

Birdbrook Parish News



Gates at Burleigh House, Baythorne End

Bruce McNally, a retired artist and graphic designer has recently re-painted the gates at Burleigh House (above). See page 8 for the story behind the paintings.

Birdbrook Community House

AGM Tuesday 27th September 7pm

**Coffee Mornings
Fridays 10 am-12 noon**

All welcome

With many events coming up in the next few months we kindly ask if you are having a clear out at any point please consider donating items to support raffles, tombolas, name a teddy and other upcoming fundraising ideas before popping them in the bin.

Remember there is also a clothing bank by the playground in Birdbrook where all funds raised go straight back towards the running of Birdbrook Community House.

Thank you

**It's time for
a Macmillan
Coffee
Morning
and you're invited**

Let's do whatever it takes
to support people living with cancer.

Place: Birdbrook Community House CO9 6BN
Date: Friday morning 28th September
Time: 10am - 1pm
Contact: Katie_owen@hotmail.com



**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

FR
FUNDRAISING
RESOURCES

Macmillan Cancer Support is a registered charity in England and Wales (1071194) and in Scotland (SC016050). Macmillan Cancer Support is a company limited by guarantee. VAT 950 1234567.

September 2025

Hello from your District Councillor

Essex Police – Counter Closures

Essex Police have closed several police front counters, including Braintree, Harlow, Clacton and Basildon, also council-shared spaces at Saffron Walden and Maldon. This was effective from 11 July. They have advised that whilst the front counter will close, Braintree Police Station will remain open and operational, with officers and staff continuing to work from the site. Residents will still be able to make appointments to meet with officers at the station. As a result of all the closures, nine members of staff have chosen not to take other roles and will be made redundant. Chelmsford, Colchester, Grays and Southend front counters are unchanged.



Greater Anglia to be Nationalised

It has been confirmed by the Department for Transport that Greater Anglia is scheduled to become a publicly owned railway on 12 October 2025. With the railway network facilitating 82 million passenger journeys in 2024/25, Greater Anglia have promised to prioritise a smooth transition, with no planned change to train service operations or employee roles.

Local Plan Review to 2041

Due to Government mandatory housing targets, the Local Plan Review is looking at growth options post 2033 to 2042. The new targets are tougher, and it's the same for every local authority across the country. The Government is also paying particular attention to the ambitious growth intended for our neighbouring Cambridge and its environs. The Cambridge Growth Company will be supported by £10 million. The Government document 'The Case for Cambridge' outlines the economic rationale and 'its' potential to enhance its position as Europe's science capital'.

The Local Plan Sub Committee at BDC had made decisions on the 18 smaller sites submitted within the Bumpstead Ward. However, have announced that they intend to review some of those smaller and medium sized sites which have been dismissed and have allocated further meetings which will probably be 13th & 20th October. The larger sites within the Braintree District will be considered at meetings scheduled 24/09/25, 01/10/25 and 06/11/25. This will include STUR2293 Land south of Haverhill, 314 Hectares which straddles Sturmer and Helions Bumpstead and would see around 5000 dwellings. Agendas are published 5 working days prior to the meeting. Meetings now start 18:30. Also available to watch on the Council's YouTube channel.

See: <https://www.catesbyestates.co.uk/land/haverhill-vales-haverhill>

It is very likely that the Government's recent decision to cancel the long-awaited A12 Chelmsford to A120 Widening Scheme will mean that there is considerable uncertainty of the ability to provide further growth in areas such as Witham, Kelvedon and Hatfield Peveral. Indicating that the north of the district may be the focus for further growth. I follow the LPR with interest. Sadly, I have not yet seen any evidence of new or improved infrastructure for the housing and population growth that is anticipated.



Residents and all interested parties will have the opportunity to comment and share their views on the sites as part of the 'Preferred Options' consultation planned for Nov/Dec 2025.

Christmas is a busy time, so make a note in your diary to submit a response and put forward your views!

Those comments will be reported back to the Local Plan Sub-Committee for consideration before the final plan is consulted on in early 2026.

Rural Prosperity Fund £176k – Now Open

BDC is set to Allocate £176k to Businesses & Community Groups in Rural Areas. Grants between £2,000 and £20,000 are available for execution of capital projects in rural areas. The grants could be used to:

- improve community facilities and infrastructure, such as village halls and churches
- create and improve green spaces
- boost access to arts, leisure and culture in a bid to grow local tourism economies
- support agricultural businesses looking to diversify or expand their remit
- help rural businesses looking to launch or grow their products and services

The initiative is open to small and micro businesses, parish councils, charities and community groups within rural areas and communities. The scheme requires applicants to match some of the funds for their projects. More information: <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/ruralprosperityfund>

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation Update

It was confirmed in the House of Commons 17th July that Greater Essex will go ahead with Devolution and work towards establishing a Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) can proceed. The Government's English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill, which was recently introduced, is set for a second reading in the House of Commons in September. Separate legislation to create the MCCA with then go through Parliament in the autumn/winter. The MCCA is set to be legally established in early 2026, with a mayoral election scheduled for Thursday 7 May 2026.

Essex County Council have announced their preferred configuration for LGR as part of the business case they are developing.

Chief Executives and Leaders across the Essex authorities are working to develop detailed proposals for unitary authority configuration, ahead of submission to Government by Friday 26 September 2025. At present these proposals will take the form of 3 separate business cases (ultimately, the final decision will be made by Ministers):

- To move to 5 Unitary Authorities; being led by Southend Council.
- To move to 4 Unitary Authorities; being led by Thurrock Council.
- To move to 3 Unitary Authorities, being led by Essex County Council.

The Essex preferred configuration for their 3 unitary proposal would mean that in north Essex there would be a single unitary covering Braintree, Colchester, Tendring and Uttlesford.

The Greater Essex Local Government Reorganisation – Final Submission will be considered at Braintree District Council full council meeting scheduled for 15th September 2025. The feedback (*contd over page*)



From Birdbrook Parish Council

Next Meeting Dates
7pm in Birdbrook Community House

16th September 2025
11th November 2025

The Local Plan

Local plans are a government requirement produced by District Councils following local consultation.
For more info see the District Councillor's report p2..

Concerns?

If Parishioners have comments or concerns they should address them to appointed Cllr's or to Debbie, our Parish Clerk. Alternatively you have the opportunity to address the Cllr's at their meetings (dates above) which are open to the public.

Cllr Steve Rhenius: chair@birdbrook.org.uk

Debbie, Parish Clerk:
parishclerk@birdbrook.org.uk

The Birdbrook Parish News welcomes pieces on general topics of interest to readers: please send to Val / Katie: birdbrook2021@gmail.com

from this meeting will be considered at the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 2nd September 2025. Both meetings can be seen on the Council's YouTube channel.

This will be the largest reorganisation in local government in over 50 years.

<https://www.essexlgrhub.org/about-local-government-changes-essex>

Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy – Now Published & Climate Change

Nature in Essex has suffered significantly over the last century, and continues to suffer, from species loss, habitat loss and increased habitat fragmentation. There are multiple causes for this, including land use change, invasive species, pollution, overexploitation and climate change. Therefore, it is crucial to place nature recovery at the centre of future action for the environment, to create new habitats and recover and enhance space for nature that has been lost or degraded. The role of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) is to provide a county-wide, practical solution for nature recovery. The Government has established a nationwide network of 48

Responsible Authorities, each being required to create a LNRS for its area. Essex County Council is the Responsible Authority for the Greater Essex LNRS. See this document at: <https://www.essexclimate.org.uk/sites/default/files/Lnrs-strategy-may-25.pdf>

Braintree District Council's Climate Change Strategy Annual Performance Report 2024/2025 is scheduled to be considered at the Cabinet meeting 22nd September 2025. This will provide an update on the progress of the strategy. See the agenda for detailed information. The meeting will be available on the Council's YouTube channel.

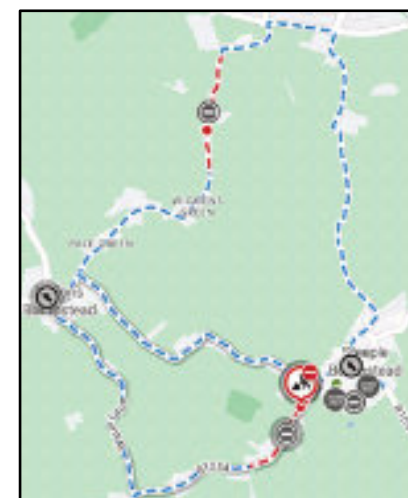
The adoption of the Essex Air Quality Strategy is scheduled to be considered at the Cabinet meeting 24th November 2025. The agenda will hold detailed information.

Emergency Alert Test Planned

Mobile phones in the UK will be sent a test Emergency Alert at around 15:00 on Sunday 7th September 2025, as part of plans to strengthen the country's preparedness. The Emergency Alerts system is used to warn if there's a danger to life nearby, including extreme weather. During the test, mobile phones will vibrate and make a loud siren sound for roughly ten seconds, even if they are set to silent. A message will also appear on phone screens, making it clear the alert is only a test. There are approximately 87 million mobile phones in the UK. The test will be just the second of its kind.

Scheduled Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders & Roadworks

Multi-way traffic signal at New England, Sturmer Road. Commenced



1st May to 24th October 2025 for Utility Asset Works. Anglian Water. Project: SEW-12079 - Stambourne Pump Away Scheme. Installing underground storm water storage pipes.

E: onealliancecustomers@anglianwater.co.uk

T: **03457 145 145.**

Intended closure of Water Lane, Hempstead Road, due to commence on 23rd July 2025 for 30 days. The closure is required while ECC undertakes surfacing. Info: <https://one.network/?tm=142991133>

Colne Valley Arms – New England

For the Colne Valley Arms (formerly The Tavern) at



New England, which is an eyesore on the A1017, there have been tentative enquiries made with BDC to consider potential options. BDC has advised that it should be marketed for an alternative use before any potential residential development could be considered; and for another commercial use, they would need to demonstrate that the public house is no longer viable.

Bottle Banks

When the new waste services are introduced in June 2026, BDC: 'Bring banks will not be removed immediately as 12% of residents who responded to the consultation stated they would continue to use them. Instead, their use will be reviewed which may lead to the space being used to collect other materials such as small electrical items'.

With best wishes to all,

Cllr. Diana Garrod

Braintree District Councillor for the Bumpstead Ward

Christmas Fayre 6th December 11am-4pm

The annual Christmas Fayre at Birdbrook Community Bookings are now open for traders, crafters or individuals
The same fee since 2023 at just £10 per table
To book, please email Katie_owner@hotmail.com



Gemma's Footcare

Foot Health Practitioner
SAC Dip RFHP

- **Toe Nail Cutting**
- **Callus/Corn Removal**
- **Diabetic Foot Care**
- **Ingrown Toe Nail Removal**
- **Fungal Nail Treatment**

Telephone/Text: 07498 386648

Email: gemmasfootcare@gmail.com

Foot Care in the comfort of your own home

Or you can come to my home in Steeple Bumpstead

I look forward to hearing from you soon

Fact: In an average lifetime we walk around the world 3 times



UK transition from analogue telephone to digital landlines

Communications providers in the UK are replacing the technology they use to provide fixed telephone networks (landlines). For most customers, the upgrade is expected to be complete by January 2027.

In November 2017, the telecoms industry announced its intention to retire analogue telephone networks such as the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), which provides many analogue telephone services.. The Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), which is also used to deliver telephone services, is also being switched off. Most customers are expected to have made the switch by the end of January 2027. The industry will upgrade landline services to new digital technology using an internet connection, such as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), Digital Voice or All-IP telephony.

For most consumers and businesses, this change will be straightforward. Nobody will have to lose their landline service because of this change, as there will still be the option for a 'landline only' service should a customer not wish to purchase a general internet connection. Communications providers will continue to be bound by the same regulatory obligations as they are today.

The upgrade of the UK's telephone lines is not a government programme and does not result from a government decision or policy, and therefore specific questions about how the upgrade programme might affect you should be directed to your service provider.

Why the old network is being replaced

Analogue networks have been in operation for decades and have reached the end of their serviceable life. The telecoms industry is finding it difficult to source the parts required to maintain or repair connections as suppliers are no longer manufacturing them. Ofcom, the telecommunications regulator, reported that 2023 saw 20% more service incidents on the PSTN compared to 2022, resulting in a 60% increase in the number of service hours lost to customers.

New digital phone lines will allow communications providers (such as BT, Virgin Media O2, Sky and Vodafone) to offer consumers and businesses clearer and better quality phone calls, as well as new features such as anonymous caller rejection or three-way calling. VoIP is also more resistant to severe weather as the cables used are waterproof, and less prone to damage during a storm or other severe weather events.

What the change means in practice, and how you can prepare

The exact migration process will depend on your communications provider and the equipment they use. If you already have an internet connection, the change may be as simple as plugging your phone into



your broadband router rather than the socket on the wall. Communications providers will contact their customers ahead of the migration taking place, so you do not need to take any action until your provider contacts you directly. You should look out for communications material from them and be careful not to confuse this with marketing material.

Not all analogue phone services will be switched off by 2027. Depending on your communications provider, you may not be required to move to digital voice services by then. If you are not sure whether you will be impacted, contact your provider to ask about when they will require all customers to use digital landlines.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-transition-from-analogue-to-digital-landlines>

If you have specific requirements (for example, if you are a vulnerable consumer or you have other devices connected to your telephone line such as alarm systems, telecare devices or fax machines), you might need to take additional actions or purchase replacement devices or adaptors. If you believe this to be the case, or if you have general questions about the migration, you should contact your communication provider or equipment manufacturer.

Free Food in Haverhill

Don't know what to do with surplus from your harvest? You could donate. Check when they are open: Free Food in Haverhill are located in the car park on the left as you go into Haverhill towards Sturmer Arches.

Free Food in Haverhill is a community fridge project that focuses on preventing food waste. They rehome supermarket surplus food, ensuring that good food which can still be eaten makes its way into the local community.

They open 7 days a week and aim to stick to 12pm-2pm Mon-Sat and 4:30pm-6:30pm on a Sunday. These times are dependent on volunteer and food availability. They post on their Facebook page that they are open and customers then make their way to them. This is to save people waiting around unnecessarily in an active car park, but once open anyone can come visit them.

"The project project started small in 2021, with myself and my partner Lauren collecting food from an app called Olio. We have developed it since then. We wish we had known then:

- How much red tape there is around everything.
- How much everything costs.
- How hard it is to find volunteers.
- How much work it takes behind the scenes."

For more information visit:

<https://www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Spotligh-on-Free-Food-in-Haverhill.pdf>

And visit the Free Food in Haverhill Facebook page.



Planning a function or celebration?



Birdbrook Community House
The social heart of the parish

Large Hall or Smaller Meeting Room for Hire

- Wedding receptions
- Regular Groups
- Birthday Parties
- Exercise Classes
- Business meetings
- Youth Groups

★ Available 365 days a year



★ Fully equipped kitchen



Email katie_owner@hotmail.com or matt@unwinestates.co.uk

www.e-voice.org.uk/birdbrookcommunityhouse

Zanna Newton PILATES



Zanna has been leading her 'highly recommended' Pilates classes since 2004.

Classes are available live on Zoom and also in Ridgewell, Stotfold and Melbourn (near Royston).

Please check the website where you can see class availability and book your place online.

www.zannanewton.co.uk

My Great Uncle: Alexander Kirkpatrick

I was painting my gates some years ago and on a whim decided to portray my maternal grandfather's brother, Alexander, who I knew was killed in the Great War. He joined the Royal Scots Fusiliers when war broke out to "do his bit" as so many idealistic souls did. He was killed in Ypres less than three months after his arrival at the Front and his individual death was actually recorded in the battalion diary which was quite unusual.



It always saddened me because the only information I had was that he was 26 and left a widow and six year-old daughter in Stirling. I know daily life was very tough in those days for grieving wives and mothers left alone after the truly horrific numbers of casualties in the Great War, especially with children to bring up at a time when social help was simply not available in the way it is today.

His brother, Thomas Grant Kirkpatrick (top right), signed up for war service in 1915 at the age of 20, possibly as a result of his brother's death. I knew that the Kirkpatrick children, two sons and four daughters, grew

up in Stirling in the 1890s and their father was a very authoritarian policeman, which may have inspired his eldest son Alexander to join the Army, perhaps to get away.

I know more about Thomas Grant as he was my mother's father who served three years in the trenches, was wounded twice and returned with all his limbs but his mind damaged by all he'd done and witnessed. The norm was for returning soldiers to never ever speak of their experiences but unfortunately Thomas was the exception. Today he'd have been offered help for PTSD but like so many in 1918-19 he



Thomas Grant Kirkpatrick
1895-1947

returned psychologically damaged, prone to using alcohol and the freely available laudanum to numb his pain and like so many others he simply soldiered on (as the expression was) without help, but it's clear he never got over that war and told his eldest child, my mother, every appalling event he endured in vivid detail. My mother in her sadness related those same stories to me as a child and as a result I am still rather haunted by the tragedy of that war where death and mutilation came for the first time in history on an unimaginably industrial scale and untold damage continued long after soldiers returned home.

A journalist knocked on my door recently, and asked about the pictures on the gates, he was interested in the backstory. He soon presented me with a lot of detail I'd never before known about my great uncle's service in the Royal Scots Greys, the cavalry regiment he joined at the age of 19 years and 7 months in 1907. Included were details of his service record which was, sad to say, rather notable for poor conduct, including "offering violence to an officer." He was

St Augustine, Birdbrook

Sunday 14th Sept: 10.30am Morning Worship, Baptism

Sunday 28th Sept: 10.30am Benefice Holy Communion

Sunday 12th October: 10:30am Harvest Festival

Sunday 26th October: 10:30am Benefice Holy Communion

Sunday 9th November: 10:50am Remembrance Service

Sunday 23rd November: 10:30am Benefice Holy Communion

Everyone welcome!

Church Warden: Judi Price 01440 730506

dishonourably discharged in 1908 but rejoined in 1914 to serve his country (today it would be considered "another country") in the Royal Scots Fusiliers. After basic training he was sent to France in November 1914 and from there posted to Ypres in early 1915. The regimental records show that after a huge British bombardment of enemy trenches on 5th February near Kemmel Ridge in Belgium the Germans retaliated with heavy artillery fire which killed one soldier - Private Alexander Kirkpatrick - and wounded three others. I had often wondered how he met his end and knew it wasn't in a set battle, assuming it was artillery or sniper fire. So now thanks to my journalist friend Rob Kirk, who has contributed several articles including my great uncle's story to the magazine of The Western Front Association, I know how he died. It had been a relatively quiet period before the British bombardment which made the specific mention of his death as a simple private most unusual, rather like the mention of the death of the German soldier Paul Baumer on an uneventful day which was recorded in the regimental diary in All Quiet on the Western Front.

Armed with this information the generic "Tommy" on my gate could now be personalised.

I imagined the tough wee man from Stirling smoking a fag on duty but the helmet was historically inaccurate as the Brodie steel helmet was not universally introduced until autumn 1915 and unbelievably



iPad sketch of how the sniper will look camouflaged in his firing position based on British period photographs of the German parapets

before that soldiers were sent into action wearing only a soft cap or in the case of Scottish troops the Tam o' Shanter or Glengarry.



Alexander (above) is now accurately represented. While I was at it I decided to replace the gaunt soldier on the left gate with a German sniper, the scourge for two years of so many careless Tommies "having a quick look" over the top of the parapet. Old Bill, the cartoon creation by Captain Bruce Bairnsfather for the Trench News, has also been refreshed.

Thanks to Rob Kirk I am looking for Alexander's descendants through the many online services now available for family history research.

Bruce McNally



Freshly painted gates, Burleigh House, Baythorne End

Birdbrook Ladies Group

June

The meeting in June was a visit to a garden in Stoke by Clare owned by Jenna Walker. She had previously done a talk and demonstration on flower arranging but now we had an opportunity to view her garden. Jenna is a passionate gardener and grows her flowers mainly for arrangements, weddings and events. We were lucky to have a perfect evening to wander around the flower beds and admire the colours and scents. The sweet peas, in particular, were amazing. There were lots of places just to sit and chat and take in the views. Jenna and her husband have worked very hard over the years to achieve the garden they aimed for and made us very welcome on our visit. We retired to one of our members house, and also a neighbour of Jenna, where she had provided a wonderful selection of refreshments. There was something to suit everyone's palate.

July

This was another month we were not in the Community House but in my garden for a BBQ. My husband was in charge of cooking the burgers, sausages and chicken was provided from group funds. There was a wonderful selection of salads and desserts which the members brought along. Also, there was Pimm's on tap which was very popular. Several husbands also attended and added to the



numbers. It was a very warm evening, just right for sipping a glass or two and chatting with friends.

August

Our speaker for this month was Miles from Morgan's Butchery at Baythorne End. It was the most interesting and enlightening talk. He is definitely a people person and tries to interact with everyone who visits the shop. They have menus printed in braille, a hearing loop and a heartstart machine. He told us about having had a stroke 7 years ago and not only needing to learn to talk again but to relearn all the butchery skills. Miles is passionate about his work and they source premium local meats from nearby farms. One of his aims is to educate customers about responsible meat consumption. We were treated to a demonstration of how to cut up a chicken into different portions. He made several recipes using the meat which were then donated to our raffle. (I was lucky enough to win two stuffed chicken breasts). The shop has won many awards and is currently one of the final four finalists for Britain's Best Butchers Shop, up against one from Belgravia, London. We wish Miles and his team very good luck. We all agreed that this was one of our best speakers and we will definitely invite Miles back again. I for one will be making a trip to his shop.

Sue King s_54king@hotmail.com



(Miles' story was featured in the BPN September 2023: <https://e-voice.org.uk/birdbrookparishcouncil/assets/documents/birdbrookparishnewssept2023-pd> Ed)

Programme of Events 2025 - 2026

11th September - Hilary: Art or Sound Therapy
9th - October - David Caulfield: Musician, Songs and Stories from the 60s
13th November - Christmas Crafts, Laura Walker
4/11th December - Xmas Meal
8th January - Social Evening/planning
12th February - Heather: Homeopathy
12th March - Bryan Thurlow: "Through the Green Baize Door"
9th April - To be arranged
14th May - AGM

Annual Membership: £25.00

We're a very friendly group, new members and visitors are always welcome.

Birdbrook Bowls Club

I seem to remember a phrase, scorchio which seems so appropriate to describe our summer, having just returned from the Isle of Arran on the west coast of Scotland, bathed in glorious sunshine. So to our bowls season & what a season it has been!

Our team who played in the NEBF winning promotion last year from the third to the second division have only gone & done it again. They have been promoted from the second to the first division, a fantastic achievement, well done one & all. A special thanks goes to Clive Brazier who captained them so well winning promotion two seasons in a row.

We also fared well in our first season playing in the second division of the SBB league I am pleased to report that we played to an excellent standard remaining in the division ready for the challenges in 2026.

On the 10th August we hosted a charity Bowls competition in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. We were again blessed with good weather raising £1130 for the charity which we hope will increase with Gift Aid. The event was once again sponsored by Peasgood & Skeets for which we are most grateful.

This has been a hard fought, sometimes challenging season but we rose to it admirably, congratulations go to all our bowlers, well done.

While we lost players to other clubs, we gave a warm welcome to our new members at our Open Day. Once selected they acquitted themselves extremely well in all competitions. We wish you well in your new found sporting activity. As you know we are a relatively small club with under 25 members. We would love to welcome more new members.

As you can imagine, our green requires a lot of maintenance. We must pay a big big thank you to Keith Choat & his green team who through a challenging summer, maintained an excellent playing surface. With some shrewd financial planning by our new treasurer, to be voted in at our AGM in November, for current expenses to remain the same, we will hopefully next season look towards having a new green being laid.

Birdbrook BC have played extremely well to qualify for the SBBL cup & have reached the final which is to be played against Castle Hedingham in September, we wish our members well who are playing in this very important final match of the season. Let's hope Birdbrook brings home the cup, we send you all our



best wishes. As one of our members is always saying "Bring on the Fire!" Hopefully we'll report good news in the next issue of the BPN.

Our in house club competitions will be held in September, and the season will culminate at our AGM on the 5th November along with our annual prize giving dinner to be held on the 8th.

For a relatively small club we have done remarkably well this season, once again many congratulations go to all our club members.

We wish some of our members who have been in hospital during the year well in their continued recovery, their support has been greatly appreciated throughout the season.

Birdbrook Bowls Club is your local sports facility on your doorstep, so why not come along & join us, and enjoy gentle exercise in the open air. You are sure of a very warm welcome, it will be good to see you.

Alan Cook

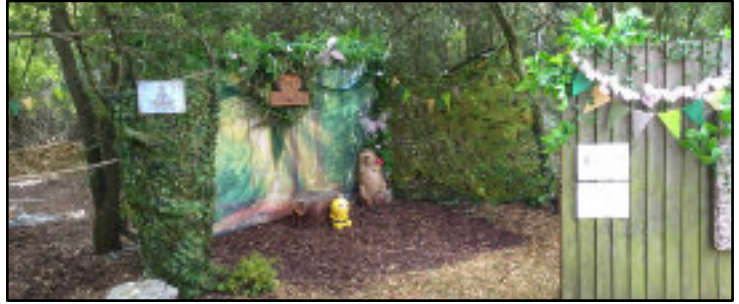


Photos: Top and Above: Bowls Club Charity Day 2025

To find out more Ben Allen on: 07778 225272 or email: birdbrookbowlsclub2024@gmail.com

Woodland Walk, Sturmer Nurseries

As well as a new Bistro at our local garden centre, Sturmer Nurseries have a new children's Woodland Walk area hidden away at the very back of the nursery. It has scenes and activity areas for young children. It has been open across the summer, and will also be themed for opening at Halloween, and at Christmas. More information on the Sturmer Nurseries facebook page.



New Games Area, Steeple Bumpstead



A new multi-use games area (MUGA) has officially opened on the Camping Close in Steeple Bumpstead with a games wall, and an outdoor table tennis area for people of all abilities to enjoy.

The project, led by Steeple Bumpstead Parish Council, was funded by a £52,000 Section 106 contribution, money the council secures from developers linked to planning permission, from the Poppy Field development by Enterprise Property Group Limited. The site also sees a new zip wire, funded by a Community Initiatives Fund via Essex County Council and the parish council.

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP



**Birdbrook Community House
CO9 BN
Thursday December 4th
from 7pm**

**BOOK NOW to avoid disappointment
£45 per person includes your wreath
Refreshments available on site
email to book
katie_owner@hotmail.com**



Stambourne Chapel Care

Do you have a few hours to spare?
**Would you like to make a difference
to your community?**

We have vacancies for:

Befriending, both in person and telephone
Transport to appointments or social events, **Help
and Support with outings**, lunch club and more.

We also need **Administrative Support** and a
Treasurer and support for **fund raising** and **writing
grant proposals**.

If you feel this is for you please get in touch:
stambournechapelcare@gmail.com
or Tel: 07883 423528

Birdbrook Parish News

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Next edition:

News and adverts by 15 November for the December BPN

Editors Val and Katie: birdbrook2021@gmail.com