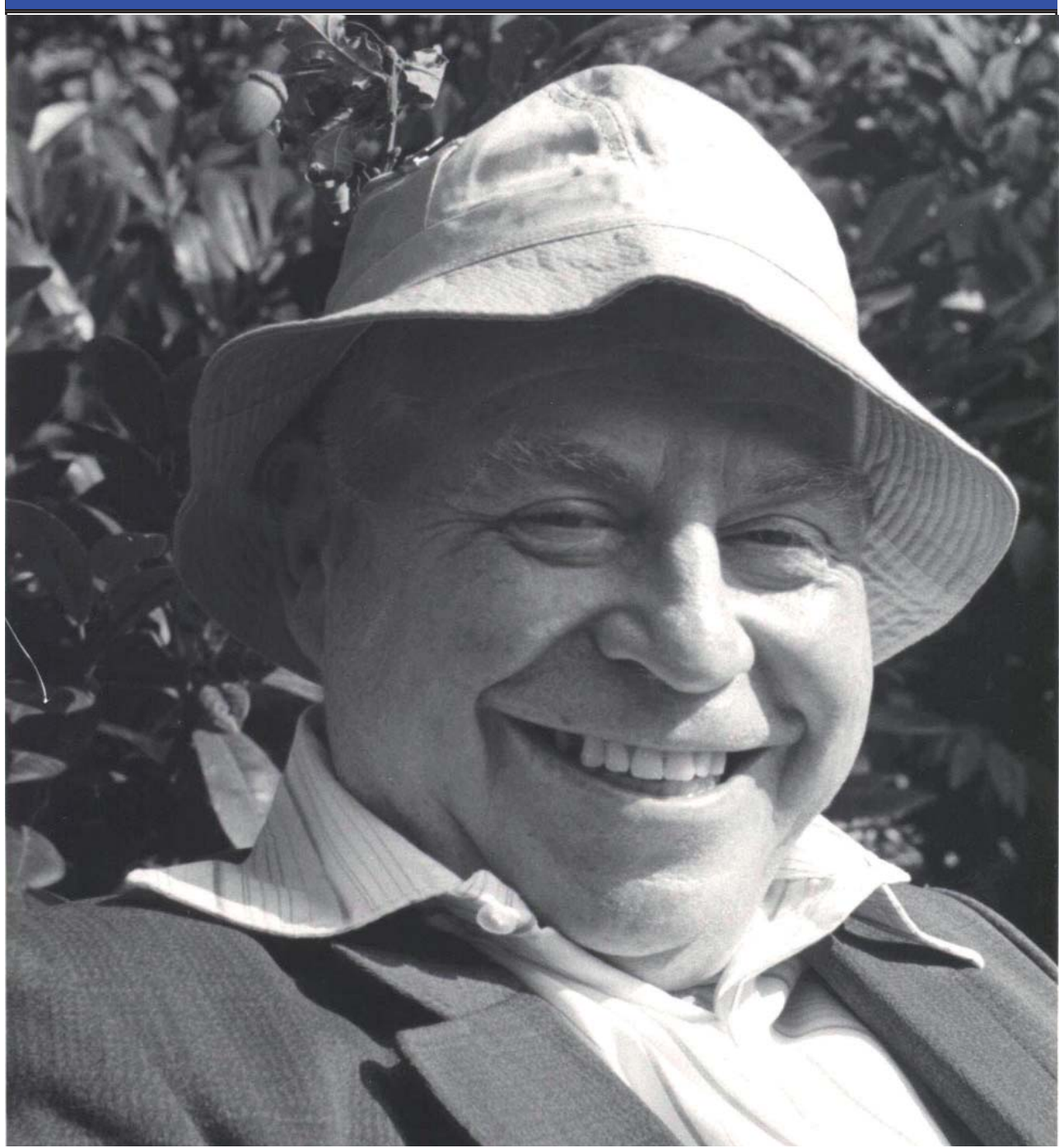


Great Hallingbury Highlights

Spring 2016

Vol. 69

An independent publication giving news on matters affecting Great Hallingbury



Ernie Field 1922 - 2016

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 7TO
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

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

Ernie's Funeral

The Family's View

Thursday, 7th January, was a day of both sadness and celebration. The route of the cortege with Ernie's sons and daughters (Maureen, Sandra, Liz, Colin and Chris) went through Bush End where it paused for a minute outside Bush End Church - a place special to Ernie (he went to School right next door to the Church) and where both his Parents and Sister are buried. Sheering was next, a place that holds a lot of memories as Nora grew up there and they married in Sheering Church in 1945.

At Parndon Crematorium the coffin looked resplendent draped with a union Jack, a gesture afforded ex-servicemen, and was led in by Royal British Legion Standards, a great honour. The Service, taken by Rev Janice Green, included readings and music with the theme from the Dambusters playing him out, which was befitting for an old RAF man.

Back in Great Hallingbury, we welcomed both family and friends to the thanksgiving service on a bitterly cold day in St Giles' but we weren't prepared for the sheer numbers of people that turned up for our Dad. We were truly overwhelmed.

The service was one of celebration with memories, his favourite hymns, readings and music as well as laughter. The Church Choir sang *The Lord's my Shepherd*, the theme tune to the Vicar of Dibley which is what Dad called Janice the first time he met her. The Choir sang it brilliantly, it was truly fantastic.

After the service there was a buffet lunch in the Village Hall which was full of pictures of Dad and memories of 68 years of living in Great Hallingbury.

We, Ernie's sons and daughters, would like to thank Rev Green for taking two services, Heather and Philip Hayes for all their help setting up the church and music, the choir for their time, Mick and Sandra Saban from the Royal British Legion, Martin Mugele, Freda Townsend and Sue Meyer for their contributions at the service, the Village Hall Committee for allowing us to use the Hall and accepting no payment, Small but Perfect Caterers, Christine and Ron Coultrup for *Hallingbury Highlights* and everyone who attended the Service and, in doing so, making it a very special day.

Chris Field

Ernie Field 1922 - 2016



I think most people must know that we have lost Ernie Field, a major figure in Great Hallingbury as well as in Little Hallingbury and other parishes around us. He was a remarkable man, a truly renaissance man as illustrated by his writings published in books and in *HIGHLIGHTS*. You would not do better if you went to the Great Hallingbury website www.essexinfo.net/great-hallingbury-parish-council/ and looked at the back copies of *Great Hallingbury HIGHLIGHTS* where you will find many autobiographical articles and, of course, to the books he authored which are on sale from the Great Hallingbury History Society. There is so much one could say about this extraordinary man but we will take the direct quotations from his family at his Thanksgiving Service.

*It seemed like a good idea
To sit and take the time
To write a few words about Dad
And put It into rhyme.*

*I've always been proud of Dad
And all the things he's done.
I know I can hold my head up high
And say I'm proud to be his son.*

*I want to thank him for his stories
That he loved and always shared,
And for asking me what I'm up to
And for showing that he cared.*

*I thank him for the midnight lifts
And bringing me back from town,
And for stopping halfway up Pig Lane
Cos I couldn't keep it down!*

*I thank him for all he gave me,
For shaping me into a man,
From my bladder to my good looks,
He made me what I am.*

*He would ask me about everything
And was proud of what I've done.
I'm thankful for the time we've had
And he's now up there with Mum.*

*I think about all the years we've shared
And it makes me really sad
That not once can I ever remember
Simply saying, I love you Dad.*

Colin

From an early age, we were very aware that Dad's life revolved around his Garden. Holidays and days out were all arranged around what was happening in the garden at a particular time of year. We never wanted for fresh vegetables though and most dinners would include several portions of fresh veg. We had so much roughage in our diet we were like walking Growbags.

We would normally expect Dad home between 6.00 and 6.15 in the evening. He loved a routine, and woe betide anything that upset it which meant he would be late getting into his beloved garden. Every now and then, operation Ernie would be compromised by *the points*. For years I thought *the points* was a code for something only he and Mum knew about. But whatever they were, they seemed to hold mystical powers that could test the resilience of even the most hardened of men. Eventually I learnt that *the points* was British Rail's way of occasionally making every one's life a misery, especially those whose gardens were beckoning. Well that's what Dad said anyway.

Now, if he arrived home on time, he was usually in a good mood. 10 minutes late and it was fair to middling. Any later and Black Sabbath or Motorhead was a definite no no. However, once safely out in his garden the blood pressure would ease to a more respectable level and 10 The Grove would be a calmer place. Ern was very much a country boy and was never happier than when tending his soil.

Chris

He was such an interesting man and always had a tale to tell. He would sometimes name drop like celebrities do today which always made me smile. And ever since I joined the police he enjoyed telling me of his adventures and involvement in things like the great train robbery. I wish though I had spent longer asking about these things as a teenager as I think I may have understood him better in his later years. I always found him to be very patient with me and our joint interest in horses got me involved in the riding stables down Leapers Lane for my work experience at school and an afternoon grooming the horses that pull the coaches, also down Leapers Lane. He led a full and interesting life and I am very proud that he was my Grandad!

Nikki

At one point I was helping Grandad with his computer and it turned out that, in order to keep track of his files, he had a habit of *deleting* them so that he knew where they would be (i.e. the Recycle Bin, the closest place on the computer to complete oblivion. Sort of like parking your car next to a cliff so you know where it is). Not exactly best practice! Nevertheless, I always saw it as a sign of his willingness to grab technology and the modern world by the horns well into his retirement. He'd ask for help when he needed it but he worked out a lot of it all for himself and stuck with it despite the many frustrations that this stuff comes with.

Stephen

I was always very proud of my Grandad and would always tell people about him. I told them that my Grandad was a surfer dude, meaning he surfed the Internet. I was always very impressed with his use of computers and the Internet. One thing that made me the most proud, is how he looked after Nan as her health deteriorated. I remember one Sunday turning up around lunchtime and he was cooking roast dinner for them. They invited me to stay, which I felt very guilty about but they insisted and shared their dinner for two with me.

Sarah

As I got older, going back to Nan and Grandad's was like being wrapped up in a warm blanket – a haven from all of life's stresses, full of happy childhood memories, the one place where everything was just as it always was. But, as Grandad would remind you, *every time you come there's something new*. And there was. He always had something to show you and some news to tell.

Grandad had a real energy for life, he was very excitable – you would either get a heated account of something that was currently upsetting him or you'd get a funny story that would often end up with him howling with laughter himself. Either way you'd be thoroughly amused.

For all of the pride and inspiration that his amazing life gave me, I think it will be memories of his sense of humour that I will treasure the most.

Mark

Since Mum passed away in 2008, Dad's past became very important to him. He loved to reminisce about his days in the RAF in particular. He liked sharing his experiences, particularly his memories of being stationed at RAF Habbaniya in Iraq during the early forties. The year before Mum died he had marched at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday representing RAF Habbaniya. He remarked afterwards that he had done it once and that would be it; however, we had several more visits to the Cenotaph after that with one of us pushing him in his wheelchair. The last two visits, his last march came in 2013, he was picked up from home, taken to the Cenotaph and brought home again by the Poppy Cabs. The Poppy Cabs are a group of London Black Cab drivers who give up every Remembrance Sunday to ferry Veterans to and from the Parade (for nothing, they refuse any payment). I don't think they get nearly enough credit for this but, without their generosity, Dad would not have made it as many times as he did. As the oldest member of the unit, Ironside had the honour of handing over the wreath on his way past the Cenotaph in his wheelchair; he loved it. Now that Dad has gone it truly is the end of an era. For the first time since 1948, there are no Fields living in Great Hallingbury. For years Mum, Dad, Joan and Malcolm were at the forefront of much that happened here. I know for sure that the Village is not the same place without them. I would like to thank you Dad for being a fantastic Father and for giving us all such great great memories.

Chris



**Pharmacist
to customer:**

"Sir, please understand, to buy an anti-depression pill you need a proper prescription...
Simply showing a marriage certificate and your wife's picture is not enough".

**Someone
asked an old man :**
"Even after 70 years, you still call your wife, Darling, Honey, Luv! What's the secret?"
Old man : "I forgot her name and I'm scared to ask her".

**Common
sense is a
flower that
doesn't grow
in everyone's
garden.**

HALLINGBURY FLOWER SHOW

78th Annual Hallingbury Flower Show

This year's Hallingbury Flower Show will be on Sunday 24th July at Harps Farm, Great Hallingbury, by kind permission of the Streeter Family. As in recent years, judging of exhibits will take place the day before.

Arrangements are already under way to make the show, which this year will have a farm theme to it, a great success. There will be plenty of entertainment for all the family, the exhibitors' marquee, family games, some retail therapy. We will also be having a Dog show this year so feel free to bring your hounds!

The wonderful ladies of Great Hallingbury WI will once again be running the refreshments and we have added a hog roast this year. Perfect for a Sunday afternoon!

If you would also like to help on the day, even if it is only for a couple of hours, we would love to hear from you. The more assistance we have, the more we will be able to offer. Or if you know of anyone wanting a stall for the afternoon then please get in touch. We are open to ideas so if you have any suggestions, please let us know.

Keep an eye out for the schedules which we are hoping will be online and in hard copy in Little Hallingbury Post Office by Easter.

Looking forward to seeing you there supporting village life!

Cormac Conway
cormacconway@aol.com
01279 508887

Sue Kirkwood
kirkyss@aol.com
01279 726758

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FREE PARKING

Great Hallingbury WI



We started the New Year with our annual meal which this year was held in the evening at the Bishop's Stortford Golf Club. Despite it being January, we still had Crackers on the table and held our Secret Santa swap.



A delicious meal was served and everyone thoroughly enjoyed catching up with friends since our last meeting in November.

We have a full programme for 2016 with social events and interesting speakers:- *Confessions of a Jewellery Junkie* and *London*

Exposed to name just a few. Our programme is displayed on the notice WI board in the village hall and details are included in the Calendar on page 36.



We meet at 7.30pm the 4th Wednesday each month. We have a Facebook page and a website <http://greathallingburywi.weebly.com/>

Visitors are always welcome.

Beverly Moore



Essex Fire & Rescue *Options for change 2016-2020*

Have your say on the future shape of Essex County Fire and Rescue Service which is undertaking a major change programme to deliver a future that is service led, community focused, values driven and financially sustainable.

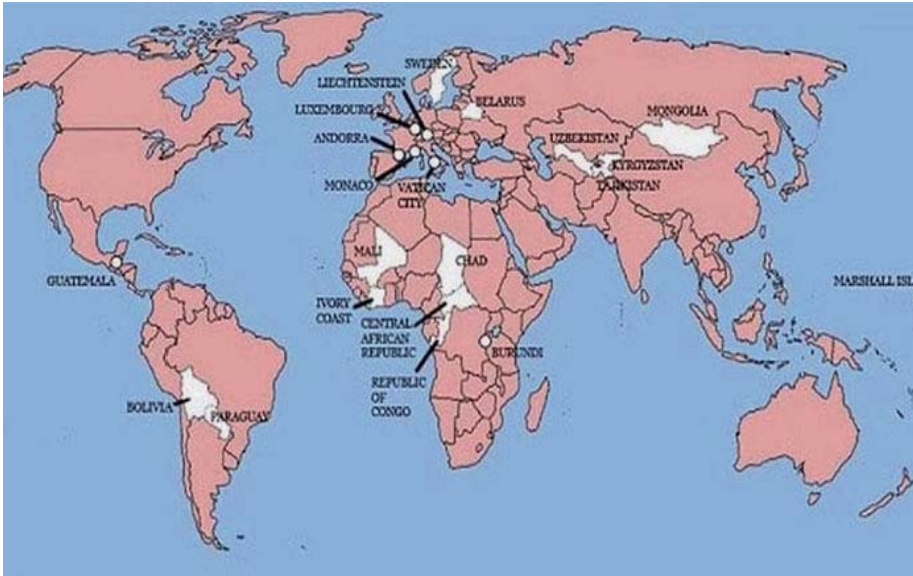
Over the last decade the Service has seen the number of incidents it attends reduce by around a half. At the same time, the Service has increased its work on preventing fires and emergencies in the first place and protecting people and businesses.

A consultation is underway providing three models of how the service could operate and be resourced, aiming to balance prevention, protection and responding to incidents, while remaining financially sustainable.

All options have the common factors of £3 million extra invested in prevention, additional savings of over £2m from support functions and NO fire station closures.

For more details or to add your ideas go to http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk/interactive/Options_for_change_2016-2020/

Fascinating Maps



This map shows countries (in white) that England has never invaded. There are only 22. (In the WORLD!)

It may not come as a surprise but more people live inside the circle than outside of it.



This map shows (in white) where 98 percent of Australia's entire population lives

St Valentine's Day

A day of romantic innocence for shy lovers to express feelings anonymously



In my lifetime, I have seen *St Valentine's Day* change from mainly school children plucking up the courage to send anonymous - or not so anonymous - hand made cards secretly declaring their love into a totally commercialised event pushed by the beneficiaries that trade on the day - cardmakers, florists, restaurateurs and chocolate manufacturers - encouraging couples of all ages to reaffirm their love.

But aside from all that, what do we know about this day? It may surprise you to realise that, according to some historians, the date 14th February has pre-Christian Roman origins. It was the three day *Lupercalia* celebrations of fertility, health and renewal.

What of St Valentine? There were a number of St Valentines but historians have settled on two who were early Christians, both clerics, to whom this day may be attributed. One was a priest who was thought to have died normally in 495 AD, the other a Bishop who was martyred for being a Christian some 300 years earlier.

It will come as no surprise that the medieval *St Valentine's Day* tradition originated with a famous writer, like Dickens, Austen and Shakespeare who are all responsible for other traditions. I refer to Geoffrey Chaucer. Although not solely responsible, courtly love and chivalry was already in the popular imagination, he captured this mood when he wrote in *The Parliament of Fools* about the first anniversary of the engagement of King Richard II and Anne of Bohemia. Subsequently, three or four poets referred to love on St. Valentine's day, including John Donne.

In the 18th century, printers had begun to

produce what were known as *mechanical Valentines* which were the beginning of anonymously sending cards with a made up poem or one already well known, often including:

The rose is red, the violet's blue,
The honey's sweet and so are you.

Thou art my love and I am thine:
I drew thee to my Valentine:
The lot was cast and then I drew
And Fortune said it should be you.

The practice of sending *Valentine Day* cards had grown in England so that, by 1835, they were printed and about 60,000 valentine cards were sent. This inevitably caught on in America and has currently reached about 190 million cards.



In the second half of the 20th century, the practice of exchanging cards was extended to all manner of gifts, typically including roses and chocolates packed in a red satin, heart-shaped box. In the 1980's, the diamond industry began to promote *Valentine's Day* as an occasion for giving jewellery.

The rise of internet popularity at the turn of the millennium is creating new traditions. Every year, millions of people use digital means of creating and sending *Valentine's Day* greeting messages such as e-cards or printable greeting cards. An estimated 15 million e-valentines were sent in 2010. *Valentine's Day* is considered by some to be a *Hallmark* holiday due to its commercialisation.

It's a long way from my school days of romantic innocence when the shy and reserved could declare their feelings anonymously! I am saddened by the present day extreme commercialisation but realise it is still very meaningful for a lot of people.

Ron Coultrup, Editor

Acknowledgements to Wikipedia and A&E Networks

Highlights from the Minutes of Meeting of Great Hallingbury Parish Council

11th January 2016

Present: Cllr A Townsend (Chairman), Cllrs D Barlow, M Bloomfield, K Juggurnath, A Noble, A Pinnock, V Wing and Mrs F Townsend (Clerk).

New Heating in St Giles'

The Chairman proposed that members give consideration to a request for financial assistance to supply new heating in the church. The clerk had checked that the Parish Council is able to support the church in this way and, because it still holds the Cilca qualification and as the church building is used for other events and functions, it is within its power to do so. Following discussion of the future use of the church and its importance as a village asset, it was agreed unanimously that we should honour this request and that a grant of £2,000 be given towards the new heating system.

Great Hallingbury Highlights

The Chairman had also received a presentation and request from Ron Coultrup, Editor of *Highlights* magazine, which had been distributed to councillors with the agenda. For some 20 years the costs of producing the magazine has been borne by Mr. & Mrs Coultrup. However, with consideration to the future of *Highlights* and the inevitable change in Ron's situation - he points out that he will be 86 at the end of this month - financial assistance is being requested. Discussion took place with reference to the costs of producing the *Great Hallingbury Highlights*, the informative and interesting content of it and that it is a tool for the Parish Council. The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council makes a quarterly payment of £500 to support the magazine and all present were unanimous in their

agreement. It was also agreed that we ask Mr. & Mrs Coultrup for an annual financial report.

Airport

The Parish Council's response to the Performance Based Navigation Consultation had been submitted and acknowledged.

UDC Local Plan Consultation

The Parish Council's response to this consultation had been submitted and acknowledged.

Highways

After at least two years of asking, the *kissing gate* at Woodside Green was replaced in November. Cllr M Bloomfield volunteered to clear the weeds around it.

Following a visit to Start Hill by Shane Taylor of North Essex Parking Partnership, an application has been submitted for the Highways Panel to consider making the area along by the garage a *Clearway*.

The Clerk had recently reported to Highways the flooding problems, presumably caused by blocked drains, at the bridge over the brook near to Captains, Church Road, and near to Lewismead, Tilekiln Green.

Housing Survey / Affordable Housing

Cllr A Noble reported that the planning application for the housing project at Tilekiln Green has now been submitted to Uttlesford. Once the Parish Council receives notice and a copy of the application, an extra-ordinary meeting will be held to give councillors and members of public the chance to fully examine and consider the proposals.

Superfast Broadband

No further updates on the broadband reception in the village have been received. The Clerk will contact ECC for further information.

Police

Weekly crime lists are once again being received. Councillors agreed that they would like the Clerk to continue to forward

these on to them. Cllr V Wing reported that she would meet soon with Alex Russell with regard to Neighbourhood Watch.

Village Greens

A notice with National Trust heading had been put on the Bedlars Green notice board asking for the grass to not be cut. The Chairman had spoken to Henry Bexley of the National Trust who did not know of the notice but did say that the NT is actually not cutting the green now. The Clerk will send a photograph of the notice to Henry Bexley and discuss with him the cutting of all the greens that the NT own in the village.

The Chairman and Clerk had attended a training day on Greens and Commons in October. The rights and registration of greens were discussed and we need to look further into our greens that are not yet registered and what is happening with those that are. It was suggested that we document, log and photograph all village greens and all agreed this would be a good thing to do. Cllrs D Barlow and V Wing will photograph our greens before the next meeting so that the Clerk may pursue the registration of them.

Cllr M Bloomfield reported that he had been promised some wild flower seed for part of Bedlars Green but asked, if this is not forthcoming, would the Parish Council be able to pay for some seed from another source. It was agreed that, since wild flower seeds would enhance Bedlars Green for all, the Parish Council would be able to buy these

Emergency Plan

Our current Emergency Plan is out of date. Necessary updates include details of new Councillors and a check on available services. It was agreed that a new template be set up using the existing plan which will then be reviewed by Councillors for any further amendments. Once approved, the new plan will be distributed to Councillors, Uttlesford District Council, Howe Green School and neighbouring villages.

Donations

Thank you letters have been received from St Giles' PCC, SSE & NWEHPA, Essex Air Ambulance and Uttlesford Community Trust for the donations sent before Christmas.

Buses

Details of a further consultation on bus route 319 have been received from ECC. This is a school day bus that currently runs from High Roding to Bishop's Stortford Boys High School, serving also Takeley and Great Hallingbury. The proposal is to change the route to run along the B1256 thus removing the service from Great Hallingbury as there are no students at present who qualify to use this service. In their response, the Parish Council will ask what are the entitlements for this free transport and what will happen in the future if there are students who do qualify in Great Hallingbury.

Budget

The budget for 2016/17 was discussed and reviewed and it was agreed that the precept will remain unchanged.

Planning

Application decisions: (the Council's comments are shown in brackets)

ApplicationNo. // Site and Development//Decision
 UTT/15/2891/FUL // Units 27-28 Stansted Distribution Centre // Change of use from B1 to B2 (general ind) // Consent (no obj.)
 UTT/15/2872/FUL // Little Jenkins, Jenkins Lane // Erection of external access stairs to domestic accommodation over kitchen showroom // Consent (no obj.)
 UTT/15/3061/HHF // Belmor House, Beldhams Lane // Orangery to rear // Consent (no obj.)

Applications dealt with by the Planning Working Group:

UTT/15/3365/HHF // Woodside House, Woodside Green // Erection of two storey front extension, front porch canopy and single storey rear extension part replacing conservatory under construction. Removal of ground floor front bay windows and erection of rear boundary fence // While

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the building is large, the proposed extensions would not create an unsightly visual impact, nor increase the footprint to a great extent. Therefore no objections were raised.

Applications dealt with at meeting:

UTT/15/3691/HHF & UTT/15/3692/LB // 90 Woodside Green // Proposed single storey rear extension // No objections raised.

UTT/15/3763/DFO // Land East of Cedar Cottage, Church Road // Details following outline application UTT/15/3785/OP for the erection of 1 no. dwelling - details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale // No objections raised.

Health

As our Health Representative, Cllr V Wing had visited the surgery at Hatfield Heath to enquire about ways to bring health and advice issues into the village. She had spoken with a Doctor who runs a Patient Consultation Group and he will copy her in on communications and come back to her if there is any more that he finds he can do for the village i.e. flu jabs. It may be possible that Cllr Wing could join the Consultation Group.

Lorry at Bedlars Green

Cllr D Barlow reported that a lorry has been parked at Bedlars Green for several weeks now. He and other local residents had made enquiries about it but to no avail. The police will only act on a report from the Parish Council. The Clerk will report this to the Police.

Bedlars Green Pond

Cllr D Barlow has been doing some clearance at Bedlars Green Pond and asked the Parish Council if they would have any objections to a willow fence being put alongside the pond as a means of protection. Councillors agreed to the fence being erected.

Parish Council Website

Cllr K Juggurnauth has been successful now in getting on to the *Parish Council* website as started by John Richards. However, he

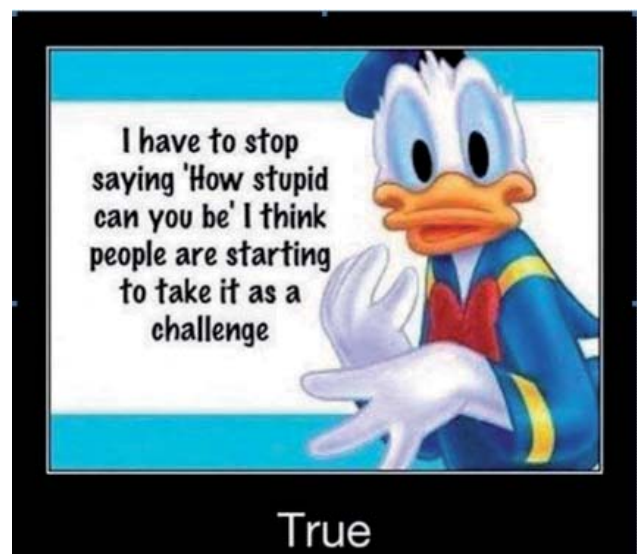
has found that the site is not secure in that access is possible by anyone. Discussion took place on beginning a new website for the Parish Council and asking John (and Christine Coultrup) to use the current one for the History Society only since its content is mainly History articles. This will be explored further by the Clerk and Cllr Juggurnauth.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 21st March, beginning at 8pm, in the Village Hall.

As well as the Annual Report from the Parish Council Chairman, we hope to have reports from local village organisations and possibly our County and District Councillors. The meeting will be followed by Cheese & Wine giving time and opportunity for an informal chat with councillors or representatives.

Please do join us for this meeting. Parish Councillors would like to meet as many villagers as possible.



Essex Police *Car key burglaries*



Burglars are breaking into houses while you sleep and targetting car keys to steal your car, taking any other small items they find on the way.

What can you do?

Firstly, before you turn in for the night check that all doors, ground floor windows and easily accessible windows are closed and locked. Don't forget that PVC doors are not fully locked until you have lifted the inside handle and turned the key or thumb-turn. When replacing a Europrofile lock cylinder, ensure that you get a TS1007 three star anti-snap, anti-bump lock cylinder.

If you have an intruder alarm and can do so, activate the downstairs zone when you go to bed. To stop the burglar getting to vulnerable windows and doors to the rear, ensure that side gates are closed and locked.



Put your car keys somewhere safe and out of sight when you return home,

in a drawer (preferably one that is noisy to open) or some other secure place but don't take them up to the bedroom with you.

If you have cars of different values, park the higher value car in your garage. If you can't do this, park the lower value car in front of the higher value one as thieves wanting to target high value vehicles will be deterred if they can't easily drive such a car away from the scene. Consider fitting a tracking system on high value cars but, a word of caution, you get what you pay for. Look for a system that uses RF frequency, 3 or 4G phone networks, SIM as well as satellite connection GPS. There are even systems where you can *Geo-fence* the vehicle location so that if it moves beyond this the tracking system is activated.

For further crime prevention advice phone the police non emergency number 101.

Grandmother of all Blonde Jokes



This blonde decides one day that she is sick and tired of all these blonde jokes and how all blondes are perceived as stupid. So she decides to show her husband that blondes really are smart.


While her husband is off at work, she decides that she is going to paint a couple of rooms in the house. The next day, right after her husband leaves for work, she gets down to the task at hand.

Her husband arrives home at 5:30 and smells the distinctive smell of paint. He walks into the living room and finds his wife lying on the floor in a pool of sweat. He notices that she is wearing a heavy parka and a leather jacket at the same time. He goes over and asks her if she is OK. She replies yes. He asks what she is doing and she says that she wanted to prove to him that not all blonde women are dumb and she wanted to do it by painting the house.

He then asks her why she has a parka over her leather jacket. She replies that she was reading the directions on the paint can and it said...

FOR BEST RESULTS, PUT ON TWO COATS.

**When I get old, I'm going to
move in with my kids,
hog the computer,
pay no bills,
eat all the food,
trash the house,
and when asked to clean,
pitch a fit like it's killing me!**



Hedgerows

Hedgerows define the English countryside and without them we would be a much poorer nation. But having said that, for a while it looked like the days of the hedge were numbered.



Our earliest hedgerows date back to Saxon times but, by the 1950s, they had fallen out of favour. During and after World War Two, farmers were being encouraged to grow as much food as was possible. They required larger fields with room to manoeuvre the bigger machinery that was becoming more common. At the same time, wire fencing was an affordable alternative for field boundaries, especially if livestock had to be contained within an area. Farmers took the grants that the Government offered to grub up thousands of miles of hedgerows. Between 1945 and 1970, over 120,000 miles of hedges were ripped up on farmland and another 20,000 miles were destroyed for non-agricultural projects such as urban developments, motorways and reservoirs. By the early 1990's half of Britain's hedges had been destroyed! But by the 1990's our attitude to hedges was changing, probably due to the massive reduction in birdlife and invertebrates in the countryside and it was thought that the loss of hedgerows was a huge factor in this decline.

A Haven

Hedgerows are a refuge for some of our most threatened wildlife. Today the UK has approximately 430,000 miles of hedges and they support thousands of species of insects, hundreds of types of plants, dozens of bird species and mammals as well.

In 1997, campaigns by organisations including the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and Natural England (part of DEFRA - the Department of Farming and Rural Affairs) led to new hedgerow regulations being introduced. Landowners now have to ask permission to remove any countryside hedgerows that are over 20 metres long and over 30 years old. Ironically, the biggest threat now facing our hedgerows isn't by removal but how they are managed. The majority of our hedgerows are either over-managed or completely abandoned.

Since the advent of the mechanical flail hedgecutter, most hedges are managed by annual trimming. It is said that hedges can be severely damaged if they are cut back to the same point year after year. The hedge can become stunted, almost mushroom shaped, with gaps in the base with very little value in terms of habitat. I dispute this. Harps Farm's drive hedge is probably the most managed hedge on the entire farm and is usually trimmed twice a year. With careful trimming, it has retained all of its base branches which reach right down to the ground, affording cover for many types of birds. Nests of chaffinch, linnet,



yellowhammer, long tailed tit, blackbird, thrush, sparrows and whinchat can regularly be found in the hedge. A kestrel often nests in the oak tree within the hedge and barn owls, short eared owls, little owls and sparrowhawks can all be seen within this hedge.

Hedges provide fruit and berries for wildlife in Autumn and Winter. However, if you cut back the hedge every year, you get less or no berries because fruit is produced mainly on older wood.

At the other end of the scale is neglect. If you leave a hedge alone, after some years it will revert to nature and will become a row of trees. This blocks light for vulnerable shrubs and plants and leads to shading of field headlands (edges of fields), leading to possible waterlogging and loss of crop yield on field margins. In the 1980's, there were complaints within the village that the hedge from Pantiles corner to Copthall Close was over-managed (i.e. flailed to within an inch of its life) and, as a result, the farm decided not to cut that hedge anymore. For about 15 years very little was done to the hedge. Indeed, it reverted to nature and became a row of straggly trees! Then people started to complain that it looked messy and they had no view. You either manage it or you don't! The decision was then taken to cut the row of trees back to a hedge. At the time it probably looked fairly brutal because we cut the trees back down to 5/6 feet. However, within a year new growth had turned it back into a hedge. We do now cut it annually with a flail hedgecutter. Because it is a roadside hedge, this is acceptable but, if it was a field hedge, new guidelines suggest that it should only be cut every two or three years. However, in some years such as 2013-14, there was so much new growth that a hedge left for three years would be out of control.

A roadside hedge between Spellbrook School and Sawbridgeworth was left to grow for three years. The local council intervened threatening prosecution within two weeks if the hedge in question wasn't cut because it was encroaching onto the pavement, making it difficult to walk safely! That's all very well but we do cut our hedges whilst it seems that, due to cuts, any hedges that should be managed by councils appear to be somewhat neglected.

A conservation group called Hedgeline is made up of a number of organisations including CPRE, Natural England, the National Farmers Union and the Tree Council. It encourages landowners to think about how they manage their hedgerows, advising them to trim on a 2/3 year rotation. A lot of farmers tend to hedgecut after harvest when the ground is dry and therefore easy to move about on but it would be better to wait until late winter when the berries and fruit have been eaten by wildlife. This is fine in theory but in late winter soil conditions - especially this year - can make it difficult to get onto the land which might cause damage to soil structure and to recently planted crops. For every pro there is always a con. It is usually a fine balance that has to be achieved.

Local hedges

We often do hedge and ditch work in the winter preceeding a spring crop in particular fields enabling us to get on the land during winter. By leaving headlands of fields unploughed, we can then address any problems we have. In recent years, we have been reclaiming hedges at Harps that had been *let go* in the 1980's. One particular hedge is probably one of the oldest on the farm. A rough guide to ageing a hedge is by counting the number of species of woody shrub that appear within it as each species of woody shrub denotes 100 years' growth. If a hedge was planted with a single species, other species colonise that hedge over time. The species that appear in this hedge at Harps are hazel, oak, ash, field maple, blackthorn, hawthorn, buckthorn, spindle, elder, guilder rose, dog rose, elm, holly and yew. So the hedge is, give or take, 1400 years old! This hedge has been laid at some time in the past because, by looking at the base of the hedge, you can see where stems have been cut nearly all the way through and then pushed down to almost a horizontal plane. They regrow, pushing out lots of vertical branches which thickens the hedge, making it animal



A Laid Hedge

proof. But it also enhances the health and longevity of a hedge.

In the last few years, we have been cleaning out a lot of ditches around the Matching Green area. The problem with it is that the councils are reluctant to let us clean ditches from the roadside so we have to do it from the field side. As there are often hedges associated with ditches, we have a problem. The answer is to coppice (cut down trees or hedges near to the ground), enabling us to get at the ditch to clean it out. Regrowth of the hedge is usually fairly quick and within a year or two you have a *brand new hedge*.



Lime Tree Coppiced

Coppicing, like laying a hedge, helps with the longevity of the trees within it. (In the woods at Patmore Heath, near Albury, are some huge coppiced oaks, hornbeam and lime trees. One of the limes has over 30 stems, 80 feet tall and 8 feet in girth. They are very old but in great health.)

Back in the day that farms employed quite a large workforce just to look after ditches and hedges, the ditches were dug by hand and the hedges often laid. For a farm of 4,000 acres, 10/12 full time hedge/ditch men would have been employed. Now, on a farm of 4,000 acres, there are 4 full time workers!

At Matching, the problem we are trying to sort out is a build up of water in the ditches. Ditches silt up over time because of leaf litter (from the hedge) as well as dead wood and, of course, litter. In a 500 metre section of ditch, we uncovered an old oil barrel, workmen's plastic fencing barriers and road signs, old tyres, a 1950's bicycle frame, a car trailer, a toaster, sections of old metal water pipe, bags of empty whisky bottles, old glass bottles and, of course, hundreds of modern plastic drink bottles, Costa Coffee cups and McDonald drink cartons!

Having coppiced the hedge, the ditch is ready to be cleaned out with a mechanical digger. One end of the ditch opens out into a pond which, in turn, outflows underneath house hold driveways in a concrete channel. But about four houses down, the ditch has been filled in with stone and rubbish so this part is blocked. When we clear the pond outflow!! Anyway, I digress, back to hedges.

Regulations

As farmers, we have to follow a lot of regulations concerning hedges, the main one being that we can only cut hedges from the start of September until the end of February. After that birds will be nesting there. We used to have a close season from end of January until the end of June to allow for this but the season has been extended to protect wood pigeons (flying rats) which tend to nest later!!

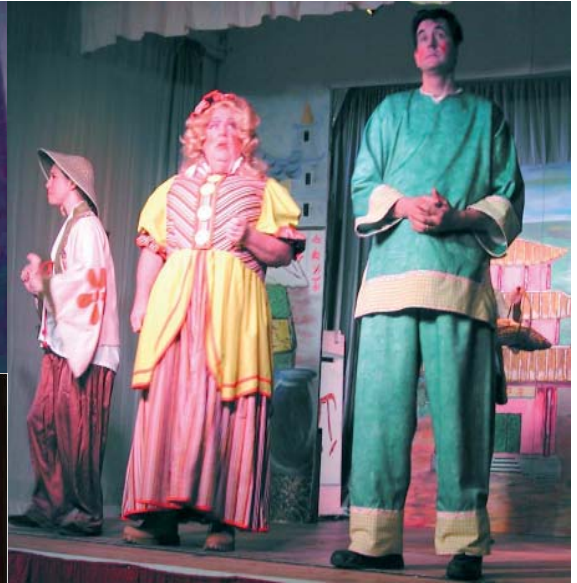
My question is why don't garden hedges come under the same legislation? As gardens and their hedges are recognized havens for wildlife, it seems odd that a householder can cut his hedges at any time of the year, thus disturbing nesting birds. It would be beneficial to wildlife if hedges aren't cut until the end of June at the earliest. I will leave that one for you to think about.

Managing hedgerows is costly and time intensive but I think we can be confident about the future of England's hedgerows. They have survived for centuries and they will give the countryside its pattern and form for centuries to come.

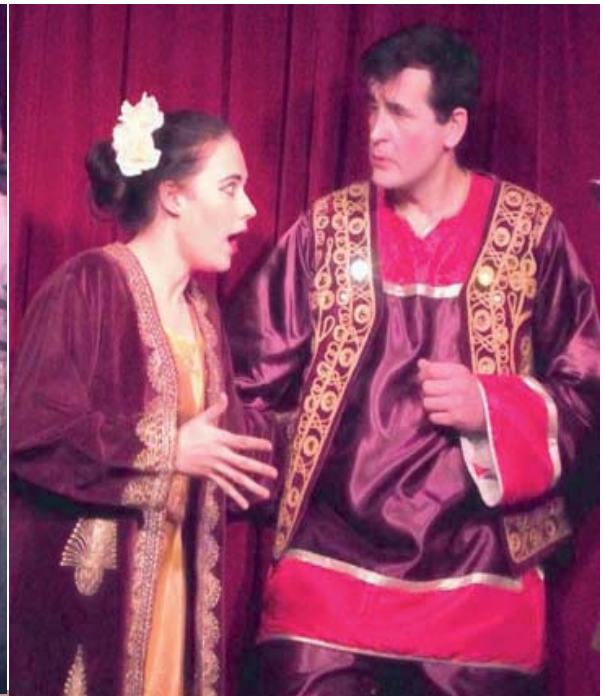
Go On; hug a hedge!!!

David Barlow

Little Hallingbury Panto Group's 2016 production ALADDIN



Little Hallingbury Panto Group's
2016 production ALADDIN



*Photographs courtesy of Janice Green,
Alison Hutley and Sue Meyer*

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Aladdin

*Little Hallingbury
Panto Group*



A Thoroughly

Enjoyable Evening's Entertainment

When you have that genuine desire to entertain, the warmth comes across the footlights and this is always true with the Little Hallingbury Panto Group. Their enduring enthusiasm and sense of fun was again evident in their latest pantomime *Aladdin*, by Toby Bradford and Tina Webster from the NODA collection, playing to a packed and appreciative audience. They might not have the best of venues, staging and lighting facilities (though they've got a pretty sophisticated lighting gantry now), but they always manage to put on a very well-rehearsed and accomplished performance.

Young **Sam Thorpe** made a delightful *Aladdin*, well supported by **Mark Hutley** as *Wishie Washee*, their scenes together extremely well-played and enjoyable. Their timing throughout the performance was impeccable. **Alan Townsend** gave an endearing and entertaining performance as their mother *Widow Twanky*. The scene in the laundry with a full-size mock-up of a commercial washing machine, dryer and mangle, complete with moving dials etc., was hilarious and very ingenious. Well done to the set designers, **Bill and Veronika Williams**, and set builders, with a special mention for **David Allum**, in creating this scene and, indeed, the other very colourful scenes depicting the market square and the palace throne room. This, together with the authentic Chinese style costumes provided by The Costume Store, Dunmow, created an extremely pleasing visual backdrop.

The villain of the piece, *Abanazar* was captivatingly played by **Steve Perry**, with a comically mispronounced Chinese accent, working the audience to the best of his ability, aided and abetted by his two henchmen, *Hi*, played by **Duncan Row**, and *Lo*, by **Jonny Hays**, who were constantly being brow-beaten. Another comic duo, *PC27* and *PC39*, convincingly played by **David Allum** and **Keith Brown**, tried to keep the audience under control with their flourishing truncheons and their flashing blue lighted helmets. What a hoot, especially their

entrance to the music from *Z Cars*!

Marianne Bullen was very confident and assured as the object of *Aladdin's* affections, *Princess Jasmine*, with a delightful singing voice. Her mother, *The Empress of Peking*, was regally played by **Corinna Cranch**, who, I must compliment, kept her poise with every small mandarin-style step she took, in keeping with her very beautiful and authentic costume. It perhaps would have been nice if the ladies of her court could have managed to copy this authentic walk, too, when wearing their lovely kimonos.

There were good performances, too, from **Poppy Lawrance**, as *Princess Jasmine's* friend *Tingaling* and **Sid Perry** as *Slave of the Ring*. As *Jeanie, the Genie of the Lamp*, **Rebekah Cranch** was delightful, complaining to *Aladdin* that when he called her up, could he please avoid doing so when she was either applying a face pack or doing her nails! Last, but not least, **Jessica Jones** did an excellent job in her multiple roles as the *Emperor's Herald*, *Mini Washee* (in the laundry scene), *the Jewel Dancer* in the cave and the *Skeleton* in the *he's behind you* scene.

The musical accompaniment, provided by **Philip Hays**, complemented the action with a good mix of well-chosen solo and chorus songs. The lighting and sound plot was, in the main, well-timed and controlled by **Gordon Clarke** and **Dee Owen** with **Chris Rohrer** on sound. There was just one little blip during the opening scene which didn't faze the cast at all. The backstage crew, under the direction of **Ralph Thompson**, worked extremely hard to ensure all scene changes were executed swiftly, keeping the pace constant throughout.

This was a thoroughly enjoyable evening's entertainment for all Panto lovers. Oh yes it was!

Sue Hartwell

NODA East District 7 Assistant Representative

This review is provided by the representative of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association who attend all pantomimes and judge their performance for nominations for the NODA regional awards.

Remembering 1915

Notable Deaths in the Hallingburys

Four men from the Hallingburys lost their lives fighting for King and Country in 1915.



Herbert Revill, who is commemorated on both the Great Hallingbury and the Little Hallingbury War Memorials, died on 20th April, 1915, aged 29 years. He was a private in the Bedfordshire Regiment and is buried at the Oosttaverne Wood Cemetery in Belgium. According to the Essex Newsman (28th August, 1915), Herbert Revill was killed in action at Hill 60, which was situated south of Ypres. He had only been at the front for two weeks, having joined the army soon after war broke out. In 1911, Herbert Revill was living with his widowed mother, Sarah Revill, near The George, which at the time was in the parish of Great Hallingbury. Herbert's father, John, an agricultural labourer, had died in 1908. John Revill had married Sarah Halls in Little Hallingbury on 29th September, 1860, and they had had nine children, three girls and six boys. Herbert, their youngest child, was born in 1885 in Little Hallingbury. His occupation was given as farm labourer or agricultural labourer in both the 1901 and 1911 Censuses. Two of Herbert's brothers also served King and Country in the Great War; Ernest Revill, born in 1883, and Walter Revill, born in 1876.

George Joseph Cox died on 30th June, 1915 and is commemorated on the Great Hallingbury War Memorial. George Cox was aged 44 years when he died and was the oldest casualty from the Hallingburys to die in the Great War. Cox was a Stoker 1st Class on *HMS Lightning* which struck a mine near the Kentish Knock Light vessel, killing fifteen of her crew. The *Lightning* broke in half, the bow section sinking while the stern was towed back to Sheerness. The ship's captain was absolved of any blame but was advised that he *might have considered he was in a mine field, having already spotted three mines*. George Cox was born in Kentish Town, London, in 1871. In the 1901 Census he is recorded as a Stoker (Royal Navy) living in a *Soldiers and Seaman's Home* in Chatham where, presumably, he met his wife, Florence, who had been born in Chatham in 1884 and whom he married in 1906. By 1911 Cox was employed in the Sewage Works in Great Hallingbury as a Stationary Engine Man, seemingly having left the Royal Navy but he returned for duty when hostilities commenced in 1914. George Cox, whose death was reported in the Essex Newsman (10th July 1915), was buried in Bishop's Stortford Old Cemetery and is also commemorated on the Bishop's Stortford War Memorial.



George Blake, who is commemorated on the Great Hallingbury War Memorial, died on 25th September, 1915. He was a sergeant in the Bedfordshire Regiment and in 1911 he had been serving with his regiment in Bermuda and Jamaica. George Blake was born in Great Hallingbury in 1893, the ninth child of Arthur and Sarah Blake. The family was living in Gerald Terrace in 1911 and Arthur Blake was a platelayer. He had married Susan Rolfe (formerly a servant in the household of Joseph Tippler, a farmer living in Harps Farm with his wife Susannah and their four children) in 1874 and they had ten children, five boys and five girls. Two of George Blake's brothers also served in the Great War. His elder brother, Henry Charles, also served with the Bedfordshire Regiment and died on 25th October 1917. His younger brother, Thomas, survived the war. George Blake's

body was never found and he is commemorated on the Loos Memorial, Pas-de-Calais. At the time of his death, his father Arthur was living at 131 London Road, Bishop's Stortford but his mother, Susan, had died in 1913 aged 60. Arthur Blake died in 1928 aged 74.

Hubert George Smith, who is commemorated on the Little Hallingbury War Memorial, died on 22nd November 1915 in Mesopotamia. His body was never found and he is commemorated on the Basra War Memorial. Hubert Smith was a corporal in the Royal Horse Artillery, having enlisted in the army at the age of fourteen in 1904 and seen service with in India. Born in Little Hallingbury in 1890, he was the fourth child of Charles and Hannah Smith. Charles Smith had married Hannah Johnson in 1885 and they had five children: four boys and one girl. Charles Smith was a gardener and in 1891 the family was living in Sutton Green and later in Motts Green. Charles Smith had also served in the army as his occupation in the 1911 Census is given as an Army Pensioner.

1915 also saw the death of two well-known Hallingbury Residents.



Rev. John Julius Baker, who had been Rector of Little Hallingbury for 34 years, died on 14th August, 1915. He was born in Hoddesdon in 1839 and attended Charterhouse School and Exeter College, Oxford, where he graduated in 1860. On 7th August, 1861, he married Elizabeth Jane Irwin in Burwash, Sussex. She had been born in Perth, Western Australia, in 1845. They had seven children, four boys and three girls. His third son, Arthur William Baker, died on 28th July, 1916, fighting on the Somme. Rev. Baker was Curate of Yoxhall, Staffordshire, from 1867 until 1880 when he became Rector of Little Hallingbury until his death. According to his obituary in the Chelmsford Chronicle (Friday 27th August 1915), he was an excellent raconteur. *Few parishes were better worked; few men's opinions on difficult subjects more valued.* The oak eagle lectern in St. Mary's, Little Hallingbury, was given to the church in memory of Rev. John Julius Baker.

Lady Alice Archer-Houblon (born 1849) died on 28th September, 1915. She was the widow of Colonel George Bramston Archer-Houblon who had been Lord of the Manor in Great Hallingbury from 1891 until his death in 1913, inheriting the estate from his uncle, John Archer-Houblon. George had married Lady Alice Lindsay, the daughter of the 25th Earl of Crawford, on 17th April, 1877. Lady Alice was the family historian, publishing in 1907 *The Houblon Family, Its Story and Times*. Much of our knowledge of the Houblons comes from this book. In 1904, Lady Alice was elected President of the National Union of Mistresses whose rules, according to a report on 26th August, 1904, in the Manchester Guardian, included that, *Members shall endeavour to make the conditions of service pleasant, healthy and moral for both men and women servants. Servants who are obliged to rise early must not be kept up till midnight.* Lady Alice died in Howe Green House. Her funeral, unlike her husband's, took place very quietly, as reported in *The Times* on 4th October. She was buried next to her husband in a newly consecrated extension to the Churchyard in St. Giles' Church. She was survived by four sons and three daughters.

Philip Hays



The Hundred Parishes Society



Spring is on its way!

Lengthening days indicate the approach of spring with increasing numbers of birds singing, twigs bursting into leaf and flowers opening.

With the recent unseasonably warm weather many flowers are already blooming: some are stragglers from last autumn, others are spring flowers opening early. Members of the Botanical Society of the British Isles recorded 612 different species in flower at the start of 2016 compared to 368 at the same time in 2015. Many spring flowers have yellow petals which are highly visible to passing insects but also help to lift our spirits on dull grey days! They include colt's foot, cowslips, daffodils, dandelions, lesser celandines, primroses and winter aconites.



Another with yellow petals is the rare oxlip which is only found in a few localities within west Essex, south Cambridgeshire and Suffolk. This is a perennial plant with a rosette of leaves from which arise

short stalks, each topped with a cluster of 10 to 30 pale yellow primrose-like flowers, all facing in the same direction. Sadly, this rather rare woodland plant is a threatened species as deer find its flowers very tasty. However, colonies of this beautiful plant can be seen in two of the nature reserves managed by Essex Wildlife Trust - Shadwell Wood near Saffron Walden and West Wood near Thaxted. Coppice management provides ideal conditions for oxlips as well as many other springtime species, so these woods are well worth a visit in the coming weeks.

A Dry Climate

Our area is one of the driest in England with

relatively low rainfall and no major lakes or rivers. There are, of course, lots of small rivers whose valleys contribute to the beauty of our countryside. Three have their source on the relatively high ground in the Henham and Debden area near the centre of the Hundred Parishes: the Chelmer eventually flows into the Blackwater and reaches the sea at Maldon; the Roding flows into the Thames; and the Cam flows north to join the Ouse and discharge at the Wash.

The absence of water has been a key factor in allowing this area to remain relatively unspoilt, with insufficient natural water supply to service major industrial or residential developments. However, man's ingenuity has enabled a growing population to survive with a variety of manmade devices to supplement natural water sources. Water is pumped from rivers or from deep artesian wells; farms have invested in reservoirs; and our waste water is recycled.

One of the most remarkable man-made devices for increasing water supply is the New River, which passes through the far southwest corner of the Hundred Parishes at Great Amwell. Water is pumped from the River Lea near Ware into this aqueduct and it flows south for nearly 30 miles through London's northern suburbs to Hackney. What is perhaps most surprising about the New River is that it was constructed over 400 years ago. At that time, it took desperately needed clean water into the heart of London. It still serves that purpose. The Hundred Parishes walk number 19 includes an interesting stretch of the New River.

Nonetheless, we sometimes get persistent rain making the use of our footpaths more challenging than usual and a decent pair of walking boots is essential. However, a few hours in the fresh air are usually rewarding in any conditions.

More information on both walks, the nature reserves and much else of interest is available on our website www.hundredparishes.org.uk.

Ken McDonald, Secretary

Great Hallingbury History Society



Richard III

A good number of members and guests recently listened to the Chairman of the Richard III Society arguing that King Richard III was not as bad as he is traditionally painted. It was very interesting and the events last year around the re-interment of Richard III attracted a lot of attention.

Richard, the last English king to die in battle, was killed at Bosworth Field in 1485, at the end of the Wars of the Roses. After his death his body was taken to the Greyfriars Church in Leicester and buried in a hastily dug grave. His grave's location became a mystery until it was found under a municipal car park in a discovery that stunned archaeologists and drew worldwide attention.

Before reburial, over 20,000 people filed past Richard III's bier lying in state in Leicester Cathedral. The coffin processed through the streets of Leicester to a funeral service conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury and his remains were then laid to rest in a marble tomb.



Richard III Lying in State 2015 under a black cloth pall stitched with colorful images from his tumultuous times.

Funeral Procession through Leicester on a gun carriage led by mounted armoured knights



Richard III's tomb and memorial in Leicester Cathedral

SPRING PROGRAMME



The Gibson Family of Saffron Walden

Local brewers, bankers and benefactors

Wednesday, 9th March

Great Dunmow and the English Reformation

The impact of the changes in religion under the Tudors

Wednesday, 13th April



To Coin A Phrase

a light hearted lecture exploring the origins of some expressions we use in everyday conversation

Wednesday, 11th May



Meetings are held in Great Hallingbury Village Hall at 8 pm

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A bookseller conducting a market survey asked a woman, "Which book has helped you most in your life?"
 The woman replied, "My husband's cheque book !!"

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Two Women Were Playing Golf

One teed off and watched in horror as her ball headed directly toward a foursome of men playing the next hole.



The ball hit one of the men. He immediately clasped his hands together at his groin, fell to the ground and proceeded to roll around in agony.

The woman rushed down to the man, and immediately began to apologize.

'Please allow me to help. I'm a Physical Therapist and I know I could relieve your pain if you'd allow me,' she told him.

'Oh, no, I'll be all right. I'll be fine in a few minutes,' the man replied.

He was in obvious agony, lying in the fetal position, still clasping his hands there at his groin.

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At her persistence, however, he finally allowed her to help. She gently took his hands away and laid them to the side, loosened his pants and put her hands slowly and carefully inside. She then administered a tender and skillful massage for several long moments and softly asked, 'How does that feel'?

'Feels wonderful', he replied," but I still think my thumb's broken

The Police Years

Part 12: Southern Area Railway Policing



I was on duty at Victoria when the first television and video experiment was carried out. Whilst playing with the new toy, the camera focussed on a Frenchman who set down his case on the concourse and walked off. Almost immediately someone picked up the case and headed towards the Tube. From the isolated position in the Police Office little could be done (radios had not then been introduced) except to wait for the Frenchman to return. He was seen to gesticulate to a porter and in a matter of moments was ushered to the Police Office. Here he was placed in front of the video screen and the wonders of modern science revealed to him. He responded in a manner which would have made General De Gaulle proud but his tirade did not include praise for the Transport Police!

Sergeant Clarkson and I devised shifts which would give maximum coverage round the clock, often staying over to give added cover should the need arise. Often we both spent extra hours at Court or preparing cases for prosecution as our previously neglected Constables were now responding well. They knew who the villains were but had lacked encouragement. Now things were different - homes were searched and property recovered. Divisional Headquarters was satisfied.

Although thief catching was the prime objective there were other successes, notably at London Bridge where card sharps were prevalent operating the three card trick. Inspector Woodman and I watched from afar and one evening we pounced. Evading look-outs, we grabbed the 'banker' and a confederate. They were dealt with next day and lightly fined and were greatly surprised to get their 'banker' money back. An agreement was made. In order to keep up statistics, the gang agreed we should arrest members of their ilk provided we rotated them and this we did when complaints were received from the public.



Clapham Junction

Southern Area railways carried the highest passenger density in the country, most of which passed through Clapham Junction. It therefore followed that accidents were frequent, especially amongst permanent way staff. Inquests were common, also the task of breaking news of death to next of kin which had to be approached with tact and compassion. In

order to lessen delays in such cases a sack was left on the accident spot and possession of the line delayed to off peak periods when the necessary photos could be taken.

During my stay at the Bricklayers Arms depot, I dealt with many fatal accidents and thought I was hardened but events on October 24th, 1964, shook me. The telephone rang at 3.55pm. Our neighbour at home informed me my Father had been taken seriously ill and was in hospital, not expected to live. A Police car was available, every traffic light turned green as we approached and at Liverpool Street a train was just leaving. I arrived at Haymeads Hospital in Bishop's Stortford at Father's bedside at 5.15pm. Father was surprised to see me and was keen to tell me of false links he had found suitable for my portable garage. With that he turned on his side and never spoke again. His aorta was ruptured and he died that night. His death was a great shock to me. I thought I was hardened but I wandered about in a daze for days afterwards.

About this time train drivers on the Southern Railway decided to *go slow* by observing every rule in the book, much to the inconvenience of passengers. I spent several evenings

at Cannon Street station where the world's press gathered in anticipation. The Press Council gave strict instructions that the Press were to remain on the concourse. A *Daily Express* big-head thought otherwise and I confronted him as he came through the barrier. *Who's going to stop me?*, he leered. *A good question*, I replied as I hurled him through the barrier, stamping on his feet as I did so. The cameras clicked and whirred. The offender was hauled before the Press Council and due reference was made about big feet in the *Daily Express* next day!

In December an Officer at Bricklayers Arms noticed a case of wine on the boiler steps. The men on the goods bank were having their evening meal so a constable and I decided to conceal ourselves in the boiler room where it was very hot. Shortly after, we heard a strut being placed against the door as the wine was taken away. The prospect of spending a night in a stifling atmosphere loomed large but gradually, aided by a poker pushed through a small hole in the door, I was able to push the strut away. Knowing the suspect, we were at his house quickly but he refused admittance. Through a partly open door I could see Christmas presents already wrapped so I appealed to the wife, pointing out our powers and should we resort to a warrant the resulting mess we could make. The wife implored the husband to let us in on invitation and he eventually relented. Nothing incriminating was found; not surprising really when later we heard he regularly flogged wine to a local pub!

An innovation at that time was the introduction of Police dogs to the Southern region railway, previously restricted owing to the third rail electric system. It was decided to base dogs at Bricklayers Arms and four men were detached to the Police Dog training school for a ten week course. Meanwhile I was appointed Sergeant in charge with the responsibility of obtaining kennels, providing food and supervising their well being. Unofficially I was able to obtain a condemned railway van for kennelling at the Depot, for use when the dogs were not actually on patrol. Alsatian dogs are usually given to the Police when young, after their owners fail to control them. Handlers are chosen to suit each dog's temperament and then very intensive training is given. Often it is the handler's will power which eventually overcomes the dog's resistance. Such an animal was 'Kip' who took his handler, P.C Carter, to his limits. For weeks their battle of wills ensued until the constable eventually won the dog over. Thereafter the dog became a most obedient animal and later appeared on *Blue Peter* television and finished his career at the Police Training School where he was used for demonstrations.



Sir Winston Churchill's coffin travelling in state through London on the River Thames

January 30th 1965 was to be a memorable day as I was selected for duty on the funeral route of Sir Winston Churchill. Arriving at Bricklayers Arms that morning, the lads had done me proud. Laid out was a plumed cocked hat, as worn by a Police Commander, and there were medal ribbons which stretched across my 46 inch chest. They had also acquired a lanyard and sword. Unfortunately a camera was not present to record this bit of fun!

The funeral itself was full of pomp and ceremony. My first position was outside Cannon Street station as the cortege continued towards Tower Bridge pier; my next detail, a lone sentinel on Cannon Street rail bridge which crosses the Thames. All trains had been stopped and from this vantage point I could see Sir Winston's barge leave the pier. As it did so, cranes opposite dipped in one accord, a magnificent tribute. Shortly afterwards

the great man passed beneath me on his last Thames journey. I savoured the moment in silence paying my own personal tribute to a man, now a legend.

On March 29th, 1965, an *all stations* call was received. A train had crashed at Dagenham near to Elm Park station. Gathering a posse of men, we set off in our ancient Austin A40. We arrived at the crash scene to find a Sergeant from Kings Cross already busy, wondering when further help would arrive. Impressed with his application. I mentally noted his thorough approach should I ever need it in the future. Of course, it was a further night when I didn't get home!



As Sir Winston Churchill's coffin sails upstream, there is an RAF flypast and dockside cranes dip in tribute

On the 31st March I travelled to our Police School at Tadworth to sit an Inspector Technical Exam. I already held a First Class Education Certificate and knew that, should I pass this test, there was little chance of advancement as few vacancies were available. The day was a disaster. A party of us boarded the wrong portion of train at London Bridge and finished up miles from our destination. Taking a taxi, we arrived at the Police School very late. We were allowed to take our places in the examination but did not stand a chance of catching up. All failed miserably except one person from Headquarters who walked out half way through yet passed because he was earmarked to lead their Crime Squad!

The next day I was again in action, this time leading the Bricklayers Arms Police team in a fire fighting competition at Maidstone. We failed and got soaked. Later that day I was on duty at a Chislehurst Caves dance.

Elation, however, came on July 23rd, 1965, when my wife Nora, approaching 43, presented me with identical twin sons. Colin weighed in at 6lb 9oz and Christopher at 6lb 14 oz. The event was to change our lives. We were fortunate at the time to have good neighbours, and, with the additional help of our daughters, life took up a new pattern.

The Tobacco Cage at Bricklayers Arms was a big responsibility for some 25 million pounds worth of tobacco and other vulnerable goods passed through the cage daily. A Police Officer was permanently on duty at the entrance, usually 'Bob' Tindall, and some wag erected a notice above his head which read *do not feed*. He was really a sick man and was liable to *drop off*. It was an offence to be caught asleep so to avoid this one threw a handful of ballast on the tin roof as one approached and by the time one arrived he was wide awake! Bob had a claim to fame. He once, in a competition, guessed correctly the exact number of tea packets packed in a car at a Tesco store. He won the car but couldn't drive! Bob, a Northampton man, was rather naive; he married a prostitute without realising and she started touting for custom when he was on duty at Waterloo station. It became embarrassing so he transferred to Bricklayers Arms. However, in November 1965 we laid him to rest, his comrades acting as pallbearers.

It had always been my ambition to return to the CID department but a new Chief Constable had other ideas. I applied for detective vacancies when advertised but, although fully qualified, I was ignored and eventually I felt it might be better to apply for a uniform post where I could travel more easily. I applied for a vacancy at Euston and to my surprise received a call from Headquarters that a transfer would take effect from January 16th, 1966. A new era was about to unfold.

(Late) Ernie Field

Formerly President of Great Hallingbury History Society

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I Want a Divorce

A judge was interviewing a South Carolina woman regarding her pending divorce and asked, "What are the grounds for your divorce?"

"About four acres and a nice little home in the middle of the property with a stream running by."

"No," he said, "I mean what is the foundation of this case?"

"It is made of concrete, brick, and mortar," she responded.

"I mean," he continued, "what are your relations like?"

"I have an aunt and uncle and twelve cousins living here in town, as well as my husband's parents."

The judge took a deep breath and asked, "Do you have a real grudge?"

"No, we have a two-car carport and have never really needed one cos we don't have a car."

"Please," he tried again, "is there any infidelity in your marriage?"

"Yes, both my son and daughter have stereo sets. We don't necessarily like the music - all that hip hop and rap tap - but we can't seem to do anything about it."

"Ma'am, does your husband ever beat you up?"

"Yes, he gets up every morning before I do and makes the coffee."

The judge asked, "Is your husband a nagger?"

"Oh, hell no, he's as white as you and me!"

Finally, in frustration, the judge asked, "Lady, why in hell do you want a divorce?"

"Oh, I don't want a divorce," she replied. "I've never wanted a divorce, my husband does. The damn fool says he can't communicate with me."



Lily Este's Granddaughter

My name is Clare Gallagher, I am 37 years old and I'm about to run a marathon! Every weekend I can be found pounding the pavements of Hertfordshire, slowly building up my mileage. Why? Well.....

I am the granddaughter of Lily Este.

Lily was a resident of Great Hallingbury for many, many years and I have lots of happy memories of the village. Last year my little Nan became poorly and was admitted into hospital from where she was transferred to St Clare Hospice for care until she was strong enough to leave. Nan was under the care of St Clare Hospice for nearly three weeks when she took a turn for the worst and sadly passed away on 12th April, 2015. Little Nan was 103 years old when she died.

The care and love that the Hospice gave Nan was second to none and my family feels that the hospice nurses really were amazing. The hospice itself is light and friendly, we were able to spend as much time there as we wanted and nurses were always on hand if we needed anything. So, in memory of my lovely little Nan, I will be running the Brighton Marathon on 17th April to raise money for St Clare Hospice. What better way to honour my Nan's memory than to give back to the hospice.

St Clare Hospice is a charity providing specialist care for people living with a terminal or life limiting illness in West Essex and East Herts border, relying on donations and volunteer support. My family and I spent a cold November weekend at Harlow Garden Centre collecting money and have so far raised a total of £366.76. My target is £800 so, if you would like to help by making a donation in memory of an amazing lady, please visit www.justgiving.com/clareandwei. Thank you so much.

Clare

An Engineer's View

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DATA SHEET	
ELEMENT:	Woman
SYMBOL:	⊕
DISCOVERER:	Adam
ATOMIC MASS:	Accepted as 55kg, but known to vary from 45kg to 225kg
PHYSICAL PROPERTIES	
1. Body surface normally covered with film of powder and paint	
2. Boils at absolutely nothing – freezes for no apparent reason	
3. Found in various grades ranging from virgin material to common ore	
CHEMICAL PROPERTIES	
1. Reacts well to gold, platinum and all precious stones	
2. Explodes spontaneously without reason or warning	
3. The most powerful money reducing agent known to man	
COMMON USE	
1. Highly ornamental, especially in sports cars	
2. Can greatly aid relaxation	
3. Can be a very effective cleaning agent	
HAZARDS	
1. Turns green when placed alongside a superior specimen	
2. Possession of more than one is possible but specimens must never make eye contact	



Trivia quiz.....

Who do you know?

With which of the following names are you familiar?

1. Monica Lewinski
2. Tony Blair
3. Robert Mugabe
4. Alphonse Gabriel Capone
5. Jorge Bergoglio
6. Winnie Mandela
7. Vladimir Putin
8. Linda Lovelace
9. Sepp Blatter
10. Jeremy Corbyn

You had trouble with Number 5 right ?

I thought so, you knew the criminals, murderers, thieves, porn stars, liars and cheats and politicians, but you didn't know the Pope!



If you are worried about a friend or family member, or need help yourself, it's important to be able to find out what support is available locally. By visiting our website and searching under a particular section you can easily find out which organisations are offering relevant services within your local area.

- advice
- family
- older people
- mental health
- transport
- disability
- addiction
- wellbeing

For more information please call; Kirsty at Uttlesford Council of Voluntary Services on 01371 878400 or Kate at Uttlesford Citizens Advice on 01799 526557 or visit www.uttlesfordfrontline.org.uk



An Amazing Two Letter English Word

UP

A reminder that there is one word in the English language that can be a noun, verb, adjective, adverb or preposition. It has more meanings than any other two letter word and that word is UP.

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report?

We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers, clean UP the kitchen and lock UP the house

People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, fix UP a meeting and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special.

A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP. Confusing?

We open UP a shop in the morning but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time but, if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, the earth soaks it UP. When it does not rain for awhile, things dry UP.

**One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now . . . my time is UP!
Now I'll shut UP!**

Garden Waste Collections



Garden-loving Uttlesford residents wishing to have their garden waste collected are being urged to sign up early to claim a free *wheelie* bin. New customers to the Uttlesford District Council-run service will normally have to pay £20 for a new garden waste bin - but anyone who joins the scheme for April and makes a payment before Friday, 11 March will receive their new bin free of charge.

Households subscribing to the service can take advantage of fortnightly collections of their garden waste from their homes between April 2016 and March 2017 for a fee of £40 - the equivalent of just under £2 per collection.

There are over 5,200 existing customers signed up to the service and the Council will be contacting them soon with a reminder to renew their subscription. To subscribe, contact the Council's Customer Service Centre on 01799 510510.

**PLEASE
CLEAN
UP AFTER
YOUR DOG**

**BAG IT AND BIN IT -
REMEMBER ANY LITTER BIN WILL DO!**

**Failure to clean up after your
dog could result in a £1000 fine**

To report incidents of dog fouling call the council's
Customer Service Centre on 01799 510510

Alternatively, fill in an online form at
www.uttlesford.gov.uk/animalfoulingreport

*This does not include recycling bins
It is preferable to take it home and use your black lidded bin

The Olive Branch in the Hallingburys



Our Christmas dinner was held at Brett's in White Roding. We were accommodated in the annexe and both the meal and service were very good.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 5th January. We now have 12 paid-up members and the annual subscription will remain at £5. The Bring-and-Buy table will continue and could include donations, if more convenient. We have made donations to six charities during the year, namely to Medical Mission £20; to Nepal Earthquake Disaster Fund £25; to Save the Children for refugees £20; to Bpobal Disaster £20; to St Elizabeth's £120 and to CHES (Churches Homeless Emergency Support Scheme) £40. We had a general knowledge quiz during the year, a meditation led by Revd. Janice Green, a Ploughman's lunch in September and our Christmas Lunch at Bretts Farm Restaurant. Some members also joined the Happy Circle outings to Yarmouth and the Cotswolds. The present committee was re-elected and the meeting was followed by a service of Holy Communion. The afternoon ended with cups of tea and Christmas cake.

At our February meeting, Revd. Janice Green talked to us about stained glass. With the help of slides on a screen. she said that natural glass, obsidian, was formed by volcanic action on sand and which was used by many Stone Age Societies for cutting tools. Archaeologists have found evidence suggesting that the first true glass was made in Syria, some dating back as far as 3000 years before the birth of Christ. Glass is coloured by adding metallic oxide powders or finely divided metals while it is in a molten state. During the 1st century B.C. glass blowing was discovered on the Syro-Judean coast and glass vessels could then be made more cheaply than pottery

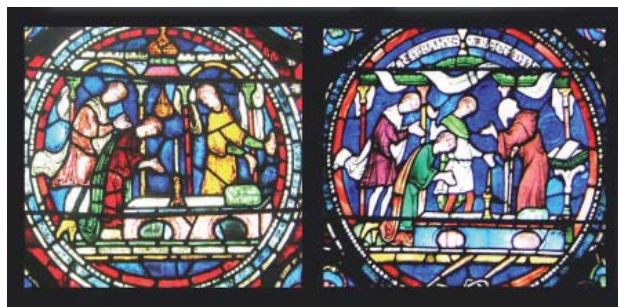
vessels. By using manganese dioxide, clear glass could be made for windows. Recycling of glass goes back to Roman times, glass being very easy to melt and reform. For that reason too very few fragments of glass have been found from that time.

The first decorative windows appeared in Christian churches around 348 to 410 B.C. In England, a Benedictine Bishop brought workmen over from France to glaze windows at a monastery in Monkwearmouth in Northumberland. Unfortunately, after the 16th century Reformation, much stained glass was destroyed and mediaeval stained glass is rare.

In Canterbury Cathedral there is a 13th century *Poor Man's Bible*, reconstructed from perhaps two other windows. The term *Poor Man's Bible* has come into use in modern times to describe works of art within churches and cathedrals which either individually or collectively have been created to illustrate the teachings of the Bible for a largely illiterate population. These artworks may take the form of carvings, paintings, mosaics or stained glass windows. In some churches a single window has the role of *Poor Man's Bible* while in others, the entire church is decorated with a complex biblical narrative that unites in a single scheme.

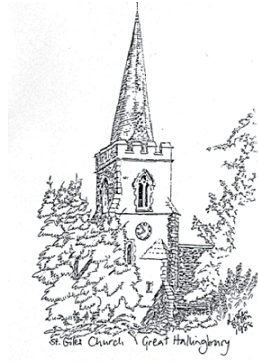
We meet on the first Tuesday each month at 2.15 p.m. in the Rectory. More details are in the Calendar on page 36. All are welcome.

Nita Sylvester



Detail from the POOR MAN'S BIBLE in Canterbury Cathedral

St. Giles' Church 100 Club



The first draw took place on 31st January and the prize winners announced.

£12 a year will buy one membership number for entry into a monthly draw, which will take place on the fourth Sunday of the month.

The prize money will be approximately 50% of the membership fees taken that month. The remaining 50% will be used to help maintain the fabric of our beautiful and historic village church.

Please contact Heather Hays or Philip Hays for further details.

Tel: 01279651851

E-Mail: philipandheatherhays@
gmail.com

Edward Bear Club *for toddlers and their carers*

There will be craft activities, songs and stories etc. every Tuesday morning in St Mary's from 9.15 - 10.45 am during the school term, beginning Tuesday 23rd February.



St Giles' Services

March - June 2016

Unfortunately, once again we have had to close St Giles' throughout the winter months. This means that services will not return there until after Easter, all St Giles' services being held in St Mary's. Please check the website for up to date information <http://www.hallingburychurches.co.uk/>.

Mar 6	10 am	Mothering Sunday Service
Mar 13	10 am	Morning Prayer followed by APCM
Mar 25 Good Friday	2 - 3 pm	An Hour at the Cross
Mar 27 Easter Day	10 am	Family Communion at St. Mary's ***
Apr 10	10 am	Morning Prayer
Apr 24	10 am	Family Communion
May 8	10 am	Morning Prayer
May 22	10 am	Family Communion Followed by a walk from St Giles' to St Mary's for the able-bodied and then a Christian Aid lunch at approx. 12.30 pm to which all are welcome
May 29	10 am	Family Communion at St. Mary's (United Benefice Service)
Jun 12	10 am	Morning Prayer
Jun 26	10 am	Family Communion

*** On Easter Day there is an Easter Egg Hunt following the service

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.

Calendar

March 2016

- 1 Olive Branch - *Music Quiz* - The Rectory 2.15 pm
- 5 Village Hall Committee - *Spring Quiz* - Village Hall 7.30 for 8 pm
- 6 Easton Lodge Snowdrop Sunday
- 7 Great Hallingbury Parish Council - Village Hall 7 pm
- 8 Friendship Club
- 9 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35pm - 1.55pm
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm
- 9 History Society - *The Gibson Family of Saffron Walden* - Village Hall - 8pm
- 21 Great Hallingbury Annual Parish Meeting - Village Hall 8 pm
- 23 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35pm - 1.55pm
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm
- 23 WI - *Open Meeting: Confessions of a Jewellery Junkie* - Great Hallingbury Village Hall 7.30 pm

April 2016

- 5 Olive Branch - *Social Meeting* - The Rectory 2.15 pm
- 6 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35pm - 1.55pm
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm
- 12 Friendship Club
- 13 History Society - *Dunmow and the English Reformation* - Village Hall - 8pm
- 20 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35pm - 1.55pm
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm
- 24 Easton Lodge Open Day - *Braintree Music School*
- 27 WI - *AGM Social Evening* - Great Hallingbury Village Hall 7.30 pm

May 2016

- 3 Olive Branch - *Social Meeting* - The Rectory 2.15 pm
- 4 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35pm - 1.55pm
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm
- 9 Great Hallingbury Parish Council AGM and Meeting - Village Hall 8 pm
- 10 Friendship Club
- 11 History Society - *To Coin a Phrase* - Village Hall 8pm
- 18 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35pm - 1.55pm
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm
- 22 Easton Lodge - *Open Day with Dunmow Rock Choir*
- 24 Olive Branch - *Outing*
- 25 WI - *London Exposed* - Great Hallingbury Village Hall 7.30 pm

June 2016

- 1 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35pm - 1.55pm
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm
- 7 Olive Branch - *Summer Lunch* - Latchmore Hall 12.30 for 1 pm
- 8 History Society - *AGM* - Village Hall 8 pm
- 14 Friendship Club

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

Monday, 7th March 7 pm Village Hall

**Monday, 21st March 8 pm
Annual Parish Meeting**

Monday, 9th May, 8 pm Village Hall

Great Hallingbury Village Hall

SPRING QUIZ NIGHT



Raising funds to improve the Village Hall

Saturday, 5th March, 2016

Great Hallingbury Village Hall 7.30 pm for 8 pm

GOOD PRIZES AND RAFFLE

£5 per person at the door - tables of 6 or 8 or join another group
Reserve from Alex Russell (01279 656647)

Bring your own food and drink

Have another convivial evening Support the Village Hall

CONTENTS

- 2 - 4 - Ernie Field Memoriam
- 5 - Hallingbury Flower Show
- 7 - Great Hallingbury WI
- Essex Fire & Rescue
- 8 - Fascinating Maps
- 9 - St Valentine's Day
- 11-13 - Great Hallingbury Parish Council
Highlights
- 13 - Annual Parish Meeting
- 14 - Essex Police
- Grandmother of Blonde Jokes
- 15-17 - Hedgerows
- 18-21 - Little Hallingbury Panto **Aladdin**
- 22-23 - Remembering 1915
- 24 - Hundred Parishes Society
- 25 - Great Hallingbury History Society
- 26 - Two Women were Playing Golf
- 27-29 - The Police Years
- 31 - I Want a Divorce
- Lily Este's Granddaughter
- 32 - An Engineer's View
- Uttlesford Frontline
- Trivia Quiz
- 33 - An Amazing Two Letter Word
- Garden Waste Collections
- Dog Litter
- 34 - The Olive Branch
- 35 - St Giles' Church 100 Club
- Edward Bear Club
- St. Giles' Services
- 36 - Calendar
- Quiz Night