

GREAT HALLINGBURY HIGHLIGHTS

Spring 2022

Vol. 93

An independent publication giving news on matters affecting Great Hallingbury

**Cadaver
Statue
in
St. Giles'**



*Better
than
the one
in the
Louvre?*

See page 5

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Editorial

Congratulations, Ma'am

As we all know, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has just enjoyed the 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne. Many celebrations



will centre on the Platinum Jubilee weekend around her official birthday in June but I'm sure you will all join me in sending to her good wishes from Great Hallingbury.

But what was happening in our Village in 1952. For a snapshot of life in Great Hallingbury then, as seen in the eyes of the local newspapers, please turn to the centre pages where Philip Hays has gathered reports.

Great Hallingbury in 2022

We still have our Village Hall which features repeatedly in the 1952 reports. And looking at the photograph of the WI, ladies fashions have certainly changed - and we don't wear hats very often. But there is still an Eldred in the WI - Hazel Eldred is currently their treasurer.

People were addressed formally in the newspaper in 1952 - Mrs Eldred and Mrs Field. It might be nice to see the return of a little more respect and politesse. The pendulum has swung, right now, to a very casual extreme.

Great Hallingbury has survived many vicissitudes over the years and, in the 20th century, had to cope with the new M11 cutting through the Village and the establishment of a commercial airport at nearby Stansted. Today the threats seem to be coming from potential building plans encroaching on the life and surroundings that we currently enjoy.

The Parish Council reviews and comments on every planning application within the Parish Boundaries. (All planning applications are listed in this magazine as part of the parish

minutes section.) The Council has already sent to UDC responses on the *Hatfield Garden Community* (see page 17) which has been proposed in response to the District Council's call for land for house building. All residents are entitled to attend the *Annual Parish Meeting* (see last page) so come to support your Council then.

Now we also have the *Great Hallingbury Neighbours Association* (see page 8) whose objective is to augment the Parish Council's work to resist major developments that residents find undesirable. We all need to be alert and involved in matters relating to developments in the Village. If something you don't like happens, it may otherwise be too late to register your objections.

Editor

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The Hundred Parishes Society

Prisoner of War Camps



Hundreds of prisoner of war camps were set up in the UK during the two World Wars, with several in The Hundred Parishes. Camps varied in design and size. Some started as rows of tents with the prisoners engaged in constructing huts. Most have disappeared but I would like to tell you about a few.

In 1917, during the First World War, a camp was established at Great Dunmow's workhouse, initially taking about 100 German POWs. Capacity was later doubled by moving women elsewhere and closing the infirmary. The German prisoners worked on local farms but gained a reputation for obstruction and destruction. Dunmow workhouse never reopened and was converted to the housing that today is called The Close.



Bower Hall in Steeple Bumpstead was used as a POW camp in The First World War but it fell into ruin and was demolished in 1926.

Wynches POW camp in Much Hadham was situated in forty acres of parkland and in the Second World War housed both Italian and German prisoners.

Ickleton Grange housed a camp for both Italian and German men. Nothing now remains.

In Mill Lane, Hatfield Heath, the remains of POW camp 116 are still clearly visible, the



most complete survivor in Essex, Herts or Cambridgeshire. The camp was set up in 1941 to

house Austrian and Italian prisoners; later, German men followed. They worked on

local farms and even played football against a Hatfield Heath team who were beaten 11-0!

Radwinter North POW rehabilitation camp was situated in the grounds of Radwinter Rectory, now known as Radwinter Manor. German soldiers were allowed to visit local families. Karl Weschke was one; he became an artist and his clay sculpture of a weeping mother and child titled *Deutschland 1946* is held in Saffron Walden Museum.



Ken McDonald, Secretary
www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Love Your Village? Join the Litter Pickers



We all enjoy living here in Great Hallingbury

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

***So let's all get together with
Mark and Joanne Bloomfield on***

Sunday, 20th March, 2022

***and smarten up the village by clearing
away the litter in time for Mothers' Day***

***Don't forget to clear the area
around your own property***

*Bags, grabbers and high vis jackets will
be available to collect from the Old Post Office
at Bedlars Green on Saturday 16th October*



**Working together
makes light work of
a chore**

Everyone can help

Mark Bloomfield 01279 501679

Cadaver Statue in St Giles'

A Memorial for Lady Rochford?

The statue featured on the front cover of this issue is to be found in the bell tower of St Giles' Church.

Jane Parker was married to George Boleyn, brother of Henry VIII's second wife, Anne. Jane was the daughter of Henry Parker, 10th Baron Morley, who then owned and lived in Hallingbury Place. This explains why the villages that are now Great and Little Hallingbury were then called *Hallingbury Morley*.

Jane Parker and George Boleyn were almost certainly married in St Giles' Church in 1524/1525. She became Lady Rochford in 1529 when her husband, George Boleyn, was ennobled by Henry VIII.

In spite of her close relationship with both Anne and George Boleyn, Jane survived when they were both executed in 1536. She later became a lady in waiting to Henry VIII's fifth wife, Catherine Howard, and when Catherine was accused of adultery and executed in 1542, Jane, now known as the *infamous Lady Rochford*, was also executed.

As their daughter had died in disgrace, Lord and Lady Morley were not permitted to commemorate her. However, this cadaver statue is thought likely to have been commissioned by them.



A cadaver memorial is a morbid and graphic reminder of mortality, featuring an effigy in the form of a decomposing body as a reminder of how transient earthly glory is, no matter how great a person's status: *as I am, so tomorrow you may be*.

Cadaver memorials were constructed between 1480 and 1576. Some 200 such memorials were created of which only 41 are known to have survived. Last year specialists visited St Giles' to view the statue. They were impressed by the quality, which they believe was the work of French craftsmen in the 16th Century, and opined that our statue in St Giles' is of better quality than a similar example in the Louvre.

You will be able to view the statue as part of an exciting *Tudor Weekend* to be held at St Giles' on 1st/2nd October so put the date in your diary.

Spring Blossom

Trees bursting with blossom in spring are a welcome sight after the winter months. But do you know your hawthorn from your crab apple? Can you identify these?



Answers on page 26

Acknowledgement to The Woodland Trust

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District News

Cllrs Geof Driscoll and Neil Reeve

Before we start, Neil and I wish you all a safe and healthy New Year. As we enter 2022, meetings are still a little rare but a full calendar is on the way, so things will happen and news will be generated for this news report.



Ward Surgeries

The ward surgeries held in the Dukes Head PH in Hatfield Broad Oak will carry on. These will take place on the third Friday of each month with surgeries in Great Hallingbury Village Hall on the second Tuesday of the month. Both surgeries will start at 2pm and be for 2 hours. Please see village notice boards, Facebook pages and Parish websites for dates, where applicable. Also please remember that you can contact us by email should you have an urgent question or situation.

Can you help us reach out to primary schools?

WOW is an Active Travel Initiative for primary schools across Essex. Due to funding from the Department for Transport we have a limited number of fully funded places to offer to primary schools in Essex. **WOW** is a pupil-led initiative where children self-report how they get to school every day using the interactive **WOW Travel Tracker**. If they travel sustainably (walk, wheel in a wheelchair, cycle or scoot) once a week for a month, they get rewarded with a badge. It's that easy!



We work alongside Essex County Council and Active Essex on this.

If you have any questions about **WOW** or if you want to sign up then contact Zoe on Zoe.Lynch@Livingstreets.org.uk

Here is the link to our website page about

WOW <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/products-and-services/projects/wow>

Living Streets is a charity that promotes active travel - you may know them. They have over 60 primaries signed up across Essex but not loads in Uttlesford. **Living Streets** finds that schools are not easy to reach with cold calls because their staff are always so incredibly busy. Therefore word of mouth seems to be the most effective way to promote this kind of fun and free initiative.

Local Plan update

The Regulation 18 process will be delivered to the Government in the spring after public consultation.

Business Grants

Check out the UDC website for the **Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant** available for hospitality, leisure and accommodation businesses affected by the Omicron variant that offer in-person services and where the main service and activity takes place in a fixed rate-paying premises. A new application will be required for this one-off grant payment to be submitted before close on 21 February.

The **Additional Restrictions Grant** is a discretionary scheme to help businesses that continue to trade but are still severely affected by the Covid-19 restrictions, regardless of whether they pay business rates. If your business is eligible for a grant payment under the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant please do not make an application to the ARG scheme.

Appeal for unwanted smart phones

Have you recently upgraded your smartphone? If you are wondering what to do with your old one, the Uttlesford Citizens Advice has a number of clients who are struggling without telephone access, so please consider donating them. You can drop them off at the Citizens Advice office in Barnards



Yard, Saffron Walden, between 9.30am and 3.30pm, Monday to Friday, or give them a call on 01799 618840.

Financial Advice

Uttlesford/East Herts Citizens Advice can provide debt counselling, help with universal credit applications or with a referral to the foodbank.

NHS 111

For urgent mental health support, you don't need to go to A&E. Call NHS111 and choose option 2. It's open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Keep Covid in Check

The Omicron variant of Covid is still with us although figures are coming down slowly in some areas. There is still a risk to all as we begin to mix more indoors. We're relying on each other to stay safe and by continuing to do these simple actions can make that happen:

- Meet up outside or if you're indoors open windows or doors if you have visitors
- Get tested regularly
- If you think you might have Covid-19 symptoms, take a Lateral Flow test and be prepared to stay home.
- Report all results on the NHS Covid-19 app if you have it
- Wear face coverings in crowded places and in all retail premises as required, to help protect others
- Check in with the NHS Covid-19 app when you're out
- Wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds with soap
- Get a vaccination/booster jab when you are invited to do so

Get information and support at Essex County Council's Coronavirus Hub <https://www.essex.gov.uk/>

Take Care

cldriscoll@uttlesford.gov.uk
cllrreeve@uttlesford.gov.uk

Residents' Association

The second meeting of the Residents' Association was held on 17th January and a committee was formed. The name of the Association is **Great Hallingbury Neighbours Association**.

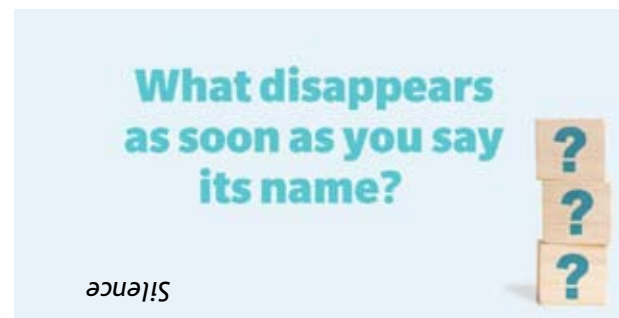
We are currently speaking to the Parish Council to see if we may be able to have something on their website and we also hope to have regular updates reported in the **Great Hallingbury Highlights** magazine.

A constitution was agreed upon and the main objective of the group discussed. It was agreed that the momentum for this organisation was in direct response to the Wren Kitchen application for a logistics centre. It was agreed that we did not want to conflict in any way with the Parish Council but, in fact, to enhance the work it does by being able to take an active role in helping to defeat any such future applications. A social aspect to the group was also mooted. Thus, it was decided that the objectives should be to represent the residents within the parish of Great Hallingbury in the event of an occurrence or major event likely to have a detrimental effect on the Village or its residents as a whole and such other matters as the group may determine from time to time.

Initially it was agreed that meetings of the committee would take place each quarter.

The Association is open to all living in the Parish of Great Hallingbury so, if you are interested in being more involved, please contact us in the first instance by email at greathallingburyna@gmail.com

Val Waring, Hon Secretary



Book Corner



Book Corner

Two recent articles in the newspapers about the donation of body parts - one about a couple hoping that a *saviour baby* would be a suitable donor of bone-marrow for their first child, a son suffering from a genetic blood disorder, and the other concerning an Afghan woman who has had to resort to selling one of her kidneys to support her family - have reminded me of two books that I first read in 2005.

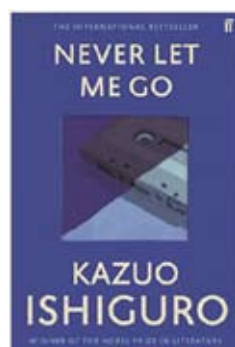
My Sister's Keeper

Jodi Picoult

My Sister's Keeper begins with Anna, asking for legal help to stop her parents forcing her to donate a kidney to her older sister, Kate, who has been suffering from leukaemia since early childhood. The fact that Anna is a perfect match for Kate is no accident; Anna was a *saviour baby*, implanted as an embryo to be a genetic match for Kate's needs. But now, 13 years later, Anna, having already undergone countless surgeries and blood transfusions, has had enough.

Like most of Jodi Picoult's books, the story is told from each character's point of view and includes a number of flashbacks. Some readers find this confusing, others say that it helps them understand each character more fully. As you near the end of the book, ask yourself what you would do if faced with this dilemma - and then see if you agree with the author's choice.

Be Warned! The makers of films do not always keep to the original plot of a book!



Never Let Me Go

Kazuro Ishiguro

Forced donations of organs is the subject but in an entirely different guise. The story is set in an alternative England during the 1990's (so not as we knew it). In this imagined time, *human* clones are bred for *spare parts* for real people - but there is no indication that public opinion is anything but totally accepting. Why wouldn't you accept such a situation if you knew that new hearts, lungs, kidneys were easily available?

The story is told in the first person by Kathy, a clone herself, who has been working as a carer looking after the organ donors. But, before this, she spent her childhood at Hailsham, a seemingly happy and caring boarding school - but with a dreadful secret at its heart. The children are sheltered from the outside world and brought up to believe that they are special.

In an isolated incident, Miss Lucy, a teacher *guardian* - tells some of the senior students the truth, that they are clones who were created to donate organs to others and, after their *donations*, they will die young. The students just seem to accept their fate.

Ruth and Tommy, close friends from Hailsham, come back into Kathy's life and she cares for them until they *complete* - a euphemism in their world for dying and *donating* their remaining organs.

Question - If the author had set this narrative in the 23rd century, would we accept that this could actually happen? After all, remember Dolly, the cloned sheep!

Recollections of the 1940s

Memories of a Former Bedlars Green Resident

From my birth in 1942 until 1950 I lived at Whistlefield (now called Pryor's Peace) in Bedlars Green. I thought that you might be interested in this description of the area when I was there.



Old Elm 1878

The village road left the Roman road at a public house called the Old Elm. Down the hill on the right was a bakery and farther along on the right was the house called Lewis's, where Sorel and Colin Challenger lived. Next came the small farm run by Mr Lens and then the brick kiln, which is now an industrial estate. Great Hallingbury Manor and the nearby lake didn't exist then and neither did the lake at Beggars Hall. I remember that there were cart-horses at Harps Farm when I was very young but I never saw them working.

The Hop Poles was the home of Jill Harvey and Carol Judd lived in the house opposite Whistlefield. Next door to us was the house called Cherry Trees, the home of Mrs Broomfield and her grand-daughter Gaynor Goods. Farther along on the left was the house that served as the police station (*154 Bedlars Green*). At the next road junction was East Lodge, the home of Mrs Est who had a stool in the form of an elephant's foot. Opposite it was the bungalow (*Pantiles*) that was the home of Mr Troughton.

Bearing left at the junction the first house

passed on the right was that of James Larkin. There was a pond in front of the house with frogs in it. Farther along on the left was the house where Richard and Robert Corey lived and where I went to school from 1946 to 1949. Angela, Vanessa and John Page lived in the house opposite. Farther along on the right was a small pond or marshy area.

Returning to the road junction and turning left you pass the house called Brambles, the home of Mavis and Janet Lansdale who were lucky enough to have a wood in their garden. Farther along, and approached by a long drive, was the house called Captains which was the home of Sally and Peter Four. Also on the left was the house called Oakside, the home of Mr and Mrs Alcock who ran the Post Office and their grand-daughter Susan. Near here was the home of Mrs Brace and her daughter Vera. The post office is now



Tudor Cottage 1930

a house called Tudor Cottage. Beyond the church on the right was an old barn door. At the end of the village on the left was the O.K. Piggery.

Half a mile north-west of the church was Great Jenkins, a house with three prominent gables. This was the home of Alan and Susie Abrahams and their father Harold, who was featured in the film *Chariots of Fire*.

I feel more nostalgia for that part of my life than for any other. You can read more about it in chapter two of my autobiography, *Happy Memories*, which can be found on my website chris-jesty.co.uk and also in the last chapter of *East Anglian Town Trails*, which is also on my website under *My Books*.

Surely some of the people mentioned will be remembered by older residents.

Chris Jesty

Great and Little Hallingbury Flower Show

Sunday 24th July

Great Hallingbury Village Hall



The Flower Show is back for 2022

It is a unique event which celebrates village life and offers a whole host of family entertainment, shopping and delicious food and drink. We usually welcome about 1,000 people each year.

The Exhibitors' Pavillion contains all the entries for keen growers in vegetables, fruit, and flowers. For budding photographers there is a photography section as well as classes for flower arrangements, cookery, needlework and handicraft. We also have a whole section of 10 classes for children ranging from a creature made from vegetables to collage and decorated biscuits to handwriting. There is a section for WI's or other similar groups or why not try your hand at making a Scarecrow.

This is an open show so please get involved and enter.

The Vintage Tea is always popular, serving a delicious selection of homemade cakes, and visitors can also enjoy a Hog Roast serving local pork in buns and a veggie option.

There are trade stands around the showground selling plants and other wares and lots of fun activities for all the family such as face painting, hook a duck, a bouncing castle, plus more.

It is a great day out for all the family and everyone is welcome.



*Reminders of the
2019 Show*

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The Tan Bull



A Saudi Prince wants to buy a bull, so he goes to see a famous Russian bovine breeder.

The Russian tells him, *I have many good animal. Here is Swedish bull, is born black colour, but colour turns white when grows.*

Over there is American bull. Colour when born is red, but become dark brown when full grown.

And here, Turkish bull. They is born dark brown, but grow up to be light brown colour.

The prince says, *I rather like the Turkish bulls. Fine specimens indeed.*

Excellent choice, your majesty. But Turkish bull is special. They is bred for royalty, like you. But if you have royal blood, you must be bonding with bull calf when young, before they change colour. Or they will reject you, the Russian explains.

Well, the prince says, I'm looking for a strong, adult bull. I'm not particularly interested in buying a calf. I rather like this big, beige bull over here.

The prince attempts to pet the large Turkish bull. It sniffs his hand, shakes its head in disgust, turns around and kicks the prince with its hind legs.

The prince goes flying across the room and lands in a pile of hay.

Where did you get such a horrible beast?! Why did it kick me!?, he splutters.

I told you. He from Turkey, the Russian explains, Is Tan Bull, Can't Stand A Noble.

Parish Council Chairman



Hello to you all, and may I wish you a belated Happy New Year.

Your Parish Council is continuing to hold meetings in the Village Hall, still taking the necessary precautions. Our next meeting is on the 7th March beginning at 7pm.

Also in March we have the Annual Parish Meeting. This will be held on the 21st and begins at 8pm. Please come along and find out what clubs and social events are happening in our village.

May I also remind you that we will be having a litter-pick through the village on Sunday, 20th March. Meeting points will be the Village Hall and the Hop Poles. If you can find the time, please come along and help with this.

Uttlesford District Council is still working on the Local Plan and hopes to release this sometime in the Spring. It has also just announced that savings of £4 million are needed over the next four years which will mean a cut back in services. You can check the UDC website for details of the plans.

The Parish Council is seeing a lot of new planning applications and deals with each one on its own merits. We do not talk to the papers or social media about applications before any decision has been made by the Parish Council and submitted to Uttlesford. Some of you may have seen a report on Essex Live which stated that our Parish Council is supporting an application at Thremhall Priory Farm. I can tell you that this is not the case and we are not aware of any such conversation taking place.

We are very concerned about the flooding that now occurs through the village and have yet again submitted evidence of the flooding to Essex County Council Highways in the hope that we may get the problems resolved. May I remind you that if you

notice any problem with our roads in the Village you can submit your own report to ECC Highways via their website. The more reports sent in, the stronger a case for action.

It seems as if this latest Covid Pandemic has reached its plateau but I would still ask you, if you have not already done so, to get vaccinated which will help protect yourself and everybody else.

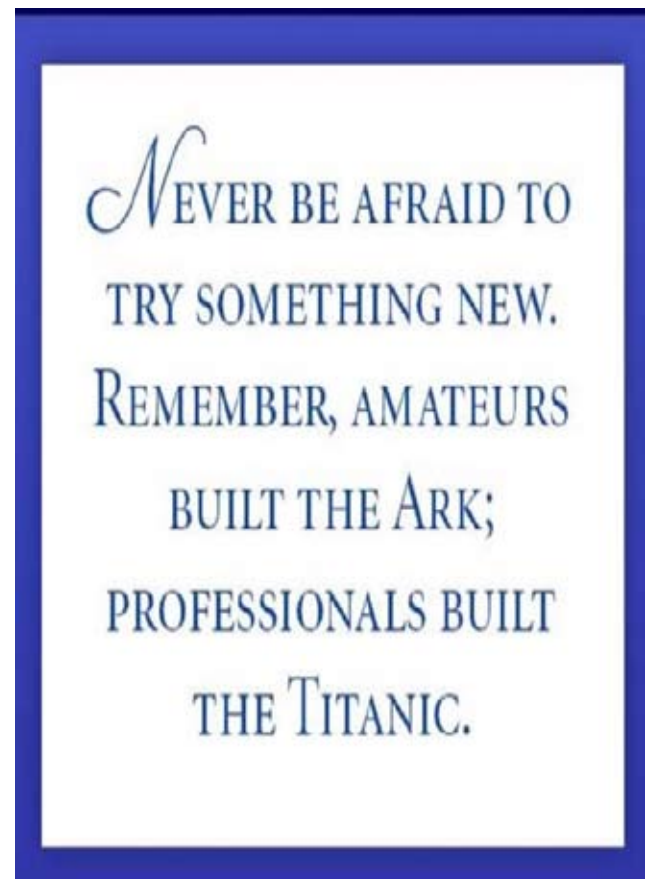
Rising fuel prices are a result of many energy companies going bust. If you are experiencing trouble with paying your bills, do contact UDC who will be able to offer advice.

As ever, we need to be aware of phone scams so please, **do not** give out any personal or bank details over the phone.

I thank all my fellow councillors and, of course, Urška, our hard working Clerk, for all their efforts since my last message.

Goodbye for now. Please take care and stay safe.

Alan Townsend



Easy Eating

Sticky Ginger Cookies

Ingredients

- 8 oz/225 g softened butter
- 5oz/140 g caster sugar
- 1 egg yolk lightly beaten
- 2 oz/55 g stem ginger roughly chopped
plus 1 tbs syrup from the jar
- 10 oz/280 g plain flour
- Pinch salt
- 2 oz/55 g chocolate chips

Method

- 1) Mix butter and sugar together until smooth
- 2) Add egg and syrup, then sieved flour and salt together with the chopped ginger and chocolate chips
- 3) Knead lightly into a log shape about 2.5" in diameter
- 4) Wrap in clingfilm and chill for 30-60 minutes
- 5) Set oven at 190°C, gas mark 5
- 6) Line 2 baking sheets with baking paper
- 7) Unwrap the log and with a sharp knife cut into 1/4" slices. Place on baking sheet well apart (makes approximately 15-20)
- 8) Bake for 12-15 minutes and cool on baking sheet
- 9) These keep well in a tin

Rosemary Nugent



Harissa Chicken with Chickpeas & Couscous

Ingredients

- 3 tbs olive oil
- 1 large onion
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 95 g jar Harissa paste (use rose harissa for a milder flavour)
- Tin chopped tomatoes
- 8 chicken thighs (skin on)
- Can chickpeas
- 1 tsp cumin seeds
- 200 g couscous (2 flavoured packets can be used for quickness or add chopped mint, parsley and lemon zest to plain couscous)

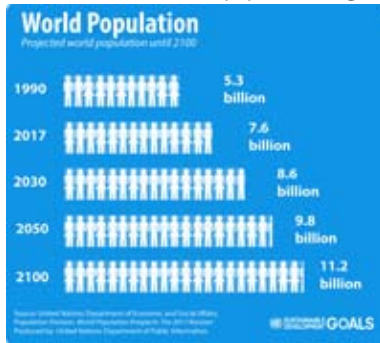
Method

- 1) Heat oven to 200°C, gas mark 6
- 2) Heat 1 tsb olive oil in casserole or ovenproof frying pan
- 3) Fry onion and garlic to soften, then add Harissa paste
- 4) Stir in tomatoes and arrange chicken, skin side up on top. Season
- 5) Place in oven and cook for approximately 35 minutes
- 6) Make couscous as directions on packet
- 7) Toss the chickpeas and cumin seeds in a roasting tin with 1 tbs olive oil and put in oven for 15 minutes to roast during the cooking of the chicken
- 8) To serve, fluff up the couscous and add the chickpeas to the dish
- 9) You can also add some green pitted olives to the pan at the same time as the canned tomatoes

Wilding

About five years ago I was listening to a speaker at an agricultural event who stated that *in the next ten years the world's farmers need to produce as much food as has been produced since the start of farming (neanderthal times)*.

Whether that is true or not is debatable but, what is not, is that world population is growing fast and food production has to keep up with these increases. This means that farmers need to be more efficient to get more from the land they farm but without destroying the soils they rely on and not destroying the environment. Other methods of food production will probably become more popular, such as hydroponics (growing with water and nutrients, but not soil) or, perhaps, by vertical farming which is relatively simple with some vegetables and fruit but more difficult with cereals!



Hydroponic Farming

I have always thought that, as farmers, we should work with nature and try not to jeopardise it. But the government sees it rather differently. Agriculture is on a collision course with nature. Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS) were announced in January 2022 by George Eustice, the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Under the Local Nature Recovery Scheme and the Landscape Recovery Scheme, Britain's farmers will be paid up to £800,000,000 a year to make space for nature by replacing fields of crops and livestock with wildlife habitats such as peat bogs and wetlands, planting trees and establishing new nature reserves.

In theory this sounds fine. But it is far too simplistic to have an either/or approach to the countryside. It could possibly be disastrous for farmers, consumers and nature. We really do have to co-exist with nature, not divide the countryside up into agriculture or nature. It is thought that the government, or the green lobbyists, want up to 30% of farmland *rewilded*. This would mean abandoning fields, leaving them fallow to be overrun by nettles and brambles, creating scrubland that, in the short term, does nothing for diversity of species (but may do in the long term).

As a consequence of taking productive farmland out of production farmers will be trying to make remaining areas yield more, probably using more intensive methods, to respond to food production pressures. Since the end of World War II, government policy has driven yield maximisation which could lead to pollution and soil damage. We try to increase the organic matter content of our soils which, in turn, increases the number of earthworms/square meter which leads to healthier soil and less reliance on artificial fertilisers.

When I was at Agricultural College in the early 1980's, the UK was approximately 80% self sufficient in food. Forty years later we are probably at 50-60% self sufficient. This



is probably mostly to do with the increase in our human population but also due to reliance upon cheaper, imported foods. By giving up productive farmland for rewilding, this country will become even more reliant on cheaper imported food from countries with lower animal welfare and environmental standards .

The government has to realise that farms are the answer, not the problem. (Farmer bashing is a national sport; just ask Mr Packham.) Farmers want to do the right thing for the planet but also the right thing for their businesses. That means farming productively, sustainably and environmentally.

Set Aside was the thing 15 - 20 years ago. Fields were left fallow, some for a year or so but some permanently. Bringing set aside land back into production was, and is, quite challenging. The soil takes 7-10 years to adjust to being used again if it has been left fallow for three or more years.

If government policy changes, due to the realisation that food production is crucial, the soil of fertile areas planted with trees (for example) will have been changed by the tree roots. It will not be a five minute job turning land back to farming.

I just hope that these new schemes do not create a lot of problems and that sensible solutions can be found. Personally, I hope that the solution is some and some, mixing farming and wildlife. Wildlife margins and corridors are made with unproductive land.



Field Wildlife Margin

There are so many different ways to increase nature within farms. I was speaking to an ecologist in May 2021 who was part of a surveying team analysing a square kilometre of Harps Farm, collecting data for the last five years. She was saying that because we were a large farm using intensive methods she wasn't expecting the diversity of fauna and flora that she had found, especially rare and interesting plants. She indicated that we had a better variety of wildlife than smaller farms in what she considered more wildlife friendly areas such as Somerset.

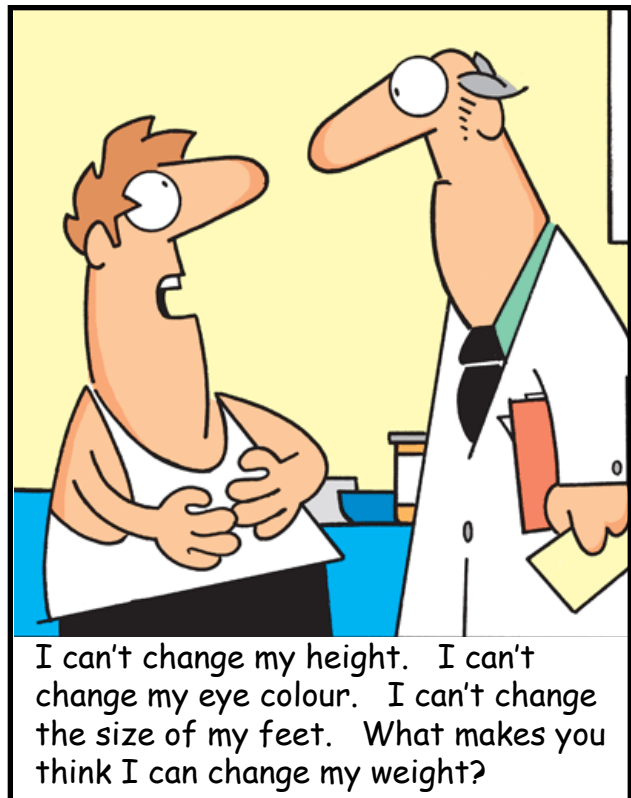


Field Wildlife Margin

But we have to keep working at it!

It would be interesting to hear other people's views.

David Barlow



Be Aware

6,500 Houses On Our Doorstep

As many will know, the administration at Uttlesford District Council decided to abandon the previous local development plan, which spread major house building proposals across the district, and start anew. The process is well underway with landowners having identified sites they consider could be developed, the *Call for Sites* stage. Within the schemes submitted there are proposals to build over 7,000 new homes in our area, with 6,500 in a new project, the Hatfield Garden Community, right on our doorstep, adjacent to and between the villages of Hatfield Heath, Hatfield Broad Oak, Great Hallingbury and Little Hallingbury.



The land submitted under this scheme has been published and Great Hallingbury and neighbouring parish councils have had the opportunity to comment on two initial consultations.

1. The Sustainability Scoping Consultation: outlining the topics for assessing the sustainability of the proposed sites.
2. The UDC Technical Assessment of Sites: in addition to the *local sites*, the major 6,500 house scheme has been reviewed. Many technical errors have been found in

the Uttlesford District Council assessment and these have been highlighted in the consultation response.

The Hatfield Garden Community proposal is extremely alarming for all communities in the south of the district, especially along the A120 corridor and, more specifically, for us. A proposal for 6,500 houses would effectively join all the villages together under concrete, not only destroying the setting and idyll of our village as we know it but also putting unsustainable pressure on our roads and lanes, schooling, health and emergency services, water and sewerage systems etc. In addition, the site is right underneath the Stansted Airport departure route and would experience noise levels considerably in excess of World Health Organisation guidelines.

Your Parish Council, together with those of Hatfield Heath and Little Hallingbury, have agreed to work together to fight this major proposal entitled innocuously as *Hatfield Garden Community*. We believe it is unwanted, unwarranted and unsustainable.

For more information about the proposed mini town between our villages, what we are doing about it, copies of our consultation responses and how you can share your views can be found on parish council websites and also at *Unsustainable Sites Action Group (USAG)* www.usag.co.uk

We must fight this. The future of our villages is under very serious threat.

Keith Artus

Hallingbury Choir



The Choir will start rehearsals in March preparing for their usual concert in June.

Hopefully all their members will be there but new singers are always very welcome. Please contact Pauline Beaumont on 01279 653562 if you would like to join them.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

What was happening in Great Hallingbury 70 years ago?

On 6th February Her Majesty The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.



To celebrate this unprecedented anniversary, events and initiatives are due to take place throughout the year, culminating in a four day UK bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, providing an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate the historic milestone.

What the Papers Said - Great Hallingbury in 1952

What can we learn from the Herts and Essex Observer Newspapers published in 1952?

January: A Grand Dance was held in the Village Hall on 18th January from 8 pm to 12 midnight. Couples danced to the music of Bob Payne's Band. Admission to the dance was two shillings and sixpence or four shillings for two people.

February: Great Hallingbury Conservative Association held a Whist Drive on 21st February in the Village Hall. Admission: one shilling and nine pence.



March: Great Hallingbury WI gave a party on 4th March for their oldest member, Mrs Jane Eldred who was celebrating her 90th Birthday, with a cake surrounded by 90 candles.

Mrs Eldred, who lived at Harps Gate Cottage, had been a member of the WI since its formation ten years previously. She had lived in the village for 60 years since her marriage at Takeley Parish Church in May 1884. Her husband,

Frederick, had died shortly after their Golden Wedding. Her eldest son, George, had died in November 1914 in the First Battle of Ypres.

This WI meeting was presided over by Vice President, Mrs Trigg. Miss Sykes of Writtle Agricultural College gave a talk on *Spring cleaning and repairs in the home*. The competition for the *best laundered shirt* was won by Mrs Leyns. Mrs Field and Mrs Bartholomew were in charge of the bring and buy stall. The meeting ended with community singing conducted by Mrs Wilkins. Mrs Whibley was the pianist.

June: The wedding of Mr Austin Gardiner from Great Bardfield and Miss Naomi Routledge, only daughter of Mr and Mrs V Routledge of Howe Green House, took place on 21st June at St. Giles' Church. Revd E Gardiner (uncle of the bride) officiated at the wedding, assisted

by Rev C A Gell (Rector). A reception attended by 500 guests was held at the home of the bride's parents.

The bride's father, 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 (sometimes still in his city clothes, as in this photo) on his return from working in the City, as a tea broker.

Cyril Annesley Gell had been Rector of Great Hallingbury since 1940. He retired in 1953 and went to live with his daughters in Farnham, Surrey.



July: The 14th Great and Little Hallingbury Annual Flower Show and Fete took place at Pynchon Hall on Saturday 19th July. Admission was 3d. Refreshments were served and there were various side-shows and sporting events. An Auction of Produce was held at 6 pm followed by a dance in the Barn at Pynchon Hall. Admission to the dance was two shillings and six pence.

On 5th July the Great Hallingbury Conservative Association held a Grand Garden Fete in the beautiful gardens of Morleys. Buses were available from the Eastern National Station to Latchmore Bank at 2 pm and 3. 15 pm. Admission to the fete was free. There was a Fancy Dress Parade for children and a Punch and Judy Show, together with other attractive stalls.

The July Meeting of the Great Hallingbury WI was held in the garden of The Hall, by kind invitation of Mrs Park. Miss Giblett of the Eastern Electricity Board demonstrated the making of cold sweets. Mrs Larkin won the competition for the best home-made sweets.

August: The August Meeting of the Great Hallingbury WI was held at the Old Forge, Woodside Green, by kind invitation of Mrs Osmond. The President, Mrs Streeter, congratulated Mrs Ash on winning the Challenge Cup in the Domestic Section of the Great and Little Hallingbury Annual Flower Show. Mrs Napier- Clavering gave a talk on First Aid. Afterwards there was an amusing debate with four members from the Thorley WI on two subjects: *Does the modern child have too many synthetic amusements?* and *Should married women have careers?* In the voting held afterwards both motions were carried in the affirmative.

September: The September Meeting of the Great Hallingbury WI was held at Little Beldams, by invitation of Mrs Trigg. The Vice President, Miss Gell, daughter of the Rector, presided. Members listened with great interest to a talk on *A day in the life of a policewoman* by *Woman Inspector* Hodges of the Essex Constabulary.

October: The Herts and Essex Observer reported on Friday, 24th October, that the field opposite The Poplars had been acquired by Dunmow Rural Council for building four houses.

November: At the November Meeting of the WI Mrs Streeter welcomed three new members. At this Annual Meeting Mrs Streeter was elected President for the year and a new committee was formed. Miss Streeter demonstrated the making of Christmas decorations. After tea there was a round table conference at which members were asked suggestions for the 1953 programme.

The funeral service for George Benjamin Peachey was held in St. Giles' Church on 21st November. George Peachey had died on 15th November, aged 61 years. In the Great War he had served as a rifleman with the London Regiment, having enlisted in 1914. George

sustained gunshot wounds in his left thigh on 16th September, 1916 and was discharged from the army, as a result of his injuries, in December 1917. He married Eileen Sylvia Maud Pears in September 1921. The plaque on the gravestone of George Benjamin Peachey states that he died from his war wounds.

Eileen Peachey lived in The Glasshouse, Woodside Green until her death in June 2003, aged 102 years, having served as a Parish Councillor for over forty years. The meeting room in the Village Hall is named after her.

December: The children from Great Hallingbury School on 10th December entertained parents and friends performing *The Trick of the Leprechaun* and a Nativity Play, under the direction of Miss Jennifer Trigg and the Headmistress, Mrs R. M. Short. On Friday, 12th December, the children were given a *return party* at the Parish Hall



where they were given tea and a gift from the decorated Christmas Tree. Mrs Short and Miss Pollard thanked the parents and school managers and all who had helped in arranging the two events.

Some residents of Great Hallingbury may have memories of these events or personalities from 1952. If anyone can share information or photographs we would love to hear from you. Please contact the Editor or Philip Hays, who researched the article.

Cammashall
Fruit Farm * Tea Barn * Farm Shop

Easter Trail

at the Farm

1st - 18th April* 9am - 4.30pm

*Please note that Cammas Hall is closed on Monday 4th and 11th April

- Easter Trail through beautiful woods and farmland
- Can you spot the cheeky chicks and solve the puzzle
- Meet some forest friends along the way!
- Themed games and photo opportunities
- Prize for all Game Card holders
- Face painting**
- Seasonal arts and crafts**

**Additional charges apply

**TICKETS
MUST BE
PRE-BOOKED
ONLINE**

Visit
our
website for
details of
our other
events over
Easter

**FARM
SHOP
&
PLAY
AREA**

cammashall.co.uk
Cammashall Farm, Needham Green, Hatfield Broad Oak, CM22 7JT

Highlights from the Minutes of Meetings of Great Hallingbury Parish Council

1 November & 10 January

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

Chairman's Activities

Cllr A Townsend reported that he had:

- Zoom meetings with Cllr G Driscoll; UALC AGM; USAG meeting
- Spoken to two parishioners
- Zoom meeting with the clerk each week
- Weekly checking defibrillator
- Talked with Community Speedwatch Coordinator
- Attended EALC Executive Committee meeting, a CIF Panel meeting and two USAG meetings

Essex County Council

Cllr Barker reported that she had attended a Great Hallingbury WI meeting. Having received the results of a speeding review by email, she suggested inviting Essex Highways Liaison Officer to visit to assess what can be done to the road to slow down drivers.

She is pursuing flooding on Church Road near the Captains property, potholes at Pantiles corner, a deep drain near the Village Hall and both gates at Woodside Green.

Uttlesford District Council

Cllr Driscoll reported that there will be an additional review regarding the airport. The Local Plan is progressing and should be ready for inspectors early in 2023. He stressed the importance of the Council responding to the Technical consultation on initial site assessments. A new consultation

is planned for March or April.

The Wren Kitchens appeal has been withdrawn

An industrial estate will be built on land North of Stansted.

UDC now has a new leader.

Airport

Cllr J Baldwin attended the first meeting organised by Stansted Airport Limited on the Future Airspace Programme relating to departures. There was discussion about a new direction for takeoff. A second meeting on arrivals is scheduled.

Local Plan

Cllr N Jackson reported on a meeting of the *Unsustainable Sites Action Group* (USAG) when terms of reference were approved and a Chairman chosen. Two consultants attended the meeting. Drafting of a response to the *Technical consultation on initial site assessments* for the *Hatfield Garden Community* is in progress.

There are now only three parishes involved. The Parish Council is not prepared to commit any further financial support.

Hallingburys Speedwatch Group

The coordinator has resigned and Cllr Townsend will take on this role after training. However, there are insufficient volunteers for the group to operate.

Woodside Green Road

Speeding problems will be mentioned to the ECC Highways liaison officer when visiting the village. There has been no update on the recount of houses.

Tilekiln Green

A complaint from a resident regarding the sewage system has been referred to Affinity Water, Anglian Water and Thames Water. Thames Water has logged the matter. The matter has now been concluded.

Playground on Field Adjacent to Village Hall Car Park

The grant application to CIF has been withdrawn as the operating timeframe for

the project may be too tight at present. Cllr M Bloomfield will check whether planning permission is required.

Precept 2022/2023

The Council's budget for 2022/2023 was reviewed and agreed. After careful consideration, the Council agreed unanimously to raise the precept by 3.2% due to inflation and to keep the same value as in August 2021. The agreed precept for 2022/2023 is £15,480.00.

Planning

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

Application Decisions

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 and sufficient parking spaces to accommodate increasing numbers of cars per household.)

UTT/21/2150/FUL // Coppins, Woodside Green // Erection of 2 two-storey semi-detached dwellings, with new vehicle access to public highway, and associated private garden, car parking, and landscaping // Approved (No objections but must be in keeping with aesthetics of original building and neighbouring properties.)

UTT/21/2209/DFO // Land Adjoining 2 White Cottages, Start Hill // Details following outline application UTT/18/0999/OP for two dwellings - details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale // Refused

(1. Although there have been several outline applications for this plot and all have been approved in the past, not one of them has picked up on the raised kerb that is in situ for the bus stop. The proposed access to this project will encroach on this raised bus stop kerb. The officers' report from 2014 under *Sustainable transport and road safety* claims that the bus stop is 200 meters from the proposed site entrance. This is incorrect; it is in the immediate location.

2. Back in 2014 a tree survey appears to

have been done, but that was 7 years ago and then there were trees of interest. Nothing has been submitted in this application to address this. Although the officers' report states there are no TPO's this needs to be reconsidered due to the time that has elapsed since the original report.

3. If the application is approved, the properties must be connected to mains drainage and sewage.

4. The proposed two properties do not sit in the building line for this stretch of Stane Street. They will sit too far back and would be in danger of potential flooding from the brook. The siting needs to be re-addressed and pulled in line with the other properties to the left and right of the site.

5. The archaeological trial trenching needs to be enforced before any works can start.

6. All site traffic must be kept to the site and not encroach on the B1256 in the interests of highway safety.

We object to the siting of the houses of the proposal but will not object if they are pulled forward on the plot (moving the parking facility to the rear)

UTT/21/2326/HHF // 9 Start Hill, Stane Street // Excavation to form basement and rear patio area, new terrace and staircase to rear, amendments to rear fenestration // Approved (No objections)

UTT/21/2337/FUL // Barnmead, Start Hill, Stane Street // Conversion of garages from plots 2-5 into living accommodation and adding a room in the roof of plots 2 and 3 (amendment to previously approved application No. UTT/18/1982/FUL) // Approved (No objections)

UTT/21/2448/HHF // 90 Woodside Green // Proposed removal of existing shed in rear garden and erection of a proposed single storey building to be used as gym/shed // Refused (No objections)

UTT/21/2964/HHF // Leistbury, Bedlars Green // Proposed two storey side extension and related alterations // Refused (Objections: It is not in keeping with the current property and the neighbouring

properties. The street view would spoil the rural character of this stretch of residential housing in Great Hallingbury. We appreciate that no two residential properties are exactly the same along this stretch of road but they all follow a very similar vein of design and style)

UTT/21/2971/PIP // Yew Tree Farmhouse, Tilekiln Green // Application for permission in principle for 5 dwellings (Objections: To tear down a beautiful building and replace it with 5 modern alternatives is sacrilege. This is one of the worst and most congested parts of Tilekiln Green with the hotel opposite (its patrons never knowing where they are supposed to access the car park currently inviting some of the worst near misses ever). The access to an already narrow, congested stretch of road is on a blind bend and directly under flight path for final approach into Stansted Airport. This stretch of road is the scene of many minor accidents and near misses. The increasing traffic would just invite more incidents.

There are too many plots of building land becoming available for new homes in Great Hallingbury and the road infrastructure cannot sustain all these new builds. Before taking into consideration applications for new homes the suitability of the road and the lack of pavement as well as public amenities should be taken in account.)

UTT/21/3173/HHF // 90 Woodside Green // Removal of existing shed and erection of single storey outbuilding to be used as a gym // Approved (No objections if it remains gym and is not redeveloped later)

Applications Dealt with at Meeting

UTT/21/2755/OP // Cannons Yard, Bedlars Green // Outline application with all matters reserved for 14 dwellings (Class C3), parking, landscaping and all associated development (No objections as such, but all the trees should be kept)

UTT/21/3121/HHF & UTT/21/3122/LB // 83 Woodside Green // Proposed demolition of existing conservatory and boiler room. Re-building of boiler room and erection of

rear extension, re-thatching and insulating roof void. Reconfiguring internal rooms and joinery alterations. Garage conversion into part store, part accommodation to include two roof lights. Replacement of existing roof light and addition of new extraction fans. (No objections)

UTT/21/3339/FUL // Old Cottage, Start Hill, Stane Street // Proposed erection of 7 dwellings including the closure of existing access, creation of new access and associated infrastructure. (No objections)

UTT/21/3483/FUL // Lodge Farm, Woodside Green // Realignment of internal residential and agricultural access within Lodge Farm (No objections)

UTT/21/3463/FUL // Rear of The Street Barn, The Street // Erection of one dwelling on the site of a disused manege (Objections: The original permission was for a manege and now the planning application is for change of use as a dwelling)

UTT/21/3723/HHF // Leistbury, Bedlars Green // Two storey side extension and related alterations (Objections: It is not in keeping with the current property and the neighbouring properties. The street view would spoil the rural character of this stretch of residential housing in Great Hallingbury. We appreciate that no two residential properties are exactly the same along this stretch of road but they all follow a very similar vein of design and style)

Late Planning Matters

UTT/21/3777/OP // Thremhall Priory Farm, Start Hill, Stane Street // Outline application with all matters reserved except access for the removal of existing dwelling and outbuildings and erection of residential development of up to 18 dwellings. (The Council strongly objects because of the following:

According to the Local Plan 2005 as to *Where will development take place: Airport in the countryside, the priority within this zone is to maintain a local belt of countryside around the airport that will not be eroded by coalescing developments.* The site is in

the Countryside Protected Zone but could result in more similar developments which would then *promote coalescence between the airport and existing development in the surrounding countryside* (policy S8).

An archaeological survey must be done as this is an historical site with listed buildings (policy ENV4).

A thorough noise survey should be conducted (for a 24 hour time period) because of its proximity to the airport (policy ENV10).

The proposal notification is not accessible to the public at all times.

The nature survey needs to be validated for marshland habitat (policy ENV8))

October Litter Picking

CLlr M Bloomfield was thanked for organizing a litter pick.

Bedlars Green Pond

Noted that the level has risen again.

Dog Waste Bins

The Clerk will apply to UDC for dog waste bins to be installed next to the post box at Bedlars Green.

Who Do You Know?

Which of these is a familiar name?

1. **Monica Lewinsky**
2. **Spiro Agnew**
3. **Benito Mussolini**
4. **Adolf Hitler**
5. **Jorge Bergoglio**
6. **Alfonse Capone**
7. **Vladimir Putin**
8. **Linda Lovelace**
9. **Saddam Hussein**
10. **Tiger Woods**

You had trouble with number 5, didn't you?

You know all the liars, criminals, adulterers, murderers, thieves, sluts, and cheaters but you don't know..... the Pope??

Oh dear!!

Great Hallingbury W.I.



New Year Meal



Twenty-four excited Great Hallingbury WI members and one visitor met up on January 26th at Bishop's Stortford Golf Club for our Annual New Year meal. On this occasion it was two years since we had celebrated in this way and we were even happier because we had not seen some of our members since before the start of the pandemic.

Our President, Carmela, was in the Chair for the evening and conducted the business before and during the meal, which was excellent. With so much to say and the general euphoria she managed to make herself heard above the chatter. The meal was followed by our traditional post-Christmas Secret Santa and everyone enjoyed opening their gifts.



There followed an excellent, well organised raffle provided by Carole and many members went away clutching lovely prizes. On a sad note, we remembered one of our members, Cynthia, who had passed away just before Christmas and it was agreed to donate half of the proceeds to St Giles' Church so that they could purchase an item in her memory.

Thanks were given to Beverly for her lovely table arrangements, to Sharon for organising the Secret Santa and Carole for the raffle. It was a great evening.

Gill Sewell

A Writer's Life

Harry Dunn



I never really thought about writing full-time until I retired. Like many, family commitments, work and commuting seemed to dominate and there was little time for anything else. Working for the BBC, I'd often rubbed shoulders with those who had found fame in both writing and broadcasting and, in a PR role, I travelled with the likes of Delia Smith, Keith Floyd and Ken Hom to help promote their books. Our travels took us to TV stations, radio stations and bookshops around the UK and in the downtime I read a lot.

My genre of choice was crime fiction. I became interested in American writers such as Michael Connelly, Raymond Chandler and James Ellroy to name but a few. One day Keith Floyd said to me, as we made our way to North Shields Fish Market at some amazingly ungodly hour, *You know enough about crime fiction, you should write your own.* That thought stayed with me and I began to think that one day I could maybe (just maybe) write a novel. Everyone needs a little encouragement from time to time. I made a few notes, stuck them in a drawer and got on with a busy life.

Many years later I fished out the notes I'd made and began writing my first thriller. The name of my hero, Jack Barclay, had come from a journey from my home city of Aberdeen to London as a teenager. This was the swinging sixties and boy was I impressed at what was happening in the Big Smoke! As I walked up Park Lane I came to a huge showroom filled with Rolls Royces and Bentleys for sale. The name above the glittering lights proclaimed, *Jack Barclay.* I never forgot that name.

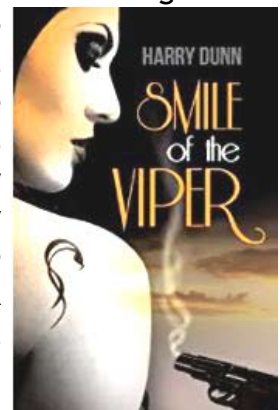
It was now 2009 and I sat down and began writing. It is the only way. Just start. The process is lengthy and it is a solitary

occupation. There are good days and not so good but once you start you will eventually type *The End.* And believe me, that's a lovely feeling.

And then begins the next phase which is the edit! It is long and it can be painful and the story has to be examined line by line, word by word. This slow process is a very necessary one but sometimes you wish you could curl up and scream, *When will this ever end?* However one day you have a novel manuscript ready for the world. Now the really difficult part begins. *What do I do with it?*

I began sending my manuscript, usually the first three chapters or the first ten thousand words, to the big London Literary Agents. This is when reality kicked in! Often there was no reply at all and receiving a rejection note in the post actually seemed like a result. This was before PDF's and electronic communication. It was all hard copy and any sign of a staple immediately cast you to the agent's slush pile. However one wonderful lady from a big London agency wrote me a personal letter. She said, *It's not for us right now but you have commercial talent so keep writing.* I pinned the letter to the board in my writing den and re-read it every time the self doubt crept in. I wrote to her and expressed my heartfelt thanks that she'd taken the time to write to me. It was a pivotal moment.

As the months wore on I searched the internet daily. Suddenly I realised how saturated the market had become for novels. It seemed like everyone was writing crime fiction. What chance did I have? By this time I'd received twelve rejections (same as JK Rowling!) and my optimism was at a low ebb. Surely someone would see my Jack Barclay thriller as a worldwide best seller?



The weeks went by and I had all but given up hope when I received a message from Darren Laws, Managing Director of Caffeine Nights Publishing. I'd sent him the first three chapters of *Smile of the Viper* although his website said, *Submissions closed*. A couple of weeks passed and then he asked to see the next three chapters.

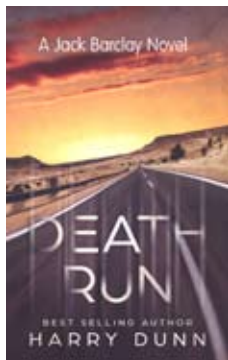
In the course of time Darren asked for the full manuscript and one day I received his message, *I love it and I'd like to publish you*. It was a memorable day to say the least and a drop of champagne was taken! And so started a new life for me.

It was a bit of a whirlwind after that and I was involved with the marketing of my first novel. I was comfortable with this given my years of helping to promote others. I let everyone know about *Smile of the Viper*. Soon I found myself in the top tier of Amazon bestsellers in Crime and Mystery. It was beyond belief. I began receiving messages of appreciation but, most importantly, four and five star reviews from all over the world. I'd arrived!

And so the dust settled and I carried on with my second Jack Barclay thriller, *Forever Evil*. It became easier to write after the success of my first novel and I wrote into the night. Every night! That's how it gets you.



Forever Evil was followed by *Death Run* and both reached #1 in Crime and Mystery in the UK, Canada and Australia. The US is a difficult nut to crack! My novels have



now settled in a comfortable position in the Amazon charts and I am very happy with that. All are stand alone and can be read in any order.

I wish to mention two ladies who have been instrumental in my journey to becoming

a published author.

Many of you will, I'm sure, know Val Waring. I've never met her but she has supported me from day one and has become a great friend. I will always remember the 5* reviews she published all those years ago and those helped me to write on and develop *Jack Barclay, Private Investigator*. Thank you, Val.

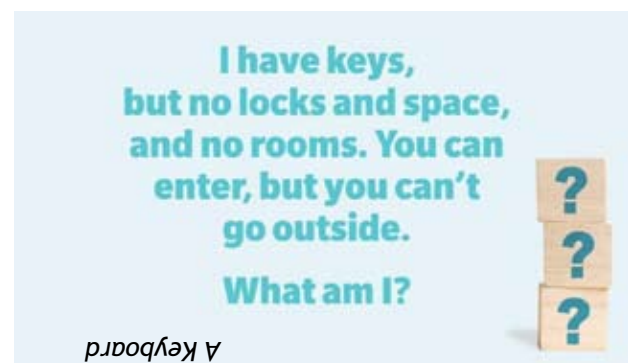
The other lady I'd like to thank is my editor and mentor, Judy Hodgetts. Judy took me under her wing right at the beginning and taught me the ropes. Her patience is enduring and her skills in making my writing so much better are amazing. She too is a successful novelist under the name of Judy Bryan. Thank you, Judy.

And so my story ends but I would like to leave you with a thought.

I have met so many people who tell me they would like to write. Just do it. Don't worry about making mistakes because they can be sorted out later. You may wish to write a novel or you may just wish to leave some memories of your life for your grandchildren. It's important you do that so just settle down and enjoy writing down some of your life stories for your family who follow you. They'll thank you for it.

Good luck and Happy Writing if you decide to put pen to paper.

Harry Dunn is author of the Jack Barclay trilogy, Smile of the Viper, Forever Evil and Death Run, published by Caffeine Nights. They are available in eBook and paperback form from Amazon and all good bookshops.



Great Hallingbury Village Hall



SPRING QUIZ NIGHT

Raising funds to improve the Village Hall

**Saturday,
26th March, 2022
7 pm for 7.30 pm start**

Great Hallingbury Village Hall

GOOD PRIZES RAFFLE

£5 per person at the door
tables of 6 or 8 or join another group

**Reservation essential -
contact Sally (01279 658751)**

Bring your own food and drink

Have another convivial evening

Support the Village Hall

Kemi Badenoch MP for Saffron Walden



Since my election in 2017 helping to tackle hare coursing across the constituency has been one of my top priorities. For several years now I have had numerous roundtable discussions and events with local NFU representatives, Essex Police, local farmers and landowners on the illegal activity.

Last month I welcomed the Government's announcement of new legislation to tackle hare coursing, including giving police greater powers, tougher sentencing and new criminal offences. The legislation has been set out by the government as an amendment to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill and is currently progressing through Parliament.



Hare coursing is an illegal activity - where dogs are used to chase, catch and kill hares. Unfortunately, due to the rural nature of areas of the Saffron Walden constituency, local farmers and landowners have been badly impacted by harassment, damage to their property, intimidation, and threats from those engaging in the activity.

It has devastated rural communities for too long and I will continue to do what I can to ensure these proposals move through parliament swiftly and that Essex Police has the resources and powers to continue to effectively tackle rural crime in our constituency.

If residents would like to read more about my work across the constituency, do sign up to my monthly e-newsletter on my website: www.kemibadenoch.org.uk or if you have any concerns or enquiries you can get in touch with me at kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

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Essex County Council

County Cllr Susan Barker



Dear Great Hallingbury Residents

January has been a very quiet month, with most meetings in person being avoided where possible, but the easing of restrictions will soon see a return to normality, I hope.

Impact of Inflation

Many of us are seeing inflation in terms of fuel and food and it is no different at the County Council where these pressures, as well as the increase in National Insurance for Employers, means that a 4.49% increase in Council Tax/ Social Care levy is set to be agreed at Council in early February. This is another pressure on household budgets.

Most people pay their Council Tax in ten instalments but you can opt to pay as a one off sum or spread over 12 months. If you are the only adult in the house or on a low income then you will be entitled to a discount. You will need to contact Uttlesford District Council to discuss this. They can be reached on 01799 510510. Many people claim these discounts so do not be put off applying.

Essex Pension Fund

Inflation will also affect the Essex Pension fund as it moves towards its triennial valuation at March 2022. Assumptions about inflation, interest rates and mortality all need to be taken into consideration when

UK Life Expectancy at birth and at age 65 years in 2045			
	Age	2020-based EoL	Change from 2018-based projection
Males	0	82.17 years	-0.65
Males	65	20.62 years	-0.38
Females	0	85.34 years	-0.38
Females	65	22.74 years	-0.22

setting levels of Employers contributions from April 2023. Recently published data shows that life expectancy at age 65 appears to be slowing or reducing in the future and the Pension Fund does need to be looking very far in the future. An employee of 20 years old will be drawing their pension in around 48 years time or 2070! And the funds need to be there to pay it.

Climate Change

As Chairman of the Essex Fund I am often asked about our policies regarding Climate Change.

The Essex Pension Fund recognises both a responsibility to be a trusted investor and the range of potential long-term risks associated with climate change. As such we have prioritised these important considerations when reviewing our Investment Strategy.

The Fund's direct investment in fossil fuels is steadily decreasing and as of 30 September 2021, was 0.05% of the Fund compared to 0.22% as of 30 September 2015 and this figure is expected to decrease further in the near future. We are also dedicated to investing in reforestation and renewable energy with the Fund's investments in sustainable timber and renewable energy increasing from 4.1% as of 30 June 2019 to 8.1% as of 31 March 2021. The ISC is exploring with its Advisers the options around allocating monies to a dedicated green infrastructure fund.

Essex Pension Fund sees this as the start of our journey and recognises both the long-term risks associated with climate change and the importance of engaging with companies it is invested in and is keen to work collaboratively with others towards achieving our ultimate goal of reaching net zero carbon. We have committed to becoming a signatory to the UK Stewardship Code whilst always remaining responsible investors.

If you would like more information about our investment strategy and RI Policy, please review our Investment Strategy Statement.

continued on page 30

continued from page 29

I hope this reassures you that the Essex Pension Fund takes its responsibilities seriously and that its planned approach to RI will ensure a better tomorrow for all our members.

Local Matters

Locally I am working to get some repairs done to the holes close to the Village Hall, sorting out the blocked drain and flooding outside *Pantiles* and the long standing work needed on Church Road where it floods below *Captains* ... sorry that will be a road closure as the road is too narrow to allow two way working. The rules state that a 3 metre width of road is needed for cars, a 1.2m buffer for the safety of the workforce and then space for a contractors vehicle... so traffic lights not possible.

If there are other issues that I can help with please do get in touch and please do report any highways defects online.

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

Uttlesford Citizens' Advice



Rising inflation hitting low-income households the hardest

Increased energy costs, rising inflation and the removal of the £20 Universal Credit uplift means that many households are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet.

Over the last two years, Uttlesford Citizens' Advice has seen a steep rise in the number of people seeking advice relating to budgeting or help to pay essential bills. If you are struggling with the cost of rent, food or heating, please remember you are not alone. Our advisers can help by making sure you are receiving all the benefits you are entitled to and working with you to maximise your income; they can also help you access other support, including emergency financial support, if needed.

You can contact Uttlesford Citizens Advice on 01799 618840 or email help@uttlesfordca.org.uk You can also find advice and information online at www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Time to get walking again!



At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Essex <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/essex> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free. It also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Essex (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so, whether you are walking from home or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you. With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris
www.walkinginengland.co.uk



Great Hallingbury Friendship Club

The Club was formed after the Second World War. Its aim was to bring together village people over the age of 60.

Those who had cars, a rarity in those days, would pick up members and take people to where the meeting was to be held. This was usually at a house which had sufficient room to accommodate 25-30 people. Meetings were not held in August and September because this was harvest time and there was much help needed on the farms. In recent times it was agreed that there now was no reason for this and so meetings were held for the full twelve months.

After welcoming members there were various notices of news of happenings in the village and surrounding area. Then there would be either a guest speaker, a quiz or a demonstration of some form of artistry.

Tea was served consisting of sandwiches and a variety of cakes. These were provided by the hostess and a wonderful group of helpers who all donated sandwiches, cakes and transport free of charge. During the Summer months, weather permitting, trips out were arranged. Sometimes a coach



would be hired for a trip to Clacton or Folkstone.

Birthdays were never forgotten and each member would receive a card and flowers to celebrate their special day. Nor would they be forgotten if they were poorly.



The photographs are from the club's Christmas lunch in 2017

Spring Blossom

Answers to quiz on page 5

- A Wild Cherry
- B Hawthorn
- C Blackthorn
- D Ash
- E Crab Apple
- F Rowan
- G Elder
- H Horse Chestnut
- I Oak
- J Holly



As the years passed there were dramatic changes within the village. Women learnt to drive and they had cars to take them to work outside of the village. Previously there had been just one bus into Bishop's Stortford which ran on Thursday and Saturday; now there is no bus. Those who were helpers are all now in their 80s and still going strong. The membership is down to two.

They say there is a time and a place for everything and sadly we are calling time on the club we called *Friendship*.

Val Mugele

Little Hallingbury Cricket Club Colts



LHCC colts under 13 team finished the season at HECC with a fine victory over Sawbridgeworth. Sawbridgeworth, batting first, scored 99 with Charlie Mugele bowling very well and taking four wickets in his three overs. With Beau, Hugo and Charlie scoring well, Hallingbury won with an over to spare. The under 13s finished the season second in the league with five victories from seven games.

The under 11s finished the year with a fine victory over HECC scoring 120 in their 10 overs, with good runs from Albert and Veer. They then restricted HECC to just 92 with young Allana Clayton and Betty Latham performing well in the field!

Indoor coaching has started for colts and seniors so please contact Nick or myself if you are interested.

Keith Behagg

Poppy Appeal 2021



The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in Great and Little Hallingbury last year raised a total of £1245.05.

A quarter of this was thanks to our three intrepid collectors who went from house to house again this year. There were collected contributions from our two local schools as well as four businesses and a successful coffee morning in Great Hallingbury. Howe Green House School was unable to hold their planned coffee morning because of the pandemic which we all missed as it has been a feature of the Appeal for many years.

Thank you to everyone involved. We are already planning this autumn, hoping that all events will be able to take place.

*Gill Sewell, Appeal Co-ordinator
for Great & Little Hallingbury.*

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

We've made it through Christmas, New Year and January, so we can now celebrate the days getting longer and the new horticultural year, starting with the snowdrops in February!

April Open Day

April 24th will be the first full season Open Day and the opportunity to enjoy the trees coming into leaf at the Gardens, in particular in the Glade. Visitors will be able to see the new trees planted over the winter, the daffodils, tulips and fruit blossom. There will be a range of stalls including a plant stall, a local wood turner, crafts and jams; and we will be joined by the Woodland Trust and Essex Wildlife Trust. Our volunteers will provide locally sourced bacon, cheese or hummus rolls, homemade cakes and hot and cold drinks until they run out - or till 4.00pm. Garden produce and merchandise will be available for sale, hopefully, including our rhubarb.

Hours are 11.00-5.00pm, last entry 4.00pm. Entry fee: Adults: £5.50 Children under 16 years old free of charge. Tickets bookable in advance through Trybooking.com. It is also possible to pay at the gate.

There is lots of work underway to tidy the Gardens for visitors. We have also made a start on preparing the West Wood for new planting - there won't be much to see there this year but it is good to have a new project underway.

Please go to our website for more information: www.eastonlodge.co.uk .

Jill Goldsmith



Great Hallingbury History Society



Programme Spring 2022

Three Men Without a Boat



Tony Tuckwell walking the towpath and finding history

Wednesday, 9th March



The Great Plague in Essex

Wednesday
13th April

Hadham Forge

Wednesday
11th May



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

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Mead Field Drive Update

It is hoped that most villagers like what they can see as they drive past Mead Field Drive. The development blends in well with the wooded and rural landscape of Tilekiln Green.

The building works are being carried out unobtrusively and are providing some employment to the local workforce amongst whom a lady JCB driver was spotted!

The eleven Uttlesford managed housing units are well underway and, by the time this issue of Highlights is delivered, the roofs will be finished on several of the three bed and two bed shared ownership units. These are the first such units to be built in the village for some seventy years, a time when Dunmow Rural District Council was the local authority. These units cannot be let until the formalities have been completed with the chosen housing association which is Eastlight Community Homes. Uttlesford Housing remains the contact for all social and managed applications.

All the properties can be categorised as being hi-tech. They all have a high standard of acoustic and thermal insulation. There is underfloor heating on the ground floor with radiators upstairs, all fed by an air source heat pump so heating costs should be minimal and all windows and cladding are practically maintenance free.

Some of the sold units will be occupied shortly and the whole development could be complete by the end of 2023.



News from St Giles' *The Waiting*



One of the consequences of the pandemic is a change in the way we communicate. Where I would once go to see someone face-to-face, now I contact them another way. It may be in an online meeting using Skype or Zoom or a similar means or it may be that I use the telephone. One of the experiences that has become more frequent is sitting listening to music, often tinny and trashy, waiting to rise up the queue of callers until an adviser is available to speak to me. I have spent considerable lengths of time in this way. Usually, I try to do something else at the same time - read a book, write something or play a computer game. I find this kind of waiting immensely frustrating and the music incredibly irritating, yet I hesitate to lower the volume in case I miss the moment when it is my turn to speak to the adviser. Maybe you know the feeling.

Waiting can often be a struggle - whether it is for a phone call, a bus, an appointment or some other thing. One of the reasons for this difficulty is that waiting tells us that we are not in control. We like to feel that we have agency - the capacity to organise our lives the way we want them to be. Waiting upsets this sense of being in control. We are dependent on someone or something that is beyond our control in order to be able to move forward.

This edition of *Great Hallingbury Highlights* covers the church seasons of Lent and Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday - this year it falls on 2nd March. Lent is a season of preparation for Easter. It originated as the period of preparation for those who were to be baptised on Easter Sunday. From these beginnings it grew to become a time of preparation for Easter for the whole church.

Traditionally, Christians have kept Lent season as a time of retreat and repentance,

stepping back from business to consider their lives and to draw closer to Jesus. Various disciplines (a word linked to the word *disciple* which means *learner*) have developed through the centuries as ways to encourage these processes of evaluation and spiritual growth. The best known of these is the idea of *giving up* something pleasurable for Lent, not as an end in itself, but in order to make time for spiritual growth and as a sign of commitment to the process. The Bishop of Chelmsford has suggested that Lent 2022 should be a *Holy Sabbatical* - a time to reflect following the pressures, strains and difficulties that have emerged during nearly two years of pandemic.

To keep Lent as a *Holy Sabbatical* will require us to step back and wait as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection at Easter. Waiting can be difficult, it may require us to give up the illusion that we can control every aspect of our lives. Waiting can be fruitful as we create space in our busy lives to allow God to speak. I hope the season will be fruitful for you.

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

World Day of Prayer

Friday, 4th March



The service this year will be held on Friday, March 4th, at 2pm at the United Reform Church, Hatfield Heath.

If you would like to be involved in the service please contact Pauline Beaumont at p-beaumont@tiscali.co.uk

St Giles' Gardening Group

Following on from the success of our Halloween event - bats, moths and a graveyard tour - we have decided to give each of the elements their own night.

John Spencer from Essex Wildlife will be doing a bat detecting evening around the church in the summer and, on a separate night, Jono Forgham, our resident moth expert, will have a dedicated trapping night.

Both events should be huge fun - keep an eye out for advertising when the dates are set!

At Christmas the volunteers got into the spirit, indulging their creativity by making Christmas wreaths with greenery from the church yard. These all sold at the Christmas Tree Fair in Little Hallingbury to help raise funds. So well did it go, in fact, that something similar is being planned for Easter and, believe it or not, there have already been pre-orders for Christmas wreaths next December! Get in early to avoid disappointment is all I can say.

Not all has gone to plan however. Ambitions to have a spring plant and bulb sale have been set back. The church mice raided our bulb store with unfortunate consequences. (For us, not the mice - they had a ball...!)

As the weather warms up we hope the churchyard will be more beautiful than ever. My favourite time is the arrival of clouds of butterflies in the long grasses. Sixteen species so far identified!

I was reminded the other day that mild exercise and the smell of soil both operate to relieve mild depression. If you feel you have got stuck in a rut pop down and see us. We are at the church every Saturday, as long as it's not raining hard, between 10 and 1.

Any enquiries to Russell on 07756142890.

Russell Robinson

United Benefice Services

March - May 2022

G = St Giles' M = St Mary's

T b a	Mar 2	10 am	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion
M	Mar 6	10 am	Morning Worship
G	Mar 13	10 am	Holy Communion
M	Mar 20	10 am	Holy Communion
G	Mar 27	10.30 am	Mothering Sunday Morning Worship
M	Apr 3	10 am	Morning Worship
G	Apr 10	10 am	Palm Sunday Holy Communion
M	Apr 17	10 am	Easter Day Holy Communion
G	Apr 24	10 am	Morning Worship
M	May 1	10 am	Morning Worship
G	May 8	10 am	Holy Communion
M	May 15	10 am	Morning Worship
G	May 24	10 am	Morning Worship

In addition to the Sunday services listed above there will also be an on-line service of Morning Worship held at 11.30am each Sunday. For Zoom codes for these services send an email to sixvillageszoomcodes@gmail.com and you will receive an automated reply.

Please note that there may be some changes to the above pattern during this period. For more information go to the Hallingbury Churches website: www.hallingburychurches.co.uk

A service of Holy Communion (BCP) is held on Wednesdays at 10.00am at Holy Trinity, Hatfield Heath on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays and at St Mary's, Little Hallingbury on 2nd, 4th, and 5th Wednesdays of each month.

Great Hallingbury Annual Parish Meeting

will be held in the Village Hall on

Monday, 21st March, 2022, at 8 p.m.

All residents are welcome to attend to hear what has been happening over the past year with the Parish Council and our local societies.

Please note that venue may change according to the Government guidance at the time of the meeting.

Calendar

March 2022

- 5 Library Van - Bedlars Green 3 - 3.30 pm
Woodside Green 3.40 - 4.10 pm
- 7 Great Hallingbury Parish Council -
Village Hall 7 pm
- 9 History Society - *Three Men Without a Boat* -
Village Hall 8 pm
- 20 Village Litter Pick (see page 4)
- 21 Great Hallingbury **Annual Parish Meeting** -
Village Hall 8 pm
- 23 Great Hallingbury WI - *Cookery*
Demonstration - Village Hall 7.30 pm
- 26 Library Van - Bedlars Green 3 - 3.30 pm
Woodside Green 3.40 - 4.10 pm
- 26 Great Hallingbury Village Hall - *Quiz Night* -
7 for 7.30 pm

April 2022

- 13 History Society - *The Great Plague in Essex* -
Village Hall 8 pm
- 16 Library Van - Bedlars Green 3 - 3.30 pm
Woodside Green 3.40 - 4.10 pm
- 24 Easton Lodge - *Open Day* 11 am - 5 pm
- 27 Great Hallingbury WI - *Reflections of an Ex-
Pat Wife* - Village Hall 7.30 pm

May 2022

- 7 Library Van - Bedlars Green 3 - 3.30 pm
Woodside Green 3.40 - 4.10 pm
- 9 Great Hallingbury Parish Council -
Village Hall 8 pm
- 11 History Society - *Hadham Forge* -
Village Hall 8 pm
- 22 Easton Lodge - *Open Day* - 11 am - 5 pm
- 25 Great Hallingbury WI - *Social Evening* -
Village Hall 7.30 pm

Future Dates

- 24 July Hallingbury Flower Show - Great
Hallingbury Village Hall

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

- | | | |
|-------------------|------|--------------|
| Monday, 7th March | 7 pm | Village Hall |
| Monday, 9th May | 8 pm | Village Hall |

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Monday, 21st March at 8 pm**