

# Great Hallingbury Highlights

Spring 2017

Vol. 73

*An independent publication giving news on matters affecting Great Hallingbury*



Ronald Coultrup 1930 - 2017

## Councillors

### *Parish Council Chairman:*

**Mr. Alan Townsend** Tel: 465790  
7 The Grove, CM22 7TT  
email: ftownsendpc@btinternet.com

### *Parish Council Vice-Chairman:*

**Mr. Tom Streeter** Tel: 508531  
Harps Farm, Bedlars Green, CM22 7TL  
email: tom@streeterfarms.co.uk

### *Parish Councillors:*

**Mr. David Barlow** Tel: 657182  
128, Bedlars Green, CM22 7TL

**Mr. Mark Bloomfield** Tel: 501679  
The Old Post Office, Bedlars Green, CM22 7TP  
email: bloomfieldmotors30@yahoo.co.uk

**Mr. Kaylash Juggurnauth** Tel: 758322  
Little Bradley, Church Road CM22 7TZ  
email: kaylash1@gmail.com

**Mr. Andrew Noble** Tel: 653039  
Lewismead, Tilekiln Green, CM22 7TQ  
email: agnoble@aol.com

**Mr. Alan Pinnock**  
128A Bedlars Green, CM22 7TL Tel: 659071  
alanpinnock@hotmail.com Mobile: 07939 603507

**Mrs. Vicky Wing** Tel: 658542  
The Jays, Bedlars Green, CM22 7TP  
email: vicky.wing@btinternet.com

### *Clerk to the Parish Council:*

**Mrs. Freda Townsend** Tel: 465790  
7 The Grove, CM22 7TT  
email: ftownsendpc@btinternet.com

### *Website:*

[www.essexinfo.net/great-hallingbury-parish-council](http://www.essexinfo.net/great-hallingbury-parish-council)

### *Uttlesford District Councillors*

**Mr. Keith Artus** Tel: 01279 718064  
Brook House, Cage End, Hatfield Broad Oak,  
CM22 7HP  
email: cllrartus@uttlesford.gov.uk

**Mrs. Lesley Wells** Tel: 01279 725910  
Barn House, Wrights Green Lane, Little Hallingbury,  
CM22 7RF  
email: cllrswells@uttlesford.gov.uk

### *Essex County Councillor*

**Mrs. Susan Barker** Tel: 01245 231250  
Little Garnetts, Bishops Green, Barnston, Essex,  
CM6 1NF Fax 01245 231810  
email: cllr.susan.barker@essex.gov.uk

### *Member of Parliament*

**Sir Alan Haselhurst MP**  
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA  
email: alan.haselhurst.mp@parliament.uk

### *Member of European Parliament*

**Mr. Geoffrey Van Orden MEP**  
88 Rectory Lane, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1RF  
email: gvanorden@europarl.eu.int 01245 345188

## Editorial

Ron and I have always enjoyed producing *Great Hallingbury Highlights* and have been enormously gratified when we have received compliments on the magazine. He was very anxious that it should continue as a magazine for the residents of Great Hallingbury.

I will endeavour to do this but I do need your help please.

The magazine has always comprised material written by villagers or giving information of interest or relevance to residents so please continue to send your articles, news, details of events and letters by post or to [highlights@coultruponline.com](mailto:highlights@coultruponline.com).

It would be good, too, to have some help with the production of the magazine which might also ensure some continuity for the future so if you would like to be involved - entering material into the publishing programme, hunting illustrations, selling advertising, whatever you can do - please do contact me.

Lastly I have been grateful for all the messages of support I have received from so many people at this very difficult time and thank you all.

*Christine Coultrup*

### CONTENTS

2	- Details of Councillors
	- Editorial
3	- Ronald Charles Coultrup
5	- Stop Stansted Expansion
6	- Jewish Tie Salesman
	- Easton Lodge
7	- New Year's Eve Party
9	- Great Hallingbury WI
	- News from Essex County Council
10	- Hundred Parishes Society
11 - 14	- Nature's Home.
15	- Great Hallingbury History Society
16-17	- Pantomime Review
18	- MP Surgeries
19	- St Clare Hospice
20	- Useful Contacts



## Ronald Charles Coultrup 1930 - 2017

Ron told me that, as a young man, he developed his love for Great Hallingbury when he would cycle to the village from London for the day. He moved here with Christine in 1989, Pantiles becoming his home and office and from where he travelled far and wide on his business trips.

Ron had a love for red wine, nice cigars and Bernard Cornwall novels. Ron was a prolific reader and his library was testimony to this.

Ron clearly intended to be involved in village affairs and soon after moving here became a member of the Parish Council in 1991. Ron took a great interest in parish council matters, giving time and attention to consultations, planning, airport and issues that might have any impact on our village. He held the position of Vice-Chairman for many years before retiring from the Parish Council at the end of his last full term before the elections held in May 2015.

The Parish Hall was acquired for the village from the Church and became the

Village Hall, run by a committee who were also the trustees, and Ron was one of these first committee members. Ron always encouraged the fundraising events in order to maintain and update the facilities at the hall. He particularly loved to attend the Village Hall Quiz Nights! He held the position of Treasurer and was keen to find any grants available to help pay for larger projects at the hall.

The History Society was another of Ron's passions. He was very interested in the books written by Ernie Field on past eras in Great Hallingbury. Ron had been a member of the History Society since moving to the village and, until recently, attended most meetings. Ron even audited the History Society accounts.

In the mid 90's Ron and the then Chairman of the Parish Council, Norman Mead, agreed on the need to keep parishioners informed of what the Parish Council was doing. At that time there was no website and Ron took it upon himself, with the blessing of the Parish Council, to start a magazine, full of parish, district and county information, to be delivered free to every household in the village. This progressed into what we know today as the *Great Hallingbury Highlights*. Over the years, as it has gone from strength to strength and, edited by Ron, the magazine has won several awards and is still issued free to every house in the village! Until recently Ron had been pleased to cover the costs of printing.

Ron was a big man with a big heart and a great love for his community who always had a word of advice to offer if asked.

Dear Ron, it has been a pleasure to know you and you leave a large gap in our community. Goodbye dear friend, you are sorely missed.

*Alan Townsend*  
*Parish Council Chairman*

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 21    | - Friendship Club                         |
|       | - Companion Dog Show                      |
|       | - Hallingbury Flower Show                 |
| 23    | - The Police Years                        |
| 24    | - Essex Book Festival                     |
|       | - Open Garden                             |
|       | - Choral Society Concert                  |
| 25    | - Promises - Broadband                    |
|       | - Neighbourhood Watch                     |
| 27-29 | - Great Hallingbury Parish Council        |
| 29    | - Midsummer Masked Ball                   |
| 30    | - Olive Branch                            |
|       | - St Giles' 100 Club                      |
| 31    | - Brownies' Christmas Card to the Queen   |
|       | - St. Giles' Services                     |
| 32    | - Great Hallingbury Annual Parish Meeting |
|       | - Calendar                                |



## Summit Landscapes

PAVING - DRIVEWAYS - BRICKWORK  
CARPENTRY - GROUNDWORKS



[www.landscapingpaving.co.uk](http://www.landscapingpaving.co.uk)  
PHONE: 01223-929394

# CROSS PEST CONTROL

**A Family Business Since 1989**

We control Rats, Mice,  
Moles, Squirrels, Wasps,  
Ants, Cluster Flies,  
Cockroaches & Bed Bugs.

**Phone: 01920 822897**

**Mobiles: 0777 5673088**

**0777 5673089**

**Email: [crosspest2@aol.com](mailto:crosspest2@aol.com)**  
**[www.crosspestcontrol.co.uk](http://www.crosspestcontrol.co.uk)**

22 Uplands, Green Lane, Braughing,  
Ware, Herts. SG11 2QJ



# iDriver

**CARS**

*from Hertfordshire & Essex throughout the UK*



[www.idrivercars.co.uk](http://www.idrivercars.co.uk)

### Airport Transfers

*Heathrow, Gatwick, City & Luton*

### Theatre Nights

### Restaurants

Ring 07973635143 Peter Isherwood  
[pete.isherwood@idrivercars.co.uk](mailto:pete.isherwood@idrivercars.co.uk)



# VANS AUTOS



## MOT TEST CENTRE

**Class 4 and Class 7 vehicles**

**Service and Repairs**

**Opening Hours**

**Monday – Friday 8am – 5pm**

**Saturday 8am – 1pm**

**Tel: 01279 724534**

**or 07778 217304**

## Stop Stansted Expansion CAMPAIGN UPDATE



### *Night Flights Consultation*

The Government has allowed only a short time frame to respond to proposals for the regulation of night flights at Stansted Airport over the next five years. Stansted currently has permission for 12,000 night flights a year, more than twice as many as Heathrow. SSE has long argued to the Government that night flights have a far greater impact on local residents around Stansted because of its rural location where background noise levels at night are generally very low. The current 12,000 annual limit on night flights applies only to the 6½ hours from 11.30pm to 6.00am whereas the normal definition of *night* is the 8 hours from 11.00pm to 7.00am. A large number of Stansted's night flights are large, noisy cargo aircraft, many of which are very old and give rise to a disproportionately high level of noise complaints. SSE is calling for an unequivocal Government commitment to phase out all night flights at Stansted by 2030; for the annual limit to apply, not just from 11.30pm to 6.00am, but from 11.00pm to 7.00am; for a radical overhaul of the current *averaging* method for measuring noise so that noise statistics start to represent what people actually have to endure; and for an immediate ban on aircraft using reverse thrust when landing during the night.

### *Government consultation launched on third Heathrow runway*

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling has launched a four-month public consultation on the Government's decision to expand Britain's biggest airport by adding a third runway at Heathrow. Chris Grayling heralded the launch as a sign that Britain will be open for business after Brexit and that the Government is delivering the infrastructure the nation will need. The conditions for planning consent for the third

Heathrow runway are outlined in a draft National Policy Statement (NPS), which is the first step in enacting the decision the Government announced in the autumn in favour of another runway at Heathrow. MPs will have to approve the NPS for it to become law, which could take another year.

### *More passengers on fewer flights at Stansted*

In 2016, Stansted Airport set a new annual record for its passenger throughput by handling 24.3m passengers during the year, compared to the previous record of 23.8m, achieved in 2007. The 2016 passenger throughput was achieved with 25,300 fewer commercial flights than in 2007 - 166,200 compared to 191,500 - reflecting higher load factors.

### *Advice on local homeowner compensation*

Many local residents are now taking advice from chartered surveyors after SSE provided details of three firms willing to help local residents if they believe they may be entitled to compensation for devaluation of their homes caused by airport expansion. Claims are now beginning to be submitted to Stansted Airport Limited (STAL). SSE emphasises it does not endorse or recommend any one firm of chartered surveyors over another. Further information is available on the SSE website at [www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/compensation.html](http://www.stopstanstedexpansion.com/compensation.html)

### *Airport will benefit from A120 improvements*

Roads Minister and Essex MP John Hayes promised to be a *champion* for improvements to the A120. Stansted Airport CEO claims that infrastructure had not kept pace with the airport's needs and that improvements to the A120 would not only be a boost for Stansted but many leading lights of the business community rely on it. A petition has been submitted to making the A120 a dual carriageway.



## Jewish Tie Salesman

**A fleeing Taliban terrorist, desperate for water, was plodding through the Afghan desert when he saw something far off in the distance. Hoping to find water, he hurried toward the mirage, only to find a very frail little Jewish man standing at a small makeshift display rack, selling ties.**

**The Taliban terrorist asked, "Do you have water?"**

**The old man replied, "I have no water. Would you like to buy a tie? They are only five dollars."**

**The Taliban shouted hysterically, "Idiot Infidel! I do not need such an overpriced western adornment. I spit on your ties. I need water!"**

**"Sorry, I have none, just ties - pure silk, and only five dollars."**

**"Pahh! A curse on your ties! I should wrap one around your scrawny little neck and choke the life out of you, but I must conserve my energy and find water!"**

**"Okay," said the little old Jewish man. "It does not matter that you do not want to buy a tie from me or that you hate me, threaten my life and call me Infidel. I will show you that I am bigger than any of that. If you continue over that hill to the east for about two miles, you will find a restaurant. It has the finest food and all the ice-cold water you need. Go in peace."**

**Cursing him again, the desperate Taliban staggered away over the hill.**

**Several hours later he crawled back, almost dead and said.....**

**"They won't let me in without a tie".**

---

THE  
FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF  
**EASTON LODGE**

---

## News From The Gardens Of Easton Lodge

By the time you read this we will have had our Snowdrop Sundays - with a fabulous showing right across the gardens.

We will have our first opening of the main season on 23 April, St George's Day, with dragon themed children's activities and the Thaxted Morris Dancers in action at 3pm.

The gardens will be open from 11.30am until 5pm with the last entry at 4pm. Homemade soup and bacon rolls will be available until 2.15pm. Homemade cakes and hot and cold drinks will be available until 4.30pm or until they run out! Adults entry £4.00, Children under 16 FREE. Dogs on leads welcome. Guided tours will be available on the day at a cost of £1.50.

Visitors will be able to see lots of new restoration work. The walled kitchen garden has now been fully cleared and more fruit trees planted. We will seed it for grass as soon as the weather allows and then set to work on flowers, herbs, fruit and vegetables, returning it to a productive and tranquil haven.

Over the winter we have found another overgrown Peto feature - a spring feeding a rill to a pond. We have cleared it and within no time the spring filled the pond. We will now be planting around the rill and pond edges and in a nearby stumpery that we are creating.

For the latest news and more information about volunteering and visiting the gardens why not look at our weekly Thursday Garden News on our website <http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/>; or email us on [enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk); or leave us a message on 01371 876979?

*Jill Goldsmith*

# Great Hallingbury New Year's Eve Party 2016



**Party in the Village Hall with music and dancing arranged by Vicky Wing who also provided the photographs. Over £300 was donated to the Village Hall Trustees**

**CORNELL DECORATORS LTD**

- Interior & Exterior decoration
- Ceilings papered
- Wall coverings and wallpaper hung
- Carried out to a high specification
- 30 Years experience
- Full public liability



**No job too large or too small**  
**Contact Steve on 01279 724805 or**  
**07836 588886**

**Email: [n9scc@aol.com](mailto:n9scc@aol.com)**  
**Field View, Sheering, Herts**

# S. R. Fisk

## Mobile Welding Services

Repairing Gates, Fences, Trailers,  
 Horse Boxes, Machinery

**No job too small**

**07792 886071**

## SAME DAY DELIVERY

**ANY QUANTITY DELIVERED OR COLLECTED**

# DARLINGTON AGGREGATES



Ballast, Sand and Gravels, Cement,  
 Fibrous Loam Topsoil, Rockery Stone,  
 Decorative Gravels

**CALOR Gas**

**01279 757875**

**Stortash Yard • Hallingbury Road •**  
**Bishop's Stortford • CM22 7QJ**

# EKB Executive Cars

Previously known as FLYING HIRE

CAR & CHAUFFEUR SERVICES  
 FOR ALL OCCASIONS

To and from Stansted, Luton, Heathrow, Gatwick  
 and City airports

- Corporate & sporting events
- National meetings
- Theatre/dinner trips
- Guided tours
- Weddings
- A complete London service
- Shopping Trips
- Hospital visits
- Urgent courier services

Our fleet of air conditioned vehicles ranges from  
 executive cars to luxury people carriers and coaches

**NEW – LUXURY GROUP TRAVEL**  
**8-PASSENGER MERCEDES NOW AVAILABLE**

For professionalism with the personal touch  
 contact Beth Bloss at

e-mail: [office@stansted-airport-taxis.com](mailto:office@stansted-airport-taxis.com) Mobile: 07968 026032  
 or visit our informative website, [www.stansted-airport-taxis.com](http://www.stansted-airport-taxis.com)

# HUTLEY ELECTRICAL LTD

DOMESTIC & INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

**Hutley Electrical** offers a full range of Electrical Services and has been established for over 20 years. From House re-wires to Industrial/Commercial projects we pride ourselves on offering a competent, polite, tidy professional service and endeavour to work with the minimum of disruption to you wherever possible.

\*\*We are a full member of the NICEIC and have been for many years.\*\*

**Call Bob now for a free quotation**

TEL: 01279 722351 or  
 MOBILE: 07774 941 668





## Great Hallingbury WI



We started the year with our annual meal at Bishop's Stortford Golf Club.

As we always seem to be so very busy in December, we have for several years now postponed our Christmas Meal until the New Year. Even in January we can still enjoy Christmas Crackers and Turkey and we certainly were still full of festive cheer as we enjoyed a delicious meal together.



Congratulations to Cynthia Collins who was our overall competition winner, having gained the most points for her competition entries over the past year.

The beautiful table arrangements were prepared by Anne Bell and at the end of the evening tickets were drawn with 4 lucky members, one from each table, taking an arrangement home with them.



Beverly Moore prepared the table plan and place settings along with a photographic archive album. Secret Santa gifts were distributed; thank you to Sharon Lewis and Santa's helper Honour Cooper. Carole Morris did a great job with the raffle with £97 was raised for good causes; not forgetting our President Val Walker and all

committee members for ensuring that 2017 got off to a great start for Great Hallingbury WI.

If you are new to the village, or maybe just interested in finding out a little more about the WI, visitors will always be made very welcome.

Our meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Great Hallingbury Village Hall from 7.30 pm to approx. 10.00pm.

*Beverly Moore*

<http://greathallingburywi.weebly.com/>



## News from Essex County Council

New housing and the increased volume of traffic on our roads seem to fill my inbox most days. Uttlesford is growing at a rate of around 600 homes a year and this is putting stress on services and the state of our roads and footways such as the Flich Way and the B1256 through Takeley.

With an ageing population, more people are staying in their homes longer and there is a need for housing for the next generation. It is Essex' role to ensure that we have adequate schooling for this next generation and improvements to our roads and major junctions such as junction 8.

As your County Councillor I have a number of roles including Vice Chairman of the Essex Pension Fund, Chairman of Stansted Airport Community Fund and Deputy to the Cabinet member for Communities.

I look forward to meeting many of you during April on your doorsteps. If there are any issues you would like to raise, please contact me on 01245 231250 or [susan.barker@essex.gov.uk](mailto:susan.barker@essex.gov.uk)

*County Councillor Susan Barker*

## The Hundred Parishes Society



The Hundred Parishes website contains much information on the history, distinctive landscape and activities within its parishes in the large, attractive, gently-undulating area of northwest Essex, northeast Hertfordshire and southern Cambridgeshire.



At this time of the year, twigg platforms appear in the leafless canopy of tall trees.

These bundles of sticks are the nests of rooks. Each pair will gather twigs from tree top branches to create a sturdy nest ready to receive the 3 -5 eggs which are laid in late February or early March. The young hatch about sixteen days later and will fledge in just under five weeks.

The black feathers of rooks glint a bluish purple in the sunlight and they are distinguished from other members of the crow family by the grey-white skin round the base of their beaks and their baggy feather trousers or plus fours. On the ground their walk is somewhat sedate but once airborne they enjoy freewheeling in the March winds, often gathering in large flocks alongside crows and jackdaws in an aerobic display.



Ringing records have shown that they can live for at least 20 years and they have a strong affinity for family groups. Collectively called a clamour or a parliament, rooks are a gregarious species communicating with a variety of harsh calls.

There may be as many as 1.4 million pairs in the British Isles. The majority of colonies are found in rural areas although within the Hundred Parishes there are some still to be found in the outskirts of smaller towns. They seem to favour ash, beech, oak and sycamore trees or, more rarely, Scot's pine.

## An elderly gentleman...



**Had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and the doctor was able to have him fitted for a set of hearing aids that allowed the gentleman to hear 100%.**

**The elderly gentleman went back in a month to the doctor and the doctor said, 'Your hearing is perfect.. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again.'**

**The gentleman replied, 'Oh, I haven't told my family yet.'**

**I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I've changed my will three times!'**



## The Lecture



**Ron Chester, 89 years of age, was stopped by the police around 2 am and was asked where he was going at that time of night.**

**Ron replied, "I'm on my way to a lecture about alcohol abuse and the effects it has on the human body, as well as smoking and staying out late."**

**The officer asked, "Really? Who's giving that lecture at this time of night?"**

**Ron replied, "That would be my wife."**

## Nature's Home

### *The Naturalist versus the Farmer*

Simon Barnes is a multi award winning sport and environmental writer. He has written more than twenty books and has been a columnist for the RSPB for more than twenty years. I quite like his writing but, in the Winter Edition 2016 of Nature's Home (RSPB magazine), he does seem to have it in for farmers and farming in general! Here is his article in short form.



#### *The Naturalist's View*

*We have always seen the countryside as a dual purpose thing, where we grow food and find pleasure. Country people do country things while, increasingly, city dwellers have gone there to restore their souls. We call it going back to nature and we expect the countryside to be twittering with birds, fluttering with butterflies and abuzz with wildlife of every kind. Part of us believes that this is actually the case, but it's not.*

*The second State of Nature report has just been published. It is a stock taking of wild Britain and it shows that in the past 50 years, 56% of species have declined and that 15% of those species assessed are at risk of national extinction. We have lost more nature than the global average and we are now one of the most nature depleted countries in the world. This is crisis and by far its biggest cause is farming. We have doubled our wheat and milk production since the 1970's.*

*Small mixed farms are no longer even remotely viable. Crops are sown in Autumn rather than in Spring. Grazing is more intense, We have lost semi-natural habitats like field margins and hedges. We have tidied up the countryside and, by doing so, deprived our land of biodiversity. It's a gloomy picture. The RSPB is setting up landscape scale conservation projects, schemes in which private landowners contribute to the creation of a gentler,*

*richer landscape. It can be done but it is still regarded as dangerous heresy by those who see tidiness as the greatest virtue in the farmer's landscape and are inclined to suspect that every wild thing is taking the food from their mouths and money from their pockets. Farming is changing in places. Working with, rather than against, nature is essential if our great grandchildren are to have a land worth living in and a countryside capable of restoring their souls.*

#### *The Farmer's Environment*

I think that 95-100% of farmers are interested in preserving our wildlife.

Fifteen years have passed since the introduction of environmental stewardship schemes (to which over 70% of English farmers are now signed up) and in that time farmers have gradually seen that high input farming is not always as profitable as first thought and that a more sympathetic attitude to land management does have benefits, making environmental protection an increasingly important part of farming nowadays. Simon Barnes goes on about farmers being dangerous to the environment but what I don't think he realizes is that we are in a global market. The global population is forecast to reach nine billion by 2050.



This population has to be fed. Within the next decade, farmers need to increase productivity by 20% just to do that. Indeed, in the next twenty years, as a worldwide industry, farming needs to produce the same amount of food as has been produced since the beginning of time until the year

2000. This is a staggering statistic which shows how fast the world population is growing. Obviously increased productivity is the main option but, at the same time, the environment will have to be cared for, reducing soil erosion, which is a huge problem, and increasing organic matter within soils. Oh, and planting more hedges and wildlife margins. The farmer is being pulled all ways as he is told he is the custodian of the countryside that has to be full of wildlife and pretty but commercially and productively efficient.

The price of all the elements that we use to produce our food keeps going up - fertiliser, diesel, labour and especially machinery costs - all to produce a product that has basically been at a level or static price for the last thirty years. Wheat in 1980 was £100/tonne. Today it is £100/tonne (but a few years ago the price dropped to £50/tonne) whilst fertiliser costs have nearly doubled, the price of steel rocketed and new machinery has also increased dramatically.



There aren't many small farms today because a small farmer cannot afford all the machinery he requires. Options to counter this include share farming where machinery is pooled by several farms or to join together a number of farms. In our case at Harps, two large family farms were merged and we also work five other properties for the owners. Having a larger acreage to farm means that we can utilise larger machinery with less labour force, hopefully reducing costs, whilst being as efficient as we can. Rotations are worked out to spread harvest fairly amongst individual farms on a timing basis so that we don't just harvest one unit

and then move on but spread risk between the parties and, if bad weather hits, delays in harvesting are spread between farms, meaning that each one has had part of its harvest gathered in.

### *Looking after the soil*

When I started at Harps in 1980, the average national farm wheat crop was 2.5 tonne/acre; now we are getting 4-6 tonne/acre but it has taken a lot of hard work to get there. To get that much out, you have to improve the soil structure with better drainage, less soil compaction and by increasing the organic matter in the soil. After combining wheat, the straw that was left used to be either spread and burned or baled and used for bedding or feed for animals, in our case for the dairy. Removing straw from a field is removing 15% of the nutrients so nowadays the straw is chopped and incorporated into the soil, thus reducing nutrient loss and thereby reducing fertiliser costs the following year.

When we could burn fields after harvest, it meant that any weeds on the field were incinerated, but now we need to use chemicals to control weeds before the next crop is planted. Burning also softened the soil, enabling easier machine use. One pass with a tined cultivator would then allow you to drill a following crop. It's not quite that easy any more with most fields now requiring at least two passes, possibly three, before drilling.



There has been a reliance on artificial fertiliser which is very costly. We use recycled human waste from sewage works as part of our fertiliser input which obviously

provides nutrients but its most important impact is the improvement of the soil structure that occurs over time. (To think that in the past human waste was dumped out at sea!)

Simon Barnes states that crops are sown in Winter rather than Spring. Due to our rotations, we have 25% of the farm down to Spring crops, such as spring wheat, oats, beans and peas. The fields used are all ploughed (not minimally cultivated) which helps weed control and soil structure. After ploughing, the soil gets a light cultivation to take the tops off and help the winter frosts to penetrate and break up the soil. This means that in Spring we can drill crops straight into the soil without working it, thereby reducing moisture loss which can be the biggest cause of yield loss in these crops.

### *Wildlife*

Having bare ground during winter encourages wildlife to overwinter and numbers of sandpipers, redshanks, snipe and woodcock have increased. Back in the 1980's, we used to get thousands of lapwings all over

*Lapwing*



the farm, following the plough along with various gulls and feeding on the worms that appeared as the soil was turned over. Then they just seemed to disappear until it

was unusual to see more than three at a time. Over the last five years, the numbers have been increasing slowly and, if you were lucky, you might see ten or twenty together. This winter we have been blessed to have a flock of about 300 that are still here two months later.

Skylarks are thought to be failing and at risk of extinction but to me the song of the skylark is a common occurrence in and above our fields. When travelling through a field



*Skylark*

spraying or applying fertiliser, you can often spot where a skylark's nest is as they lift off out of the crop in front of me. (The top of a skylark nest is just below the level of the soil, so they are well hidden amongst the wheat stems). The only problem is the crows spot them too and often fly alongside the sprayer for just that reason - they can then predate the nest! Hobbys and sparrowhawks use combine harvesters similarly to help them catch skylarks and other small birds. They often cruise about in our near vicinity and if a skylark lifts off in front of us they are off after them, sometimes catching them sometimes not.

Corvus and raptors seem to be a big problem for the songbird population. When I was a kid, we used to see hundreds of crows and magpies hanging dead in rows on fences in the countryside where gamekeepers had dispatched them to protect their partridge and pheasant population, which also protected the songbirds from predation. If you have seen magpies picking off young blackbirds as they leave a nest, it would upset you as it upsets me. One jab of the beak through the chest and that's another blackbird dead - in fact less than a minute to kill five fledglings. Naturalists say that it is only nature but, because magpies have few predators, they always seem to be on the increase. Personally, I think that magpies should be controlled but others would say not! Oh, and I love watching raptors do their thing! Stansted Airport kills buzzards every year!

### *Field Margins and Hedges*

Simon Barnes says that we have lost semi-natural habitats like field margins and hedges. Field margins encourage more birds to nest but it's a bit tricky because everyone and his mother wants to walk their dog, cycle or motorcycle on them. Lots of people seem to think that they have a right to roam anywhere so they don't always follow the margins but trample through the crops. I once remonstrated with a woman letting her large alsatian dog crash about through a very

ripe oilseed rape crop, knocking pods open thus dropping the seed onto the floor to be missed by the combine harvester. We have to accept losses like this if done by deer or other wild animals but people should have more respect for crops. It is their food after all!



Hedges are another contentious subject but I've spoken about them in previous editions of this magazine, so we will skip that.

All I would say is that our field margins aren't exceptionally tidy and neither are all our hedges. Recently this winter we did tidy an area where a willow growing from the middle of a ditch had grown so big that it had collapsed into the field margin. Normally we would say fine but in this case the willow was blocking water flow down a busy ditch causing waterlogging within the field. This area hadn't been touched for at least thirty years. By doing the work it will make that area of wet field more productive. The ditch probably won't be touched for another thirty years and in the meantime nature will reclaim it once again. We do tidy an area every year but it's a cycle which just carries on year after year. Ditches need to be cleaned out and drainage improved if we are to be productive and efficient. We have to actually manage the land. But, as we know, nature will reclaim it in the long period between visits. It is surprising how many field corners are untidy. If they are a haven for wildlife, just leave them unless you absolutely have to do something!

### ***Food Hygiene Rules***

Back in the 1980's, farmyards were also untidy places with lots of nettles, etc., and we have a bank around the farm covered in

nettles, brambles, thistles and teasels, all of which benefit wildlife such as goldfinches, whitethroats, wrens, dunnocks and robins. They all prosper there. But whereas we used to have open fronted barns or doors that were generally left open, the rules now mean that everything has to be scrupulously clean because we are producing food. So if we are not actually working in the barn, loading lorries, the barn doors will be shut. This has definitely led to a reduction in numbers of starlings and sparrows in the last thirty years. There is no easy meal for them anymore. So, Mr. Barnes, we are basically following regulations on food hygiene. The food factory regulations apply as much to us as they do to, say, a canning factory. We have to be tidy to survive.



### ***The Farmer and the Public***

We do try to inform the public about what we are doing and why we are doing it as much as is possible but unfortunately some people aren't that interested in what we do as long as they can get cheap food. Education and PR are vital to the farmer. As an example, when we planted field margins we put signs up explaining why they were being done and asking people not to walk these margins, especially in the bird nesting season. Most of the signs were uprooted and thrown into the nearest ditch.

Farmers and the general public have a duty to listen to each other and to try and understand and implement each other's needs, but it will always be difficult. What doesn't help is people like Simon Barnes saying that farming is the biggest danger to wildlife. We probably do fall short in some respects but I do think we try and a more reasoned approach from all sides would be beneficial to all concerned, especially to our native wildlife.

*David Barlow*

# Great Hallingbury History Society

We have such a wealth of history in this country and around us and it is a constant fascination. At our History Society meetings we try to take advantage of this diversity with a varied programme of topics.

In recent meetings we have enjoyed speakers talking on:

The Peasants' Revolt of 1381 when some of the leaders were from Essex



The history of Thaxted

The great engineer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, who nearly died during the construction of the Rotherhithe Tunnel (designed by his father) to go on to such wonderful achievements in railways and shipping



Tilty Abbey which was a Cistercian monastery near Dunmow

Our programme going forward continues to explore this variety and we hope you will join us at one of these meetings when we hear about the following:

The History of the National Trust  
*Wednesday, 8th March*



Essex Seaside Heritage (from the man who greatly entertained us when he talked about the history of Butlins)

*Wednesday, 12th April*

The Temple of Claudius at Colchester and Emperor Worship in the West



*Wednesday, 10th May*

## History Society Books

Don't forget the books published by the Society.



**The Great House of Hallingbury** by Heather M. E. M. Cocks  
£5

**Great Hallingbury Village - The Years of Change** by Ernest W. C. Field  
£5



**When the Busy World was Hushed** by Ernest W. C. Field  
£5

**The Magnificent Shire** by Ernest W. C. Field  
£5



**Hallingbury Place Auction Catalogue 1923** compiled by Alan Rowett  
£10

# Little Hallingbury Panto Group

## *Sleeping Beauty*

*Director:* Julie O'Brien

*Musical Director & Pianist:* Philip Hayes

*Choreography:* Sue Tonkin, Julie O'Brien, Alison Hutley

*Reviewed at Little Hallingbury Village Hall on Friday 27th January 2017*



There can be no better way to forget your worries and cares on a cold winter's day than to be transported to a world of make believe via the age old genre of Pantomime. A script by Alan P Frayn, produced by a Society of enthusiastic people about whom I had heard only good things, was eagerly anticipated and we were not disappointed.

*Sleeping Beauty* tells the story of a King and Queen blessed with a longed for baby who grows into a beautiful princess. As predicted by a bad witch, when the princess is sixteen she pricks her finger on a spinning wheel. But the good fairy has intervened and instead of dying the princess falls asleep for 100 years before being awakened by a kiss from a Prince.

Following the prologue the curtains opened to reveal a very impressive set, against which the good folk of Muddleby on Marsh, all of whom were in excellent voice, welcomed the audience with a vibrant, colourful introduction.

Marianne Bullen was the perfect Princess Rose. There was one lapse in her dialogue which she covered so professionally, immediately getting the audience on side. A good confident performance and a beautiful singing voice. Her rendition of *When I Grow Up*, as sung by the 12 year old Princess, was delightful.

King Cactus and Queen Marigold were well played by Jonny Hays and Zoe Deal and Mark Hutley was brilliant as Nurse Dottie Dettol, Nanny and Governess to Princess Rose. The jokes and innuendo came thick and fast and there was excellent interaction with the audience. Very well done.

Corinna Cranch gave a lively performance as Muddles, the Palace handyman, keeping everyone up to date with the goings on in Muddleby on Marsh and building up a good rapport with the audience.

Caroline Gostelow as Good Fairy Lilac and Alan Townsend as Bad Witch Hazel both gave strong performances and the audience, made up mainly of adults, this being an evening performance, absolutely loved and loathed them respectively and responded accordingly.



Prince Alexis was nicely played by Sam Thorpe. Good acting and a lovely singing voice.

Fetch and Carry were a great double act and the Post Haste scene had us all in stitches. Very well done to Keith Brown and Poppy Lawrence. A master class in comic timing.

Well done to the Rainbow Fairies for their good supporting roles including some great comic moments courtesy of David Allum as Fairy Green.



There was excellent accompaniment from MD and pianist Philip Hays. I liked that he played introductory music to set the scene. Sadly this is often lacking in pantos. His interaction with the cast was a nice touch.

Congratulations to Bill and Veronika Williams who designed the lovely set and to everyone else behind the scenes. Transforming a village hall to a theatre in a very limited amount of time is no mean feat especially when that transformation includes installing a complete lighting system from scratch. Fortunately the Society has a large band of loyal helpers.

This was a very good energetic production, full of great songs and plenty of movement and dancing. The costumes were sumptuous and really took the show to a different level.

There is just one thing that, in my opinion, could have made it even better. Had Princess Rose been able to lie on a small bed or couch and therefore be slightly elevated, it could have made more of the kiss and her awakening which, acted out as it was on the floor, was not visible by everyone in the audience. I for one missed it! This is more of an observation than a criticism and as large props take up precious storage space backstage, this may not have been an option.

Thank you to Director Julie O'Brien for her invite to go back-stage after the performance and to Stage Manager Ralph Thompson and Julie for sparing the time to show us round. I always enjoy a peep behind the scenes! Particularly impressive was the large space dedicated to make-up in this limited area, ensuring that what the audience sees is of the highest standard.

Well done Little Hallingbury on another successful production. Thank you for your warm welcome and hospitality and I look forward to next time.



*Decia Ranger, Regional Representative  
NODA East, District 7*



Yes, this is our  
Parish Council  
Chairman, Alan  
Townsend, playing  
Bad Witch Hazel

## Need to Talk to Your M.P.? *Surgery Dates*



Our M.P., Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst, holds regular surgeries when you can seek his help or advice.

### 3rd March, 2017

Writtle Village Hall 5.15 - 6.00 pm  
Town Council Offices, Foakes House  
Great Dunmow 6.30 - 7.15 pm

### 7th April, 2017

Parish Council Office, Crafton Green  
Stansted 5.45 - 6.30 pm  
The Old Armoury, 3 Museum Street  
Saffron Walden 7.00 - 7.45 pm

### 5th May, 2017

Broomfield Community Centre, 158 Main Road, Broomfield 5.15 - 6.00 pm  
Town Council Offices, Foakes House  
Great Dunmow 6.30 - 7.15 pm

### 2nd June, 2017

Guildhall, Thaxted 5.45 - 6.30 pm  
The Old Armoury, 3 Museum Street  
Saffron Walden 7.00 - 7.45 pm

*No appointment is necessary. Please contact the Constituency Office for further details on 01799 506349*

## How Ironic!



Noah's Ark Theme Park Destroyed In A Flood



# St Clare Hospice

*Your support is needed*

St Clare Hospice care is about life and living, not just death and dying. People with any life-limiting illness can be helped as out-patients or with periodic inpatient care. Patients can receive help from the *Hospice at Home* team and whether at home or in the inpatient unit, the hospice staff support the whole person and the whole circle of family, friends and carers.



Specialist care is provided completely free of charge but it is not without cost. St Clare receives only limited NHS funding, meaning that most of the cost of care is funded through voluntary donations generously given by those who believe in the difference that St Clare makes to those facing one of the most difficult journeys in life. There are many fund raising events and perhaps one of these will catch your eye and your support:

## ***Limber up for the St Clare 10k!***

It's time to get your running shoes out once more for the annual St Clare 10K, taking place at the Hospice on Sunday, April 9. Hundreds of runners are expected to jostle at the starting line once again for the yearly Essex 10k road race, which last year raised an amazing £8,000. The event is ideal for regular running club members looking to boost their training, as well as those who are new to running but looking for a challenge! There will be a tombola and cafe refreshments available after the race.



## ***Waltham Abbey Fishing Competition***

Don't be koi...come and make a catch! A popular fishing competition at the glorious Southend Farm Fishing Lakes on 22nd April. If you are a reel keen angler, then help net vital funds for the Hospice down on the water's edge. Entry to the competition costs £20 per angler with a £5 optional pool on the day. *Please note - NO pellet waggler allowed.*



Check out the St Clare Hospice website on [www. http://stclarehospice.org.uk](http://stclarehospice.org.uk) or for more information or to book, get in touch with St Clare Community Fundraiser Dani De'ath. Call on 01279 773738 or 07718257704 or email [dani@stclarehospice.org.uk](mailto:dani@stclarehospice.org.uk)

## ***Fancy a flutter for St Clare? Race Night 2017***

Join St Clare supporters for an evening of fun-filled race action at Canons Brook Golf Club on 29 April. There will be eight races flashed on a screen, a great raffle for all to enjoy and a supper main course which will be included within your ticket price. There will be a cash bar available on the night. You can sponsor a race for £30/40 or a horse for £5 which you can then name. Tickets for this amazing event are £13. Betting will be £1 on a horse. For more information contact Mrs Cantel on 01279 504343



## ***Calling all green-fingered folk! Open Gardens weekend***



It's that time again for the blooming marvellous St Clare Hospice Open Gardens on 24/25 June! There will be more than 20 gardens taking part across both Uttlesford and Harlow. The Open Gardens Weekend is an opportunity to explore some of the area's hidden treasures and best-kept green spaces. Entry to all the participating gardens is by brochure only at a cost £5. Could you open YOUR garden for St Clare?



### Useful Contacts

Age UK Essex (advice for later life)	01245 346 106
Adult Social Care Team (worried about someone vulnerable)	0345 603 7630
Community Agents (advice on independent living)	0800 977 5858
Energy Savings Trust Advice Service (energy saving advice)	0300 123 1234
Essential Living Fund (means tested emergency fund)	0300 790 0124
Home Safety Volunteer Action Epping Forest (fall prevention service)	01992 564 259
Lions Club (for loan of medical equipment)	07761 602 678
Red Cross (for loan of medical equipment)	03444 122 772
Medical help and advice (free NHS service 24/7)	111
Papworth Trust (small jobs in the home fixed hourly charge)	0300 333 6543
Essex Community Oil Buying Scheme	01473 345400
Salvation Army (local charitable support)	01799 510798
Samaritans (emotional support if you are in despair or feeling suicidal)	116 123
Silver Line Confidential Helpline (friendship and advice for older people)	0800 470 8090
UK Power Networks (for information on power cuts)	105
Uttlesford Citizens Advice (free advice)	01799 618 840
Uttlesford Community Transport	01371 875 787
Uttlesford District Council	01799 510 510
Uttlesford District Council Energy Advice (Braintree)	01376 552 525
Uttlesford District Council Environmental Health	01799 510 482

No one believes seniors . . .

*Everyone thinks they are senile*



**An elderly couple was celebrating their sixtieth anniversary. The couple had married as childhood sweethearts and had moved back to their old neighbourhood after they retired. Holding hands, they walked back to their old school. It was not locked, so they entered, and found the old desk they'd shared, where Jerry had carved, I love you Sally.**

**On their way back home, a bag of money fell out of an armoured car, practically landing at their feet. Sally quickly picked it up and, not sure what to do with it, they took it home. There, she counted the money - fifty thousand dollars!**

**Jerry said, 'We've got to give it back'.**

**Sally said, 'Finders keepers'. She put the money back in the bag and hid it in their attic.**

**The next day, two police officers were canvassing the neighbourhood looking for the money, and knocked on their door. 'Pardon me, did either of you find a bag that fell out of an armoured car yesterday?'**

**Sally said, 'No'. Jerry said, 'She's lying. She hid it up in the attic.'**

**Sally said, 'Don't believe him, he's getting senile'**

**The officers turned to Jerry and began to question him. One said: 'Tell us the story from the beginning.'**

**Jerry said, 'Well, when Sally and I were walking home from school yesterday . . . . .'**

**The first police officer turned to his partner and said, 'We're outta here!'**

## Friendship Club Christmas 2016



Instead of the Friendship Club's usual Christmas Tea, this last Christmas members had a choice of turkey, beef or salmon for lunch. And it looks as if they all enjoyed it too!

*Val Mugele*

## Companion Dog Show

in aid of Animal Rescue Charity,  
Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford



**Sunday, April 9th, 2017**

**Great Hallingbury Village Hall & Field**

**Breed - Obedience - Novelty Classes**

Entry fees £2 each class

Entries on field from 11 am

Judging starts at 12 noon

**Stalls**

**Refreshments**

**Raffle**

**A PLEASANT FAMILY DAY OUT**

Enquiries: 01279 654046

# HALLINGBURY FLOWER SHOW

## SAVE THE DATE!

**SUNDAY 16TH JULY, 12 -4PM**

**GASTON HOUSE, GASTON GREEN**

# Howe Green House School

Independent  
co-ed prep school  
for 2 - 11 years

www.howegreenhouseschool.co.uk  
01279 657706



## YOGI PHARMACY TAKELEY



### For All Your Pharmacy Needs

\* Healthaid \* Vitamins \* Nelsons batch flower \* Mother & Baby \*  
MAM \* Fortuna support range \* Pro Foot \* TENA \*

**FREE Managed Repeat Service Available**

### FREE Prescription Collection Service

We collect from surgeries in Dunmow, Hatfield Broad Oak,  
Bishop's Stortford, Elsenham and Stansted

Medication queries? Speak to our pharmacist today!  
No appointment needed

**FREE PARKING**

**OPEN NOW! Monday - Friday 9 am - 6 pm Saturday 9 am - 1 pm**

**YOGI PHARMACY TAKELEY**

**Offers friendly confidential advice and a wide range of services for you & your family**

**Yogi  
Pharmacy  
Takeley**

Ellesborough House,  
Dunmow Road, Takeley  
(At Four Ashes Cross-  
roads)

**Tel: 01279 871177**

**Fax: 01279 870518**

**Email: takeley.  
pharmacy@  
gmail.com**

**FREE PARKING**

## The Police Years

### Part 16: The End of the Line



My applications for Detective Sergeant positions fell on deaf ears and work load at Euston increased. Often I returned home to find Nora in tears. I still spent time away from home working rest days, especially on football trains. In May 1968



*Manchester United Football Team with the European Cup*

Manchester United reached the final of the European Cup. The final was to be played at Wembley and a special train brought team and officials to Euston. Les Olive, the Club Secretary, gave me two tickets for the Final but I gave them away so that I could watch the game at home. On May 30th I was on duty at Euston when the victorious team returned to go home. Just before they arrived a security van brought the Cup. Not only was I able to hold it for a while but I was alongside Matt Busby when the press had a field day!

Sunday, June 16th, 1968, was to alter my lifestyle. While disconsolately cycling home from Bishop's Stortford after night duty, I met James McGowan leaving the Church. He told me his new caravan business had reached the stage where he urgently needed someone to supervise it and he made me an offer. I had not considered any move but told him I would give it thought. When posts for which I had applied were filled by Officers much junior and less experienced than myself I felt there was little chance of moving from a tight shift system to help my plight. Furthermore, a new pension scheme was about to be introduced which entailed higher contributions. If I was going to move, the time was right.

With hindsight, I had not fully understood the benefit of the new pension scheme for it was the fore-runner of early retirement and with such an exodus of those who qualified there were not enough suitable men to replace them and Officers, previously well behind me in exams, suddenly appeared on the Promotion Register. Not knowing this, I tendered my resignation which was accepted without comment and I left the Police service on July 13th. Sergeant Hart, a stalwart at Euston, decided to retire at the same time. Faced with these departures, authority decided not only to replace us but also to appoint a further Sergeant on each shift, immediately halving the workload. Some people thought, because of my sudden resignation, I was leaving under a cloud but it was not the case. One senior Officer approached Headquarters, pointing out I was one of their most experienced and qualified Officers and much money had been spent on my training. All this fell on deaf ears but to me the preservation of family life was paramount.

The years have passed and I can now view Police Service in retrospect. I do not regret the years I served and equally I do not regret resigning. Each generation sets standards and often the Police fight a losing battle in trying to uphold the law against public opinion and behaviour. It has been said the public gets the Police Force it deserves but lenient attitudes do not help. One thing is certain, human nature has not changed since life began, only attitudes.

*The late Ernie Field  
Former President of Great Hallingbury History Society*

## Essex Book Festival

*31 Days, 90 Events, 45 Venues,  
200+ Writers and Artists*

The Essex Book Festival is one of the highlights of Essex's cultural calendar. Each March it hosts many events in varied venues across the County, including theatres, libraries, schools, universities, through to cafes and art galleries.

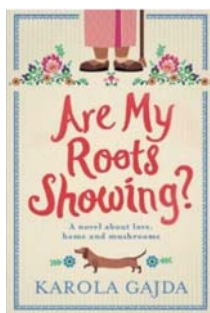
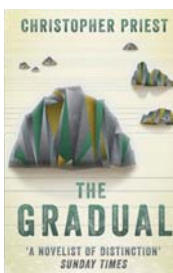
The Festival, established by Essex County Council in 1999, has grown into one of the leading festivals of its kind in the Eastern Region, inviting local writers and writers from all over the world to take part its activities. Now an independent charity, the Essex Book Festival is based within the Centre for Creative Writing at the University of Essex's Colchester campus.



There is a wide variety of events for both adults and children including the University of Essex Mini Book Festival, a brilliant

place to celebrate children's literature: family activities include storytelling with Grandma Sally and Auntie Angie, book making with artist Alison Stockmarr, story writing with the University's Writing Society, drawing, bringing your stories to life with the Theatre Arts Society, and exclusive access to the University Library.

Listen to writers talk about their work such as leading British Science Fiction writer and award-winning master of speculative fiction, Christopher Priest (The Prestige) or Karola Gajda who, like her chief



protagonist, was born in England to Polish parents, discussing her hugely entertaining debut novel.

So many events so why not check out the listing on the Festival website at <http://essexbookfestival.org.uk/>

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!**



### Garden Open

Longridge, Sawbridgeworth  
Road, Hatfield Heath CM22 7DR

Saturday/Sunday May 27 & 28  
for Grove Cottage (MENCAP).

Saturday 10 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Sunday 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Beautiful garden

lots of entertainment both days

singer *Jess Daugirda*

*SOSA dancers*

*Ukes of Hazard (Ukulele)*

singers

*Epping Green Community Choir*

*BSUS (Bishop's Stortford Ukulele*

*Group)*

*Anwaar Belly Dance*

Crafts, jewellery, books, hundreds of plants for sale. Head massage by Izzy.

Coffee and delicious cakes.



**BSCS**  
Bishop's Stortford  
Choral Society  
Reg Charity No. 247083



## The Sprig of Thyme

John Rutter

## Five Spirituals

from  
A Child of Our Time  
Michael Tippett

## Five English Folk Songs

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Conductor : Richard Brain  
Piano : Kate Macpherson

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March - 7:30 pm

Methodist Church, South Street  
Bishop's Stortford, CM23 3AZ

Tickets: The Tourist Office, Market Square, Bishop's Stortford  
Tel. 01279 715001 or available on the door

standard £14 concessions £12 students & under 16s free  
including tea/coffee and biscuits

There will be a collection in aid of the Holy Trinity Winter Night Shelter



## Promises!! Broadband in Great Hallingbury

Since our last issue, the interactive map on the *Superfast Essex* website has been updated.

The latest information is that *a fibre upgrade is planned* in the area near the Church between April and September this year and for much of the Bedlars Green area between July and December.

Let's hope nothing happens to delay things!



## Hospital Rules

**Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged.**

**However, a student nurse found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need help to leave the hospital.**

**After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let the student nurse wheel him to the elevator. On the way down she asked him if his wife was meeting him.**

**'I don't know,' he said. 'She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown.'**

## Neighbourhood Watch



### *Payment Diversion*

The fraudsters are still at work so please be alert if you receive an email asking you to make a payment to a tradesman at a different bank account. Make sure the email address is exactly the same as previous correspondence and check out the validity of the request with a phone call to your supplier. Payments via bank transfer offer no financial protection (consider using a credit card or PayPal) and victims of the scam only realise they have been deceived when the genuine tradesman requests payment for his services.

### *Theft from Work Vehicles*

Essex Police have seen a rise in the number of thefts of tools from work vans overnight.

- DO REMOVE tools overnight if possible
- DON'T TEMPT thieves by leaving any items on display.
- DO CLEAN THE SAT NAV RING off the windscreen.
- DO TURN BLUETOOTH OFF anything left in the vehicle - it can be detected when on.
- DO LOCK your vehicle at all times, close windows, and set the alarm, even when parked on your driveway or when carrying out any work.
- DO PARK REAR DOORS ON VANS up against garage doors or similar to prevent access
- DO NOT just press the button on your fob to lock it - Look at your car to see the lights flash to confirm locking; someone may be nearby with a *remote blocker* and stop your vehicle from locking.
- DO MARK tools and property visibly and consider products such as CRE Mark, Selecta DNA and Smart Water.
- DO REGISTER serial numbers of your property on [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com). This is a completely free service.
- DO CONSIDER having additional security door locks fitted as a great deterrent.



29 High Street, Old Harlow. 01279 438444

6 HCPC Registered

Chiropodists/ Podiatrists

Osteopathy

Aromatherapy, Reflexology, Massage

(Ground floor surgery also available in Sawbridgeworth)



1st Builders

Cambridge & East Anglia

www.1stbuilderscambridge.co.uk

01223 782392

EXTENSIONS  
 RENOVATIONS  
 RESTORATIONS  
 KITCHENS  
 BATHROOMS  
 GROUNDWORKS  
 LOFT CONVERSIONS  
 GARAGE CONVERSIONS  
 MASONRY  
 CARPENTRY

LTH Waste Removal and Luxury Toilet Hire (UK) Ltd



Building site toilets provided, with weekly / ad hoc servicing as required  
 Free delivery and collection



LTH Waste Removal is your local service provider for liquid waste removal, including:

- Cesspits • Septic Tanks • Klargesters and Bio Disks



Whether you are arranging a wedding, private party or corporate event, let Luxury Toilet Hire (UK) Ltd provide you with the perfect toilet facility to make your occasion a memorable success.

Visit: [www.luxurytoilethireltd.co.uk](http://www.luxurytoilethireltd.co.uk)



Based in Great Hallingbury, we provide a personal, professional and efficient service at very competitive rates.

For a free quotation, please contact us:

Tel: 01279 504 638 Fax: 01279 506433 Email: [luxurytoilethire@btinternet.com](mailto:luxurytoilethire@btinternet.com)



# BURTONS

THE COMPLETE DECORATING SERVICE

Over 30 years experience

Interior And Exterior Work  
 Domestic & Commercial  
 Insurance Work



FREE ESTIMATES

CALL RICHARD

Home: 01279 424904

Mobile: 07921 169954

FULLY INSURED

Proud members of

**Checkatrade.com**

Where reputation matters

# Highlights from the Minutes Of A Meeting Of Great Hallingbury Parish Council

## 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Present: Cllr A Townsend (Chairman), Cllrs D Barlow, M Bloomfield, K Juggurnauth, A Noble, A Pinnock, T Streeter and V Wing, County Cllr S Barker, Mrs F Townsend (Clerk) and four members of public

### ***Start Hill Road Problems***

Residents raised the problems with speeding traffic at Start Hill. The Parish Council has applied for the speed limit here to be reduced to 30mph but the worry is that there will be more heavy traffic once the new industrial estate is complete. Discussion took place on possible measures that could make this stretch of road less hazardous. Furthermore the signage at Start Hill needs to be checked, the new *Clearway* signs being turned side on at present, also the grass areas along the footpath need to be tidied and, once the new water meters have been installed to the houses at Start Hill, the footpath should be resurfaced. There are also questions relating to the trees to the rear of the gardens at Start Hill, bordering the Distribution Centre which the Chairman will explore during a site visit. The Clerk will request the Uttlesford Rangers to tidy the grass on the footpaths and that the *Clearway* signs are straightened. A request to resurface the footpath will be submitted before work on the water meters commences and suggestions of *Blind Summit* signs or speed cameras will be put to Highways.

### ***Trees at Start Hill***

UDC has clarified for the contractors which trees and vegetation at the Stansted Distribution Centre may be cleared to the rear of White Cottage. The resident who raised the problem has thanked the Chairman for his prompt action on the day.

### ***Naming of road at new industrial site***

The Clerk had forwarded to UDC the Parish Council's suggestions for naming the road at the new industrial site. UDC has accepted their proposal and the site address is now Mead Way, Great Hallingbury, Bishop's Stortford, CM22 7FD.

### ***Clerk's Retirement***

The Clerk has announced her intention to retire in the summer of this year, by which time she will have been Clerk for some 24 years. She will meet with Joy Darby at the Essex Association of Local Council's to get the post advertised for a new Clerk.

### ***Fritch Way Bridge, Start Hill***

Since the incident with the skip lorry hitting the Fritch Way bridge, it has been made safe. The Fritch Way Ranger has informed the Clerk that Essex Highways plan to carry out work to return the Bridge to its condition prior to the lorry strike. They hope then to recharge this fully to the insurers of the lorry owner. The time scale is not yet known. There are no other plans at this time aside from programmed routine maintenance.

### ***Highways***

Discussion took place on so many vehicles parking at Bedlars Green. The road here, and edges of the greens, are getting eroded, not just from the parking, but other vehicles passing between the vehicles and the green. It was agreed that we would ask to meet Henry Bexley, National Trust, on the site to discuss the possibility of edging the greens with posts. County Cllr Barker suggested we ask the ECC Parking Partnership for double yellow lines to be painted in the area. The footpath along Church Road has once again become very narrow and needs *siding back* but very thoroughly in order to reveal a full width of footpath. The Clerk will request the Uttlesford Rangers clear back the growth along the footpath along Church Road.

### ***Affordable Housing***

The outline application for the proposed 35 dwellings, which will include affordable housing, on the land to the rear of Great Hallingbury Manor, has now been received and will be discussed under Planning. Uttlesford's Planning Committee is likely to look at the site and the case will hopefully be heard in February or March.

### ***Clacton Flight Route***

Following discussion on the adoption by the CAA of the sole use of the Clacton route for daytime flights from Stansted, it was agreed that the Parish Council should write and ask for further acoustic measures to be put in place for residents in our village who suffer more noise as a result.

### ***UDC Planning***

Cllr Howard Rolfe, Leader, Uttlesford District Council, has written to invite the Parish Council to meet with him and, possibly, to include a senior planning officer. Cllr Rolfe will be invited to attend our annual Parish Meeting.

### ***Thank You***

A letter of thanks has been received from St. Giles' PCC for the annual grant, also from Uttlesford Community Travel, SSE and NWEHPA for the donations sent last month.

### ***Brook in Church Road***

The road over the brook near *Captains* flooded again in November, despite the gullies here being cleared earlier last year. Cllr Streeter has since checked that the drain and gully are clear and suggested the Clerk asks Highways to flush this through again and more often than once or twice a year.

### ***Budget 2017/2018***

The budget for the year 2017/18 was reviewed and agreed. Once again, our precept request would remain unchanged at £12,000.

### ***Planning***

Application decisions (the Council's

comments are shown in brackets)

Application No. // Site and Development//Decision  
UTT/16/0965/FUL // The Hop Poles, Bedlars Green // Construction of 19 letting rooms in association with the Hop Poles public house including provisions for drainage and landscaping // Consent (It would seem that none of the matters raised by the Parish Council on the previous application have been addressed and no actual changes are evident. The reports are still farcical, the plans still say Little Hallingbury and the proposal would add nothing good to the village. We therefore object most strongly to this application.)

UTT/16/2486/HHF // 154 Bedlars Green // replacement pitched roof and windows to existing side extension // Consent (no obj.)

UTT/16/1612/HHF // Cherry Trees, Bedlars Green // Proposed erection of building to rear of garden to be used as hobby room // Consent (no obj.)

UTT/16/2767/HHF& UTT/16/2768/LB // The Old Barn, Jenkins Lane // Erection of single storey rear extension // Consent (no obj.)

**Applications dealt with at this meeting**  
UTT/16/3382/FUL // Vine Lodge, 66 Woodside Green // Demolition of existing dwelling and barn and construction of new dwelling with integral garage (resubmission of UTT/13/2758/FUL) // No objections raised.

UTT/16/3402/FUL // Land adj. Centuries, Church Road // Proposed dwelling with double garage and new access. This land comes within our Conservation Area which may prohibit new buildings (this to be checked), is very close to the blind bend and would be within the curtilage of a listed building. Neighbours have also raised similar objections. Therefore the Parish Council cannot support this application.

UTT/16/3468/FUL // Land North of Stansted Distribution Centre, Start Hill // Erection of a replacement waste water treatment plant. This new plant is very much needed

as there have been many problems with the continual emptying of the old plant. We are therefore pleased to support this application.

UTT/16/3669/OP // Land South East of Great Hallingbury Manor // Outline application with all matters reserved for 35 dwellings. The Parish Council is of the opinion that the provision of this number of new houses in the village would contribute to the housing needed in Uttlesford and provide housing for first time buyers and those wishing to downsize. Where an increase in traffic would be created, much of it would use the access via Start Hill to the M11 or A120, and into Bishop's Stortford, therefore not creating excessive numbers through the village centre. While there is no bus service through the village, it is possible to walk to the B1256 where a regular bus service is available. The application includes the *gift* to Uttlesford of 8 Affordable Houses which can be rented or part owned by residents of the village or those with strong links to the village. This is an important factor in

our support since a survey in 2012 proved that there was, and still is, a need for Affordable Housing for local people. This outline proposal is actually on land within the Countryside Protection Zone of the Local Plan, Policy S8, but, for the reasons above the Parish Council is in support of this application.

UTT/16/3601/SO // Stansted Airport Northside // Scoping opinion for development of Stansted Northside. While no objections were raised, we are not required to comment on this document as it is an outline on future proposals for which there will be planning applications submitted for comment in the usual way.

### *Litter Picking*

The next litter pick in the village, organised by Cllr Wing, will be on 26<sup>th</sup> February. The Chairman thanked Vicky for arranging this and will liaise with her regarding equipment needed. All Councillors and the Clerk will be pleased to help on the day as with the litter pick held last October.



## The Olive Branch in the Hallingburys



Twenty six of us met for Christmas Lunch last December at Brett's Farm Restaurant at White Roding.

In January, we held our Annual General Meeting. We now had 13 paid-up members. The annual subscription would remain at £5. Cynthia Collins, Sheila Davies and Nita Sylvester agreed to continue sending out Birthday and Baptism Anniversary cards. During 2016 we had sent donations to five charities, namely Syria Crisis £50; J's Hospice £110; Helen Rollaston Cancer Care £50; Alzheimer's Care in the Community £50 and CentrePoint (Homelessness in London) £25. There being no other nominations, the present committee were re-elected. A Service of Holy Communion followed the meeting and then tea and cake.

On 7th February, Revd. Janice Green led us in a very relaxing afternoon. It started with relaxing, de-stressing exercises then Janice played some calming religious music and gave us a *Jesus* prayer to repeat - *Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me.* We were all so relaxed after this that nobody wanted to move but tea/coffee and cake got us all going again.

Our next meeting will be held in The Rectory on 4th April when we will have an *Introduction to Spinning* by Hilary Hedderick.

We would be delighted to welcome new members to please join us.

*Nita Sylvester*



You know that little thing  
inside your head that keeps  
you from saying things you  
shouldn't?

**I think mine broke!**

## St. Giles' Church 100 Club in 2017



Following the success of The 100 Club, we are hoping that our present members will renew their subscriptions for 2017.

At the end of 2016, £571.50 has been given out in prize money and £571.50 donated to St. Giles' Church.

**A sincere thank you to everyone who supported The 100 Club in 2016** and congratulations to everyone who won a prize last year.

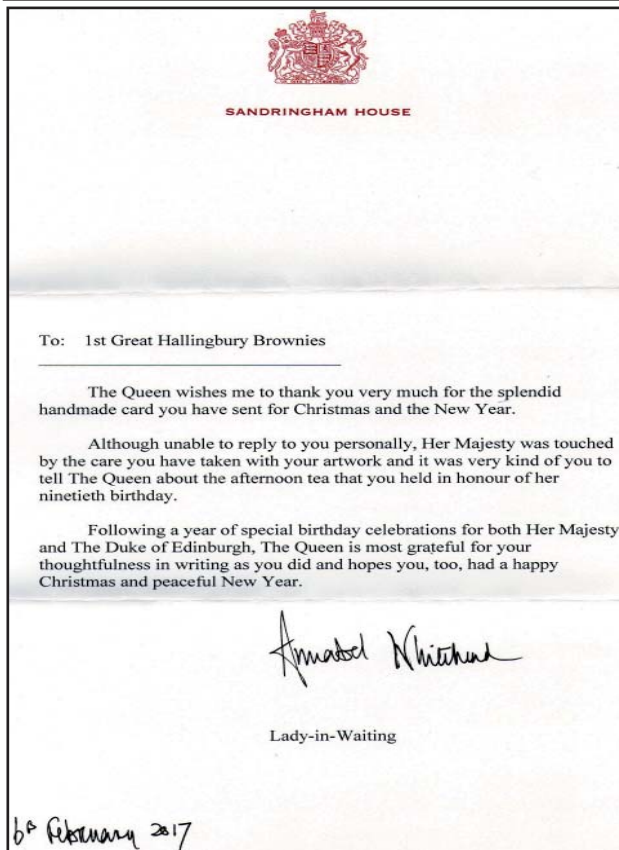
Many of our members have renewed their membership for 2017 but there are still tickets available.

£12 a year will buy one membership number which will enter you into a monthly draw to take place on the fourth or fifth Sunday of the month. You may of course have more than one membership ticket.

**If you wish to join The 100 Club please send your £12 to Heather and Philip Hays, 3 Haycroft, Bishop's Stortford. Cheques should be made payable to "Great Hallingbury PCC".**

**On behalf of St. Giles' Church, thank you for your continued interest and support.**

# Great Hallingbury Brownies' Christmas Card to the Queen



# St Giles' Services March 2017 - June 2017

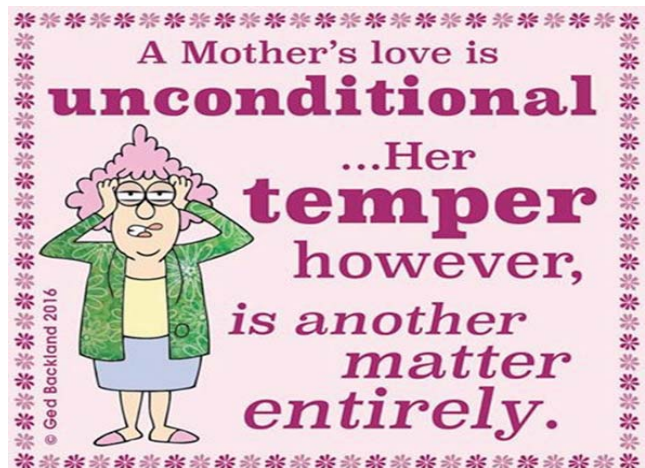
Mar 12	10 am	Morning Prayer
<b>Mar 26</b>	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Mothering Sunday Service in St. Mary's</b>
Apr 9	10 am	Morning Prayer
Thursday Apr 13	7.30 pm	Six Villages Maundy Thursday Service in Hatfield Heath United Reformed Church
Friday Apr 14	2 pm	An Hour at The Cross in St. Mary's
<b>Apr 16</b>	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Easter Day Family Communion</b>
Apr 23	10 am	Family Communion
<b>Apr 30</b>	<b>10 am</b>	<b>United Benefice Family Communion St Mary's</b>
May 7	10 am	Morning Prayer
May 21	10 am	Family Communion
Jun 11	10 am	Morning Prayer
Jun 25	10 am	Family Communion

There is a midweek service of Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m. every Wednesday at St Mary's.

Services of Holy Communion are from the Book of Common Prayer unless otherwise indicated

Both St Giles' and St Mary's have a Children's Corner with activity packs at all 10 am services and there is a Junior Church held during the 10 a.m. Common Worship Holy Communion at St Mary's.

Please go to our website for up to date information on events and services <http://www.hallingburychurches.co.uk/>



# Great Hallingbury Annual Parish Meeting

will be held in the Village Hall on

**Monday, 27th March, 2017, at 8 pm**

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

Then join us for 'Cheese & Wine' afterwards.



## Calendar

### March 2017

- 6 Great Hallingbury Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall 7 pm
- 7 Olive Branch - *Music Quiz* - The Rectory 2.15 pm
- 8 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35 - 1.55 pm  
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm
- 8 History Society - *History of the National Trust* - Village Hall 8 pm
- 11 Great Hallingbury Village Hall *Quiz Night* - Village Hall 7.30 for 8 pm
- 14 Friendship Club
- 18 Bishop's Stortford Choral Society concert - Methodist Church, South Street at 7.30 pm
- 22 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35 - 1.55 pm  
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm
- 22 Great Hallingbury WI Open Meeting - *Man on the Spot - reflections on 50 years as a journalist and broadcaster* - Great Hallingbury Village Hall 7.30 pm
- 27 Great Hallingbury Annual Parish Meeting - Village Hall 8 pm

### April 2017

- 4 Olive Branch - *Introduction to Spinning* - The Rectory 2.15 pm
- 5 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35 - 1.55 pm  
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm
- 9 St Clare Hospice *10K Run*
- 9 Bishop's Stortford Dog Club *Companion Dog Show* - Village Hall and Field from 11 am
- 11 Friendship Club
- 12 History Society - *Essex Seaside Heritage* - Village Hall 8 pm
- 19 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35 - 1.55 pm  
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm

- 22 St Clare Hospice *Fishing Competition*
- 23 Easton Lodge *Open Gardens* 11.30 - 5 pm
- 26 Great Hallingbury WI - *AGM and Centenary Celebration* - Village Hall 7.30 pm
- 29 St Clare Hospice *Race Night*

### May 2017

- 2 Olive Branch - *Social Meeting* - The Rectory 2.15 pm
- 3 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35 - 1.55 pm  
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm
- 8 Great Hallingbury Parish Council Meeting & AGM - Village Hall 8 pm
- 9 Friendship Club
- 10 History Society - *Temple of Claudius at Colchester* - Village Hall 8 pm
- 17 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35 - 1.55 pm  
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm
- 23 Olive Branch - *Outing with Happy Circle members*
- 24 Great Hallingbury WI - *Bishops Stortford Food Bank. Milne Goldspink* - Village Hall 7.30 pm
- 27/28 Garden Open, Hatfield Heath - see page 26
- 31 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35 - 1.55 pm  
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm

### Advance Dates

- 24 June *Midsummer Masked Ball* - Village Hall
- 16 July *Hallingbury Flower Show*

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

**Monday, 6th March 7 pm Village Hall**

**Monday, 8th May 8 pm Village Hall**