

Great Hallingbury Highlights

Spring 2024

Vol. 101

An independent publication giving news on matters affecting Great Hallingbury



Bluebells in Broom Wood

Photograph courtesy of Dave Barlow

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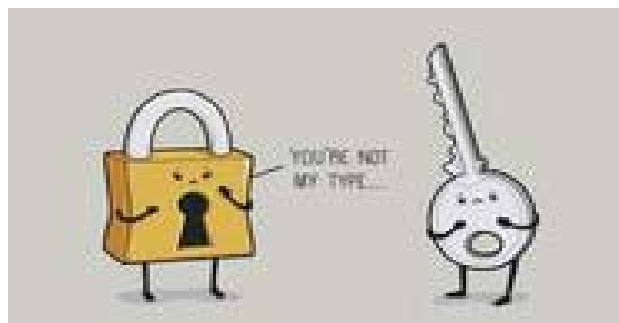
Village Hall

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

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Monica Swann 01279 653820

Great Hallingbury WI

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Editorial

For Residents

Our Village is a string of hamlets but there are opportunities for us to all gather. March 18th is when the Parish Council will tell residents what they have been doing over the past year so do come (*see back page*) and ask your questions. Local clubs and societies will also be there and a chance to socialise afterwards.

An opportunity for residents to be involved in the future of our Village would be the creation of a neighbourhood plan. This bold endeavour would need help from many people. You can hear more about this at a coffee morning on Sunday, 7th April (*see page 21*)

In the summer, the Village Hall is planning several friendly social evenings when people can just relax and even, if we are lucky, enjoy a balmy evening outside.

Travel Help

A recent operation has prevented me driving for several weeks and I have been using the Uttlesford Community Travel **Book-A-Ride** service to get around.

Uttlesford Community Travel is a charity which provides services to the residents of Uttlesford who find it difficult to access normal public transport, the over 60's, the disabled and those who are rurally isolated. They have four or five minibuses and try to use volunteer drivers in their own cars for medical and hospital appointments whenever possible.

I have been very happy to use their minibuses and destinations are not necessarily limited to within the district of Uttlesford. The access is good for people with restricted mobility with nice easy steps and handrails, a wheelchair lift if needed, and I have found the drivers pleasant and helpful. So if you need that kind of help, why not give them a try.

Right now they are short of volunteer drivers

for hospital appointments so if you would like to offer a few hours of your time they would be delighted to hear from you.

Here in Great Hallingbury, in spite of the often miserable weather and the roadworks all around, I hope that all the shoots and signs of an impending Spring are cheering you and encouraging a feeling of pleasure to witness again the familiar passage of the seasons.

Editor

P.S. As the weather improves, I do hope that you will take some new photographs around the Village and there will be a prize for any I receive before the end of May and which subsequently appear on the front cover of *Great Hallingbury Highlights*.

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District News

Cllrs Geof Driscoll and Neil Reeve

2024 has started, with Neil and I hoping you have enjoyed your festive break however you celebrated it.

Local Plan

This is probably the hot topic at the moment and will take up most of the space in this report. With Regulation 18 complete, there were 1,752 responses from the public. Officers must now read them all and will be sorting them into general topics / themes. They will also check them for anything that might constitute libel etc (other councils have been sued for publishing resident comments that included slurs and rumours). They will prepare an officer comment in response to each one and publish it all on the Uttlesford website in one go - likely after a Local Plan Leadership Group meeting first for Members to review. Officers started on this straight after the festive break and it will take about 6 weeks to go through them all. Reading that many comments (some run into many pages) is a big job. We are expecting the Regulation 19 version to be published in the summer.

Uttlesford District Council has reviewed its housing trajectory and five year housing land supply and updated it. The council is able to demonstrate a housing supply of 5.14 years for the period 2023 - 2028. This is above the minimum threshold of five years as set out in the current (at the time) NPPF.

New NPPF as of 19 December 2023

The latest version of the NPPF made several changes to the application of the 5YHLS test and prospectively, of relevance to UDC, is Paragraph 226. For decision-making purposes only, this requires local authorities, such as UDC, that have an emerging local plan and have reached regulation 18 of the current Town and Country Planning



regulations, only to identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide a minimum of four years' worth of housing.

Thus, once the Regulation 19 version of the Local Plan has been prepared (including the publication of a Policy Map) this policy would be engaged and UDC will only need to set out a four-year supply (plus a 20% buffer to either requirement due to the HDT performance, whatever that might prove to be).

Michael Gove's Speech

You may be aware of the press coverage of Michael Gove's speech on 19th November, 2023.

UDC received a letter only hours after that speech. The letter tells us nothing new, and nothing that hasn't been in the public domain - Uttlesford has not updated its Local Plan since 2005. The last submitted plan, as you are probably aware, was unsound and not good enough to be tinkered with according to the Inspectors. Uttlesford is now well along the road to rectifying this, having voted at full Council on 30th October to submit the draft Local Plan to a full public consultation (Regulation 18). Mr Gove and his team are aware of this so their demand for a timetable for submitting a Local Plan was all about sound and fury (and I am assuming party political), as we published that timetable (known technically as our Local Development Plan) months ago and were ready to send him a link to it within moments of receiving his letter. This was refused and Uttlesford was told to take their time before submitting it.

You may also be aware of an ECM called on the subject of the letter, held on 17th January, 2024, in the main chamber, where the Leaders response was discussed (this was recorded and should be available on the UDC website via YouTube).

Chair's Carol Service

As Chairman of Uttlesford District Council, I would like to thank the Reverend Dawn

Jewson and her team for hosting a carol service supporting my charities at St Mary's, Little Hallingbury, on Wednesday, 13th December, along with all who attended and those who participated in the readings. The WI also managed the refreshments after the service splendidly; thank you ladies. The monies raised, £310, will be going to help my two named charities in the district.

Ward surgeries

Neil and I have run the surgeries for January with no real problems coming to light.

Please note that these surgeries are for you to discuss issues that you may have with UDC that we, as your District Councillors, can help with or represent you where possible. Please do come along and have a chat, you do not need to arrange an appointment, they are walk in surgeries. They are held on the first Tuesday of each month at Great Hallingbury Village Hall, 2 - 4pm, and on the third Friday of each month at the Dukes Head PH, Hatfield Broad Oak, also between 2 - 4pm.

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

cllrdriscoll@uttlesford.gov.uk

cllrreeve@uttlesford.gov.uk



THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF **EASTON LODGE**

In February work progressed fast on the second half of the new path to make sure it was ready for visitors on Snowdrop Days. Unfortunately the good weather for pathbuilding also meant the snowdrops coming up fast and being rather ahead of themselves, making us nervous for our snowdrop dates. So what March will bring is anyone's guess!

Daffodil season will probably start early, so why not consider a Group Visit for March? The Gardens don't open on Thursdays until April, so a Group Visit is the only way to see the daffodils in the Lime Wood at their best. Last year we welcomed the retired International Daffodil Registrar to the Gardens. She found many daffodils that resembled the seventeen old varieties she had identified in her 2003 survey. They were probably planted at the time that Peto redesigned the Gardens for the Countess of Warwick. The main catalogue available then supplied more than 400 varieties. Now Kew reckons that 36 wild varieties have been identified and there are over 26,000 cultivated varieties. So, open your eyes to daffodils this year! If you want to arrange a Group Visit for more than 10 people on a Thursday, please contact enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk

This month we will be holding two New Volunteers' Days on Saturday, 9th March, and Thursday, 14th March. Our volunteers love spending time at the Gardens, nearly whatever the weather. There are tasks suitable for all and the opportunity to make new friends. For more information go to our website: www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on.

Jill Goldsmith

Daffodils at Easton Lodge last year

Great Hallingbury W.I.



My Life in Ladies Underwear!

As usual with Great Hallingbury WI we have had some interesting meetings during the past few months. In October Phil Westlake gave us his talk entitled *My Life in Ladies Underwear*. He had worked in the Textile industry for 40 years with 25 years in ladies' lingerie and the rest of the time in swimwear. After three years in a bank, he saw an advertisement for a company called Pagan and was offered the job of assistant buyer which he accepted. His job was to source materials from all parts of the world and from as far away as Japan. He



An Early Bra

showed us a photo of the first bra and also how two handkerchiefs were sewn to also make an early boob covering. Now there are thirteen components used to make a bra. Later in his career he joined M&S as an accessory supplier. As many of us know they are very strict about the quality of the products they buy and he travelled abroad for them seeking the quality materials they demanded.

A Christmas Surprise

In November members received their Christmas Surprise. They were welcomed to the meeting by the President, Jan, invited to sit at small tables and were provided with food prepared by the committee and mulled wine. She also welcomed our *Surprise* for the evening, Philip Hays, who would be playing his keyboard. After the refreshments our *Name that Carol* competition started. Philip played two



Paulette and Judy serve mulled wine



Avis, Anne and Val naming carols

bars from a Carol or Christmas Song and everyone was asked to write down the title. The members were awarded points depending on the number of bars Philip played. The winners, Jenni and her sister, were announced and prizes given out to them and to the runners up. A lot of fun.

New Year Meal

Our first meeting in January was our traditional New Year Meal. Twenty-three of our members gathered at



Hunters Meet for an excellent dinner. After

being welcomed, birthday presents were given to Lainie and Jenni accompanied by Happy Birthday sung by us all. Rosemary was



Jan and Dave

then presented with the Cynthia Collins trophy for gaining the most points in competitions during the year. The meal



followed and after the coffee and cake a Right game was played accompanied by much hilarity. Finally, after the distribution of the Secret Santa gifts, the committee was thanked for organizing the evening and the meeting closed. An excellent start to the year.



Sharon won a beautiful table arrangement

We meet on the 4th Wednesday in the month in The Village Hall at 7.30pm. We welcome visitors to our meetings which are a lot of fun with excellent refreshments provided by our members.

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

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Great Hallingbury Village Hall

Update



Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported the Village Hall in 2023; that may be attending one of the fundraising events, giving up time to assist in a project concerning the hall or contributing to the monthly fundraising prize draw. Every little does help and it is hugely appreciated by all concerned.

In November our Christmas tree was erected to the front of the Village Hall. A special thanks must go to Great Hallingbury Councillor Mr. Alan Pinnock for his huge part in this and the assistance provided by the Streeter family and their staff. A turning on of the Christmas tree lights took place on Saturday, 18th November, and then refreshments were provided by Great Hallingbury Parish Council. There were sweets and chocolate for the children (and adults) in attendance. Following on from this we invited people to bring their own drinks and nibbles and stay on to continue the social evening. It was well attended and it was lovely to see the community coming together for a special time of the year.

On Friday, 1st December, we had our annual Christmas Flower Arranging Demonstration with afternoon tea and raffle. This was a very well supported event which raised around £335 for the hall and its grounds. A huge thank you to Mrs. Valerie Walker who arranged and coordinated the event and to her fantastic team of helpers who gave up their time to assist. Thank you also to all those who made / donated sandwiches and cakes - you know who you are !

Saturday, 2nd December, saw our last fundraising event of the year; our Christmas Quiz Night. All tables for this event were sold and there were around eighty-five people which was fantastic. A great return was realised that night with £535 profit for the hall funds. Again, a massive thanks to

all those involved in helping stage the event and to everyone who attended.

With regard to the Hall, I can say with confidence and great pleasure that we are in a good position all round. It is important that residents of Great Hallingbury know this. Over the years we have seen the disappearance of our school, our post office / shop and our pub in this village. This is our last building standing and we will always need your support. This is not my Village Hall or the committee's but yours, so if you want to hold your own private event, have any ideas for fundraising this year, want to get involved in existing projects or events, or seek information on what we are doing or have done, then please do contact me.

Our regular clubs have committed to 2024 and continue to use the hall, having weathered the storms of recent years. Our private hiring is constantly increasing and this is great from a financial aspect.

My committee and I are fully aware of our responsibilities and the transparency needed to run a registered charity, which is the status of Great Hallingbury Village Hall. So, with the money raised and the grants sought, we have in recent years undertaken a number of major projects such as flooring and heating replacement. As always, I am sincerely grateful for all the donations and grants received. Great Hallingbury Parish Council continue yearly with their donations, support and attention to what we achieve for our Village Hall. Again, we as a committee are hugely thankful to them.

Into the new year, 2024, and looking ahead there are various discussions ongoing surrounding the Hall.

High on the agenda will be exploring the possibility of a Great Hallingbury Summer Fun Day for the community with various activities, stalls, food, drink, music etc. We are minded of the loss of the Great and Little Hallingbury Village Flower Show, an event that is part of village history and is something that has united the Hallingburys.

It will be a huge loss to the calendar.

We will also be looking at opening the Hall for social gatherings on a regular basis during the summer months. This will enable family and friends to meet and enjoy the safe environment of a local open space and Hall in hopefully the good weather!

A date has already been set for one of our fundraising quiz nights - Saturday, 23rd March. Further details are within this publication. I must stress, however, that booking a table is essential. These nights have become extremely popular and we have a capacity limitation for the hall. I appreciate that, in the past, groups have just turned up and this may be a problem for us on the night. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Our fundraising monthly prize draw, the Ton Club has now been running for five years. During that time well over £2,000 has been raised. However, we have decided to suspend it for this year and we will look at possibly starting it again in 2025. Anyone who has already paid will, of course, be reimbursed. To all those who have supported the Hall with their £12 per number for the year - thank you kindly.

Please contact me for further information on any of the events / matters mentioned previously. Thank you for taking the time to read this update.

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



Great Hallingbury Village Hall Committee



*Raising funds - work to improve
the Village Hall goes on*

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 23rd March 2024

Great Hallingbury Village Hall

7 pm for 7.30 pm

GOOD PRIZES AND RAFFLE

£5 per person at the door - tables of 6 or 8

Reservation essential - contact Sally on 01279 658751



Bring your own food and drink

Village Hall Dates for your Diary

QUIZ NIGHTS

Saturday 23 MARCH and Saturday 7
DECEMBER - 7pm for a 7.30pm start

SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Saturday 13 JULY, Saturday 10 AUGUST and
Saturday 7 SEPTEMBER - all 6pm

VILLAGE HALL AGM

Monday 22 APRIL 8pm

CHRISTMAS TREE TURNING ON LIGHTS CELEBRATION

Saturday 30 NOVEMBER 6.30pm

CHRISTMAS FLOWER ARRANGING AND AFTERNOON TEA

Friday 29 NOVEMBER (time to be
confirmed)

Easy Eating

One-pan Salmon and Roasted Asparagus

Ingredients

400 g new potato, halved if large
 2 tbsp olive oil
 8 asparagus spears, trimmed and halved
 2 handfuls cherry tomatoes
 1 tbsp balsamic vinegar
 2 salmon fillets, about 140 g / 5 oz each
 handful basil leaves

Method

1. Heat the oven to 220°C/fan 200°C/ gas 7
2. Tip the potatoes and 1 tbsp of olive oil into an ovenproof dish and then roast the potatoes for 20 mins until starting to brown.
3. Toss the asparagus in with the potatoes, then return to the oven for 15 mins
4. Throw in the cherry tomatoes and vinegar and nestle the salmon amongst the vegetables.
5. Drizzle with the remaining olive oil and return to the oven for a final 10 - 15 mins until the salmon is cooked.
6. Scatter over the basil leaves and serve everything scooped straight from the dish.



Lemon Curd and Orange Cake

Ingredients

170 g soft salted butter
 150 g golden caster sugar
 2 eggs
 70 g natural yogurt
 150 g self-raising flour
 2 tsp baking powder
 50 g ground almonds
 orange, zested
 1 tbsp milk
 3 tbsp lemon curd
 20 g flaked almonds

Method

1. Heat the oven to 180°C/fan 160°C/ gas 4
2. Butter a 1 litre loaf tin and line with baking parchment
3. Put the butter, sugar, eggs, yogurt, self-raising flour, baking powder, ground almonds, orange zest, milk and 1 tbsp lemon curd in a large bowl and whisk until smooth.
4. Put another 2 tbsp lemon curd in a separate bowl and whisk to loosen.
5. Spoon half the batter into the prepared tin, dollop over the lemon curd and top with the remaining batter.
6. Scatter over the flaked almonds.
7. Bake for 50 mins or until risen and golden.
8. Leave to cool on a wire rack
9. Scatter over some lemon zest and slice.

Great Hallingbury Anniversaries

As recorded in local newspapers

100 years ago

The Essex Chronicle: 25th January 1924

George Stock, a farm labourer, employed by Mr John Lowe, a farmer and dairy-man of Beldams Farm, injured his hand on a cart. He was treated at the Bishop's Stortford Infirmary but the wound became septic and his death occurred this week from lockjaw. *(Born in Bambers Green, Takeley, George James Stock was 68 years old when he died. He married Jane Harrington in Great Dunmow in 1877. They had thirteen children and three of the sons served in the Great War: James, Harry and Robert).*

The Essex Chronicle: 1st February 1924

Alfred John Levey, Owlets, Great Hallingbury, was fined ten shillings for being in unlawful possession of a firearm.

(The seventh child of James and Sarah Levey (née Sapsford), Alfred was born in Great Hallingbury, His father, James, was a carpenter at Hallingbury Place. He was also a sub-postmaster, in charge of the mail handling service in Great Hallingbury and living at 153 Bedlars Green, one of the estate cottages. He served as sub-postmaster until 1910 and the family moved to Owlets.)

95 years ago

The Saffron Walden Weekly News: 15th February 1929

Stansted Rural District Council considered a letter from a resident, Miss Barclay, complaining of the state of the roadway near the church at Great Hallingbury stretching for some 300 yards. The surveyor confirmed that *the work certainly required to be done. The road was so bad that there was no room for two vehicles to pass.* Recently a petrol lorry had been left embedded in the mud of this road until, 24 hours later, crane apparatus from London freed it. A committee agreed to meet at Anvil Cross to

inspect the road and it was recommended that a pipe drain be laid from the bridge to a point 200 yards toward Anvil Cross and that both ditches should be dug out.

90 years ago

The Herts and Essex Observer: 13th January 1934

A football match was played between Great Hallingbury and Little Hallingbury in the first round of the Bishop's Stortford and District Junior Charity Cup Competition. The match, staged in Little Hallingbury, was played in very windy conditions. Little Hallingbury beat Great Hallingbury three goals to one.

The Herts and Essex Observer: 24th March 1934

Fatal accident to a Great Hallingbury Man. Harry James Bradford, aged 22 or 23 of Council Cottages, Great Hallingbury, riding pillion on a motor cycle, driven by Frederick George Eldred of School Green, Little Hallingbury, was killed instantaneously, when the machine collided with a motor lorry between Thornwood and Epping. Both men were on their way to work at Buckhurst Hill. Frederick Eldred received serious injury.

80 years ago

The Herts and Essex Observer: 22nd January 1944

The wedding was held in St Giles' Church, the Revd C Gell officiating, of Lieutenant Eugene Phillips, US Army, from Connecticut, USA, and Miss Jean Leslie Hartley, youngest daughter of Capt. J Hartley MM and Mrs Hartley of Cherry Orchard, Great Hallingbury. A reception was held at Howe Green House (lent by Mrs and Mrs V Routledge), where about 35 guests assembled.

(Vincent Routledge had been Captain of the Great and Little Hallingbury Home Guard in World War Two. He bred a number of successful gun dogs, training them in the evenings on his return from working in the City, as a tea broker.)

The Herts and Essex Observer: 11th March 1944

At a meeting of the Great Hallingbury Women's Institute, Mrs Gould presiding, a talk was given by Miss Edith Bancroft on the Beveridge Report. Tea was served.

(The Beveridge Report, which was published in the midst of World War II, promised rewards for everyone's sacrifices. Overwhelmingly popular with the public, it formed the basis for the post-war reforms known as the welfare state, which included the expansion of National Insurance and the creation of the National Health Service).

70 years ago

The Herts and Essex Observer: 22nd January 1954
Residents of Great Hallingbury and Little Hallingbury met in Little Hallingbury Village Hall to discuss the continuation of the Annual Flower Show. *After a lively discussion and several ballots* it was agreed to continue their joint annual flower show, which had caused a *crisis in the relationship of our two villages*. The main argument advanced against one show was the distance between the two villages. A lack of transport made it difficult to take produce from one village and back again on show days.

The Herts and Essex Observer: 12th March 1954
For failing to comply with a halt sign with a car, Harold Maurice Abrahams of Great Jenkins, Great Hallingbury, was fined forty shillings (£2).

(Harold Abrahams was an athlete who won a gold medal in the 100 metres sprint at the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris. His achievement is known to many through the 1981 award-winning film, Chariots of Fire. He worked as an athletics journalist for forty years and also commentated for the BBC.)

60 years ago

The Herts and Essex Observer: 27th March 1964
This issue was dominated by the not unexpected news of the development of Stansted as London's third Airport. An editorial in the paper commented that the present runway alignment meant that the population of Bishop's Stortford may not be *too badly troubled, but the residents of Great Hallingbury and Broxted are not so fortunate*. Mrs Ruth Short, Headmistress of Great Hallingbury Primary School, summed

up the situation, as follows: *It is hell under here sometimes. The noise is terrible. But I just don't know what the answer is.* Mrs Barbara Evans of Forest House, Great Hallingbury commented *This will no longer be a quiet rural area. I haven't a single good thing to say about this plan at all.*

50 years ago

The Herts and Essex Observer: 1st February 1974
The Annual Christmas Party of the Great Hallingbury Women's Institute was held in January in the Village Hall, which had been decorated by Mrs Hayward. The President, Mrs N Streeter, welcomed 80 guests and friends to a dinner of turkey, ham and salad. Members of the Bishop's Stortford Operatic Society provided entertainment.

Also the January Meeting of the Great Hallingbury Mother's Union had been held at Glebe House, by kind invitation of Mrs Burnett-Stuart. Members presented plays that portrayed the problems of a mother of a teenager and these were discussed. Tea was provided by Mrs Camp.

40 years ago

The Herts and Essex Observer: 5th January 1984
At the AGM of the Great Hallingbury WI, reports were given by the treasurer and secretary and President Mrs Baldwin presented floral tributes to retiring committee members, one of whom, Mrs Peachey, had given 20 years service. The new committee was elected and Mrs Baldwin agreed to continue as president. Mrs Homan is to be the new secretary. After refreshments, there was an anagram competition, won by Mrs Latham.

The Herts and Essex Observer: 9th February 1984
Some 100 people working on a Great Hallingbury industrial estate have been told that their jobs will be axed by the end of June. Howe Green Moat has been operating as a 26 unit estate, without planning permission, for seven years. Mr Julian Jackson, who had set up the estate, had lodged an appeal to keep the engineering, textile and agricultural firms on the site but the Planning Inspector's Report stated that

the scale of the industrial estate *deep in the countryside was quite unacceptable.*

35 years ago

The Dunmow Observer: 2nd February 1989

An evening of memories was enjoyed by a group of Great Hallingbury women when they met at Sally's Dining Room in Southmill Road, Bishop's Stortford, to celebrate the Silver Anniversary of the village's evening Women's Institute. Val Mugele, a Past President, said that it was set up in 1964 because of the demand from women who could not attend an afternoon session. Mrs Mugele said that one of the most memorable meetings was the visit of George Cansdale, who presented children's television programmes about animals. About 50 past and present members were at the celebration.

30 years ago

The Dunmow Observer: 13th January 1994

Great Hallingbury Parish Council has unveiled plans for a new access and rear extension to the Village Hall in Church Road. The proposals also include building a new car park on agricultural land at the side of the hall.

20 years ago

The Daily Telegraph: (24th January 2004

Germaine Greer, in an article entitled *Time to accept the inevitable before the misery begins again*, wrote that under the command of Norman Mead, Stop Stansted Expansion, which had been founded six months previously, has declared war. One of Norman Mead's recent speeches was quoted in the article. *Whether in the courtroom or otherwise - make no mistake - we will ultimately win this battle. And when that day comes, it will be a victory for the entire community, a victory for our heritage and a victory we can all be proud of.* Norman Mead's speech was given rapturous applause.

Philip Hays

Speedwatch



Our small Speedwatch team has been out in the Parish. We are pleased to see that drivers are driving more slowly past the Village Hall but we ask everyone to adhere to the 30 mph limit right through Great Hallingbury. Certainly at this time of year, when it gets dark early and the roads are extra hazardous, take special care looking out for pedestrians.

The speed survey on the B1256 Dunmow Road was not as promising. We recorded a speeding vehicle every 90 seconds which was extremely disappointing.

New recruits to join the team would be very welcome. If anyone in Great Hallingbury would like to join, full training is available.



Silent Argument Shocks

A man and his wife were having some problems at home and were giving each other the silent treatment.

Suddenly the man realised that the next day he would need his wife to wake him at 5 am for an early morning business flight. Not wanting to be the first to break the silence (and LOSE), he wrote on a piece of paper, 'Please wake me at 5 am'. He left it where he knew she would find it.

The next morning the man woke up, only to discover it was 9 am and he had missed his flight.

Furious, he was about to go to see why his wife hadn't wakened him when he noticed a piece of paper by the bed. The paper said, 'It is 5 am. Wake up.'

Great Hallingbury History Society

Tile Kin Green Excavation



It is not often that history, quite literally, appears on your doorstep but that is what happened this time last year when Robin Mathieson led a team from Colchester Archaeological Trust in a pre-construction survey that revealed a pair of post medieval kilns on Stane Street opposite the Esso petrol station.

In January, Great Hallingbury History Society members were treated to an evening of maps and photographs detailing the two kilns constructed in close proximity to each other where, for hundreds of years, lime and tiles were produced.



The kilns were beautifully constructed and, although missing their roofs, had clearly defined chambers, vents and walls made from flint, cobbles and peg tiles, some of which contained a moment frozen in time when deer, cats and mice scampered across the surface as the tiles dried in the sun.

These gifts from the past are sadly now covered over and built upon but hopefully in a way that would allow future generations to rediscover them when the world takes the time to catch its breath.

Claire Layer

Great Hallingbury History Society



Programme Spring 2024

Thames Mudlarking Treasures

by Stephen Engeham



Wednesday, 13th March



Ten Tales of the National Trust

by David Simmonds

Wednesday, 10th April

The Buxtons: An Old Essex Family

Georgina Green



Wednesday, 8th May

Meetings held in
Great Hallingbury Village Hall at 8pm

Entrance Fee Including Refreshments:
£2.00 for Members Membership £10 pa
£5.00 for Non-members

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

The RBL Helping Individuals

Commemorating a Brother

Although I didn't make the coffee morning back in October, I did make a donation - and this eventually led to an invitation to have my late brother's name inscribed in the Royal British Legion's Book of Remembrance.

Bob was one of many young men who served in the Army in Germany - so he enjoyed a perfectly safe life, marrying a local German girl who was the love of his life for over 40 years. They died within a few years of each other and are interred under the same tree in a beautiful German woodland cemetery - but there was no record of his death in the U.K. for us to hold onto, so to speak.

This morning I received an email from the British Legion enclosing a few pictures of the inscription - which they thought we'd appreciate receiving just in time for Christmas. It's a poignant moment, seeing his name so beautifully inscribed (bottom right) in such a handsome book.



Bob went on to become an artist and craftsman who could make anything with his hands - his home was an homage to the Arts and Crafts movement and he spent the bulk of his post-army life working as a one-man museum restorer, cabinet maker and toy maker. Preserving the past with care and authenticity mattered a great deal to him. So he'd have approved, I think.

continued at foot of next column

Poppy Campaign 2023



The Poppy Appeal involved both Great and Little Hallingbury last year and the total collected meant we raised more than the other villages in the area. This was thanks to the Great Hallingbury Coffee morning hosted by Christine Coultrup and the continuing support of our two local schools, Little Hallingbury Primary and Howe Green House School.

The campaign was started with a very successful coffee morning in Great Hallingbury which was well attended and included a raffle, sale table and plenty of cake and coffee. First use was made of the QR code provided by the British Legion to enable those who do not carry cash to donate. This year also there were new eco poppies which seemed quite flat and unassuming. Thanks especially to Christine and to all those who attended.

Collecting boxes for donations were then delivered to businesses, individuals and schools in Great and Little Hallingbury. On the last Friday of the two weeks there was another coffee morning at Howe Green House School which has always been a great supporter of the Appeal. A few days later the remaining poppies and heavy tins were collected and delivered to Hatfield Heath so their contents could be counted.

A total of £1,777.64 was collected and maybe more as information was not available locally of how much was donated though the QR code.

Thank you once again to everyone for all the support.

*Gill Sewell
Poppy Appeal Coordinator*

And thank you, because without your invitation I wouldn't have made the donation and Bob wouldn't have ended up recorded for posterity in this way.

Sian Lloyd

Hidden History of Great Hallingbury

Village Boundaries



As you travel into Bishop's Stortford you may have noticed the Boundary Lane sign on the left hand side. This sign, along with the house opposite named Hallingbury House, are the only tangible signs of when our village was bigger. In 1992 the areas shown were formally handed over to East Herts.



After the handover a rash of planning applications gave the town new estates; The Wragglins, The Hedgerows and Beldams Gate. In total the affected area now contains well over 100 houses.

The particulars of the boundary of Great Hallingbury, given in a document dated May 5th, 1752, suggests that at that time Hallingbury extended over to where the Hospital is now, i.e. Haymeads. Of course at that time it was agricultural land.

"Cross'd ye road to an Ash ye corner of Mr Wraggs Glebe up to Palmers field kept ye side Mr Wragg hedge to ye corner next ye lane + 2 elms up ye lane [then known as Hangmans lane] + an elm into Palmers field an ash the other corner next Stortford I a small oak next Stocks field + spear oake next field + an elm an ash + a spear elm ye corner into Bushy pastures + an oak newly headed into Ettridges field kept the side next Mr Motts field up to Mrs Clarkes manships ye Acre piece + an elm spear & pollard into Ettridges field + a small elm into Haymead."

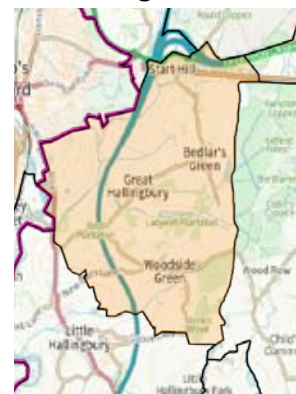
The document is somewhat problematic as it basically relies on fields and trees as markers. Many of the trees mentioned were large elms, all of which are sadly gone.

In 1752, Beldhams road was known as Hangmans Lane, meeting up with Wragglins lane at the bottom end. It seems likely that Hangmans Lane and Hanginghill Springs, over near the motorway, have their own hidden history!

Geographically, Great Hallingbury is still a large village and includes the south side of Boundary Lane to the motorway, then runs alongside the M11 and includes the junction 8 roundabout. The houses on the north side of Start Hill are part of our village and after a small jump over the new A120, the boundary runs along the north side of that road until it meets and follows the line of the old road to the airport, down to the traffic lights on the B1256, encompassing Thremhall Priory. Great Hallingbury End is part of our village and the boundary then runs due south down the edge of Hatfield Forest, past Bedlars Green and Ladywell to Monks Wood at the southern point of Woodside Green. The boundary then snakes west around Woodside Green, over the motorway and across New Barn Lane to meet the Hallingbury Road at the bottom of the dip, opposite to Pig Lane. Finally it hugs the Stort River until it reaches Boundary Lane.

If we only still had the trees we may find that the boundary has not changed so much since 1752.

Alan Pinnock



Current Parish Boundary

Gun-Dogs Galore!

In 1959, my father, Bob Baldwin, won the International Gun-Dog Retriever Championship for the first time and would then go on to win it twice more in his career as a gun-dog trainer. No mean feat for someone who began life as one of eleven children and whose first job was as a stable boy working 14 hours a day! By the age of 20 he had moved on to become a trainee gamekeeper on the Dullingham estate near Newmarket and, eventually, head gamekeeper. By now, he was already becoming well-known in the shooting world for his skills in training gun-dogs.



Bob with his Team of Dogs

In the 1930's, the shoot at Dullingham was hired by the Wilkins family, one of whom was Dick Wilkins who moved to Monkswood, Woodside Green, in the 1950's. In 1957, having already become very impressed by my father's skills, he asked Bob to come and work for him to train gun-dogs professionally and to accompany him on his shooting days as his loader and *right-hand* man with the dogs.

As Woodside Green was some 40 miles from Newmarket, my parents

would have to move away from their families and friends - in the 1950's, 40 miles was a long way! - but they decided this was too good an opportunity to miss as it would give him a chance to hone his skills even more. Little did they know, at this point, that it would also involve meeting some very well-known people - including the Queen and other members of the Royal Family. Dick Wilkins was very proud of my father and the dogs and, on many occasions, would bring his weekend guests



With Actor, Jack Hawkins

to Sendhurst Kennels for a demonstration.

Princess Alexandra and her husband, Sir Angus Oglivy, Prince Rainier of Monaco, actor Jack Hawkins, motor racing champion Graham Hill and aviation pioneer Tommy Sopwith - on separate occasions! - would be treated to a display of seven or eight dogs all sitting close to Bob and waiting for their turn to retrieve. Sometimes it would be a *dummy* fired from a launcher or a tennis ball hit with some force by a very old racquet.



Her Majesty the late Queen watching the Gun-dogs



Competing at Trials

The Queen had her own kennel of gun-dogs and team of handlers at Sandringham and often attended Field Trials around the country. She also attended many of the shooting days at Sandringham and, at one of them, an equerry reprimanded my father for calling the Queen *m'dear* when he suggested she would see better from where he was standing!

In 1970, she came to Monkswold with her handlers and their dogs and, with a number of dog-handlers from this area invited by Dick Wilkins, a competition was held to see whose dog performed the best in a number of tests. Much to Dick Wilkins's delight, my father came out on top!

Rex Baldwin

The Hundred Parishes Society Weathervanes



Chilly conditions often greet us as we step outside in the early months of the year. The old saying, *When the wind is out of the East, tis never good for man nor beast*, certainly rings true. Before the advent of broadcast weather forecasts, people had to rely on checking nearby weathervanes for the wind direction. These were usually found on tall buildings such as church spires, while Audley End House has gilded weathervanes mounted on eight corner turrets.



Today, a variety of designs can be seen.

Robert McFarlane's books of old words include about fifty that describe winds, storms or clouds. One Essex term he mentions is *aigrish*, used to describe a sharp cutting wind. The East Anglian word for a strong sudden gust is *gussock* or *twitchy* for an unsteady wind.



Weathersfield

Forecasting the weather for those who till the soil is helpful as weeks of westerly winds can bring relentless rain causing waterlogging of the ground, while cold easterly winds dry out the soil and retard growth.



Great Waltham

Currently, the UK Meteorological Office operates over 200 official automated sites, each recording accurate measurements of temperature, wind speed and direction, and the amount of precipitation. These readings are processed by powerful computers and the results enable forecasters to make predictions about future weather conditions. Local recording sites include the Cambridge Botanic Gardens and Stansted Airport. By searching the Met Office



Clavering

website <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk> you can check the local weather forecast to help plan your day.



Braughing

Many individuals or schools are interested in operating a personal weather station and the Met Office is keen to enhance the weather observations network; it asks those who have a personal weather station, manual or automatic, to send data to its Weather Observations Website, WOW, at <https://wow.metoffice.gov.uk>.

Tricia Moxey, Trustee
www.hundredparishes.org.uk



Neighbourhood Watch in Great Hallingbury



We now have approaching 70 members on our Facebook group *Great Hallingbury Neighbourhood Watch*. This provides weekly crime reports in the South Uttlesford area.

If you would like to join too, please contact Cllr Mark Coletta (see page 2)

Proposed Neighbourhood Plan

You are probably aware that a new Local Plan is well underway for Uttlesford District Council. However, there is also the possibility of a Neighbourhood Plan being put in place by each village's Parish.

A Neighbourhood Plan is a document that helps to shape the future of the village (such as planning policies etc). It is written by the local residents. In addition, it can help to protect local green spaces, help better designs and can assist in bringing forward housing that meets local needs and help to protect heritage/historical sites.

Once completed, it will sit alongside the local plan and be used by Planning Committees to assist them when deciding planning applications.

The plan will only work if the residents buy into the idea. It takes some time to complete (on average 2 years or more) and, when completed, would need to be reviewed and updated every five years. Once adopted it becomes a statutory planning document and has the same legal status as a local plan. It would have been an ideal instrument to have had in place during the fight against FYK Ltd who wanted to create a 24/7 logistics centre at the Start Hill end of the village.

The Parish Council would support the idea but it will initially need a working group and eventually a steering committee to drive it forward. That steering committee should be made up of people with an interest but also with the necessary skills to help (for instance design and build a website, possible planning experience etc.) It should represent a wide section of the community so we can make sure that a balance of interests is represented.

Several meetings have been arranged to see how many people would have an interest in the plan and would be prepared to assist in

its development.

If we believe there is enough interest, then the first port of call would be to devise a questionnaire which would be distributed to all households. We can use the quarterly magazine to promote and update what is happening as well as putting regular updates on the GHPC website and encouraging people to use that as a go to point of contact.

We could try and get John Evans, Portfolio Holder for the UDC plan, to come and talk at a meeting; either a Parish Council meeting that members of the public can attend or at a separate meeting for residents to attend and ask questions.

An initial meeting was held in the Village Hall on Monday, 15th January, 2024, when we had a small but positive turn out with people who wanted to get involved.

There is an Annual Parish Meeting on 18th March where more information will be available for people to take away and a second meeting, in the form of a coffee morning, on Sunday, 7th April, between 10am-2pm in the Village Hall.

I very much hope to see you there.

Val Waring

Great Hallingbury Neighbourhood Plan

Coffee Morning

Sunday 7th April

10am-12 noon

Great Hallingbury Village Hall

Come along and join us for coffee and cakes and talk to councillors about the proposed Neighbourhood Plan for the village.



It is your chance to have your say in what shapes the future of the village, where buildings should be, where building should not take place, what amenities you want to see, what assets you want to see preserved.

See you there

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Essex County Council

Cllr Susan Barker



Dear Great Hallingbury Residents

A belated Happy New Year.

County Precept

February is Budget time at Councils and Essex is looking to increase Council Tax by 2.99% and also the Social Care precept by 2%, so an overall increase of 4.99%. The main factors behind this are increases in the cost of placements for Children in Care; increased costs for school transport; wage inflation; the cost of materials for Highways works and the increase in the National Living wage. I have not seen the figures as yet but imagine that the District Council and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner will also be raising their precepts. The good news is that inflation is far below the highs of the last couple of years.

Uttlesford Local Plan

The consultation is now closed and officers will be examining the responses. Since April last year at least 1850 new homes have been granted planning permission so the proposed allocations as set out in the plan can be reduced by that number and still further if more permissions are granted before April. The leader of the council has said that, before the next stage, policy chapters on important issues such as affordable housing, infrastructure and Biodiversity will need to be re-examined and possibly amended.

Although there are no plans for housing in Great Hallingbury, increases of the size proposed in Takeley will evidently impact, especially if there are problems on the M11.

Highways

I am very aware of the many defects on Church Road and through the village and the wet weather and then freezing temperatures only make things worse. Defects are dealt

with in priority order but if there are very dangerous holes then please get in touch with me or report to Essex Highways on their emergency line 0345 603 7631.

Your Parish Council will be meeting with the Cabinet Member for Highways in February and will be raising these issues as well as the state of the footpath on the B1256. I had a chilly walk along there with Parish Councillor Coletta in January and frequently needed to step into the road!

If there are any issues with which I can help then please do get in touch

Susan Barker

Cllr.susan.barker@essex.gov.uk

01245 231250

County Councillor for Great Dunmow Division

District Councillor High Easter and the

Rodings

Chairman Essex Pension Fund

Great Hallingbury Litter Pick

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SUNDAY, 24th MARCH

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Mark Bloomfield 01279 501679





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Highlights from the Minutes of Meetings of Great Hallingbury Parish Council

6th November 2023 and 6th January 2024

PRESENT (at one or both meetings): Cllr Alan Townsend (Chairman), Cllrs David Barlow, Mark Bloomfield, Mark Coletta, Neil Jackson, Andrew Noble, Alan Pinnock and Val Waring, Mrs Urška Sydee (Clerk), District Cllr Geof Driscoll

Co-Option

It was agreed unanimously to co-opt Val Waring following the resignation of Andrew Smith.

Chairman's Activities

- attended EALC Executive Committee meeting and Personnel meeting
- attended UALC AGM where he was re-elected as Chairman, Local Council Liaison Forum
- attended EALC AGM and EALC training bursary workshop
- litter pick in Great Hallingbury
- attended Woodside Green Residents' Association meeting
- represented Parish Council at Remembrance Service
- attended Christmas Lights Celebration in Village Hall and in Little Hallingbury
- met with Little Hallingbury Chair regarding Speedwatch
- attended Area Planning meeting
- visited Little Hallingbury Playgroup as Santa
- checked defibrillator weekly
- weekly meeting with Clerk

Uttlesford District Council

The Local Plan Consultation is now closed. All comments submitted by residents will be reviewed and changes made as appropriate before the next Reg 19 stage which is expected in June/July. All information is

on the UDC website.

Enforcement - there is a 50% staff increase.

Grants for businesses are now released.

Cllr Pinnock noted that a building was erected in Great Hallingbury and without the Parish Council being asked for comments. Cllr Driscoll responded that the postcode for this particular building is in Little Hallingbury so therefore Little Hallingbury Parish Council was asked for comments.

Waste Collections - missing bin collections should be done by Wednesday; garden waste collection should start this week.

Great Hallingbury Manor Hotel - the contract for housing illegal immigrants has ended and was not renewed.

Highways

Because of a change in the structure of the Local Highways Panel, Cllr Driscoll is unable to ask for a recount of the houses in the area of Howe Green School. Accordingly, this will be taken off future agendas.

Cllr Coletta reported that a height sign has been installed on the Fritchway bridge

Local Plan

The TPLPG' working group had nothing to report.

Cllr Coletta was retrospectively authorised to write a response to the Reg 18 consultation which had been sent to UDC.

Hallingburys' Speedwatch Group

It is difficult to get people on board and it cannot be done when it is dark or raining. However, a session in January on Dunmow Road caught several drivers speeding.

Village Hall

Cllr Pinnock reported that a sound system and projector had been installed in the Village Hall and the hall is now cleaned once a week by a professional cleaner.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Council considered preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Waring prepared a flyer for distribution to all residents to see their degree of interest. This was

distributed with the winter edition of *Great Hallingbury Highlights*.

She has sought a grant towards the costs for an event to kick-off the Great Hallingbury Neighbourhood Plan and District Cllrs Driscoll and Reeve agreed to grant £200.

Surveys

The Council considered responding to the UDC Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy Survey but did not submit comments.

The Council considered responding to the EALC Certificated Courses Survey 2023 and had no comments.

The Council considered the Local Government Boundary Commission's consultation on draft recommendations for division boundaries in Essex but had no comments.

Recycling Centre Bookings Consultation

The Council considered Essex County Council's consultation proposing a bookings system at Recycling Centres. The Council does not support a booking system and the Chairman and Clerk will respond accordingly.

Thremhall Park Business Centre

The Council considered a proposed base station upgrade at Thremhall Park Business Centre and support of the upgrade.

Litter Pick

The Council is again requesting Police presence and / or police signs at the March litter pick. Previous requests have met with a disappointing response. Cllr Bloomfield reported that fewer people attended and consequently there was no litter pick done from the Church to HACS shop.

Proposed Telecommunications Upgrade

A telecommunications upgrade is proposed at Anvil Cross, the track alongside the M11 off Church Road, which is supported by the Council

Stansted Airport Watch

At their Special General Meeting SAW decided to establish Stansted Airport Watch

Foundation (the SAW Foundation) to replace SAW. The Council agreed to leave the donation to SAW for 2023 as it was but may be reduced in future.

Budget 2024/2025

The budget for 2024/2025 was reviewed and agreed. It is proposed to raise the precept to £16,000.00 which will be discussed further at the January 2024 meeting.

Grants and Donations

The Council agreed to support the Village Hall with a grant of £1,100. Donations will go to Accuro (£100), SAW FoundatiOn (£250), Essex Air Ambulance (£300), Uttlesford Community Travel (£150).

Planning

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

Application Decisions

UTT/23/1143/HHF // Highfield, Church Road // Installation of 15 ground situated stand-alone solar panels to be placed at the rear of the garden facing directly south, tilted at an angle of 35 degrees // Approved (No objections.)

UTT/23/1455/FUL // Meadowside Cottages, Woodside Green // Erection of two detached dwellings, with new vehicular access to public highway for the existing dwellings, and associated private garden, car parking, and landscaping // Refused (Objections regarding overdevelopment and overbearing; not in keeping with aesthetic of area; too close to high power cables; contamination)

UTT/23/1470/OP // Stansted Distribution Centre, Start Hill // Outline planning application with all matters reserved for the demolition of units 1B, 2A, 2B, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and structures at Pontins Yard, and redevelopment for flexible commercial uses with realignment of internal access road, car parking, servicing yards, soft landscaping and other associated works // Decision awaited (Strong objections regarding density of development; does not protect or enhance the countryside; overbearing affect on neighbouring properties and associated

residents; increased HGV movements along the B1256 and through neighbouring villages; great impact on special characteristics and settings of eleven Grade 2 listed assets; hours of business use; how wastewater treatment and collection will be processed; footfall to site limited to motorcar; cycleways insignificant; no pedestrian access from Bishop's Stortford; with approval of Stansted North Industrial Development increased building stock not needed. Reconsultation: case officer meetings allowed with developer - application should be discussed in public domain; 24/7 change of use.)

UTT/23/1711/HHF // 10 Start Hill, Stane Street // Proposed side and rear extension // Approved (No objections.)

UTT/23/1755/LB // 89 Woodside Green // Replacement rainwater goods and installation of french drain // Approved (No objections.)

UTT/23/0957/FUL // Start Hill Service Station, Start Hill // Creation of charging zone, erection of EV chargers, erection of canopy, two jet wash bays, sub-station enclosure and associated forecourt works // Awaiting decision (Objections regarding more traffic on very busy junction of B1256/Tilekiln Green/M11 JCN; record of accidents from vehicles egressing Start Hill Fuel Filling Station; local area has increased residential homes but submitted plans do not show these properties; Jet Wash bays proximity to residential properties and charity organisation for vulnerable people; treatment of wastewater and means of removing detergents, chemicals and dirt before waste water fed into sewer network; area at rear will need appropriate lighting to avoid glint and glare to low flying aircraft and not to inconvenience neighbours; increased noise; traffic regularly queues on B1256 to enter petrol station.)

UTT/23/1396/HHF // 125 Church Road
Proposed first floor extension, alterations to the fenestration and internal alterations // Approved (No objections.)

UTT/23/1878/FUL // Land North of The Gatehouse, The Street // Proposed detached house, cart lodge/store and related works including upgraded access // Refused (Objections: greenfield site cannot be connected to mains drainage. It will spoil the whole look of a very beautiful, peaceful lane.)

UTT/23/1950/FUL // Old Cottage, Start Hill, Stane Street / Closure of existing access and formation of new access from the highway. Demolition of outbuildings and erection of 9 dwellings // Awaiting decision (Objections regarding overdevelopment with small-scale housing estates although within the CPZ; serious low mains water pressure - at a recent local house fire at 02:30 am the fire brigade reported low mains pressure at hydrant; increased traffic on B1256; slope of ground on site. Affinity Water is water supplier but are they consulted on applications or only Thames Water who are responsible for sewage.

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

S62A/2023/0022 // (UTT/23/1970/PINS) // Land at London Stansted Airport, Bassingbourn Road // Partial demolition of existing Track Transit System and full demolition of two skylink walkways and bus-gate building. Construction of 3-bay extension to existing passenger building, baggage handling building, plant enclosure and three skylink walkways and associated hardstanding // Approved (No objections)

UTT/23/2050/HHF // Cherry Orchard, Church Road // Section 73A Retrospective application for a rear single storey extension // Awaiting decision (No objections.)

UTT/23/2234/HHF // 97 Woodside Green // Two storey side extension and part single storey, part two storey rear extension. Insertion of new first floor window to front elevation above front door // Approved (No objections.)

UTT/23/1913/FUL // Normandale Farm, New Barn Lane // Section 73A Retrospective application for the use of barn as stables //

Awaiting decision (No objections.)
 UTT/23/2269/FUL // The Bungalow, Bedlars Green, Tilekiln Green // two new accesses to existing dwelling // Awaiting decision (No objections.)

UTT/23/2352/FUL // Land Rear of Start House, Bedlars Green, Tilekiln Green // Erection of one dwelling to rear of Start House // Awaiting decision (Objections regarding overdevelopment and overbearing impact on neighbouring properties; poor access on a dangerous bend and neighbouring Fritch Way; mobile phone mast in the garden.)

UTT/23/2305/HHF // Thatched Cottage, Start Hill, Stane Street // Proposed erection of summerhouse // Approved (No objections.)

UTT/23/2527/CLE // Annexe at Newlands House, Church Road // Use of annexe as separate residential dwelling. No alterations required // Refused (Objections: it should remain an annexe and not a separate building.)

UTT/23/2498/FUL // Newlands House, Church Road // Section 73A Retrospective application for change of use of annex to a separate residential dwelling. // Awaiting decision (Objections as above)

UTT/23/2840/HHF // Highfield, Church Road // Demolition of existing conservatory. Proposed part single storey and part two storey rear extension. Proposed front extension to create gable feature. Replacement of existing bay windows with square bay windows and new roof to accommodate first floor layout changes // No objections

UTT/23/3039/FUL // Unit 2A Stansted Distribution Centre, Start Hill // Proposed external alterations including the removal of external doors and windows, installation of a new ventilation system, associated louvred vents, external condensers and a new and replacement extraction fan. Demolition of existing wall and gate and replacement concrete hard standing // No objections

Bedlars Green

Cllr Pinnock reported that the vegetation

at the Bedlars Green pond needs to be trimmed.

Unwanted Parking

Cllr Noble reported a caravan parked at the church car park for a couple of days. As that car park does not belong to the Council it cannot take any action.

Village Hall Parking

Cllr Bloomfield reported a resident was told they cannot park at village hall while walking their dog on village field and this had been resolved.

Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Coletta reported the group has about 68 members.

Tilekiln Green

There is a sewerage problem at Tilekiln Green - it seems that a septic tank is overflowing. The Clerk to contact UDC

Roads

Cllr Jackson noted that potholes at Woodside Green are getting bigger and are now flooded.

Cllr Mark Coletta - height sign was installed on the Fritchway bridge.

Official Parish Council Minutes

These may be viewed on the Great Hallingbury Parish Council website (*see page 2*).



Book Corner



Book Corner

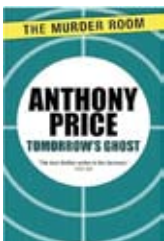
Tomorrow's Ghost

by Anthony Price

Some time ago, I recommended an *adventure/thriller* by this author called *Other Paths to Glory* set in the 1970's. The main character was Paul Mitchell who became part of a British Intelligence Team in the course of the plot. In *Tomorrow's Ghost*, he appears again, though not in the central role. That is given to Frances Fitzgibbon, a young widow, working for British Intelligence, again in the 1970's - at a time when working in what had traditionally been *a man's world* could be difficult for women. She realises that the most effective way to fight back against the negative assumptions about your capabilities and ambitions was to do the job better than the men did!

She is told, *We want you to lay a ghost for us.* This will involve investigating her superior, Colonel Jack Butler, at a decisive moment in his career. At the moment, he is in Yorkshire in pursuit of an elusive IRA/KGB assassin. After doing well on this anti-terrorist assignment, Frances is then ordered to research the Colonel's past history as he is supposedly in line for a vital promotion. The problem seems to be that his wife disappeared nine years ago and, despite a full investigation both then and continuing, no trace of her has ever been found. So did he murder her and, if so, what did he do with the body?

The real secrets, however, centre on why she has been given this assignment and who is behind it. The answer involves internal politics in the upper hierarchy of British Security - but the reason why Frances has been given the task of proving the Colonel's guilt or innocence adds an intriguing slant to the plot.



The Last Girl To Die

by Helen Fields

This is not your ordinary murder-mystery *whodunit* - and is definitely not for the faint-hearted! But, if you can suspend your disbelief when it comes to some of the plot, it is a fascinating read. Set on the Scottish island of Mull, the story taps into the local myths and legends which may not be your cup of tea - but the whole sense of isolation, of being cut off from the mainland and being beholden to tides and weather is something that could only have worked on an island.

In search of a new life, Adriana Clark's family move to Mull but, before very long, Adriana goes missing. Her desperate parents, feeling that the local police seem slow to take it seriously, turn to Sadie Levesque, a private detective who is a specialist in the field of missing teenagers.

However, when Sadie finds Adriana's body in a cliffside cave with a seaweed crown carefully arranged on her head, she knows that she is dealing with something she has never encountered before. Her investigations take her into a world where myths and legends are still a living, breathing part of island life. Delving back into the history of Mull, Sadie finds that this case may not be unique. The deeper she digs into the island's secrets, the closer danger creeps - and the more urgent her quest to find the killer. Because what if Adriana is not the last girl to die?

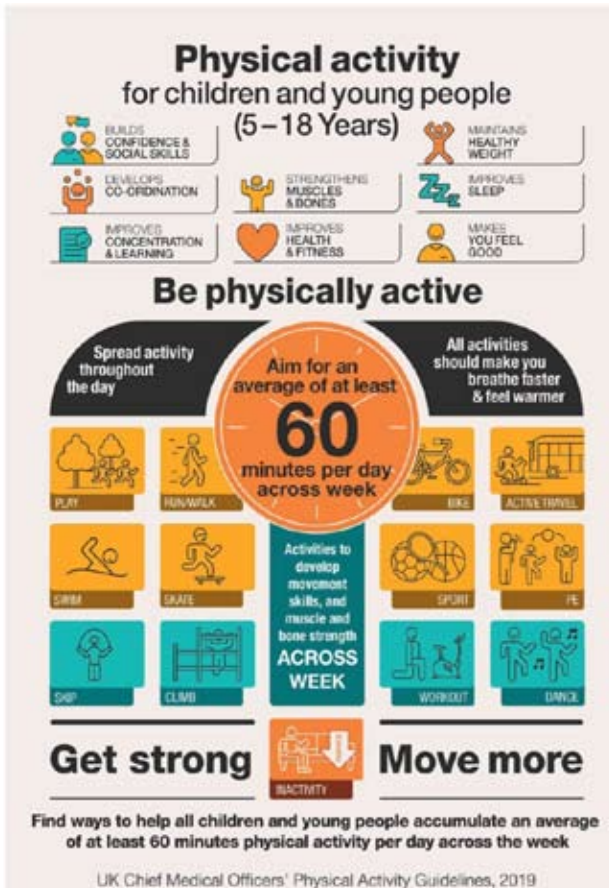
If harrowing descriptions are not to your liking, leave this book on the shelf - the ending may haunt your dreams for a while! But, if you can keep your imagination under control, this book is a *Good Read*.

Jan Baldwin



Backs of the Future

It is important that we consider posture with our children. Over the past few years, with the covid pandemic, there was a huge reduction in activity levels in children and these are only just returning to pre-pandemic levels. Added to this, the pandemic escalated the use of smartphones and tablets by children to continue school learning and entertainment. Children and adolescents spend more than five hours a day on their screens. At the same time, children are doing less than an hour, on average, of physical activity a week, despite the current guidelines being an hour per day.



Reasons to Maintain Good Posture:

- To avoid pain. Prolonged poor posture can lead to neck, back pain or even hip or knee pain.
- To avoid headaches. Our heads weight about 6.3kg. The muscles in our neck are strong but the increased use of smartphones and tablets encourages

us to bend our head forwards more frequently and for sustained periods of time. This can build tension in our neck muscles.

- To avoid fatigue. Poor posture and slouching will reduce lung capacity leading to the body getting less oxygen.
- To improve concentration. Sitting upright increases blood flow and oxygen to the brain by up to 40%.

Ideas to Maintain Good Posture:

- Exercise. This is the most important. Keep moving. Changing your posture regularly is essential to avoid neck or back pain. Try walking your child to school, getting them to join a before or after school sports club. Enjoy the weekends; countryside walks, family swimming or cycling are all great activities.



- School Rucksacks. Encourage your child to use a rucksack with both shoulder straps and place any heavy items nearest the back of the rucksack.

- Use of computers, tablets or smartphones. Teach your child to bring their device up to eye level and encourage a good posture whilst using computers, tablets or smartphones. Consider reviewing their posture at their workstation. Feet should be on the floor and sitting tall. Limit your child's digital time.



- Stretching and Advice. Teach good habits to your child. Encourage them to get up regularly every 20 minutes to quickly stretch. This could be whilst completing homework, playing computer games or watching TV. Teach them good postural habits. Encourage them to stand up tall, either using verbal cues or gently pressing their back to straighten up.

What Physiotherapy Offers:

At our clinic in Great Hallingbury, Julie

continued at foot of next column

Great and Little Hallingbury Flower Show



The Committee of the Great and Little Hallingbury Flower Show has reluctantly concluded that there is no longer enough support among the villages to allow us to continue to put on the show in its existing form. With its combination of competition, side-shows, food and drink and retail, the show requires a lot of organisational effort, both in the run up and on the day, and



Maypole Dancing at the 2019 Show

Backs of the Future

continued from previous page

Herbert and Natalie Hilliard are Chartered Physiotherapists qualified to assess and treat a wide variety of musculoskeletal problems in adults and young people. We give the best care, based on up-to-date research evidence and our knowledge which enables us to identify any factors where an onward referral to other professionals is needed. After a comprehensive assessment we discuss treatment including *hands on* treatment such as joint articulations, soft tissue massage, acupuncture, electrotherapy and taping to name a few. A home exercise programme and self-management advice is also vital in our work to gain optimum benefit to treatment.

*The Physiotherapist Julie Herbert & Associates, The Street Barn Clinic, The Street, Great Hallingbury, CM22 7TR
Book an appointment at www.thephysiotherapist.net or*

dwindling numbers on the Committee sadly mean that it is no longer practical. The Committee therefore intends to wind up its activities.

The show owns some equipment (tables, chairs, presentation boards, etc.) which is currently in storage at Harps Farm. If anyone in the villages wishes to purchase (as a job lot) any of the equipment, the Committee would be happy to consider reasonable offers. If none are forthcoming, the Committee believes the equipment should be made available (free of charge) to any individuals or organisations within the villages that want to put it to occasional use. Alan Pinnock (07939 603507) will be able to respond to such requests for the time being.

Over the last few shows (including the last post-Covid event) the show has turned a small profit and hence we have some funds to disburse. The show has always been for the benefit of both villages and therefore the Committee intends to donate the outstanding cash balance equally to the two village halls. We understand that there is potential interest within the Great Hallingbury Village Hall Committee in putting on a much simpler summer event. If this were to materialise, the money could be used to help cover any upfront costs.



The 2019 winners

Finally, the Committee wishes to thank all those who have supported and contributed to the show over the years.

*Dan Roberts
Secretary & Treasurer*



How to Contact Essex Police

999 - is for an emergency

Circumstances likely to be danger to life.

- use, or immediate threat of use, of violence
- serious injury to a person and/or
- serious damage to property

Criminal conduct

- the crime is, or likely to be, serious and in progress
- an offender has just been disturbed at the scene
- an offender has been detained and poses, or is likely to pose, a risk to other people

Road traffic accident

- involves, or is likely to involve, serious personal injury
- the road is blocked or there is a dangerous or excessive build-up of traffic

Silent 999

If you are in a dangerous situation and feel you cannot speak freely to an operator, we can still help you.

If calling from a mobile, when asked which service you would like, press 55 on the keypad. This will automatically get you

transferred to us. You might then be asked to indicate that you're still on the line either by coughing, tapping your phone, or, where possible, speaking quietly. This doesn't allow us to track your location but we will be able to listen in to what is going on around you and work out how to get help to you.

If calling from a landline, and you replace the handset at any point, the landline may remain connected for 45 seconds in case you pick it up again. Calling 999 from a landline automatically gives the police information about your location.

For Non-emergency contact:

Information and Live Chat - www.essex.police.uk

Do it online - www.essex.police.uk/ro/report/

101 - 24 hour service to speak to us or if you don't have access to the internet.

No emergency or crime not happening right now, please do not call 999.

SJAS121223

St Giles' Nature Reserve

Rubbish!

A slightly different note to this quarter's report. And sorry in advance as this is going to be a bit of a moan! Here goes...

Since the early days of the churchyard project at St Giles' we have had a problem with rubbish. This has grown over the last couple of years and has now reached epic proportions.

Some of the rubbish is made up of random things people have thrown away, no doubt whilst passing through on walks. Plastic milk cartons seem to be a particular favourite. There is currently at least one Coke can as well. We have even had a single old welly discarded.

At some point, years ago, someone had started to use an old metal container near the new graves as an unofficial bin and others followed. I suspect it was originally used for fires. But it has never been a bin and there is no rubbish collection from the church. We put up signs but people still put rubbish in it. So we moved it and instead people have been throwing rubbish on to our grass bins - meant for composting.

Some of you may remember that we had a fire in the grass bins last summer. The considered opinion is that it was caused by a cigarette butt; however we will never prove that.



The biggest problem by far, though, comes from items put on graves. Many of these are in the form of plastic flowers and such like. Some are wicker, some are cut flowers in plastic packaging. The issue is that, once put on a grave, they are rarely removed and just rot in place. Or, if they are moved, they are again thrown into our grass bins or our bonfire pile. We leave items on graves as long as we can but eventually have to clear them away ourselves.

The fact is that picking through the composting to remove rubbish and removing tangled wire from the lawnmowers has started to wear us down. All of the rubbish has to be bagged up and the volunteers are having to take it home and put it in with their own household rubbish.

Matters came to a head at the start of February when we discovered that, amongst other rubbish, someone had put a bag full of old batteries on the bonfire pile. It was noticed by chance a few minutes before we had a fire. Fortunately, because otherwise it would have been quite a bang.



There are pictures here from which you can draw your own conclusions.... The thing I find hardest to understand is that someone clearly collected all those batteries, bagged them up and, instead of disposing of them safely, thought it would be a good idea to bring them to the church and chuck them on our fire.

So this piece is by way of a plea. If you are using the churchyard - please take responsibility for your rubbish.

Russell Robinson

St Giles' News

*'Bells, the music bordering
nearest heaven.'*

CHARLES LAMB (1775 – 1834)

As I walked through the church gate one Sunday morning in Autumn 2023, I was surprised and delighted to be greeted by the most glorious sound: the bells were ringing! Of course, it's not unusual for a vicar to hear church bells on a Sunday morning but, in the case of this particular church, it was a sound I hadn't heard since my arrival in the villages in 2016.

Yes, St Giles' bells are back in action - and what a rich, *grown-up* tone they have too!

As a bit of background, you may be interested to know that bellringing at St Giles' had all but ceased by 2005, not because of any problem with the bells themselves - they have been rigorously inspected recently and even now are in remarkable condition - but due initially to a dwindling number of ringers. Later, however, it was discovered that the tower itself was in very poor condition, with a nasty habit of raining down flints and debris upon anyone at ground level whenever the bells sounded, however infrequently!



*Work on the Spire
(photo Gabrielle Vickery)*

Being an expensive major project, and as there were insufficient ringers anyway for regular services, this work was put on hold for some time. In late 2022, St Giles' PCC decided that roping off the dangerous area was not only unsightly but also not the



long-term answer and quotations for the work needed were obtained.

It has taken us several years of fundraising activities to accumulate the money required for the restoration of the tower but the work is now complete and signed off. We are immensely grateful to all the volunteers who worked so tirelessly to get us to our target and we're also indebted to the organisations who contributed via generous grants, namely:

- Friends of Essex Churches
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- FSJ Trust
- Ian M Fullerton Charitable Trust
- Benefact Trust

To celebrate this great achievement, an expert group conducted the inaugural ring at our Harvest Festival in September 2023. The next question was, of course, *Who will continue to keep these glorious bells ringing?* So a campaign was launched, inviting members of the community to give it a try with no obligation whatsoever. The response was really good and even now we are getting people of all ages wanting to find out more.

Our next venture, coming up in just a few months on 6th and 7th July, 2024, is a whole weekend of celebrations centred on our newly-revived bells. We have entitled this festival *Blooms and Bells* and we plan to fill both the church with beautiful floral arrangements and the air with the *heavenly music* of the bells. Excellent home-made refreshments will also be available during the weekend.

The Bishop of Barking will lead a very special service on the Sunday morning during which she will bless and commission the bells for their work of welcome and witness.

We would love your involvement in this event which is intended for everyone in our village and beyond. As a starting-point, please pop the dates in your diary and plan to visit on one or both of the days of the festival.

And if you feel moved to work on the fundraising committee, create a flower arrangement in the church, help on the day, make a cake or assist in other ways, please contact Pauline Beaumont 01279 653562. If you'd like to give bellringing a go, please contact Brian Beaumont on the same number.

*Revd Dawn Jewson,
Associate Priest in the Six Villages
with grateful thanks to St Giles' Great
Hallingbury members: Brian and Pauline
Beaumont, Kate Fuller and Jane Schwier.*

Holy Spelling Mistake!

A young monk arrives at the monastery. He is assigned to helping the other monks in copying the old laws of the church by hand. He notices, however, that all of the monks are copying from copies, not from the original manuscript. So, the new monk goes to the head monk to question this, pointing out that if someone made even a small error in the first copy, it would never be picked up! In fact, that error would be continued in all of the subsequent copies.



The head monk, says, "You make a good point, my son."

He goes down into the dark caves underneath the monastery where the original manuscripts are held in a locked vault. Hours go by and nobody sees the head monk. The young monk gets worried and goes down to look for him. He sees him banging his head against the wall and wailing.

"We missed the R! We missed the R!
We missed the R!"

"Father!" cries the young monk. "What's wrong?"

The head monk with tears in his eyes replies, "The word is celebrate!"

United Benefice Services

March - May 2024

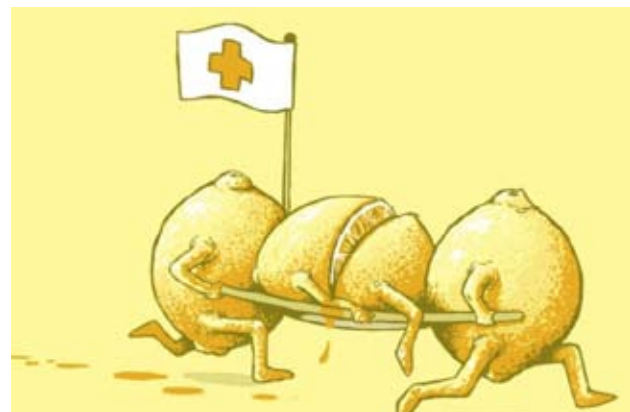
G = St Giles' M = St Mary's

M	Mar 3	10.30am	Morning Worship
G	Mar 10	10.30am	Holy Communion Mothering Sunday
M	Mar 17	10.30am	Holy Communion
G	Mar 24	10.30am	Morning Worship Palm Sunday
Holy Week Services - to be confirmed			
	Mar 31	10.30am	Joint Six Villages Communion Venue tbc
M	Apr 7	10.30am	Morning Worship
G	Apr 14	10.30am	Holy Communion
M	Apr 21	10.30am	Holy Communion
G	Apr 28	10.30am	Morning Worship
M	May 5	10.30am	Morning Worship
G	May 12	10.30am	Holy Communion
M	May 19	10.30am	Holy Communion Pentecost
G	May 26	10.30am	Morning Worship Trinity Sunday

Please Note:

Our schedule of services in the Six Villages Churches is currently subject to change. Please check our website at www.the-six-villages.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.



Great Hallingbury Annual Parish Meeting



Great Hallingbury Village Hall

Monday, 18th March, 2024,
at 8pm

Listen to what has been happening in the local parish
since March 2023.

The Parish Council will report on the work they have carried out on
behalf of the residents during the year.

Local societies will also be talking about their activities.

Guest speaker.

Enjoy Cheese and Wine with the councillors and
fellow residents

Calendar

March 2024

- 4 Great Hallingbury Parish Council - Village Hall
8 pm
- 9 Library Van - Bedlars Green 3 - 3.30 pm
Woodside Green 3.40 - 4.10 pm
- 13 History Society - *Thames Mudlarking Treasures* -
Village Hall 8 pm
- 18 **Great Hallingbury Annual Parish Meeting** -
Village Hall 8 pm
- 23 Village Hall Quiz Night at 7 for 7.30 pm
- 24 Great Hallingbury Litter Pick
- 27 Great Hallingbury WI - Great Hallingbury Village
Hall at 7.30 pm
- 30 Library Van - Bedlars Green 3 - 3.30 pm
Woodside Green 3.40 - 4.10 pm

April 2024

- 7 Great Hallingbury Neighbourhood Plan Coffee
Morning - Village Hall 10 am - 12 noon
- 10 History Society - *Ten Tales of the National Trust* -
Village Hall 8 pm
- 20 Library Van - Bedlars Green 3 - 3.30 pm
Woodside Green 3.40 - 4.10 pm
- 22 Great Hallingbury Village Hall AGM at 8 pm

February 2012

- 8 History Society - *The Buxtons: An Old Essex
Family* - Village Hall 8 pm
- 11 Library Van - Bedlars Green 3 - 3.30 pm
Woodside Green 3.40 - 4.10 pm
- 13 Great Hallingbury Parish Council - Village Hall
8 pm

Future Dates

- July 6 & 7 St Giles' *Blooms and Bells* - including
blessing of the bells
- July 13 Village Hall Social Evening

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

- Monday, 4th March 8pm Village Hall
- Monday, 13th May 8 pm Village Hall