwelling // Awaiting decision (No objections)

UTT/20/2470/FUL // Marstons, Start Hill, Stane Street // Demolition of the existing dwelling house and replacement by 8 residential dwelling houses, alterations to the existing vehicle crossovers, ancillary car parking, landscaping and associated development // Withdrawn (No objections but would point out that the B1256 stretch of road is a clearway and as such any vehicles should not be allowed to park on the road including all delivery vehicles to site)

UTT/20/2882/FUL // Stables South of the Old Elm, Start Hill // Proposed demolition of existing stable block and erection of one Dwelling retaining existing access (amendments to previously approved application UTT/19/0160/FUL) // Refused (No objections)

UTT/20/2710/FUL // Start House, Tilekiln Green // Erection of detached chalet style dwelling and garage complete with widened access and related infrastructure // Approved (No objections)

UTT/20/3094/HHF // 71 Woodside Green // Erection of detached single garage // Refused (No objections)

UTT/20/3151/FUL // Lodge Farm, Woodside Green // Creation of separate access to Lodge Farmhouse // Approved (No objections)

UTT/20/3280/FUL // Woodside Green Farm, Woodside Green // Change of use of agricultural building to offices and storage // Approved (No objections)

UTT/20/3271/HHF // The Old Forge, Woodside Green // New tennis court

with fencing surround // Approved (No objections)

UTT/20/3353/HHF // Rosebery House, Hallingbury Place // Erection of deer proof fencing and hedging to rear of property // Awaiting decision (No objections)

UTT/20/3431/FUL // Land East of White Cottage, Start Hill // Proposed erection of four dwellings with associated private gardens, car parking, access and landscaping // Refused (No objections but it is suggested that it is overdevelopment and it should go back to the original application)

b) Applications Dealt with at Meeting

UTT/21/0077/FUL // 1 The Gatehouse, The Street // Removal of condition 2 (agricultural occupancy) attached to UTT/0169/88 // No objections

UTT/21/0246/FUL // The Gatehouse, The Street // Section 73A Retrospective application for a surfaced horse exercising area (manege) with associated engineering operations to create level land, and retaining walls around the perimeter // No objections but we strongly feel it shouldn't be built before permission is sought and granted rather than seeking permission afterwards

UTT/21/0332/FUL // Land At Tilekiln Green, Start Hill // Development of the site to create an open logistics facility with associated new access, parking areas and ancillary office and amenity facilities // The Council will make decision about this planning application after an extraordinary meeting on 3rd March, 2021.

UTT/21/0477/FUL // Woodside Green Farm, Woodside Green // Construction of manege // No objections

What is an astronaut's favorite part on a computer?

The space bar

Mead Field Drive

Update

The Mead Field Drive housing site is so prominent in the village that I think, and hope, many will want to be aware of progress without deviating from the main road.



Progress is good: the development access road is in position, the flood relief reservoir is excavated and the site drainage works

and road layout are well underway. The Anglian water connection into the main road supply is complete and the sewer connection into the road will follow shortly.

Fortunately the dry spell of weather has been kind. At the time of writing (end of April), the foundations are about to be



excavated for plot numbers 27 to 24 and work will generally continue in an anticlockwise direction. The first units are scheduled for completion before the end of the year and

by that time the whole site will be really taking shape.



Simultaneously, I understand that Great Hallingbury

Manor Hotel will be extending their car park which will also tidy up that area.

The photos do not show much at this stage but those subsequently taken from the same positions will record the site progress for those that are interested.



Andrew Noble

Great Hallingbury W.I.



Report to Annual Parish Meeting 2021

This Report falls into two halves, pre-covid and from March 2020.

We have a membership of 35 and, when we could meet in person, we were averaging 75% attendance at Meetings.

During the year to February 2020, we had a range of interesting speakers including a representative from Trinity House and a slide presentation about the Harlow Sculptures. There are 100 dotted throughout the town, some by well-known sculptors.

We had an Open Meeting with members from eight other local WI's when we enjoyed a very interesting presentation by Allan Mabert. Allan is blind after having been born with very poor sight. He was an inspirational speaker having taken part in the Olympics and become the first blind magistrate. His use of new technology was amazing. He even has a gadget to make sure he can read and answer emails.



As well as having speakers, 12 of our members attended the Roothings Group Meeting (photo above). Our Darts team reached the Essex Federation semi-finals and a team was entered into the Essex Federation Quiz. In July we were responsible for the raffle at the Flower Show where we won the co-operative class and several of our members won prizes and trophies. Some of our Members visited Easton Lodge Gardens and saw the progress

being made on the restoration.

2020 started off with most of our Members having an enjoyable New Year dinner at Great Hallingbury Manor but after February all our meetings and activities were cancelled. We hoped that we would start meetings again later in the year but sadly this was not the case. In the meantime, a WhatsApp Group was formed to share news etc. We did manage to have our Annual Meeting in September, with reduced numbers to comply with Village Hall regulations. Our President, Jan Baldwin, retired from office but will continue as a Member. She gave us a short presentation on her time as a Member going back to 1976 when she first joined. Carmela Claxton was elected as the new President.

During the Autumn we started to have a few meetings on Zoom with a speaker talking about the History of Cartoons and a few social meetings.

In January 2021 we decided that we would get back to our normal meeting dates of the fourth Wednesday of each month and have more normal meetings as more of our members were now gaining confidence in using Zoom. In February we had a talk from Brenda Evers who, while still at school, started working at the Gala Factory, makers of *Outdoor Girl* make-up which was sold at Woolworths and a lot of our Members remembered buying! She also witnessed a visit from Mary Quant. She then went on to talk about the founders of the Max Factor and Helena Rubenstein cosmetic brands.

Some of our members have also accessed other online talks, courses and virtual tours from around the world.

We meet again on Wednesday, 24th March, on Zoom, when we have a talk titled *Manners Please Dearest* which is a fun talk about Victorian Etiquette.

Carmela Claxton, President



WI Darts Team

Kemi Badenoch MP for Saffron Walden



Re-Opening

Last month we saw the re-opening of many local high street shops, cafes, restaurants, beauty salons and leisure facilities and I am so pleased to see the retail and hospitality sectors coming back to life and normalcy being restored.

Vaccination Success

All of this would not be possible without the overwhelming success of our vaccination centres across the constituency. With now over 60,000 people in Saffron Walden constituency having received their first jab, we are well on our way to a safe and successful reopening. I am so grateful to everyone across the constituency, including those in Great Hallingbury, involved in this effort. The continued praise they are receiving from local residents, the Health Minister and our regional NHS leaders is truly a testament to their hard work.

Unauthorised Traveller Encampments

I am also proud to be able to deliver on my 2019 manifesto commitment to my constituents to enable the police to effectively deal with unauthorised traveller encampments. I know that over the years unauthorised encampments have caused distress to affected residents and those in nearby villages and the removal process for local authorities has been both time-consuming and costly while also giving an unfair image of the vast majority of travellers who abide by the law.

This is why I welcome the new *Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill* which will make trespassing with intent to reside a criminal offence for persons over the age of 18 that will be enforceable by officers who will be able to make arrests and clear encampments. I am glad that strong action is finally being taken that I hope will go a long way in helping to solve this problem and deliver justice to our communities.

For additional updates on my work in Westminster and the constituency, please sign up to my e-newsletter by visiting www.kemibadenoch.org.uk

Kemi Badenoch, MP



Photographic Competition

Great Hallingbury



With no Hallingbury Flower Show this year (or last) there has been no outlet to demonstrate the talent of our photographers

Great Hallingbury Highlights is therefore announcing a competition for the best photograph of our village, its flora, fauna or life in our village or nearby

Photographs should no larger than 8" x 6" (20 x 15 cm) and sent electronically to highlights@coultruponline.com

Any submission may be printed in future editions of Great Hallingbury Highlights

Rex Baldwin, the donor of the Flower Show photographic cup, has kindly agreed to judge the entries and there will be a prize of a £25 M&S or Amazon voucher

The closing date is 31st August so you have all summer to take a prize shot

The winner will be announced in the Winter 2021 edition of Great Hallingbury Highlights

View from the Cab

Trees and a River Stort Tributary

In the early 1980's we were tasked at work with clearing the river bank of a tributary of the River Stort which joins it in one of our fields (Latchmore Field) at Pig Lane, near Millers Cottage. The bank willows



Willow Tree

had grown too large and their age meant that big branches and stems were breaking off, some of which fell into the stream leading to a build-up of water. I remember working there for a month or so one winter, pollarding willows and poplars. Move forward nearly forty years to the winter of 2020 / spring 2021 and the river bank had to be worked on again. The regrowths of poplar and willows had again started to break off and block the water flow. As it seemed to have rained all winter, this had caused the river to overflow into the field. The Stort had broken its banks in various places and everywhere was appallingly wet. After cutting the fallen trees and fishing them out of the water, we carried on coppicing and pollarding along that section of the tributary. It was a raging torrent with water backing up in the direction of the motorway roundabout. We had a lake in the field and Millers Cottage was threatened with flooding. Within three or four hours, we had speeded up the flow of water and reduced the level by two or three feet. It reduces the risk of flooding in the vicinity but does it cause a problem further downstream in Spellbrook and Sawbridgeworth? The field was so wet that the only vehicle we could get there was a tracked digger. The rest of us waded in, the land remaining so wet that we were able to plant spring beans in that part of the field.

This gravel stream used to teem with life and there would always be minnows, sticklebacks, bullhead and tench, English grayfish and occasionally eels.

In the winter of 2019, we were working on the tributary further up by Beldams and the Bishop's Stortford golf course. Normally the water is clear here but sometimes the water turns black, as if dirty water is being pumped into it. A recent study of sewage companies has shown that a lot of them pump water into rivers. In this case, the black water was not from Bishop's Stortford sewage works because we were upstream of their outlet into the river. It makes me wonder whether this dirty water is coming from the direction of the airport? Whilst we were working there, the Environment Agency was taking water samples. Haven't seen any results published yet!

A few days ago, I was back in Latchmore Field where we had worked on the river. The water was crystal clear and I saw a shoal of 30 or more tench further up the tributary than I had seen in years! In the 1980's, we saw mink on that part of the river and this year there was evidence of them again in the snow on fallen branches.



Tench

Wonderful Oak Trees

During the 1980's, there was a fallen oak by the side of the river. Just the trunk. I don't know how long it had been lying there. I tried cutting it up then but the hardness of the old oak ripped out a new chain on my chainsaw. In 2021, that fallen oak was still there. The trunk was a bit more decayed in places and there were plenty of woodlice and beetles working it but I reckon it's going to take another century or so for it to be totally consumed.



It makes you think, doesn't it? Twenty odd years ago, we took out an old oak fence at Little Hallingbury which was being replaced with more modern fencing. Those oak posts were put in the ground pre World War II. I cut up the last four yesterday to become the legs of a table that I am making. Wonderful wood, oak!

I recently listened to a play on BBC Radio 4 called *Oak Tree Close*. It depicted various imaginary conversations that took place in or under oak trees in different parts of the country. It started with King Charles II hiding in the *Royal Oak Tree* near Boscobel House in Shropshire in 1651 following the Battle of Worcester during the English Civil War. (Incidentally, by 1725 there was nothing left of the original tree as it had been destroyed by souvenir hunters. Its descendant was planted in 1725.) The rest of the play depicted other conversations during our country's history, notably World War I and II, ending up with an up to date conversation during the current Covid-19 pandemic. It was a good play and it made me think of how many wonderful oak trees there are around the country and the stories they could tell, if only they could talk!

When I was a kid, five or six of us used to climb a wonderful oak tree on the boundary of the first eleven pitch at Bishop's Stortford Cricket Club. We all used to sit quite comfortably in the bowl formed by its massive spreading branches. We would sit there for hours watching the cricket and I even used to do my exam revision sitting there with my books. Unfortunately that tree is gone now, either felled or blown down, I don't know which, but a new oak tree has been planted in its place.



An English Oak

I recently spoke to a lady in the village who said she was on her way to the big old oak out the back of Harps. She was off to talk to it and possibly even give it a hug! Fair enough. Her secret is safe with me.

Yesterday, whilst in fields at the Beldams Lane area of the farm, I could see fourteen old oaks trees (over 200 years old) as well as five old oaks in a horse paddock, three of which are dead, all struck by lightning within the last 30 years (not a field to stand in during a thunderstorm). As well as the old oaks, there are many *younger*, but still large, trees in these fields. This quite large number is because of the old Essex farming habit of letting oaks grow up out of hedges. We still do this today so hopefully in a century or so some of these will be beautiful old oaks!

I could rattle on about oak trees for hours. Oliver Rackham sums it up in his book *Woodlands* (2006): *A single 400 year old oak is a whole ecosystem of creatures for which ten thousand 200 year old oaks are no use at all.*

This is also the quote before chapter one of the book *Wilding* by Isabella Tree. If you want to know about old oak trees, just read this one chapter, it's only sixteen pages.



We really should document the oaks at Harps Farm. I think I might do that!

Fungi

With the wet late autumn weather last year there was quite a good selection of fungi in the forest during the winter. Less common specimens included scarlet elf cup (*sarcosyca coccinea*) as well as white hellvella (*hellvella crispa*) and the magpie cap (*coprinus picaceus*).



Fungi - Magpie Cap, Scarlet Elf Cap and White Hellvella above

Birds

I saw my first swallow of the year on 6th April, a very cold day. The first house martins that I saw turned up on 8th April. So far I haven't seen many martins at Harps but there are a few more now and there are a lot of swallows and martins at the forest lake and also at Beggars Hall lake. The great crested grebes are back there as well as two pairs of goldeneyes which seem to come and go, possibly put off by the tufted ducks that are also present in large numbers on the forest lake. (I counted forty the other day.) The greylag geese have nested already and the first pair I saw had five goslings with them (1st May).



Swan with Cygnets Blackcap
Whitethroat

The swans at Matching Hall raised five cygnets last year but none the previous year. They now have six cygnets. Fingers crossed!

I do like this time of year when the visiting birds are coming back. I was listening to a blackbird singing at dusk the other evening and its song repertoire was very varied. It could even mimic the song thrush, starling and a mobile phone.

There are plenty of chiff chaff about and the blackcaps and whitethroats are both singing well but all the small birds will struggle with this cold weather and the lack of insects, particularly caterpillars, on which the blue tits and great tits feed their young. I've seen no blue tit fledgelings yet but the great tit that nests in my garden nestbox raised three young and is now on its second brood. I'm supplementing their diet by providing dried mealworms (which I do all year round anyway).



Great Crested Grebe
Goldeneye Duck
Tufted Duck
Greylag Goose

Nightingales

I have only heard one cuckoo so far this year (behind Beggars Hall) and, as yet, no nightingales.

Nightingales used to be very numerous in Great Hallingbury (a well renowned site for them) and you could hear and see four or five at once singing from their perches behind the pub and in the brickyard (Cannons Yard). Nightingales prefer dense copped woodland, e.g. Hatfield Forest, but browsing deer have altered their habitats over the years. Fencing areas off in the forest to exclude deer seems to have helped and in the last few years more nightingales have been heard.

Many years ago I met Gus Buzzard, an authority on nightingales. Listening to him for a couple of hours was enlightening.

If you don't know what a nightingale sounds like you could do worse than listen to the folk musician, Sam Lee, who, following on from his song about the endangered turtle doves, has recently released a song called *Singing With Nightingales*. I think it's worth a listen.

David Barlow



Great Hallingbury Village Hall



Ton Club Results

To help the Village Hall Committee to maintain the hall in good condition with competitive hire rates we run a **Ton Club**. This is a monthly draw with cash prizes for just £12 a year. Half of each month's membership fees are paid out as prizes which currently are:

1st prize	£25
2nd prize	£15
3rd prize	£10

Here are the results of the **Ton Club** draws since the last issue of this magazine.

March 2021

1st prize	no 69	Mr Lee Cox
2nd prize	no 54	Carole Travell / David Poole
3rd prize	no 51	Laura/Jaco Schoeman

April 2021

1st prize	no 73	Mr David Miller
2nd prize	no 31	Mrs Sally Stuebler
3rd prize	no 61	Mrs Sue Gray

May 2021

1st prize	no 76	Mr Alan Pinnock
2nd prize	no 87	Mrs Christine Coultrup
3rd prize	no 75	Mr Noel Wheatley

Joining In

To take part please contact Lee Cox on 07500 805281 or cox_L3@sky.com 5 The Grove, Great Hallingbury, CM22 7TT.

We welcome your support.



Great Hallingbury Highlights

Annual Parish Meeting Report

The Editor commented that it is always strange to report on **Great Hallingbury Highlights** to the Annual Parish Meeting as everyone receives copies of the magazine.

Publication has kept going during the pandemic and thanks are due to all the contributors over the last two years. The Autumn and Winter issues in 2020 were a bit smaller than usual but happily this Spring's edition was back to its usual size.

Thanks go to Vicky Wing for looking after the advertisers. These are needed to help cover the costs of production and she has worked gallantly during the pandemic which has meant that we have only really lost advertisements from hospitality businesses. Vicky plans to move soon so anyone who would like to help with the magazine would be very welcome, be it on the advertising side or any other aspect of publication.

The Editor thanked the Parish Council who provide a grant each quarter towards production costs and thanked our District Councillors for a grant received from them towards the end of 2019. This was fortuitous as it helped to offset the loss of advertising income during the pandemic.

Lastly - but importantly - thanks must go to the deliverers. They are the people who actually put the magazine through the letterboxes in every part of the village and who, during the pandemic, have counted deliveries as part of their daily exercise. Some people have had to relinquish their rounds during the last two years but others have been welcomed. Theirs is an important contribution to the magazine and they have the gratitude of us all.

Christine Coultrup
Editor

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Great Hallingbury History Society

Annual Parish Meeting 2021



During 2019 and into 2020 the Great Hallingbury History Society enjoyed some excellent speakers. The programme was varied and included:

- New Hall, Essex's Royal Palace: the history of Henry VIII's Beaulieu Palace - which, of course, is now a school and it was followed with a very enjoyable visit there later that summer
- Light Entertainment between 1920 - 1940 which reflected the transition from music hall up to the advent of television
- Copped Hall
- The Suffragettes
- Sworders and its activities in the locality
- *My Life and Career as a Diplomat* by a former ambassador and Deputy Governor of Gibraltar
- The History of the Gardens at Wimpole Hall
- The Fuller-Maitland family of Stansted Hall
- The Charge of the Light Brigade
- The History of Lodge's Coaches - a week before they celebrated their centenary with a visit from the Duke of Kent
- Wicken Fen - a wetland near Cambridge which the National Trust is trying to restore

The last talk was just fitted in before the first lockdown and meetings were not allowed but as freedoms were restored last summer, we managed to hold the September meeting, wearing masks and socially distanced. The speaker arrived in appropriate period dress and talked in the persona of Elizabeth



Garrett-Anderson, the first woman doctor in this country and a pioneer in the field of women's medicine. Everyone who came was delighted to be doing something *normal*

again but sadly, as we all know, it didn't last.

Members chose not to meet on zoom as History Society evenings are social occasions that we all enjoy. So, since September, each month speakers have been postponed and rebooked for future dates when we all hope we will be able to meet again. There is quite a programme planned and topics will include:

- Station to Station: a guide to the West Anglia Main Line Railway Cambridge to London
- The London Bus
- 200 years of Milling at Sampford
- The Great Plague in Essex
- The Story of Panama
- Three Men without a Boat - a walk along the River Thames
- Hadham Forge and Museum

The committee and members are really looking forward to being allowed to restart meetings and to seeing each other again.

News Update

The last meeting of the History Society year is usually in June and includes the short, formal AGM. This year it is scheduled for Wednesday, 9th June, but that is nearly two weeks before Covid-19 restrictions are due to end.

The Committee feels that, in the circumstances, it would be better for us to all look forward to starting a new - and hopefully uninterrupted - programme year in September. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, 8th September, on the subject of train stations from Cambridge to London.

Members and non-members are welcome so we hope we may see many people at this meeting and members will be glad to know that paid memberships for 2020/21 will be carried forward to 2021/22.

Christine Coultrup, Chairman

Great Hallingbury History Society Autumn Programme



*Bishop's
Stortford
Station*

Station to Station: Cambridge to London Wednesday, 8th September



Waterloo Wednesday, 13th October



History of the London Bus Wednesday, 10th November

Meetings held in
Great Hallingbury Village Hall at 8pm

Entrance Fee Including Refreshments:
£2.00 for Members Membership £10 pa
£3.00 for Non-members

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District News

Cllrs Geof Driscoll and Neil Reeve



The District Council after COVID-19

UDC is seeking to build on one of the good things which has happened as a result of Covid-19, the ability to run services with most staff working remotely. The flexibility has been appreciated by staff who have been able to work from home, or indeed from anywhere, particularly those with caring responsibilities. It is also better for the environment in reducing car commuting. I have not driven to any meeting for over a year.

The office in Saffron Walden, or at least the old part, is not easy to alter, being listed. It does not, for example, have a training room or conference facility apart from one committee room which is heavily used and is open to public access. It is intended to retain the Council Chamber and some facilities in Saffron Walden with other operations probably distributed to a new building just down the road in Stansted - the black barn-like building you can see near the Walpole Farm estate - and to UDC's new facility at Canfield, which will also be where the bin lorries are housed overnight. Staff will be working at all three sites as well as working flexibly from home.

These changes will allow more of the Saffron Walden office to be rented out. It will also rebalance the council's location as Saffron Walden is at the northern extremity of Uttlesford and, for example, the people of Great Hallingbury may consider Saffron Walden a bit remote.

Stansted Airport

The application by the Manchester Airport Group (MAG) to expand the number of people using Stansted Airport from 35m to 43m was unanimously refused by the UDC Planning committee in January 2020. This

was a rear-guard action after the previous council administration had approved it. Because of this earlier approval, the new administration could only reasonably object on the detail of the planning conditions which had not been agreed at the meeting at which the expansion was approved in principle or if there has been a subsequent material change in circumstances. The MAG appeal against that decision was heard between January and March and the result is expected later this year. The earlier approval meant that the defence mounted by UDC had to be restricted largely to the planning conditions. However, one of the four items was the vital issue of the increase in carbon emissions which the UDC barrister and professional experts defended with vigour. In my opinion there can be nothing MAG can do to get around the increase in CO2 emissions created by more flights.

In planning appeals where a consultant and barrister have been appointed, the guidance from them is you only need one solid refusal reason. It is not wise to muddy the waters with other less substantial matters which an inspector may dismiss and anything to which it would not be reasonable to object will be a cause for costs to be awarded. It is even possible to win an appeal and still pay costs for unreasonable behaviour over insubstantial matters. On the other hand, Stop Stansted Expansion was under no constraint in their submission. I feel the criticism of the conduct of the appeal by UDC's barrister has been unfounded. It possibly stemmed from a failure to understand the realities and has been unhelpful by providing ammunition for the MAG barrister.

Councillor Surgeries

These are currently suspended but Neil and I are available through our email addresses until they start again, hopefully at the end of June. We are both looking forward to meeting you in person again. Take Care.

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

EASTON LODGE

This time last year the Gardens were closed to volunteers until further notice but we are now catching up on lost work over the winter and looking forward to the completion of the restoration of the balustrade in time for our Open Day on 23rd May.

In April the daffodils have been a glorious sight in the Glade but also where they have sprung up, uninvited, in lots of other corners of the Gardens. When they have finished flowering some will have to be moved to better places and to make way for a new path in the lime wood. But we are confident that dividing them, when we move them, will make them stronger still for next year.

At our May Open Day it will be the Italian Garden that will be the star of the show, with the restored balustrade finally providing a proper surround to the first waterlilies of the season. The lupins will be in full bloom in the outer borders and the helianthemums will be ablaze along the inner borders.



We will also be celebrating the Countess and her animals. We often mention her monkeys to visitors, explaining how one caused the major fire at Easton Lodge in 1918, but what do you know about Kim, the Countess' baby elephant? You will have to join us to find out more; and for our younger visitors we will have a story teller too, to weave the tale.

We will have our usual tasty fayre. To find more information about the Open Day and how to buy your tickets in advance, go to our website www.eastonlodge.co.uk or Facebook page.

Jill Goldsmith

Word Play

Dad, are we pyromaniacs? Yes, we arson

I'm trying to organize a hide and seek tournament, but good players are really hard to find.

Writing my name in cursive is my signature move.

Why do bees stay in their hives during winter? Swarm.

If you're bad at haggling, you'll end up paying the price.

Scientists got together to study the effects of alcohol on a person's walk, and the result was staggering.

A commander walks into a bar and orders everyone around.

I lost my job as a stage designer. I left without making a scene.

Never buy flowers from a monk. Only you can prevent florist friars.

What do you say to comfort a friend who's struggling with grammar? There, their, they're.

I once worked at a cheap pizza shop to get by. I kneaded the dough.

Prison is just one word to you, but for some people, it's a whole sentence.

I lost my girlfriend's audiobook, and now I'll never hear the end of it.

Why is it unwise to share your secrets with a clock? Well, time will tell.

When I told my contractor I didn't want carpeted steps, they gave me a blank stare.

Bono and The Edge walk into a Dublin bar and the bartender says, "Oh no, not U2 again."

Extraordinary Meeting of Great Hallingbury Parish Council

3rd March, 2021

This meeting was held to discuss a planning application submitted by Wren Kitchens ref UTT/21/0332/FUL // Land at Tilekiln Green, Start Hill // Development of the site to create an open logistics facility with associated new access, parking areas and ancillary office and amenity facilities. All the Parish Councillors attended plus the Clerk, District Cllr Driscoll and 28 residents.

Objections to the plans were robustly expressed by members of the public covering traffic concerns, inadequate research surveys on the site, inaccuracies on submitted maps, loss of trees and wildlife habitats, water and flooding questions, sound and traffic nuisance and many others.

Subsequently the Parish Council agreed to strongly object to the above planning application for the following reasons:

- The current infrastructure could not support the increased traffic this development would bring. The junction at Start Hill with the B1256 and its close proximity to the M11 roundabout (Junction 8) already sees much traffic build up from the roundabout and back along Stane Street. This means drivers often divert through the village. The speed and weight of traffic means our roads and verges suffer much erosion and an increase in traffic would exacerbate the situation.
- It will also have a huge impact at the other end of the village with the junction of Church Road and the A1060 and, as travellers deviate their journeys, it will inevitably send more traffic past Howe Green House School (currently under concern because of speeding traffic issues), across Woodside Green and down New Barn Lane, again in an attempt to circumvent the traffic build up that

would transpire should this application go ahead.

- Such an increase in traffic would be disastrous for all Great Hallingbury residents who currently risk their lives when out walking because of speeding traffic.
- NOTE: UTT/1148/01/FUL Rivendell was refused due to possibly creating too much traffic through the village.
- The huge impact this proposal would have on residents local to the site would be unbearable. This would result in a dramatic increase in noise levels, especially noticeable at night with vehicles' reversing alarms going, vehicle doors banging, plus engine noise. Light pollution would be a further unwelcome intrusion in the area.
- This new application by Wren Kitchens would create, by their own figures, upwards of 500 vehicle movements per day.
- The plans show a great deal of hardstanding/parking areas on the site. Has sufficient drainage also been planned and where will surface water run to?
- It appears there would be no new employment created as it is only a change of location.

If this preposterous proposal is allowed to go ahead, a condition must be that all vehicles from the site, without exception, must not be allowed to turn right to go through the village. Sadly this road is already a *rat-run* for commuters for the M11, A120 and Stansted Airport.

Should this application go ahead it will irreversibly change the whole dynamic of Great Hallingbury as a village.

**What did the Tin Man say
when he got run over by
a steamroller?**

Curses! Foil again

Hallingbury Flower Show



While writing this, a frost overnight has delayed the display in the garden, so we need to wait a little while longer for the fruits of our labours in our outside space to flourish.

What a strange last 14 months we have had and the Flower Show Committee has been deliberating over a date for this year's Flower Show. We felt that our usual date at the end of July was just too close to the expected easing of restrictions at the end of June and we didn't want to risk booking marquees and inviting stallholders only for the restrictions to be extended and our hopes for a *get together* dashed.

We also tried looking at different dates and September was looking promising but trying to find a date that our very small committee could agree on was just not possible.

And so, with regret, we have decided to cancel our Flower Show for 2021 but we must look forward to having a great Show next year. We hope to be at Harps Farm.

If you or anyone you know is interested in helping out, please do get in touch with our Secretary, Oriel Gordon, or with me. As as a committee we feel this event is so important for the villages. It is a valuable chance for us all to meet up and too many of these events in the country have fallen by the wayside. With this show's history we must all keep it going.

We hope that you and your families are well and our thoughts go out to those that have lost a loved one over the course of this pandemic.

Let's all look forward to the Great and Little Hallingbury Flower Show 2022 when we can all get together and show support for each other whilst celebrating village life.

Cormac Conway, Chairman 01279 508887
Oriel Gordon, Secretary 07973 115193

FULLY OPEN
27th May - 31st October

Cammashall
Fruit Farm * Tea Barn * Farm Shop

Open Tuesday to Sunday and Bank Holidays

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

Hatfield Broad Oak
Postcode for SatNav: CM22 1TT

cammashall.co.uk

Parish Council Chairman

Report to Annual Parish Meeting 2021



The Chairman reminded the meeting that we were unable to hold an Annual Parish Meeting last March. His comments, therefore, cover two years, 2019 and 2020.

Parish Councillors

We began the council year 2019/20 with seven parish councillors and then, in July, co-opted Jules Baldwin. This meant that at the start of 2020/21 we had a full complement of eight parish councillors. However, in November, Cllr Tom Streeter resigned due to personal reasons and Cllr Andrew Noble was duly elected to fulfill the role of Vice-Chairman. I would like to thank Tom for his invaluable contribution to the Parish Council and hope he may one day rejoin us. The vacant position has been advertised but as yet not filled.

We work as one body for the good of our village and some 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 myself am Tree Warden and on the executive committee of both UALC and EALC.

Meetings

The Parish Council held six meetings in 2019/20, the last one being at the beginning of March just before the Coronavirus took hold and lockdown began. Since March 2020, there have been five meetings and one Extra-Ordinary meeting, all using the Zoom online platform.

During both years I have attended, in person or on zoom, meetings on the executive panel for both UALC and EALC. During the pandemic, I have also had weekly zoom meetings with the Clerk in order for us to keep up to date.

The information from all meetings we

attend enables the Parish Council to know about, and comment on, proposals and issues within our District and County Local Government.

Finance

The budget for the upcoming year was reviewed and agreed by the Parish Council at the due time. After careful consideration, it was agreed to increase the precept for 2020/21 by 5% and for 2021/22 from £14,175 to £15,000, on both occasions due to inflation. This relates to the Parish portion of your council tax.

In both years, the charities supported have included Essex Air Ambulance, SSE and NWEHPA and Uttlesford Community Travel. As agreed at the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting, a donation was sent to St Clare Hospice. The organisation chosen in 2020 for a one-off donation of £100 for doing something beneficial in our area was Accuro, who supply training for those with learning difficulties. This donation has been repeated in 2021.

We continue to support the Village Hall and the *Great Hallingbury Highlights* magazine.

Planning

The Parish Council considered and commented on 31 planning applications during 2019/20 and 39 over the past year. These seem to be increasing annually.

While 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. We do stress that new builds must connect to the mains drainage and, in general, point out any potential problems with land drainage.

A recent application for a Distribution Depot on land at Start Hill was the reason for our Extra-Ordinary meeting earlier this month.

Airport

SSE continues to keep us up to date with airport matters. We are still waiting to

hear the outcome of MAG's Appeal regarding extended passenger numbers.

Highways

We continue to report pot holes and other road defects in the village. There is great concern about speeding through the village and the lack of any enforcement. Once Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, the Speedwatch Team will be back in operation.

Bedlars Green

Work to restore the Bedlars Green area by The Hop Poles is still ongoing.

Litter pick

Litter picks were held in October 2019, October 2020 and March this year. Sadly we were unable to carry out the litter pick planned for April 2020 due to the Coronavirus outbreak. I would like to thank Mark and Joanne Bloomfield for organising this and all those who came along to help.

Thanks

Thanks to Christine Coultrup for continuing to produce *Great Hallingbury Highlights*. This free publication goes to every house in the village through our distributors. You can find out about most things going on in Great Hallingbury through the *Highlights*. Thank you, too, to all involved in looking after our Village Hall.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we have all found life quite challenging over this last year. We hope with the vaccinations being rolled out so fast that we will soon see life return to some normality.

Finally, I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors and so many villagers for their continued support during the past two years. Special thanks to Urška, our Clerk, who works so well to lighten the Chairman's load.

Why did the yoghurt go to the art exhibition?

Because it was cultured

The Fixer

The President visits a remote northern Indian (Native American) reservation with news crews following him around as they tour the place. He asks the Chief if there was anything they need.

"Well," says the Chief, "We have three very important needs. First, we have a medical clinic but no doctor to man it."

The President whips out his phone, dials a number, talks to somebody for two minutes and then hangs up. "I've pulled some strings. Your doctor will arrive in a few days. Now what was the second problem?"



"We have no way to get clean water.

The local mining operation has poisoned the water our people have been drinking for thousands of years. We've been flying bottled water in and it's terribly expensive." Once again,

the President dials a number, yells into the phone for a few minutes and then hangs up. "The mine has been shut down and the owner is being billed for setting up a purification plant for your people. Now what was that third problem?"

The Chief looks at him and says, "We have no mobile phone reception up here!"



Why do we tell actors to break a leg?

Because every play has a cast

Book Corner



Book Corner

NOTHING VENTURED

by Jeffrey Archer

If you have read the Clifton Chronicles, you may remember the name, William Warwick. In his introduction the author informs us that *This is not a detective story; this is a story about a detective.*

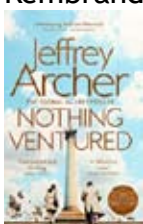
Nothing Ventured opens with William, having just left school, announcing, much to his father's dismay, that he would like to join the Metropolitan Police Force after university. Three years later, with a degree in Art History, William starts his training at Hendon Police College and two years later he passes the exams to become a detective. His knowledge of art leads to a transfer to Scotland Yard's Art and Antiques Squad. While also investigating a series of art crimes and frauds across London, the squad is mainly concerned with capturing Miles Faulkner, a criminal mastermind who is responsible for the thefts and forgeries of some of the most valuable art in England.

William's first case concerns the theft of a priceless Rembrandt painting from the Fitzmolean Museum. When he visits the museum he meets Beth Rainsford, a very attractive research assistant! Beth, however, has a secret of her own which could jeopardise their budding relationship.

As William becomes more and more involved in investigating the various crimes Faulkner is organising, he makes a crucial breakthrough when he befriends Faulkner's wife, Christina. She says that she is willing to return the Rembrandt but what does she want in return?

Can she be trusted, or will Faulkner once again evade justice?

If you enjoy this book, there are three more books about William Warwick waiting to be read!



NOBODY TRUE

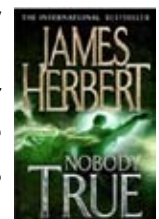
by James Herbert

I wasn't there when I died. The author certainly knows how to attract your attention with this as an opening sentence! James True (the narrator) can make this statement because he has just returned to his hotel room from one of his (OBE) *out-of-body experiences* - only to find that someone has not only murdered him but also severely mutilated his body. He is now unable to return to his body and needs to adapt to this new state of *death*. (Please don't switch off just yet!)

OBEs are rarely an important part of the plot in the average murder mystery. Indeed, most of us would doubt that OBEs exist but this book makes a convincing case - if you can suspend your disbelief. James explains that, as he got older, he discovered that he could *will* himself to leave his body, *fly* above rooftops and *explore* places he had never physically visited - in his opinion, Buckingham Palace is dull!

But who murdered him? As far as James knew, he had no enemies and he could not think of why someone he knew should want to kill him. And why would the serial killer terrorizing the city be interested in him? To discover the truth, James must track down his murderer himself but, without a body, James has no substance and no real power. No one can see him or hear him and only one person knows that his spirit still exists.

Unlike many *murder mysteries*, the identity of the killer, (a most disturbing character) is revealed quite early in the book - but only to James. He aims to stop any further murders by the killer but, before he can do this, his own family is attacked.....



St. Giles' Church

Report to Annual Parish Meeting 2021



2020 was a year like no other. Only eight services were held in St. Giles' Church during that year: five in the first three months and three in the last four months which were services to commemorate St. Giles, our patron saint, Harvest Festival and Christmas. These three services took place in line with Covid-19 Restrictions. At our Christmas Service, I was licensed as Churchwarden by the Revd Canon David Herrick and Cynthia Collins was presented with a gardening gift voucher in appreciation of her many years of loyal service to the PCC. We are indebted to Cynthia for all her love, support and hard work for St. Giles' Church.

Prior to these three services the church had been cleaned and sanitized, pews were removed, marked and distanced two metres apart and signage and sanitising stations were set up.

In 2020 the only fund raising event was *The 100 Club* which specifically helps maintain the fabric of our beautiful and historic village church. There was no Harvest Fayre, no Gift Day and no concerts. Thank you to everyone in the village who supported *The 100 Club* in 2020 and have renewed their membership in 2021.

In 2019 many of the usual services and events had taken place: a Mothering Day Service, an Easter Day Service and a Remembrance Sunday Service were all held in St. Giles' Church. Fund Raising Events in 2019 included a Gift Day, a Harvest Fayre and a Concert given by the de Merc Choir. The United Benefice Harvest Supper raised funds for the Harlow Foodbank. Members of the Little Hallingbury History Society visited the church for a guided talk. We also said a fond farewell to Enid and Alex Russell at a service in October and thanked them for their loyal and devoted work for the church

and for the village of Great Hallingbury over many years. A celebration cake was shared with parishioners and a gift voucher was presented to Enid and Alex.

St. Giles' Church is part of a United Benefice with St Mary's in Little Hallingbury. It is also one of the churches in the Six Villages Mission and Ministry Unit which was established in 2017 and which pledges the six churches to work more closely together. The pandemic has accelerated this development as people from all six villages have been sharing regular services on Zoom, following the closure of churches in all the six villages. During 2020 this co-operation between the six churches was further developed when Revd Dawn Jewson, Priest in Charge of Hatfield Heath and Sheering, was licensed also as Priest in Charge of Hatfield Broad Oak and Bush End as well as as an Associate Priest at St Giles' in Great Hallingbury and St. Mary's in Little Hallingbury. At the same time our Priest in Charge, Revd Canon David Herrick, has been licensed as an Associate Priest in the other four villages, Hatfield Heath, Sheering, Hatfield Broad Oak and Bush End. The Six Villages are thus sharing one Ministry Team of Dawn, David and Caroline Harding, our Licensed Lay Minister.

Heather Hays, Churchwarden



St. Giles' Church 100 Club

January - April 2021



January Winners

No. 27	Margaret Scott	£30
No. 34	John Cameron	£20
No. 82	David Collins	£10

February Winners

No. 70	Helen Jackson	£30
No. 116	Jo Peacock	£20
No. 109	Doreen Morgan	£10

March Winners

No. 64	Enid Russell	£30
No. 21	Amanda Trim	£20
No. 15	Pat Larby	£10

April Winners

No. 1	Alan Townsend	£30
No. 107	Doreen Fleckney	£20
No. 89	Sue Plested	£10

The prize money is 50% of the membership fees taken each month. The remaining 50% will be used to help maintain the fabric of our beautiful and historic village church.

If you are interested in joining The 100 Club please contact Heather Hays or Philip Hays for further details.

Tel: 01279651851

E-Mail: philipandheatherhays@
googlemail.com

St Giles' Nature Reserve Project

Spring has finally sprung and the hard work of last year has been paying off. Before the pandemic took hold we had been able to plant a large number of daffodil bulbs along the wall with the road, enhancing the bulbs already there. Our efforts in clearing accumulated leaf and twig debris from beside the wall has also reaped dividends. The net result - the best display of daffs for many a year.

Other bulb planting took place and it has been a delight to see sprays of colour in new and unexpected places around the churchyard. I am particularly pleased to report that a few of the wild flower seeds sown in the autumn of 2019 have started to bloom. You do have to look hard for them - the most obvious currently is a single but majestic and beacon-like white Fritillary behind the North Aisle, but they are there and we look forward to more and more over the next few years.



And I am delighted to report great numbers of cowslips. The churchyard has always had cowslips but in 2019 and 2020 we allowed them to go to seed and did not cut the grass until after the seeds had dropped. The increase year on year has been very encouraging.

The churchyard project is currently operating and we welcome any volunteers on a Saturday morning. Going forward we intend to have a tea, coffee and cake stall to cater to anyone coming through, so do pop up and visit. Guided tours are always on offer!

If you have any enquiries or would like to help, feel free to call me on 07756 142890.

Russel Robinson

News from St Giles' A Fresh Start



The Covid-19 pandemic continues to provide the background for our lives. As I write, there is continuing good news about the vaccination programme and the hope that the next stage in relaxing lockdown restrictions will go ahead as planned on Monday, 17th May. After the stop-go of recent months this feels like a fresh start.

In church we made a fresh start just a short time ago. On 18th April we began to re-open our churches for regular worship after lockdown. The start of services at St Giles' in Great Hallingbury and St Mary's in Little Hallingbury has been matched in each of the Six Villages' churches. The services in church feel a little strange - we are spread out to maintain social distancing; congregations are still not permitted to sing; holy communion means receiving bread but no wine; and we can't serve coffee and cake after our services. Nevertheless, we are glad to be back to worshipping in our church buildings and people are looking forward to *getting back to normal*. What is true for our local churches in the Hallingburys seems also to be true for our village communities and for the country as a whole; people want to *get back to normal*.

Alongside the longing to get back to normal there is something else, a desire to see things change and make a fresh start. The pandemic has provided opportunity for many to press the *Pause* button as patterns of life have altered. There is a desire to reap the benefits that have come through the pandemic and build on the insights that have emerged. People do not want to lose things like the renewed connection with the outdoors and the countryside that has come as they have gone out walking and cycling for exercise. There has been the discovery that the possibilities opened up by electronic

communication mean the sometimes frenetic business of commuting to work may not be as essential as it was in the past. These things are not straightforward. For some, reduced commuting has been accompanied by the discovery that homes are not always set up to be good workplaces and that, when people work from home, their accountability to their employer can bring unwelcome scrutiny into the domestic setting.

The pandemic has brought other kinds of insights - lower emissions that mean less harm to the environment; more on-line shopping with the consequences for shops and for jobs in retail as well as increased carbon emissions because of home deliveries and potential exploitation of those employed to make them. There are many other examples of the tension between *getting back to normal* and making a fresh start that builds on the new insights from the pandemic.

In church, this is the season of *the fresh start*. The Easter celebration is a celebration of the fresh start, of new life revealed by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead following his crucifixion. This fresh start is not just for Jesus, it is for all who will believe in him. And the fresh start season continues with the celebration of Pentecost, also known as Whitsun. Pentecost commemorates the gift of God's Holy Spirit to the Christian believers who were gathered in Jerusalem some fifty days after Jesus' death and resurrection. The coming of the Spirit provided the fresh start that propelled Jesus's friends and followers into continuing his work, so creating the body we know as the church.

The Christian church has not always lived up to its vocation to be a community where people meet Jesus Christ and discover a way to make the fresh start in their lives that they desire. The church has often functioned in ways that reject the new and seem to suppress the hope of new life but, even when it has been least true to itself,

the Christian church has carried at its heart the promise of a fresh start for individuals and communities who find new life in Jesus Christ.

As we move forward from the pandemic, the church congregations at St Giles' in Great Hallingbury, St Mary's in Little Hallingbury and the other four churches of the Six Villages hope to be part of the conversation in our local communities about ways in which we can make a fresh start. We would love to explore how we, locally, can move forward building on the great things that have emerged during the pandemic, so that the future is more than just *getting back to normal*.

David Herrick
Priest-in-Charge of the Hallingburys
www.hallingburychurches.co.uk

St Giles' Church Wake Up

Singers and Bellringers

Great plans are being made to *wake up* St Giles' church after its long hibernation during lock-down. In particular the choir is looking for new members and by the end of the year the bells should be back in service after a silence of several years. We are currently beginning efforts to recruit bell ringers in anticipation. The plan is that lessons will be offered, so experience is not required!



Friends of St Giles'

Finally, discussions are underway to create a *Friends of St Giles'* organisation. Part of its remit will be to put on concerts and events. If you have any enquiries or you think you can help, feel free to call me on 07756 142890.

Russell Robinson

Services in the Hallingburys May - August 2021

G = St Giles' M = St Mary's

G	May 23	10 am	Pentecost Holy Communion
Hat Brd Oak	May 30	10.30 am	Trinity Sunday Holy Communion Six Villages Service
M	Jun 6	10 am	Morning Worship
G	Jun 13	10 am	Holy Communion
M	Jun 20	10 am	Holy Communion
G	Jun 27	10 am	Morning Worship
M	Jul 4	10 am	Morning Worship
G	Jul 11	10 am	Holy Communion
M	Jul 18	10 am	Holy Communion
G	Jul 25	10.30 am	Morning Worship
M	Aug 1	10 am	Morning Worship
G	Aug 8	10 am	Holy Communion
M	Aug 15	10 am	Holy Communion
G	Aug 22	10 am	Morning Worship
Tba	Aug 29	10 am	Holy Communion Six Villages Service
M	Sep 5	10 am	Morning Worshp
G	Sep 12	10 am	Holy Communion

The services listed will take place providing there is no change to the government road map out of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition there will be an on-line service of Morning Worship held at 11.15 am each Sunday. For Zoom codes for these services send an email to sixvillageszoomcodes@gmail.com.

A service of HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) is held on Wednesdays at 10am at Holy Trinity Church, Hatfield Heath, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the month or St. Mary's Church, Little Hallingbury, on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesdays each month.

For more information go to the Hallingbury Churches website: www.hallingburychurches.co.uk

Calendar

June 2021

- 5 Library Van - Bedlars Green - 3 - 3.30 pm
Woodside Green 3.40 - 4.10 pm
- 23 Great Hallingbury WI - Village Hall -
7.30 pm
- 26 Library Van - Bedlars Green - 3 - 3.30 pm
Woodside Green 3.40 - 4.10 pm
- 27 Gardens of Easton Lodge *Open Day*

July 2021

- 5 Great Hallingbury Parish Council - Village
Hall 8 pm
- 11 Walk the *Footpaths of Great Hallingbury*
(see panel)
- 25 Gardens of Easton Lodge *Open Day*
- 26 Library Van - Bedlars Green - 3 - 3.30 pm
Woodside Green 3.40 - 4.10 pm
- 28 Great Hallingbury WI - Village Hall -
7.30 pm

August 2021

- 7 Library Van - Bedlars Green - 3 - 3.30 pm
Woodside Green 3.40 - 4.10 pm
- 22 Gardens of Easton Lodge *Open Day*
- 25 Great Hallingbury WI - Village Hall -
7.30 pm

September 2021

- 8 History Society - *Station to Station:
Cambridge to London* - Village Hall 8 pm
- 13 Great Hallingbury Parish Council - Village
Hall - 8 pm
- 19 Gardens of Easton Lodge *Open Day*
- 22 Great Hallingbury WI - Village Hall -
7.30 pm

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

5th July 8 pm Village Hall

13th September 8 pm Village Hall



Explore the Footpaths of Great Hallingbury

A walk led by Alan Pinnock

There are many footpaths within the Village, many not widely known, so this is a chance to discover more about the area in which you live.

Sunday, 11th July, 2021
(provisional date)

If you are interested, please contact
Alan Pinnock, Great Hallingbury's
Footpaths Representative
01279 659071 / 07939 603507



A Gardener's Treat

Throughout June and July there are more than a dozen gardens for you to explore in aid of St Clare Hospice. Visit some of the best kept green spaces in Thornwood, Hastingwood and around Harlow, Epping and Loughton

June 26/27, July 11/12, 17/18
Different gardens each weekend.

Refreshments and sale items sometimes available

Details available from Dan Bailey on 01279 773738 or dan.bailey@stclarehospice.org.uk
www.stclarehospice.org.uk