

EAST HANNINGFIELD NEWS

NO. 192

WINTER 2025



EDITOR'S NOTE

East Hanningfield News is published by East Hanningfield Parish Council and delivered by volunteers to all homes and many of the businesses in the Parish. Inclusion of articles or advertisements does not signify endorsement by the Parish Council.

COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT EDITION IS SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY ❤️

Earlier submission is welcome: later submission will be excluded!
Please send electronic copy to editor@easthanningfield-pc.gov.uk.
Please contact the Editor via the email above for information about advertising.

COVER ILLUSTRATION

Rosie O'Driscoll is this year's winner of the Christmas Cover Competition with her picture of the Christmas Bauble decorated with the East Hanningfield Village Sign. Well done Rosie!

You can see the runners-up for each class on the back cover.

There were some new ideas amongst the entries, which was lovely to see. As many as possible of the drawings will be scattered through the following pages.



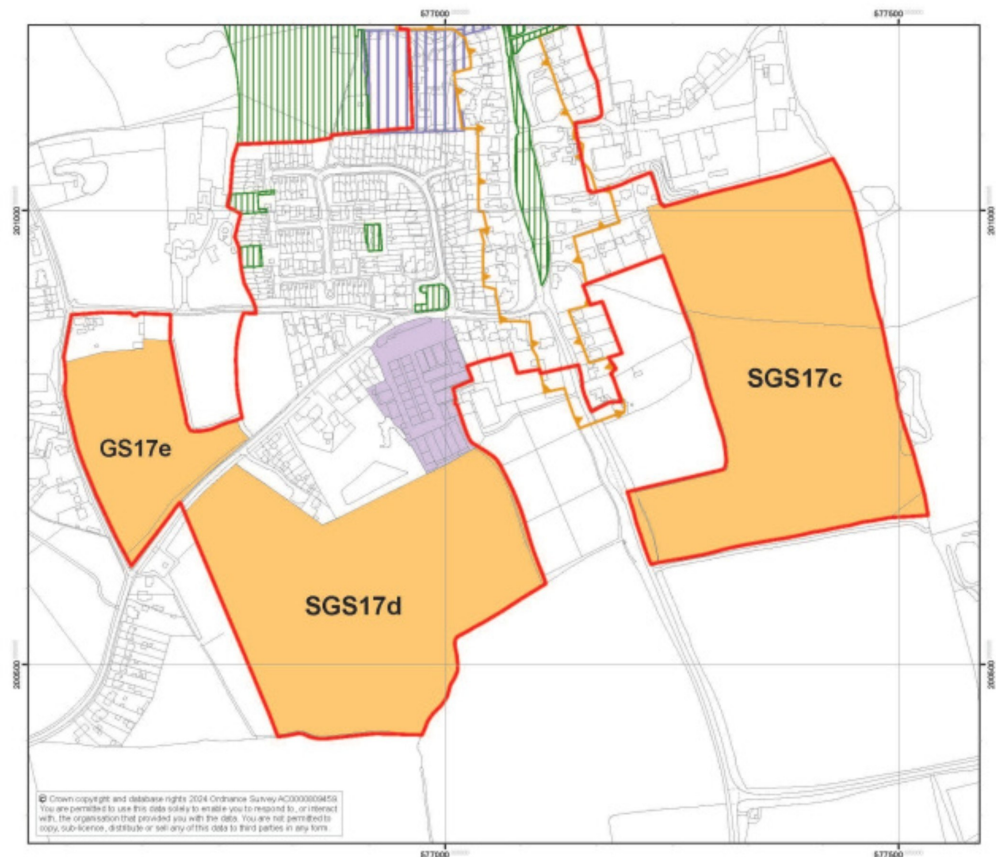
Thank you to East Hanningfield Academy for participating in the competition again this year. Thanks must also go to the parents who ensured the pictures got back into school undamaged. Thank you also to the judges who tell me they know Christmas is on the way when the Cover Competition pictures arrive!

Lastly, thanks to the artists who are the most important element of the exercise!

Night Scene by Alisha Rahman

Chelmsford Local Plan

I am writing this only a few days after being informed of Chelmsford City's plans to propose the building of 305 new homes in East Hanningfield in the next 5 years. By now I am sure you will have heard about this so will keep my comments here brief.



It is a legal requirement for the local planning authority (Chelmsford) to develop a plan which will guarantee an adequate supply of homes over the next 5 years. Chelmsford was well on the way to having a plan that achieved this. East Hanningfield's contribution was an

extension to the Abbey Fields Estate and the Highfields Mead Estate totalling 40 homes on top of the already approved 28 new homes in Old Church Road.

Now due to a dramatic under delivery of the existing plans and an increase in Chelmsford's targets, by the government, the local plan is forecast to supply less than 4 years worth of housing. As a consequence additional housing sites have been identified. East Hanningfield has been allocated the task of providing an additional 305 homes on three new sites.

In total this will almost double the size of the village. Potentially this will be the biggest single change to the village since the building of the Coude Dennis Estate.

For the latest information please access the Parish Council website on: <https://easthanningfield-pc.gov.uk>

Hedge Cutting

For the past two years the Parish Council has cut the hedges in the village which have been neglected and are a danger to residents by obstructing the pavements. These are the responsibility of Essex County Council and absentee landlords. Essex Council have now advised us that it is illegal for us to do this and will not authorise us to do it. Unlike Chelmsford who have agreed that we can cut the grass.

Our only alternative is to lobby Essex to fulfil their responsibilities and persuade the absentee landlords to do the same. Our Essex CC councillor has promised to assist in this.

I am sorry to report this. My view is that it was money well spent by the PC.

Local Authority Reorganisation

As you are probably aware the government is pushing for local authority reorganisation into unitary authorities each responsible for a population of around half a million people. In addition Mayors will be elected.

At present for Essex there are four competing proposals. The proposal with the most support and potentially the most savings is to split Essex into 5 unitary authorities. In this case Chelmsford would be combined with Brentwood and Maldon. Essex County Council will be eliminated. We are in the consultation phase and a decision by the government is scheduled for March next year.

The risk for us is that as the responsibilities for Chelmsford become greater our voice will become relatively smaller. But at least we will not have to deal with a different authority for hedges and grass.

Litter Picking

Litter along the verges is another task that gets neglected. It would be nice if residents and visitors were more responsible and did not consider that an open car window was the equivalent of a waste bin or a waste bin was the equivalent of a household black bin. But we either live in a Parish that is an embarrassment or apply a bit of self help.

The Village Tidy in the spring helps a lot but the recent grass cutting has revealed a significant litter build up.

Organising a second Village Tidy in the winter is too much of a weather risk.

Already there are many individuals who pick litter as they take their regular exercise. If more residents wish to pick litter at their own time and pace and then dispose in their household bin this would be amazingly community spirited of you. The Parish Council would be grateful and would provide litter picking tongs and yellow vests.

Just let me know and I will deliver them to your home or arrange for you to collect from the Village Post Office.

These will be a loan. Unfortunately if we advertised free tongs and vests this would quickly be abused. But we will not chase for them back if they are being used regularly.

I am not asking residents to do the council's job. I am just trying to help those who feel it would be beneficial to the community to volunteer.

Greetings

This will be the last newsletter before Christmas. May I take the opportunity on behalf of the Parish Council to wish you and your family a very joyful holiday season. For 2026 I wish you health, happiness and peace.

Malcolm Thomas
Chair EHPC

Reindeer in Snow by
Albert Fleming



CONTACT DETAILS - EAST HANNINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Lucy White, CILCA, Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer,
✉ Coronation Cottage, The Street, Woodham Ferrers, CM3 8RQ
☎ 07703170512 ✉ clerk@easthanningfield-pc.gov.uk
🌐 <https://easthanningfield-pc.gov.uk/>

A woman with short grey hair and a blue vest is smiling and holding hands with a young woman with long brown hair and a white polka-dot shirt. A grey and white cat is sitting next to them. A wooden sign with the word 'HOME' and a heart symbol hangs above them. The background is dark blue with a large red and green circular graphic.

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CITY COUNCILLOR

Many residents will be aware that Chelmsford City Council is holding a focused consultation on additional housing sites under Regulation 19. This consultation runs from 20 November 2025 to 8 January 2026 and seeks feedback on proposed developments in several areas, including East Hanningfield and Bicknacre. This follows the increased housing targets set by the Government earlier this year and it has meant that the Council has had to rework its proposals to include additional sites, with some existing proposed sites to be expanded. Because of the increased numbers, it means that Chelmsford does not now have a five-year housing supply which will only be rectified by bringing forward new sites quickly. Not having a five-year housing supply leaves the whole district open to speculative and unplanned development being approved.

In East Hanningfield, three new sites are proposed, adding approximately 305 homes to the village. This, combined with existing approvals (40 homes at Highfields Mead and Abbey Field, and 28 homes at Old Church Road), the total increase could exceed 370 homes. The benefit of these sites to the Council is that they are medium-sized and can be delivered within the next five years.

Around 230 further homes are proposed for Bicknacre at the Barbrook Lane site (which already had 20 homes proposed), together with a new nursery school, providing early years education facilities. Residents are aware of the current planning application (25/01158/OUT) for the full 250 homes on this site and there are now over 700 responses on the portal. Because of the link between this and the Local Plan Review consultation, **please note that if you responded to this application you will need to also send your response to the Local Plan Consultation** (commencing 20th November) as they **will not** be transferred from the Planning Portal to the Local Plan portal.

How to respond:

Website: <https://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/localplan>

Email: planning.policy@chelmsford.gov.uk

Phone: 01245 606826

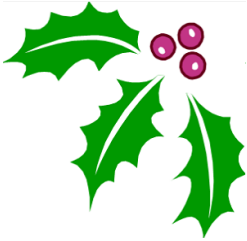
I am keeping in close contact with the affected Parish Councils and will be closely monitoring the current planning application for Barbrook Way.

Cllr Sue Dobson

☎ 01245 605908

✉ sue.dobson@chelmsford.gov.uk

📄 Civic Centre, Duke Street,
Chelmsford CM1 1JE



**Christmas Scene
by a pupil of
Kingfisher Class**



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HANNA'S FIELD CHARITY VILLAGE HALL & PLAYING FIELDS

Autumn seems to have arrived quickly, with the nights already getting dark by 4.40pm and the inevitable task of constantly clearing up the leaves!, but essential to keep the pathways clear of slippery surfaces.

Early October we held our Annual Art Show, which was another successful event making a total of £2328.00, a little less than last year but still a good figure to go towards the cost of providing new play equipment on the field (along with the profit from the Summer Fete) The working party, set up to look at managing this gradual refurbishment, are now in the process of applying for grant funding, which is needed to be able to proceed.

A very big **'THANK YOU'** to every one who comes along to help each day with all the varying tasks that have to be carried out. Wendy, bless her was very quick to get personal 'Thank You's out to everyone, but I just also want to recognise and record all of this invaluable help, as without it, there would not be a show. Both Wendy and I are aware that we cannot continue to keep going with organising this event on our own, hopefully we have a couple of new younger people who may be interested in taking on this task for the future. I personally have been involved with it since it started 35 years ago!

We continue to run the 'Second Hand Book' events throughout the year, either on a Saturday morning or alongside the Fete and the Art Show. We do have a very large number of good condition books both paperback and hardback, at very reasonable prices. The profit from these events are shared with All Saints Church and Hanna's Field Charity.

During the half term break, new flooring was laid in the main entrance hallway, a long awaited improvement following the refurbishment of the front entrance a couple of years ago. These improvements can only be carried out though when we have enough funds to do this work. Maintenance unfortunately is an ongoing cost, as I am sure you are all aware.

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Earlier in the year we were offered varying quantities of Native Woodland Hedgerow Trees, basically saplings to be delivered in the Autumn. We opted for around 100 which consist of Hazel, Hawthorn, Silver Birch, Rowan and Dogwood. These have now been delivered and have been temporarily heeled into the ground to bring them on further to be re-site in the Spring. If anyone has any specific suggestions of where they would like to see such species planted, then we would be pleased to hear from you.

From the Hanna's Field Committee and myself, we wish your all a ***Very Happy Christmas and New Year and for a Good 2026***

Jenny Mouser

Chair of Hanna's Field Charity  <https://e-voice.org.uk/hannasfield/>

To book the Village Hall/sports facilities or to check availability, please go to the Village Hall website at the above address & click on 'Make a Booking' or email hannasfield@outlook.com. Alternatively call the Booking Secretary on 07934270233 (before 8pm) and leave a message.

CALLING PRESENT & RETIRED FORD EMPLOYEES

Hanna's Field Charity are busy raising funds for new equipment in the Play Area at the Village Hall/Playing Field. If you work for Ford Motor Company you may be able to help us with this as we are applying to Ford Britain Trust for a grant. The Ford Trust actively values community grant applications where its employees can "vouch for" or lend their support to an organization applying for a grant, giving the organisation a higher score in their grant evaluation process.

The application includes a section where we can list the names and employee/pensioner identification numbers (FIN/CDSID) of employees supporting our application. If you are a Ford employee/retiree and would like to help in this way, then contact us initially by emailing Fiona at HannasField@icloud.com

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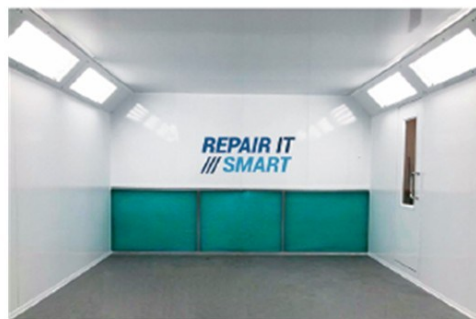
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**STATE OF THE ART SPRAY
BOOTH AND EQUIPMENT**

**INSURANCE CLAIM?
GET £150 OFF YOUR INSURANCE EXCESS**

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Our village CSW team continue to operate regular speed checks at police approved sites in Old Church Road, The Tye, Bicknacre Road and the Common, and report motorists exceeding 30mph to the police. The regular village speed checks act as a deterrent for motorists passing through, encouraging them to stick to our 30mph speed limits.

It is fact that collisions, deaths and injuries caused by driving too fast are largely avoidable if speed limits are complied with (for pedestrian and cyclists especially, speeding is also perceived as antisocial). In the most recent Essex Police stats available (August) sadly, 3 people tragically lost their lives in road traffic collisions (compared with 7 for July) and 97 serious casualties were recorded (compared with 76 for the previous month), affecting many families and friends as a result.

If you're interested and want to help then contact the team through the email address below. Essex CSW will provide a short training session and insurance and we have the kit (a radar gun, bright yellow jackets, and a bodycam!).

"20 IS Plenty" campaign

If you were at the Village Fete in July, you may have been one of 100 people who were asked *"To improve road safety, would you support the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in all or some of the village"*. as part of a quick survey for Safer Essex Roads Partnership (a collaboration between Essex County Council, Essex Police, Essex Fire & Rescue, and National Highways). The village response was overwhelming in favour of a 20mph limit in some areas, or all of the village. Survey results were sent to SERP and copied to the Parish Council for information.

The **"20's Plenty for Us"** campaign continues to gather momentum. Wales implemented a national 20mph speed limit on roads with street lighting in September 2023 and collision data is now available for the first 18 months following implementation. It shows that 25% fewer people were hurt in road crashes on 20/30mph roads in the first two years. Over these 18 months, 14 people have not been killed on Welsh roads because of 20mph and 98 will have avoided a hospital visit for a serious injury!

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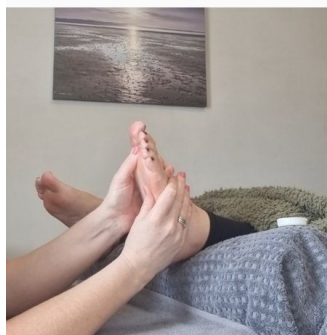
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Drivers in Wales are benefitting from an average of £45 reduction in their insurance premiums.

The key finding of recent Transport for London research on the impact of 20mph in the city was that the number of people killed or seriously injured on borough-managed roads reduced by 34 per cent following implementation of 20mph speed limits.

A report from Australia has found that reducing speed limits to 20mph on residential roads not only protects cyclists but also doesn't delay motorists. They found that a reduced speed limit doubled bike usage and reduced traffic stress levels in both cyclists and drivers. Lower speed limits also saw minimal journey delays for car drivers of no greater than a minute.

The evidence seems overwhelming, and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) are asking for the Government to empower local authorities to set safer speed limits in their areas, including 20mph zones where appropriate, and especially in built-up and residential areas.

Individual parish councils in Essex can request 20 mph limits and some have but ultimate approval rests with Essex County Council (ECC) as the highway authority. ECC has a speed management policy and considers requests for specific roads or areas (e.g., near schools or in residential zones). ECC policy states that a 20-mph limit can only be introduced on roads where the mean speed is already below 24 mph, a limiting factor for parish councils wanting to make requests.

Mike Plumridge,
EH CSW

 mike.j.plumridge@btinternet.com



Christmas with Cuties
by Riah Rahman



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EMPOWER | Beginners Hatha Yoga

Tuesday 10am @The Yurt, Meadow Croft Garden Centre
Wednesday 625pm @East Hanningfield Village Hall
Friday 1030am @Galleywood Heritage Centre



THE PHOENIX FLOW | Vinyasa Power Yoga

Wednesday 730pm @East hanningfield Village Hall
Friday 930am @Galleywood Heritage Centre

£10 Block
or £12
PAYG



CONNECT | Baby Massage & Reflexology

Tuesday 1130am @The Yurt, Meadow Croft Garden Centre



THE PHOENIX MINIS | Developmental Sensory Exploration

Tuesday 1245pm @The Yurt, Meadow Croft Garden Centre



RECONNECT | Soundbath

Friday 630-8pm @Galleywood Heritage Centre (once a month)

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Top Left: Church Snow Globe
by Lily Tompkins



Top Right: Crib Scene
by Felicity Dyson

Right: Family Around the Tree
by Fern Ward



Bottom Right: Church & Tree
by Evie Tompkins

Bottom Left: Tree Decorating
by Chloe Smith



East Hanningfield Village Store

The Village Hall, East Hanningfield, Essex, CM3 8AE



Village Store Services Include:
Newspapers, Grocery, Off-licence, Lottery,
Greeting cards, Photo copy & Coffee machine



Post office Services:

MoneyGram, Foreign currency, Car tax, One4all gift cards,
Cash withdrawals, Cash deposit, Cheque deposit,
Banking Service available for all UK banks



**The shop will close at 1pm on Christmas Eve,
Wednesday 24th. December and reopen on
Friday 2nd. January 2026.**



EAST HANNINGFIELD DIARY

DECEMBER



- Mon 1 7pm **COMMUNITY MEETING** concerning the proposed development of 370 houses in East Hanningfield.
- Tue 2 **BROWN BIN, FOOD WASTE, PLASTICS & CARTONS, PAPER COLLECTIONS**
- Thu 4 8.30am **MORNING PRAYERS** via Zoom details
www.compasschurches.org.uk
- Sun 7 9am **HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)** with Rev. Jacqui & 2nd ADVENT CANDLE to be lit at All Saints' Church
10.45am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Tue 9 **BLACK BIN, FOOD WASTE, GREEN BOX, CARD SACK COLLECTIONS**
1.30-2pm **MOBILE LIBRARY** at the Village Hall Car Park
- Thu 11 8.30am **MORNING PRAYERS** via Zoom details
www.compasschurches.org.uk
- Sun 14 10.45am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
4pm **CAROL SERVICE & 3RD ADVENT CANDLE** to be lit. Mulled wine & mince pies afterwards, at All Saints' Church. (No morning service).
- Tue 16 **BROWN BIN, FOOD WASTE, PLASTICS & CARTONS, PAPER COLLECTIONS**
- Wed 17 8-9.45pm **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** in the 1st floor meeting room at the Village Hall.
- Thu 18 8.30am **MORNING PRAYERS** via Zoom, details
www.compasschurches.org.uk
- Fri 19 **LAST DAY OF TERM** EHA & Sandon School. Sandon closes at 12.45pm
- Sun 21 10am **HOLY COMMUNION & 4TH ADVENT CANDLE** to be lit, with Rev. Jacqui. Refreshments afterwards.
5pm **CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Tue 23 **BLACK BIN, FOOD WASTE, GREEN BOX, CARD SACK COLLECTIONS**
- Wed 24 4pm **CRIB SERVICE** with Rev. Jackqui and Canon Andy Griffiths. Dressing up clothes for children available or they may wear something suitable of their own.

DECEMBER CONTINUED

- Thu 25 10am **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE** with Holy Communion with Rev. Jacqui. All ages welcome, at All Saints' Church.
- Sun 28 10am **MORNING WORSHIP** at All Saints' Church
10.45am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Tue 30 1.30-2pm **MOBILE LIBRARY** at the Village Hall Car Park



Farleigh Hospice's
Christmas Tree Recycling

Collections
9-12 January 2026

TO REGISTER YOUR TREE GO TO
www.farleighhospice.org/events/trees-2026

The poster features a dark blue background with white snowflakes. On the left is a green Christmas tree with yellow lights and a small elf peeking from behind it. On the right, two more elves are shown carrying a tree. The text is centered in a white, torn-edge style box.



Hearts & Christmas Tree
by Elsie Nel

A Christmas House
By Finlay Hampel



Presents Under the Tree
by Ollie Cobb

JANUARY ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️

Thu	1	NEW YEAR'S DAY-BANK HOLIDAY
Fri	2	BROWN BIN, FOOD WASTE, PLASTICS & CARTONS, PAPER COLLECTIONS
Sun	4	9am HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) with Rev. Jacqui at All Saints' Church. For further deytails of services see easthanningfieldchurch.chessck.co.uk 10.45am FAMILY SERVICE at Bethel Church
Mon	5	BACK TO SCHOOL – Sandon School
Tue	6	BACK TO SCHOOL – East Hanningfield Academy
Thu	8	BLACK BIN, FOOD WASTE, GREEN BOX, CARD SACK COLLECTIONS 8.30am MORNING PRAYERS via Zoom details www.compasschurches.org.uk
Sun	11	10am MORNING WORSHIP with a healing theme at All Saints' Church. 10.45am FAMILY SERVICE at Bethel Church
Wed	14	BROWN BIN, FOOD WASTE, PLASTICS & CARTONS, PAPER COLLECTIONS
Thu	15	8.30am MORNING PRAYERS via Zoom details www.compasschurches.org.uk
Sun	18	10am HOLY COMMUNION with Rev. Jacqui. Refreshments afterwards. 10.45am FAMILY SERVICE at Bethel Church
Tue	20	BLACK BIN, FOOD WASTE, GREEN BOX, CARD SACK COLLECTIONS
Wed	21	1.30-4.30pm WI MEETING in the 1 st floor meeting room at the Village Hall
Thu	22	8.30am MORNING PRAYERS via Zoom details www.compasschurches.org.uk
Sun	25	10am MORNING WORSHIP at All Saints' Church.
Tue	27	BROWN BIN, FOOD WASTE, PLASTICS & CARTONS, PAPER COLLECTIONS
Wed	28	8-9.45pm PARISH COUNCIL MEETING in the 1 st floor meeting room at the Village Hall.
Thu	29	8.30am MORNING PRAYERS via Zoom details www.compasschurches.org.uk

FEBRUARY



- Sun 1 9am **HOLY COMMUNION** (BCP) with Rev. Jacqui.
See easthanningfieldchurch.chessck.co.uk for further details
of services.
10.45am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Tue 3 **BLACK BIN, FOOD WASTE, GREEN BOX, CARD SACK
COLLECTIONS**
- Thu 5 8.30am **MORNING PRAYERS** via Zoom details
www.compasschurches.org.uk
- Sun 8 10am **MORNING WORSHIP** with healing theme at All
Saints' Church.
10.45am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Tue 10 **BROWN BIN, FOOD WASTE, PLASTICS & CARTONS,
PAPER COLLECTIONS**
- Thu 12 8.30am **MORNING PRAYERS** via Zoom details
www.compasschurches.org.uk
- Fri 13 **BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM** East Hanningfield Academy
& Sandon School
- Sun 15 10am **HOLY COMMUNION** with Rev. Jacqui.
Refreshments afterwards.
10.45am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Tue 17 **BLACK BIN, FOOD WASTE, GREEN BOX, CARD SACK
COLLECTIONS**
- Wed 18 1.30-4.30pm **WI MEETING** in the 1st floor meeting room at
the Village Hall
- Thu 19 8.30am **MORNING PRAYERS** via Zoom
[details www.compasschurches.org.uk](http://details.www.compasschurches.org.uk)
- Sun 22 10am **MORNING WORSHIP** at All Saints' Church
10.45am **FAMILY SERVICE** at Bethel Church
- Mon 23 **BACK TO SCHOOL** East Hanningfield Academy & Sandon
School
- Tue 24 **BROWN BIN, FOOD WASTE, PLASTICS & CARTONS,
PAPER COLLECTIONS**
- Wed 25 8-9.45pm **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** in the 1st floor
meeting room at the Village Hall.
- Thu 26 8.30am **MORNING PRAYERS** via Zoom
details www.compasschurches.org.uk

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Enough Light for Every Step

As winter wraps itself around our village and the lights begin to twinkle in our windows, we find ourselves once again in Advent — that beautiful season of waiting. For children it's often marked by opening little doors filled with chocolate, but traditionally it invites all of us to pause at each step as we move towards Christmas, the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World.

The countdown to Christmas isn't only about lists, plans, and preparations. It's also an invitation to slow down: to pause, breathe, and notice what is stirring within and around us. Each day offers a moment to pay attention to where we are, what we are carrying, and what may be shifting or emerging as we move towards both Christmas and a new year.

For some, this season may not be full of joy as is expected. These words from Thomas Merton, a 20th-century monk, who wrote honestly about walking forward when the path ahead feels uncertain, may be helpful.

“My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going...
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you...
You will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it...
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”

Whether or not you identify with the Christian faith, there is something meaningful and hopeful in these words - the reassurance that none of us must have everything figured out before taking the next small step. The simple desire to walk in the right direction is enough.

The book of Psalms expresses it beautifully:
“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Joy To The World

Join us this Christmas at
All Saints Church East Hanningfield

CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 14th December at 4.00pm
mince pies and mulled wine after the service

CRIB SERVICE

Wednesday 24th December at 4.00pm
come dressed to take part in the Christmas story
or dressing up clothes are available

CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, 25th December at 10.00am
morning worship for all ages

Everyone of every age is welcome at all services

A lamp doesn't reveal the whole way ahead; it simply gives enough light for the next step. Many of us know that experience - taking life one day at a time, trusting that the light we have is enough.

So, this winter, whether you're looking ahead to new beginnings, facing challenges, or simply moving gently through each day, may you find moments of stillness, comfort, and light. And may you trust that the 'Light of the World', Jesus Christ, shines upon you, lighting the way ahead.

Like the shepherds who listened to an angel's voice or the Magi who followed a distant star, may we each keep moving forward with kindness, courage, and hope.

As Christmas approaches and a new year dawns, may this season bring you peace and enough light for each and every step.

With Advent blessings,

Jacqui

Rev'd Jacqui King

☎ 01245 961979

✉ revjacquiking@gmail.com

🌐 <https://easthanningfieldchurch.chessck.co.uk/>



**Christmas Street Scene
by Mia Vale**



**Gingerbread House Snow Globe
by Dylan Hill**

Join us as we celebrate

Christmas



Bethel Church – Carol Service
5.00pm Sunday 21 December

HOT DRINKS AND MINCE PIES WILL BE SERVED AFTER THE SERVICE
www.bethel-eh.com

BETHEL CHURCH

Waiting for the priceless gift

When I was a child, Christmas advent calendars were simple things – cardboard windows revealing small nativity images that told the story of Jesus' birth. A few years later, the surprise became a small chocolate treat hidden behind each door. Today, you can even buy the *Harrods Dior Perfume Advent Calendar* for the princely sum of £570! Christmas, it seems, has been well and truly hijacked by commercialism and clever marketing.

As we enjoy the festive lights, the gifts, and the excitement of the season, it's worth pausing to consider Advent's true meaning. Advent is a Christian season of waiting and preparation for the birth of Jesus, lasting for the four weeks before Christmas Day. The

word *Advent* means

"arrival" or "coming," and it invites us to reflect not only on Jesus' first coming as a baby in Bethlehem, but also on his promised return.

This season calls us to slow down – to make space for prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal amid the noise of the modern world. Advent reminds us that Christmas is not just about presents and parties, but about the hope, peace, joy, and love that entered the world through Christ.

Please join us on Sunday mornings for our family service at 10:45am.

You are also warmly invited to our Christmas Carol Service on Sunday 21 December at 5:00am.

Can we also take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful Christmas. From all your friends at Bethel Church.

Roydon Hearne



PRIMARY ACADEMY

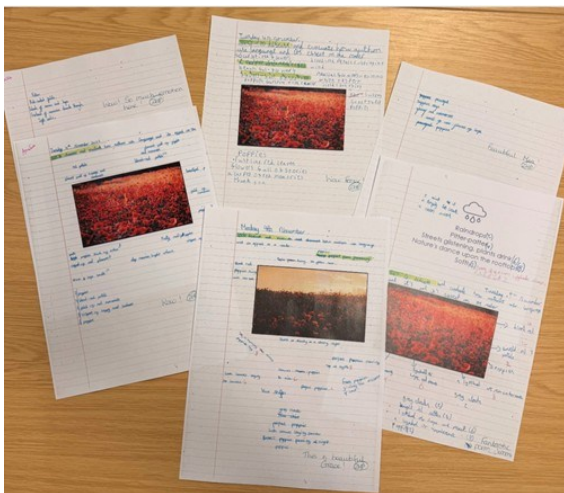
It has been a great start to a new academic year at school. In September, we welcomed our new EYFS children. The children have settled into school brilliantly and have enjoyed all of the exciting learning opportunities that we offer at East Hanningfield. Our Year 6 children have been fantastic role models, working hard to be supportive buddies to our new EYFS children and demonstrating our core values of compassion and responsibility.



We were delighted to have our Harvest Festival Celebration in All Saints Church with Reverend Jacqui. The children and families enjoyed the class performances and gave thanks for all that we have. Many families also generously donated food to support Chelmsford foodbank.

In October, we held a Readathon, where we encouraged the children to read as much as possible. We were so impressed with all of their hard work and the amount that they read. Our families really supported and encouraged the children to do lots of reading and helped us to raise an incredible £950 for our school library, which was simply amazing!

A group of East Hanningfield children ably represented the school at The Remembrance Service on Sunday 9th November. They all worked hard to prepare and read a poem during the service, with two of our older children writing their own personal poem. In school, the children learnt about why we commemorate Remembrance Day.





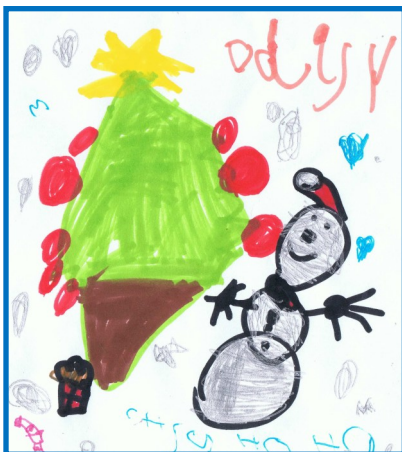
In November, our Year 5 and 6 children had a wonderful time at The Science Museum in London. The children took part in various activities such as a Space Exhibit and The Wonderlab.



We are now looking forward to the Christmas season and cannot wait for the class performances which include festive carols and an EYFS nativity in the church.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and a healthy, happy new year.

Lisa Stainsbury
Headteacher ☎ 01245 400772 🌐 www.easthanningfield.essex.sch.uk



**Christmas
Scenes by
Pupils of
Robin Class**



danielle.honeyands@gmail.com
07740354217

Village Hall
East Hanningfield

Pilates

With Danielle

Mat Pilates
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£10 PAYG

Contact me or scan
the QR code to
book in



Are you interested in a new Chair Pilates
class on Tuesdays at 10.45 am?

Email or call me to register your interest.
The class will only run if there is enough
demand.

East Hanningfield Preschool

If you might be interested in your child joining us and would like to come for a visit, please contact us on 07732 951613 or email us at ehps1@live.co.uk.

We also have a website,
www.easthanningfieldpreschool.com.



We take 2-year old funding as well as 3-4-year funding.



A Christmas Elf
by
Sophie Scott



A Happy Christmas Star
by
A Pupil of Robin Class



Hurray, It's Snowing
by
Jimmy Crow



Christmas Night
By
A Kingfisher's Pupil

E H WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Hello everyone, I am writing this on a wet windy afternoon, finding it difficult to remember the days when the sun shone. However, back to August I go.

In August instead of staying inside we ventured out for our monthly meeting and visited Ingatestone Hall. I had never visited before, so it was a surprise to walk through an impressive archway to find this large Tudor building. We were met by a guide who after talking a bit about the outside took us inside the house. It was like stepping back in time, the interior was still a Tudor home. The guide talked as we walked pointing out pieces of interest. The two Priest Holes were of real interest, regardless of your faith one could not help but admire the Priests. The 'Holes' were exceedingly small and very well hidden. They were a 'feature' in the homes of the nobles who kept to the Catholic Faith. The 'Holes' were the place where Priests were to hide in the event of one of Cromwell's searches for Catholic Priests. Sometimes the Priests could be in a hole for hours or days depending on how zealous Cromwell's men were in their search. The guide took us through the house pointing out items of interest before leading us through to a very interesting room. The one where a ploughman's lunch was waiting for us along with tea and coffee. Our guide left us after lunch after taking us to the garden through which we could amble or just sit and admire the view. Ingatestone Hall is well worth a visit, details are on their website.

We also visited the garden of Wendy Thomas. Everyone looks forward to this event. We sit outside and chat to our hearts content, whilst having a lovely tea. Trifle was on the menu as well as cake. I am told that it was a difficult decision to choose, but Wendy knowing our members penchant for the sweet things in life, made enough for members to have both avoiding the decision making. All the members had a very enjoyable afternoon. My thanks go to Wendy for inviting us and to her husband for putting up with being invaded by a group of W I ladies. A very brave man if you believe the Press, W. I. Ladies are a force to be

reckoned with!

In September we learnt about the trials of starting a gin making factory. Mr Zane Chiswell-Rivas had worked in the hospitality industry until Covid arrived. So, what does a young man do? Well, he goes round to his Granny, installs himself in her garage and makes Gin. Mr Chiswell-Rivas uses local people and local ingredients to make the various flavoured gins. He gave an interesting talk followed by a tasting of his product. Our ladies always willing to help, tested the samples and bought some bottles to take home. The company aims to be sustainable, so you don't put your bottle into the recycling bin you pop over for a refill!!! Bottles can be refilled by Post, for those interested in an easy life.

Now to October, still in an indulgent mode we were entertained by a couple who, hidden away in Goldhanger, make chocolate. Rob Anthony decided to give up the Rat Race and form his own business which eventually turned out to be making chocolate. He took us through the trials and tribulations of starting his own business, helped by his wife Sonia. It has proved successful for them, the chocolate isn't sold in Supermarkets but in the sort of shop that attracts local enterprise.

We had samples to try, Popping Candy, Apple Crumble and can you imagine, Bakewell Tart. We had tea while members made a few essential Purchases. Then it was back to business.

Well, the next time I have a chat it will be 2026. So, I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Best Wishes to all,

Marlene

President East Hanningfield W.I.



**Christmas Scene by
Willow Ward**

DOUBLE CELEBRATION FOR LOCAL FIRM J GARD & SONS

It's Official – East Hanningfield Has the Best Timber Merchant in the UK!

This year marks a double celebration for our family business.

Not only are we celebrating 20 years here in East Hanningfield, but we've also been named Best Small Timber Merchant in the UK – a huge honour that we're absolutely thrilled to share with our wonderful community.

Established in 1919 in Chelmsford our business has been proudly family-run for three generations.

In December 2005, we moved to East Hanningfield and have felt at home here ever since. Over the past two decades, we've worked hard to support the village wherever we can — and in return, we've been shown incredible loyalty and encouragement from the local residents and businesses alike.

Winning this national award means the world to us and is something we're immensely proud of. It's a real testament to our dedicated team, our customers' continued support, and the values that have guided us since the very beginning — quality, reliability, and personal service.



We have been nominated in the last 4 years, but never brought home the trophy! This year we were nominated in four categories, and blown away that we received an award. These awards have been running for the last 13 years and are held by the **Timber Trades Journal** in association with the UK timber industry trade association **TRADA**. The **TTJ** magazine was first published in 1873 and is the leading magazine for anyone in the timber trade in the UK.

As we celebrate 20 years in East Hanningfield, we'd like to take this opportunity to say a



heartfelt thank you to everyone in the village who has supported us along the way. We couldn't have done it without you, and we look forward to serving the community for many more years to come.

Here's to East Hanningfield – home of the UK's
SMALL TIMBER BUSINESS OF THE YEAR!



J Gard & Sons LTD, The Timber Mill, The Tye, East Hanningfield, CM3 8BY
 T. 01245 400181 www.gards.co.uk www.facebook.com/jgardandsons

A HIDDEN GEM IN OUR VILLAGE

Tucked away down Old Church Road is the site of the original village church. Sadly, this was destroyed by fire in 1883 and the remains demolished and removed in 1960.



Luckily records and information have been kept and collated by Gil Gordon on the history of the church and the 76 'residents' that are still there. Many of the headstones remain, and although in poor condition, the records have details dating back to 1750.

Looking after a site like this is very costly; maintaining burial sites and gravestones respectfully, alongside protecting tree's, plants and wildlife

that also have residency. Chelmsford Borough Council took on responsibility in 2014, but unfortunately the site 'slipped under the radar' and there has not been any care or maintenance for approximately the last 10 years.

This has left the trees and undergrowth to take over, causing many graves to fall into disrepair and invasive species to disrupt the 'health' of the natural environment.

Thankfully this has now been remedied with the right department for responsibility being informed. The parks and conservation department have been marvellous in doing an assessment of the site and carrying out a lot of essential works which include:

- * Made gravestones safe;
- * Cleared the footpath;
- * Removed 200 invasive saplings, which will allow the depleting Bluebells to flourish in the future;
- * Made safe some fallen trees,
- * Fenced off some burrowings;
- * Identified and taken steps to preserve an old oak and other trees that enhance the environment.

The process to revitalise, protect and respect the site is expected to take about a year. This timeframe allows for ecological monitoring of the site's flora and fauna and enables work to be carried out according to seasonal requirements.

More works are due in the future, and we would be grateful for any volunteers, who will have instruction and support from specialists.

If anyone would like, or has, any more information, please get in contact – clare.cl13@googlemail.com.

If you visit, please keep dogs on leads and children close by, as there are lots of holes, uneven ground, felled and fallen trees.

Clare Liddiard
clare.cl13@googlemail.com.





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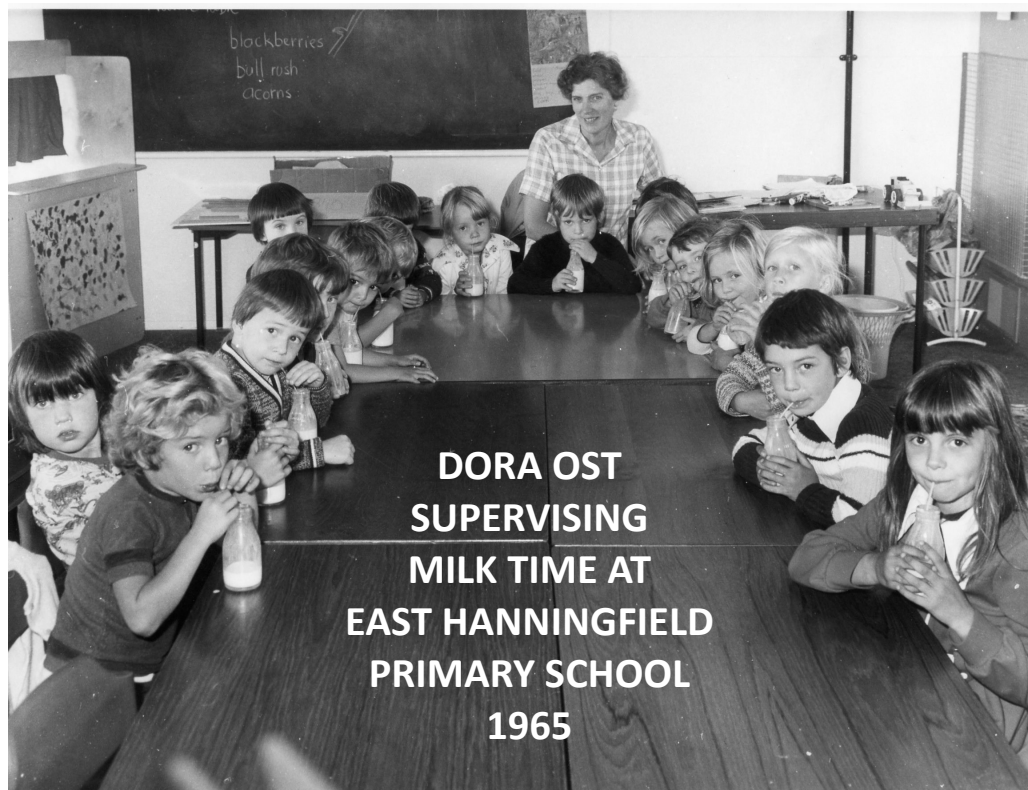
EMAIL: hanningfieldmotors@gmail.com

OPENING HOURS: MON-FRI 8:30AM TO 5:30PM
SATURDAY 9AM TO 12PM



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

SIXTY YEARS AGO



This photograph was recently shared with East Hanningfield Archive, and you can find it in the Photo Album called PEOPLE. Dora was the school secretary before training to be a teacher.

Please get in touch if you can identify yourself in this photo, and you wouldn't mind your name being next to this picture on the website.

There are several new photos in the Album, the most recent concerning the Rectory and the Ost family and the Official Opening of the Village Hall in 1986. If you haven't seen it yet here is where you can find the Archive:

e-voice.org.uk/eharchive/

CHRISTMAS COVER COMPETITION RUNNERS-UP



Robins Runner-up:
Lily Cutts



Doves Class Runner-up:
Matilda M



Kingfishers Runner-up:
Sophie Smith



Owls Runner-up:
James O'Driscoll