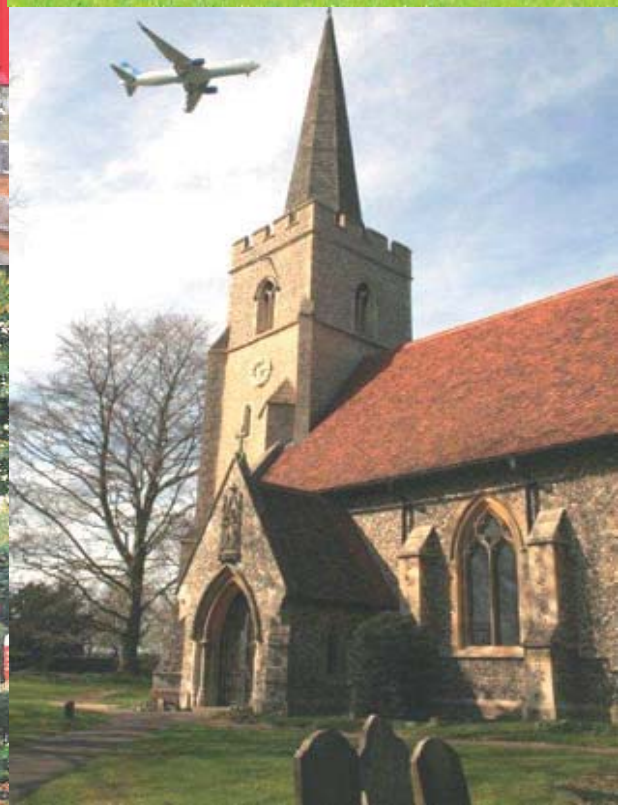


Great Hallingbury Highlights

Summer 2016

Vol. 70

An independent publication giving news on matters affecting Great Hallingbury



Great Hallingbury

Photographs courtesy of Chris Goodlife, Freda Townsend and Anon

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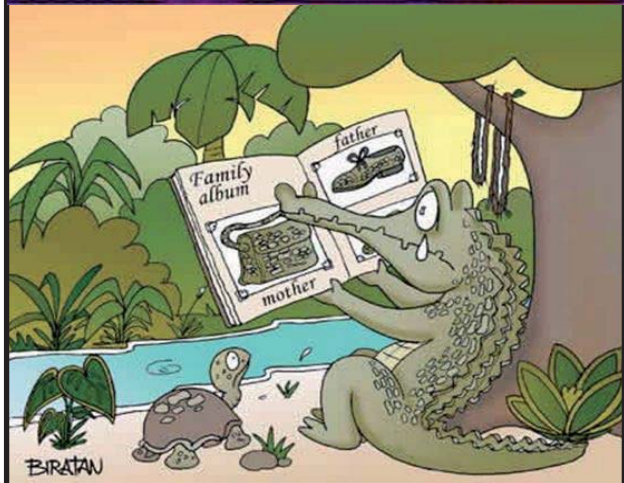
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Do We Stay Or Should We Go?



On 23rd June, we have the chance to define our country for generations to come. We vote to remain or exit from the European Union - a moment of huge importance that can be compared to the signing of the Magna Carta or the defeat of Napoleon or Hitler.

Many people who were passionate supporters of the European Economic Community (EEC) felt betrayed when the EEC morphed into the EU (the European Union), moving towards a federal Europe where we become a single country. But how relevant is that when whole generations have only known the EU?

Some countries joined the EU as a safe haven from what they regard as a greater evil on their borders, others wanted to bolster their economic worth. Britain's objective, as generally understood in the 70's when we joined the EEC, was the freedom to trade and move goods throughout Western Europe without bureaucratic paperwork and delays at every border and the unification of standards - electrical, mechanical, etc.

The society in which we live in the UK is based on centuries of individual freedom. It has changed by agreement over the years with the most recent *Representation of the People Act* in 1969 extending the vote to 18 year olds.

We are now more and more subject to European legal bodies. Our legal system is based on Common Law, including habeas corpus (detention without trial, guaranteed by Magna Carta) - *innocent before proven guilty* was the envy of the world - while most of the other EU countries have adopted the Napoleonic Code which operates differently.

The governance of the European Union is a

Council comprising appointed officials - not elected to office. We have to ask ourselves how important is it to us to have the ability to change our rulers.

So much, I feel, will ultimately come down to whether each of us most fears the thought of change which seeks to retrieve our sovereignty (Brexit) or the comfort of staying and not worrying about how things might develop in the future (Remain).

But let me get off this uncomfortable fence. I know which way I will jump - but I'm not telling you.

Editor



Speed Watch In Great Hallingbury

The Parish Council is looking for some willing volunteers to help with an organized *Speed Watch* rota.

We used to have a team who would do a speed check about once every 4 weeks but unfortunately, due to health issues, they are no longer able to carry on. It need not be too time consuming but, whenever we do a check, it may be that we just slow down some of the traffic, even if for a little while. Also we can report regular offenders.

We have our own speed gun and the necessary equipment to operate a speed watch and training is available.

If you think you would like to be part of our new *Speed Watch Team*, please contact the Parish Council Chairman, Alan Townsend, on 465790 or email: ftownsendpc@btinternet.com





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The Police Years

Part 13: Euston Division - Midland Region.



Euston opened up a whole new world to me. It is probably true to say one is not a complete Transport Officer until one has served at a busy London terminus. At Euston one is called to deal with matters embracing Scotland, Ireland and the Metropolis. In the Police Office I was to see manacled prisoners bound from Europe to the States, Wards of Court held awaiting transport plus prisoners on transfer. On the concourse itself one dealt with Royalty, Cabinet Ministers and the lowest dregs of society.



*The Doric Arch at Euston
Originally the entry to a court-
yard. Demolished 1961*

Being Divisional Headquarters, it also took in St. Pancras, Marylebone, Watford and Rugby together with various Goods Depots in North West London. When I arrived at Euston the famous Doric Arch had been demolished and a programme of modernization was under way supervised, by coincidence, by my brother-in-law Alan, a Chief Civil Engineer.

The atmosphere at Euston was completely different to the Southern Railway, a spirit of co-operation prevailed. Police were kept informed of each step of the modernisation programme and the format of station life altered as building progressed. At one time, only six taxis could discharge passengers in a tiny forecourt and then had to get to the other side of the station to a pick-up point. Railway staff were controlled by a Station Master and together with a Police Sergeant they ran the Station making decisions and changes as building work proceeded. This co-operation enabled trains to run despite many difficulties. Huge quantities of newspapers were transported daily and in appreciation the Press supplied the Sergeant with his own named bundle.

Despite chaos, many arrests were made. Unlike country policing where the majority of prosecutions are carried out by process, the transient nature of London's offenders does not make this practicable and most offenders are arrested, charged and dealt with. As Police shifts change over at week-ends, there was always a tally of drunks awaiting process on Monday morning which would leave a shortage of Officers on afternoon duty. To overcome the problem one Officer from the night shift would be deputed to stay and deal with them at Court, irrespective of whether he had arrested them or not.

Believe it or not, several people made their home on the station even amid the turmoil. One old lady, having lost her husband, took up residence at Euston complete with luggage. Her solicitor conducted his business with her on a station bench! Another lady spent all day collecting newspapers. She was the daughter of a previous Director of the Midland Railway and possessed a *gold pass*. She did not sleep at the station but otherwise made it her home. Of course one saw the usual collection of layabouts who graced the termini and they were dealt with as the situation demanded

Although the Great Train Robbery took place on August 8th, 1963, it was still fresh in the minds of Officers at Euston; indeed, some of the villains were caught and prosecuted after I arrived. New security measures had now been introduced and I was keen to acquaint myself with them. Having applied to travel on the mail train, I journeyed with duty Officers as far as Crewe, leaving them to continue to



Sorting Mail on a Train



SWEEPING PAST these posts at the side of the line, the train collects the mail-bags in its extended net, delivering bags of sorted mail to the track-side net in exchange.

Glasgow. On the return journey back to London I was able to witness mail taken at speed from a gantry.

At Euston I gained further knowledge from Sergeant Kent who was on duty at the time of the actual robbery. He became concerned after he had learned the train stood at a signal in Buckinghamshire. Having alerted his superior, who lived at Enfield, together they arrived at the scene. A senior Officer of Buckinghamshire Police had already taken control and would not speak to such lowly Officers and so, while the villains were celebrating at Linslade Farm, both Transport Officers retreated to a nearby cottage where a lady made a cup of tea. Around her fireplace hung a magnificent array of horse brasses which happened to be his fellow Officer's passion and the merits of these took priority while the great robbery unfolded! Eventually, at a later date, Transport Police including myself became involved for railway language is specialised and many statements taken that

night under higher authority had to be taken again. Also ignored was the plea of a lowly cowman who reported unusual activity at a normally deserted farm at Linslade. Had action been taken then the whole gang could have been arrested.

At Euston one co-operated well with the Metropolitan Police. Every thief caught and prosecuted boosted their statistics even though our losses were not their responsibility. Seldom was a charge refused and they were always ready to give help and advice.

Football hooliganism was fast becoming a vogue with considerable damage to trains. One evening, while on duty at Euston, a real fracas began. Amid hordes of football fans a postman was hit on the nose while carrying fish and chips for his evening meal. My shift waded in and made several arrests. While taking some men to Albany Street Police station, a call came from Wembley that a train had been wrecked. Leaving one Officer behind and a postman holding his nose, a dash was made to Wembley but of course the hooligans had long disappeared; this had also happened when we returned to Euston. Meanwhile the duty Officer at Albany Street was getting impatient, expecting a second batch! Such is life!

Unfortunately damage and violence increased further on football trains. Escorts were increased with the addition of police dogs. We used to *dump* offenders in small numbers at stations along the line. They were not so brave then! Although very effective this method incurred the displeasure of doting parents and was dropped.

On May 1st, 1966, I left Euston for Wakefield on a three month senior C.I.D. Course. The course took up six working days and I got home late on Saturday evenings, leaving again at mid-day on Sunday to get back again. Fortunately, on the course was an Officer from Cambridge who travelled by car and I was able to join him which gave me longer at home. Now older, I found the course difficult. Memory, however, retained much Hendon teaching and I was determined to get through and studied long into the evening. I eventually passed with a 60% pass mark against a 70% average. Some of the instructors became household names later during the Yorkshire Ripper case.

At Wakefield they set up two mock murder hunts in Bretton Park in which I played a leading part. The Park also housed a Teacher training college. The other group lost their clues at the start as Teacher students had found blood stained clothing and took it to the local Police who started a murder enquiry of their own! Our group was more successful. A

body was found and I was one of the Officers who investigated. All the usual rituals were carried out including inch by inch searches plus a visit from a Home Office pathologist. Afterwards I penned a comprehensive written report which was well received.

Back at Euston the World Cup was looming. Several matches were held at Wembley, in our area, and our Officers took duty at Wembley Central station. Usually one could get into the Stadium provided you were back at the station in time for the returning crowds. Inside the Stadium one was often called to give assistance, more so during the England-Scotland matches. Girls hockey matches were equally exciting as girls gave vent to their feelings. Rugby matches, however, seemed to be an orderly family affair.

I was privileged to be on duty at five of the World Cup games at Wembley including the Final itself. On that day I worked my Rest Day. Returning to Euston that evening, I found the Duty Sergeant had been punched in the eye and reported sick so I remained on duty there until 11pm. I received double pay for the whole period. What a day!

Ernie Field, formerly President of Great Hallingbury History Society



Original Wembley Stadium

Paths that Cross

Your editor too remembers that day as he was also at that World Cup Final in 1966 when England won but it was another 25 years before he met Ernie!

Great Hallingbury Carpet Bowls Club



We play on Friday nights at home and any other time for away matches.

Our members' ages run from teenagers upwards and one of our members (playing as we speak at Little Easton) is 97 years old.

We play league games, travelling up to 50 miles. Friendly games are played in Essex, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire, raising money for all types of charities. We have one lady playing for Essex in county games competing against ten other counties.

Anybody will have a very warm welcome to have a go. Friday evenings 7.30 - 10 pm.

*Alex Russell, Chairman and Captain
Report presented to Great Hallingbury's
Annual Parish Meeting in March, 2016*

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Great Hallingbury HIGHLIGHTS

For those who do not know the origins of Great Hallingbury HIGHLIGHTS, may I give you a potted history.

In 1996, soon after I was elected as a Parish Councillor, the then chairman, Norman Mead, and I agreed that relying on people visiting the notice boards as a means to communicate with the village was not very satisfactory. We decided that I should produce a quarterly newsletter reporting on the Parish Council's minutes of meeting which should go free to all the homes in Great Hallingbury. The Parish Council wanted villagers to understand what the Parish Council does and tries to do.



Early editions of HIGHLIGHTS did not have a front page photograph

After the newsletter had been published a few years, in 2002 we were invited by the RCCE to a one day course on producing a village magazine. We learnt a lot, most significantly that to get the serious message across it should be flanked by other lighter material. We were advised to use colour, have a recognisable name, include photographs and illustrations and use a recognisable banner title. We saw copies of other village magazines that were good, very good indeed. We tried to implement all the very useful things we had learnt, thus the style we see today and the title *HIGHLIGHTS*.

We started with 24 pages until the inward flow of materials and the necessity to include space for advertisers to help with the cost forced us to increase the size of the magazine. So far, we have limited advertisements to 6 pages out of a maximum of 36 pages per issue. More pages would be too heavy for the deliverers.

With the help of the Parish Council we still reach every household in the Village free of charge and our hope is that everyone reads at least the Highlights of the Parish Council meetings so that you can see what they are doing for you.

Finally a big thank you to the photographers, the contributors and the deliverers - without you all there would be no *HIGHLIGHTS*. I would like to especially thank Christine for the typing and composing, a vital part of our editorial partnership.

Ron Coultrup, Editor, Great Hallingbury HIGHLIGHTS

Report presented to Great Hallingbury's Annual Parish Meeting in March, 2016

Italian Funeral...RIP

Pasquale died. His will provided \$40,000 for an elaborate funeral.

As the last guests departed the affair, his wife Angelina turned to her oldest and dearest friend. "Ah well, Pasquale would be pleased," she said.

"You're right," replied Maria, who lowered her voice and leaned in close...."So go on, how much did this really cost?"

"All of it," said Angelina. "Forty thousand."

"Aw No" Maria exclaimed, "I mean, it was very grand, but £40,000?"

Angelina answered, "The funeral was £6,500. I donated £500 to the church. The whisky, wine and snacks were another £500. The rest went for the Memorial Stone."

Maria computed quickly. "Mama Mia. For the love of God Angelina, £32,500 for a Memorial Stone? How big is it?"



Great Hallingbury Friendship Club



The Friendship Club continues to meet every second Tuesday in the month and we are able to enjoy a few hours catching up with everyone. Our helpers collect members and take them to wherever we are meeting; this can be in someone's home or the Village Hall. In recent times we have, with the help of donations from the Council and Rotary, been able to take the members out for lunch at a local pub or afternoon tea at Cammas Hall Fruit Farm. As several of them are unable to get out on their own it makes a welcome change.

Our thanks must go to the team of helpers who not only provide transport but also bake endless cakes and make sandwiches; also to the people who kindly host the club for a meeting during the year.

With an average age of 88, it is an exclusive membership as most members have been in the village either all their lives or they came to the village when they were married. They and their husbands have worked in the village and for the village all their lives. This is something that will never be repeated. We often talk of days gone by and the changes that have been made - not all for the best. So we helpers are privileged to share their company and hopefully make an afternoon meeting a pleasure.



V. Mugele

*Report presented to Great Hallingbury's
Annual Parish Meeting in March, 2016*



Hawaiian Holiday

Two priests decided to go to Hawaii on holiday.

They were determined to make this a real holiday by not wearing anything that would identify them as clergy. As soon as the plane landed they headed for a store and bought some really outrageous shorts, shirts, sandals, sunglasses, etc.

The next morning they went to the beach dressed in their 'tourist' garb. They were sitting on beach chairs, enjoying a drink, the sunshine and the scenery when a 'drop dead gorgeous' blonde in a topless bikini came walking straight towards them. They couldn't help but stare.

As the blonde passed them she smiled and said, 'Good Morning, Father ~ Good Morning, Father,' nodding and addressing each of them individually, then she passed on by. They were both stunned. How in the world did she know they were priests?

So the next day, they went back to the store and bought even more outrageous outfits. These were so loud you could hear them before you even saw them! Once again, in their new attire, they settled down in their chairs to enjoy the sunshine.



After a little while, the same gorgeous blonde, wearing a different coloured topless bikini, taking her sweet time, came walking toward them. Again she nodded at each of them, said, 'Good morning, Father ~ Good morning, Father,' and started to walk away.

One of the priests couldn't stand it any longer and said, 'Just a minute, young lady.'

'Yes, Father?' she replied.

'We are priests and proud of it, but I have to know, how in the world do you know we are priests, dressed as we are?'

**She replied, 'Father, it's me,.....
Sister Kathleen!'**

Hilarious Things My Mother Taught Me

- My mother taught me **TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE**. "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."



- My mother taught me **RELIGION**. "You better pray that the stain will come out of the carpet."



My mother taught me about **TIME TRAVEL!**. "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week."

- My mother taught me **LOGIC**. "Because I said so, that's why."
- My mother taught me **MORE LOGIC**. "If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you're not going shopping with me."
- My mother taught me **FORESIGHT**. "Make sure you wear clean underwear in case you're in an accident."
- My mother taught me **IRONY**. "Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about." 
- My mother taught me about the science of **OSMOSIS**. "Shut your mouth and eat your supper."
- My mother taught me about **CONTORTIONISM**. "Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"



My mother taught me about **STAMINA**. "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

Neighbourhood Watch



Parish Councillor Vicky Wing has recently volunteered to be the lead on the Parish Council for Neighbourhood Watch. A number of people have been involved in this in the past but now might be time for a relaunch of activities.

Although we have very low levels of crime, given our rather secluded locations there are, on occasions, some rather suspicious transactions going on and farming equipment and machinery is particularly susceptible to theft.

Vicky is looking to set up a small group that can cover all the various parts of the village to promote crime prevention activities and obviously keep an eye out for anything suspicious. If you are around, particularly during the day, and are willing to help, would you please let her know; she would be really grateful.

In the meantime, if you do see anyone unknown to you hanging around the village, please do greet them and offer to help them find their way. Anyone up to no good will soon lose interest. Also remember that if you see a car engaging in suspicious activities you can always take a picture using your mobile phone or note the registration and ask the local police to check them out.

There will be more on this topic soon.

Cllr Vicky Wing

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The Night Hootie Lost His Hoot



There once was an owl who was very brown
He was unhappy, he wore a frown
Because he had lost something that night
It was important to put it right

He lived in a tree, Hootie was his name
He opened his beak but no sound came
He needed his hoot but where could it
be?

Is it under a branch or up in a tree?

Hootie flew off and soared through the sky
'Looping the loop' climbing so high
Nestling under leaves a baby mouse shakes
She scurries away and a little twig
breaks

'Squeaky' is her name and she is so small
Hootie doesn't eat her but lands on a wall
Hootie's friend Snowy agrees to help find
Hootie's hoot, isn't that kind?

They fly to a party and swoop very high
All the owls are there up in the sky
The friends all help Hootie that night
To look for his hoot, all the owls take
flight

They can see bubbles down in the brook
The owls swoop down for a closer look
'A frog is blowing bubbles' Snowy did say
'One of the bubbles is hooting away'

Hootie dived and made his choice
He swallowed the bubble and found his
voice

If you listen carefully maybe one day
You will hear Hootie's hoot as he travels
your way



1st Great Hallingbury Brownies



Anyone passing the Village Hall on a March Monday may well have been surprised to see an Ambulance parked outside with its blue lights flashing. Fortunately we had not had reason to call 999 but rather this was the second of two weeks' First Aid training provided by paramedic, Jack Squires. Over the course of two weeks, the Brownies were taught emergency First Aid, from bandaging each other up to how to give life-saving CPR. This culminated in the Brownies earning their **First Aid** and **First Aid Advanced** badges and the praise of our paramedic tester, who was very impressed to see how attentive and mature the Brownies were. They certainly enjoyed being given a tour inside the ambulance!

Another busy year for the Great Hallingbury Brownies, we continue to meet on Monday evenings at the Village Hall where our programme includes lots of games as well as activities that focus on ourselves, our community and our world. We have been very fortunate to have the help of a local author, Elaine Vowles, working on our **Writers Badge** and we collectively composed our own poem about Hootie the Owl, who lost his hoot! We were pleased to welcome Elaine back to Brownies recently when she presented the Brownies with their **Writers** badges as well as our own little Hootie, which she had knitted for us.

The Brownies enjoy **singing** and **activity games** and also use the Peachey Room on a regular basis for craft work and quieter activities. At the beginning of this year we planted hyacinth bulbs ready to give to our Mums for **Mother's Day** and, on Mothering Sunday itself, the Brownies took part in the Church service where they sang and spoke about why their Mums were so special, before distributing flowers to the congregation. We also took part in the **Remembrance Day** service in November where we sang and read to encourage others to remember all those who fought and died in war.

As last year, our **Carols in Candlelight Service** was held in the Village Hall and we were pleased to welcome family, friends and villagers to mark the beginning of Christmas. We were delighted to raise over £300 for Banardos, a charity chosen by the Brownies themselves. Whilst our visitors enjoyed doing their Christmas shopping at our Bring and Buy stall, we served our homemade Christmas cake. Once again, all the Brownies had helped to make the cake and each had made their own special wish whilst giving it a good stir! More recently we have been back in the kitchen to mark Shrove Tuesday, when the Brownies made their own pancakes as part of an evening-long pancake party!

When the opportunity arises, we enjoy joining with other Brownies from across the **Hatfield Forest District**. In the summer we took part in a District Rounders Tournament and just a few weeks ago a number of Brownies attended the District Thinking Day celebrations. We have been fortunate to have had Jade Rutter helping us for part of the last year as she worked towards her Duke of Edinburgh Award. Once a Brownie in our pack herself, it has been a privilege to welcome her back as a temporary young leader.

May I take this opportunity to thank all those in the village who continue to support the pack and my family for their ongoing help and support. We have now been running a pack here for almost 27 years!

Heather Hays (01279651851)

philipandheatherhays@googlemail.com & Alison Hutley (01279 503804)

Report presented to Great Hallingbury's Annual Parish Meeting in March, 2016



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Great Hallingbury Annual Parish Meeting *Monday 21st March 2016*

Uttlesford Community Travel

Against the background that the Village is losing its Thursday bus from 10th April this year, Malcolm Barrell of the Uttlesford Community Travel service informed the meeting that they have seven buses in the District which are available for shopping, group trips and hospital appointments (which may be a car service). There is an annual membership fee of £10 for individuals and £20 for groups. The cost per journey is £3 for the first two miles and 80p per mile after this. The buses are comfortable 15 seat vehicles that are adaptable for wheelchair use.

The History Society has already used a Community bus on a recent trip to The Tower of London and found it to be a comfortable and well timed trip.

It may be possible to arrange for a regular bus into Bishop's Stortford on a Thursday and the Parish Council will consider the viability of providing this as payment would still need to be made for such a service whether or not there are passengers.

Chairman's review of the year

The last year has seen some changes to the Parish Council following the retirement of four long serving parish councillors and an uncontested election in May 2015. There are eight parish councillors with Alan Townsend as Chairman. They work as one body but also have several working groups, such as Planning, Housing, Airport and Neighbourhood Watch.

Meetings continue to be held bi-monthly so there have been six meetings plus an extraordinary meeting in September. Councillors have also attended meetings at Uttlesford on Local Plan issues and Housing, SSE meetings on Airport matters, the Uttlesford Highways Panel and the Chairman sits on the Executive Committee of the Uttlesford Association

of Local Councils. Information from all these meetings enables the Parish Council to know about, and comment on, proposals within our District and County and Local Government issues.

Finance. The Chairman was pleased to announce that, once again, the Parish Council does not need to raise the precept figure, which relates to the Parish portion of council tax.

The Charities supported by the Parish Council in this last year include, Essex Air Ambulance, Catch 22, SSE & NWEHPA and Uttlesford Community Travel. The Council also continues to support the Village Hall and St Giles' Church with an additional donation to the Church to assist with the cost of new heating.

The quarterly *HIGHLIGHTS* magazine has been produced for some 20 years with the costs being borne by Mr. & Mrs Coultrup. However, following a request from Ron Coultrup, Editor of the magazine, the Parish Council has agreed a quarterly payment of £500 for continued provision of this publication.

Planning. The Parish Council has considered and commented on 19 planning applications over this past year. While in general there has been little reason to object to the proposals, they do stress that new builds must connect to the mains drainage and point out any potential problems with land drainage. The Council makes a positive comment if an application is seen as a major improvement.

Housing. The housing scheme proposed, including affordable housing, is still moving very slowly. Plans have been submitted to Uttlesford but not yet received by the Parish Council for consideration and comment.

Airport. Following several complaints regarding the flight path being taken by aircraft, representatives of the Airport attended a Council meeting to explain the way point trials taking place. While the way points may not give much improvement to Great Hallingbury, the noise should not be

so prolonged. SSE continues to keep us up to date with airport matters.

Phone Box. The old telephone kiosk was not refurbished last summer but hopefully it will be done very soon.

Highways. Many pot holes have recently been mended and ECC Highways will be re-surfacing the road through the Village, New Barn Lane and part of Woodside Green. At present Affinity Water is re-laying fresh water pipes, hence the traffic lights. Also ECC are doing repairs to the old Railway Bridge, part of the Flitch Way.

At Start Hill lorries parking on the footpath by the Esso garage have caused problems with traffic and left the footpath in an unacceptable muddy state. County Councillor Susan Barker pursued this issue and the road will be made a *Clearway* from the M11 roundabout to the next lay-by.

Broadband. The Parish Council has continued to explore possible ways to improve the broadband reception in the village. However, the latest programme update from Superfast Essex, the team within ECC responsible for fibre broadband roll out in the county, shows that the Village should have this service by 2017.

A Litter Pick, organized by Cllr Vicky Wing, was carried out through the Village on 21st February. It was really nice to see so many villagers turn up to help, with over 100 bags collected plus other spurious items. It was a joy to see the village looking so spick and span, even if only for a short while as the litter is once again appearing. Hopefully this will be a twice yearly event and the Chairman thanked Vicky for her co-ordination of this, including the refreshments provided for all helpers. Thanks were also given to the W.I. for doing a further litter pick at which another 20 bags of rubbish were collected.

Queens 90th Birthday. There was a short discussion on a possible event at the hall and field with games and refreshments.

Great Hallingbury HIGHLIGHTS. The Chairman thanked Christine and Ron Coultrup

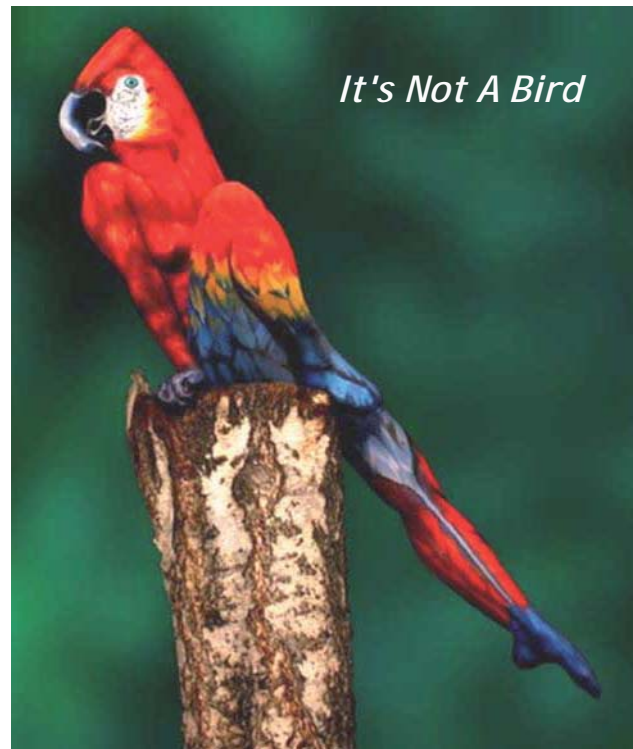
for continuing to produce the *Hallingbury HIGHLIGHTS*. This free publication goes to every house in the village through our distributors. You can find out about most things going on in Great Hallingbury through the Highlights.

Thanks were expressed by the Chairman to all his fellow Councillors and to so many villagers for their support during the past year with special thanks to the Clerk, Freda, who continues to liaise with all parties concerned in a very professional manner.

Village Organisations

Reports from various clubs and organisations in the Village may be found throughout this magazine.

Alan Townsend, Chairman



This parrot is in fact a female model who posed for Johannes Stötter, a fine art body painter. Using breathable paint, he spent hours painstakingly turning this woman into the image of a parrot, brushstroke by brushstroke. The model's arm forms the parrot's head and beak, and her legs form the wing and tail feathers. Remember: always take a closer look as things aren't always what they appear to be. Once you see her, the bird disappears!

Lost and Found

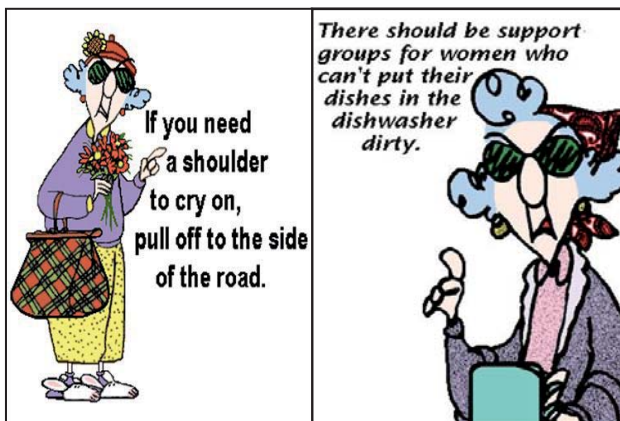
An Irishman is stumbling through the woods, totally drunk, when he comes upon a preacher baptizing people in the river. He proceeds into the water, subsequently bumping into the preacher. The preacher turns around and is almost overcome by the smell of alcohol, whereupon, he asks the drunk, "Are you ready to find Jesus?" The drunk shouts, "Yes, I am."

So the preacher grabs him and dunks him in the water. He pulls him back and asks, "Brother, have you found Jesus?" The drunk replies, "No, I haven't found Jesus!" The preacher, shocked at the answer, dunks him again but for a little longer. He again pulls him out of the water and asks, "Have you found Jesus, brother?" The drunk answers, "No, I haven't found Jesus!"

By this time, the preacher is at his wits' end and dunks the drunk again - but this time holds him down for about 30 seconds, and when he begins kicking his arms and legs about, he pulls him up.

The preacher again asks the drunk, "For the love of God, have you found Jesus?"

The drunk staggers upright, wipes his eyes, coughs up a bit of water, catches his breath, and says to the preacher, "Are you sure this is where he fell in?"



Great Hallingbury Village Hall

I would like to thank all who help to keep the Village Hall in the good heart that it is in today. Thanks go to the Parish Council for their donation supplying forty new chairs

I was pleased that the damp patch in the kitchen has been cured by Alan Pinnock. We have had to do a little work on the floor, which we realise is ongoing, but Geoff Morris has managed to cope with this and many other things.

Our three quizzes in March, July and October/November are very important to help balance the books and we would appreciate all of you taking part.

Thanks to Val Walker for again organising a Flower Demonstration which raises much needed funds.

Our team of cleaners who have the job of clearing up after the public have gone home, sometimes have the most testing tasks.

Thank you to our Secretary, Alison, for keeping everything recorded and to Sarah for taking all the bookings.

And last but not least, I thank Ron Coultrup for making the books balance, telling us when we can spend some money and when we can't.

Hopefully we can look forward to a good year making improvements and making the Village Hall an important meeting place for Great Hallingbury.

*Martin Mugele, Chairman,
Great Hallingbury Village Hall Committee
Report presented to Great Hallingbury's
Annual Parish Meeting in March, 2016*

Litter Picking in Great Hallingbury

Over the preceding two weekends I dropped leaflets across the village with the help of my nephew and niece. I had not realised just how big the village is until I walked it and discovered some corners that I had not realised existed. Some letter boxes were really hard to find, so I'm sorry if I did not manage to find yours.

My neighbour, Lawson, had kindly made some warning signs to alert traffic to our activities and went out in advance to put them up. Having additionally cajoled friends and family to help, we eventually had over 40 volunteers for litter picking on 21st February - a fantastic turn out with ages ranging from those who are retired to young Freddie who is only 4. The weather held up and we had a lovely winter's day to start the clean up. Groups met up at the Village Hall and The Hop Poles and subdivided into smaller teams, ensuring we covered the whole village, working back from Start Hill and the Hallingbury Road. Along with my friend Maggie, who incidentally lives in Wickford, I decided to tackle the main road to Takeley and although in two hours we managed to clear the rubbish immediately in front of all the houses, the remaining verges are shameful. In fact, the roadside and adjacent vegetation is very reminiscent of our recent trip to India where rubbish is routinely thrown on the road side. If anyone is interested, I am willing to organise another group to tackle the part of the road that is in the village, which I believe is up to Thremhall. Apparently the roundabout end is pretty awful as well.

Despite the shock of just how much rubbish is routinely thrown into our hedges everyone had a brilliant day, meeting new people and working together. After just two hours over 100 bags of litter were collected up and left at the village hall for disposal. We discovered some very interesting traits of the people who litter our road. At the Little Hallingbury end of the village, large numbers of miniature wine bottles were found while at the Start Hill end it was predominantly half bottles of vodka, but no gin or whisky bottles!

After a couple of hours hard work, we all met at the Village Hall for a spot of lunch and refreshments and spent another couple of hours admiring our work and the extent of the pile of pink bags, as well as recounting tales of the odd things we found, including a telly in a ditch. Andrew Noble was also available to show people the plans for the small development going through planning permission which was of considerable interest to the younger group of villagers, many of whom are still living with their parents and would like a place of their own.

I would like to thank everyone who turned up to help, you all made a real difference. I am only sorry it did not last that long before the litter started to building up again. I would also like to thank my daughter for baking the cakes and my two sons who were pressed men, especially my eldest son Tom who now lives in Little Hallingbury, had just become a Dad for the first time and celebrated his 30th birthday the night before.

At the subsequent Parish Council meeting we have decided to repeat the Litter Picking event twice a year, after the hedges and verges are cut in September and again in January/February time when the vegetation has died back. It would be really good if from time to time you could all organise a bit of a clear up in the immediate vicinity to your homes, at least that way we would keep the rubbish down a bit.

Thank you.

Councillor Vicky Wing

The Litter Pickers of Great Hallingbury and the Litter that they Picked



Photographs courtesy of Lee Cox and Vicky Wing



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And Just Two Weeks Later - Another 20 Bags

WI Clean for the Queen

Great Hallingbury WI members and their husbands took part in the litter pick-up around our village on Saturday 5th March, as part of the national *Clean for the Queen* initiative to tidy up Britain in time for the Queen's 90th Birthday in June.

This initiative is being supported by the Women's Institute who, back in 1954/5, successfully campaigned to form the Keep Britain Tidy Group.

Members began their quest at 10.30 am from the Village Hall and also at Woodside Green, complete with high-visibility jackets, grabbers and plenty of bags. They continued to collect litter for around two hours. It was so upsetting to see the large amount of litter that had been dropped around our beautiful village.

It was a wet and chilly day so everyone was glad of the welcome hot drink and cakes that were served by other WI members Carole, Doreen & Gill.

Over 20 bags of rubbish were gathered from ditches, fields, & the roadside.



Highlights from the Minutes of Meeting of Great Hallingbury Parish Council

7th March 2016

Present: Cllr A Townsend (Chairman), Cllrs D Barlow, M Bloomfield, K Juggurnauth, A Noble, A Pinnock, T Streeter and V Wing, District Cllrs K Artus and L Wells and Mrs F Townsend (Clerk)

Litter Pick

The Chairman thanked Cllr Wing for all her efforts in organizing the litter pick through the village. It was a good turn out of people coming to do their bit and a good social gathering in the hall once the litter picking was done. It had been surprising to see the huge pile of pink bags piled up for collection.

The Queens 90th Birthday

Suggestions for an event at the village hall were discussed, perhaps a rounders competition and/or cream teas. It was decided not to give commemorative tokens to children of the village or at the schools. Ideas to be mentioned at our Annual Parish Meeting.

Litter at M11 Roundabout

The Chairman raised this matter and commented that a local resident was under the impression that Stansted Airport pay ECC to keep it clear, asking Cllr Keith Artus if this was the case. Cllr Artus said that, as far as he knew, this was not so although it may be that ECC are paid to keep litter from roads nearer to the airport.

Waste Recycling

It would appear that the bin men are not always putting the food waste into the separate part of the lorry. There was some discussion on this and other recycling problems. The Waste Aware team at UDC have been made aware of the current problems with collections.

Uttlesford District Council

District Cllr Keith Artus said that the Local Development Plan is still ongoing and that results are in now for the SLAA sites. Council Tax has risen by 1% this year. The new Chief Executive at UDC is a lady called Dawn French.

With regard to Devolution, the Parish Council need take no action. Services will be devolved from Government level down to ECC and UDC.

District Cllr Lesley Wells reported that she is now the Health & Well Being representative for UDC. Lesley mentioned the new Defibrillator, now installed at Little Hallingbury, for which she had been able to provide a grant from the New Homes Bonus. If Great Hallingbury should decide to also install a Defibrillator, it may be possible she could provide us with a grant too.

Re-Establishing Elm Trees

Cllr Wing explained that several properties in the village have *Elm* in their name and proposed that more Elm trees be planted in the village to replace those lost to the Dutch Elm disease. Disease resistant species are available. Cllr Wing will look into the cost and the Parish Council agreed to consider six trees, perhaps as part of marking the Queen's 90th Birthday, although they could not be planted until October.

Website

Since the last meeting there have been changes to the Parish website. This is an ongoing project and further improvements and additions have yet to be made. It was agreed that administration should be kept within the Parish Council.

Highways

ECC have marked all defects for infill before the road is re-surfaced which will be done in three phases. Works are due to begin on 7th March - Phase One - pre-surface patching works. Phase Two is Surface Dressing and Phase Three - reinstatement of white lines. The works apply to Church Road from the A1060 to the B1256; New Barn Lane for its

entire length and Woodside Green roads. At present Affinity Water are also doing repairs in the village, with traffic lights in place at Tilekiln Green. There are also traffic lights near the old railway bridge at Start Hill while repairs to the bridge are being undertaken. The Clerk is to ask Highways if repairs will also be carried out at Bedlars Green Lane to the pot holes by the greens.

Lower Thames Crossing Route Consultation 2016

Highways England is consulting on options for a Lower Thames Crossing; a new road crossing of the River Thames connecting Kent and Essex. On discussion, Councillors agreed that the village is too far removed from the area that will be affected by the construction to make comment.

Devolution In Essex

Recognizing the importance of locally made decisions, the Government has invited areas to put forward ideas and proposals on how locally devolved powers could benefit residents. 15 Council Leaders in Greater Essex expressed an interest in the principle of devolution and how they can work together to explore devolved benefits. There is no blueprint for devolution and different regions across the country are considering differing areas they would like to see devolved. There is a great deal of information on the website covering the work streams that are being taken forward. The Parish Council has no constructive comments to submit at this time.

Garden Waste

UDC is once again operating Garden Waste collections for subscribers.

Uttlesford Community Travel

The Clerk was asked to find out more on Uttlesford Community Travel and how we might be able to use this service.

Post Box Bedlars Green

The Clerk reported re-opening communication with Royal Mail to request the post box be reinstated. A copy had also been sent to

Sir Alan Haselhurst M.P. who has responded saying he was not pleased with the response he had received from Royal Mail and would expedite their reply to the Parish Council.

Greens

Further to the notice nailed to the Bedlars Green notice board, Henry Bexley of the National Trust informed the Chairman that the greens are not being cut at present. However, a later email says that Bedlars and Tilekiln Greens are cut two or three times a year, generally after the wild flowers have gone in July to help preserve some of the rarer species that grow on our verges and greens.

Concern was expressed on the erosion of the greens at Bedlars Green. Suggested posts to stop parking could lead to parking problems and would make the road narrow for the dustcart or other service vehicles.

Planning

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

Application No.// Site and Development// Decision
 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 // Consent (While 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.)

UTT/15/3691/HHF & UTT/15/3692/LB // 90 Woodside Green // Proposed single storey rear extension // Consent (no obj.)

UTT/15/3763/DFO // Details following outline application // Withdrawn

UTT/15/3785/OP // Land East of Cedar Cottage, Church Road // for the erection of 1 no. dwelling - details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale. (no obj.)

Applications dealt with by the Planning Working Group:



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UTT/16/0200/FUL // Land East of Cedar Cottage, Church Road // Erection of 1 no. detached dwelling with garage // (No objections raised)

Applications to be dealt with at meeting:
UTT/15/3785/FUL & UTT/15/3786/LB // Woodside Green Farm, Woodside Green // Change of use and conversion of redundant farm buildings to 5 no. holiday lets and 1 no. dwelling and new 6 bay cart lodge // (No objections raised)

UTT/16/0422/HHF // Old Tithe Hall, Start Hill // Proposed erection of detached garage block with store above // (No objections raised)

Broadband

Cllr Streeter reported that there is a new map on the superfast Broadband website which shows that Great Hallingbury should be getting the fibre optic service although not until 2017/2018.

Litter Pick

Cllr Wing reported a successful litter pick. More will be needed. The next will probably be in September after ECC have cut the grass verges and the litter will be visible. UDC must be asked to clear identified sites that are unable unreachable. A special pick was suggested on the Flitch Way path on the opposite side to the Audi Garage.

Health

Cllr Wing, our Health Representative, reported that, further to her previous enquiries at the Hatfield Heath doctors surgery to help availability to our village, she may be asked to join the group working on appointments.

New House at Bedlars Green

The entrance to the new house at Bedlars Green appears to be getting wider and there are many pot holes in the road. A councillor will discuss a definition of the driveway with the resident.

Telephone Box

Cllr Pinnock offered to paint the phone box.

Bedlars Green Pond

Cllr Barlow reported that work on the pond is ongoing with the work in the water finished for now to allow the newts to breed. Maintenance on the green around it will be carried out in better weather.

Loving Wives



A group of women were at a seminar on how to live in a loving relationship with their husband.

The women were asked, "How many of you love your husband?" All the women raised their hands. Then they were asked, "When was the last time you told your husband you loved him?" Some women answered today, a few yesterday and some can't remember.

The women were then told to use their mobile phones and text to their husband, "I love you, sweetheart." Then they exchanged phones with another person and the text messages received in response were read aloud.

Below are some of the replies.

1. **Who the hell is this?**
2. **Eh, mother of my children, are you sick or what?**
3. **Yeah, and I love you too. What's wrong?**
4. **What now? Did you crash the car again?**
5. **I don't understand what you mean?**
6. **What the hell did you do now?**
7. **Don't beat about the bush, just tell me how much you need?**
8. **Am I dreaming?**
9. **If you don't tell me who this message is actually for, someone will die.**
10. **I thought we agreed you wouldn't drink during the day.**
11. **Your mother is coming to stay with us, isn't she?**

THE
FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF
EASTON LODGE

A Fair Wind Blows at the Gardens

A POPULAR local band will provide the entertainment at June's open day at the Gardens of Easton Lodge.

The Dunmow Wind Band, which really blew us away last year, will return to the historic Gardens at Little Easton, near Great Dunmow. The band will perform their set between 1.00pm and 3pm (with a 20 minute interval) on Sunday, June 26th.

The Italian and Walled gardens will be open to visitors and for younger visitors there will be plenty of craft and nature activities as well as loads of space to run around.

Bacon baps and cheese rolls will be on sale until 2.15pm; hot and cold drinks, crisps and delicious homemade cakes will be available until 4.30pm.

Entrance fees are £4 for adults, with 50p per person going directly to our Tree House Appeal. Entry for children under 16 is still free. Annual season tickets will be on sale at only £12 for 12 months entry to the gardens on open days and our Gift Vouchers make wonderful birthday presents.

Gates are open from 11.30am until 5pm with last entry at 4pm. There will guided tours (£1.50 per head) at 12.30pm and 3.15pm; as always dogs are welcome on leads. Parking is FREE.

The gardens will also be open to the public on Sunday, 21st August. Further information about open days and volunteer opportunities is available on the website - <http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/>. Alternatively, call 01371 876979 (leave a message and we will get back to you) or email on enquiries@eastonlodge.co.uk.



Great Hallingbury History Society

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 8th June, 2016

1916 - An Eventful Year



**Battle of Jutland
Easter Rising in Dublin
Lloyd George new Prime Minister
Lord Kitchener died
Battle of the Somme**



Please bring your own mementoes and photographs of a momentous year to accompany a Short Talk by Philip Hays

following our AGM

Autumn Programme

Wednesday, 14th September

The Peasants' Revolt of 1381 in Essex

a dramatic event in the fight against serfdom led by men from Essex and Kent



Wednesday, 5th October

Thaxted

a familiar medieval town

Wednesday, 9th November

Isambard Kingdom Brunel

English Engineer and Inventor



Meetings are held in the Village Hall At 8pm

Entrance Fee Including Refreshments:

£2.00 for Members

Membership £5 pa

£3.00 for Non-members

Everyone is welcome, so do join us

Great Hallingbury History Society



The History Society has had eight meetings since the last Parish Meeting when we enjoyed listening to speakers on a wide variety of topics:

- Essex and East London in 18th Century
- Lost on the Somme *which discussed some of the writers and artists who died in that battle and considered what genius had been lost*
- Gamekeepers - *a modern gamekeeper talked about his work and contrasted it to previous generations*
- Landscape and Settlement of NW Essex *which traced the movement of people and ancient settlements in Uttlesford*
- Pargetting - *this talk by a pair who practise the art of pargetting today with both new creations and restoration on older buildings back to the Middle Ages.*
- Zeppelins over Essex during the first World War
- Richard III - a bloody tyrant? *This talk attracted a keen audience. Apart from focussing on the life and actions of Richard III the speaker, who was the Chairman of the Richard III Society, had attended the reburial of the king in Leicester in 2015 which proved very interesting.*
- The Gibson Family of Saffron Walden. *George Gibson in particular was a remarkable man - a brewer and owner of a chain of pubs, a wealthy benefactor to Saffron Walden, he owned a bank which became Barclays Bank and was a renowned botanist.*

After the talk on pargetting, a party of members visited Church Street in Saffron

Walden where part of the Sun Inn is currently being restored. This includes some magnificent pargetting which has already been restored and the council has incorporated some special measures in the roadway to try to keep the lorries away from the house to protect the work that has been done. The interior restoration is a mammoth task for the owner and a true labour of love.

Recently a small party of members attended the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London.

The History Society has also participated with displays at the Flower Show last summer and the Harvest event in St. Giles' Church. In October last year, the Bishop's Stortford History Society celebrated its 60th anniversary and we joined with other local history societies in supporting their exhibition in Castle Gardens.

We shall continue with our varied programme of speakers from the light-hearted *To Coin a Phrase* to a talk on *Thaxted* and another on one of the country's great engineers - Bazalgette, Brunel or Stephenson.

We also plan a visit in the Autumn, possibly to Finchingfield Guildhall. Like the building in Church Street, Saffron Walden, this would be a private visit for our members.

The History Society has, of course, lost its President with the death of Ernie Field. Ernie was one of the founding members of the Society in 1988 and has been the driving force for very many years. His books have been published by the Society and continue to be available for sale but we shall miss his great knowledge of the village and his eagerness to share that knowledge with everyone who lived here and beyond.

*Christine Coultrup, Chairman
Report presented to Great Hallingbury's
Annual Parish Meeting in March, 2016*

Better Weather at last – what crime does it bring?



New tools and lawn mowers: Be mindful of how you dispose of the packaging to your new purchases, don't advertise it to thieves and burglars with your empty boxes on display outside for roadside collection. Fold boxes inside out or break them up and put them in a bag for collection.

Property marking: It's a good deterrent if your property is visibly security marked with your house number and post code and record the serial numbers of items. More information on this on the Essex Police website. If your property does get stolen with property marking and/or recording on Immobilise there is a greater chance of you getting it back.

Working in the garden: It is easy to get engrossed in what you are doing when working in the garden. If the house is empty it is wise to close and lock the door (don't forget the key though!). Put tools away after use, it adds insult to injury if your own tools are used to break into your house.

New plants: Larger plants can be secured to land or rootball anchors or plant through chicken wire covering the area with soil. Cement or bolt down containers to the ground. Your local garden centre or DIY store should be able to help.

Shed security: With sheds coach-bolt and plate the padlock hasp sections to the frame and door, use a good quality close shackle padlock or a key operated mortice lock. Don't forget the hinges, ensure they cannot be unscrewed. Protect windows with wire mesh and fit a curtain or white wash the windows to prevent prying eyes. Products that are fit for purpose can be found by looking for the "Secured by Design" or "Sold Secure" logos

Essex Police

"No" to Rogue Traders

Rogue traders are people who call at your door pretending to be qualified tradespeople and offering to do work on your home. Some rogue traders try to sell poor quality goods at your door for highly inflated prices.

They may seem friendly and persuasive but too often they target vulnerable elderly people and recommend work that is not required, not actually carried out or carried out to such a poor standard it requires further work and expense to correct it. They may claim to know your neighbours and have done work for them.

Trading Standards advice

- Never hire tradesmen who knock for business at your door
- Find a reputable worker from the *Buy with Confidence* website managed by Trading Standards.

A genuine trader won't:

- Call without an appointment
- Ask you to go to the bank to withdraw cash or make a money transfer
- Offer to take you to the bank to withdraw cash for payment
- Ask you to pay in full before the work is complete
- Insist that you make a decision about the work offered on the spot
- Bully or scare you into doing the work

If you need some work doing:

- Contact a *Buy with Confidence* accredited trader 0345 4040506 www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk
- Get a number of quotes detailing the work to be carried out, the cost and the terms of payment
- Take your time to make sure you're happy with what you're undertaking – ask a trusted friend/relative for advice

Report any crimes or suspicious incidents to the police on 101, or in an emergency dial 999. Trading Standards helpline (run by Citizens Advice Bureau) is on 03454 040506.

Great Hallingbury WI



Great Hallingbury WI has 32 members, our highest number for many years. A third of our membership lives outside the village. We meet on the fourth Wednesday in the month and either have an outside speaker or entertain ourselves. A certain group of ladies like nothing better than dressing up to entertain us, whether it is at our New Year Dinner or the Roothings Group meeting. The five institutes which make up the Roothings group meet annually in the Spring.

We are affiliated to the Essex Federation of Women's Institutes and like to support their activities. To celebrate 100 years of the WI in 2015, two members were invited to tea at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. A group also attended an Afternoon Tea at Ingatestone Hall.

We like to enter the co-operative classes at both the Village Flower Show and the Essex WI Show where members can demonstrate their many and various skills.

Our WI is very sociable! We have monthly lunches at local hostelrys and this year have had trips to the Mayfield Bakery at Sheering, where we caught a glimpse of Rod Stewart, and further afield, a day at Kew Gardens. We have a Quiz team and a Darts team. Most recently, we joined the national effort to *clean for the Queen*. It was amazing how many bags were filled, despite there being a village clean-up just two weeks previously.

Like most organisations, in order to sustain our diversity, we have to fund raise. We usually have two events each year, one being our infamous *Flog It* evening which draws in WI ladies from far and wide!

In 2017 we look forward to joining the Federation activities to celebrate 100 years of the Essex WI's.

*Judy Simmonds, Secretary
Report presented to Great Hallingbury's
Annual Parish Meeting in March, 2016*

Companion Dog Show Bishops Stortford Dog Training Club - In Aid Of Animal Rescue Charity.

On Sunday, 10th April, we took over the Village Hall and Field. The Club team started at 7.00am setting out four obedience rings on the field and a large show ring on the tarmac car park. Another group were organising the hall to serve the 5 judges and their 5 stewards lunch in the Peachey Room. The competitors were served from a counter in the Hall.

Competitors started arriving before 10.00am to sign-in for their classes from 11.00am. Judging started at mid-day. We had 336 individual entries, some people entering more than one class.

As I was on car park duty, I saw most people arrive and I was pleased to see so many Hallingbury residents turning up. I even made contact with a new neighbour who has yet to move into his property. Some locals even braved entering their dogs.



Joyce Chapman of Jenkins Lane with her Irish Setter in the breed class

The raffle took £231.90 (since tickets were £1 each, something went wrong!) and overall we have a profit of around £900.

Last year we were able to send £1,000 to Animal Rescue Charity (locally known as Foxdells) and together with our usual club donation, we expect to be able to send the same amount this year.

Richard Simmonds



Winner in an obedience class was Bridget with one of her 11 Shelties. She works hard rescuing this breed, especially those with sight loss. 3 club members also placed.

Broad Oak Players

I have always looked upon my involvement with Hatfield Broad Oak as a privilege. After all, the programmes on television tell us daily that the majority of the British population craves life in a quintessentially English village and that is exactly what many people are lucky enough to enjoy in Broad Oak.

Years ago, I was a young housewife with a small baby, feeling very isolated, living in the little hamlet of Woodside Green. It's a very picturesque part of the world but, unlike some of the other villages, it has no 'hub'; no school, no post office, no shop, no village hall. A friend suggested that I join the Broad Oak Players so that I could meet some new local people. Taking my courage in both hands I went along to what turned out to be a pantomime rehearsal. I was given a very warm welcome along with a fancy costume and was on the stage within minutes of my arrival! That was over thirty years ago now and I've never looked back. I made many life long friends and when I look back over the years I have some wonderful memories to share.

You may not think you have a talent for acting or singing, you may not even want to be on the stage at all but don't worry. There are many essential things that happen behind the stage too. Come and enjoy our summer sessions of *Singing with Sally* and experience the pleasure of singing in our little choir. Sessions last for approximately an hour and a half and are in the Broad Oak Village Hall on several Mondays in July and August. It costs just one pound, what a bargain!

The Broad Oak Players committee is trying its best to keep this friendly and worthwhile element of Hatfield Broad Oak village life rolling along. It would be a pity to see it dissolve after so many productive years when both performers and audiences have had such fun together. We pride ourselves on the fact that we include everyone; we've

helped many elderly get out and about, many shy and several disabled people to gain confidence and overcome many of their difficulties whilst improving their communication skills and we've even had several youngsters that have gone on to drama school. In fact I am going soon to see one of our young actors in *The History Boys* at Rhodes Arts Centre.



**HBO Players
2012
production of
BLITHE SPIRIT**

The bottom line is this; the Broad Oak Players cannot exist without some new blood. Our Chairman is Tony Rycroft and you can join us by giving him a call on 01279 718778 or email him at tony.rycroft@bcs.org.uk Otherwise pop a note through his door at Thrums, High Street, Hatfield Broad Oak. Amazingly, it is free to join but worth a fortune!

Come and join us, there's a very warm welcome just waiting for you!

*Carole Williams. Committee Member,
Hatfield Broad Oak Players*

FINALLY, A HUSBAND WHO LISTENS!

He said:
"What can I help you with?"

She said:
"Take this bag of potatoes, peel half of them and put them in the pot."





Buying a Bathing Suit

When I was a child in the 1950's the bathing suit for the mature female figure was boned, trussed and reinforced, not so much sewn as engineered.

They were built to hold back and uplift, an they did a good job. Today's stretch fabric swimsuits are designed for the prepubescent girl with a figure carved from a potato chip.

The mature woman has a choice: she can either go up front to the maternity department and try on a floral suit with a skin, coming away looking like a hippopotamus that escaped from Disney's Fantasia, or she can wander around every run-of-the-mill department store trying to make a sensible choice from what amounts to a designer range of fluorescent rubber bands.

What choice did I have? I wandered around, made my sensible choice and entered the chamber of horrors known as the fitting room. The first thing I noticed was the extraordinary strength of the stretch material. I fought my way into the bathing suit but, when I twanged the shoulder strap in place, I gasped in horror; my boobs had disappeared.

Eventually I found one boob sheltering under my left armpit. It took a while to find the other. At last I located it flattened beside my seventh rib.

The problem is that modern bathing suits have no bra cups. The mature woman is meant to wear her boobs spread across her chest like a speed bump. I realigned my speed bump and lurched towards the mirror to make a full view assessment.

The bathing suit fitted all right but unfortunately it only fitted those bits of me willing to stay inside it. The rest of me oozed out rebelliously from top, bottom and sides. I looked like a lump of playdough

wearing undersized cling wrap.

As I tried to work out where all those extra bits had come from, the prepubescent sales girl popped her head through the curtain. "Oh, there you are," she said, admiring the bathing suit.

I replied that I wasn't so sure and asked what else she had to show me. I tried on a cream crinkled one that made me look like a lump of masking tape and a floral two-piece that gave the appearance of an oversized napkin in a serviette ring.

I struggled into a pair of leopard skin bathers with rugged frills and came out looking like Tarzan's Jane, pregnant with triplets and having a rough day.

I tried on a black number with a midriff fringe and looked like a jellyfish in mourning,

I tried on a bright pink pair with such a high cut leg I thought I would have to wax my eyebrows to wear them.

Finally I found a suit that fitted. It was a two-piece affair with a shorts style bottom and a loose blouse-type top. It was cheap, comfortable and bulge friendly, so I bought it. My ridiculous search had a successful outcome, I figured.

When I got it home, I found a label that read, "Material might become transparent in water".

So, if you happen to be on the beach or near any other body of water this summer and I'm there too, I'll be there in cut-off jeans and a T-shirt.

Life isn't about how to survive the storm but how to dance in the rain with or without a stylish bathing suit!

Anon

Found by Richard Simmons in a Devon Church newsletter

**THE MAN WHO INVENTED
PREDICTIVE TEXT DIED
YESTERDAY.
HIS FUNFAIR IS NEXT
MONKEY.**



Join us for a

GH
GREAT HALLINGBURY
MANOR STANSTED

 **DISCO &
HOG ROAST**

Saturday 14th May & Saturday 18th June
7.00PM Until Midnight in the Lakeside Suite

* * * * *

£19.95 INCLUDES:

- Pimms arrival drink • Disco with summer hits from the 80's and 90's
- Hog Roast with selection of salads and accompaniments

MAKE A NIGHT OF IT!

- Special Overnight accommodation rate just £65.00 inc Breakfast
 - Upgrade to a superior room for £20 extra only
- Or stay in our stable block superior room for £120 including Breakfast

Book now on 01279 506 475



Great Hallingbury Manor Hotel, Great Hallingbury, Bishops Stortford, CM22 7TJ

Stay • Enjoy • Discover



Unsung Hero *Hallingbury Flower Show*

Nice is not a word I use often, I find it a little colourless, but Eric Rogers was a genuinely nice man. Quiet, never attention seeking. Someone who just got on with the job. In the context of the Flower Show, *An unsung hero*.

I took over from him as Chairman of the show in 1993 and the evening of the AGM that year is one I shall always remember. I went to the meeting as an observer and, much to Eric's relief, I came home as Chairman.

Eric had been wanting to stand down for some time but the show President, Nessie Streeter, had always persuaded him to stay on. On this occasion he said there was an alternative for the role, someone who promoted events, and, to use her words, having looked me up and down, she decided to *give me a go*. Eric and the other members of the committee were very quick to raise their hands in favour and to vote me in to office!

Although no longer Chairman, no one could have been more supportive than Eric. I was a new boy, an outsider and he didn't really know me but, along with Betty, Ron Eldred and other long standing members of the committee, he could not have been more encouraging.

His wealth of experience was invaluable and I was pleased to be able to suggest to the Royal Horticultural Society that they honour him with a medal for long and outstanding service.

I was the new figurehead of the show but Eric continued to be an essential part of the *engine room*. A wealth of knowledge, with a head full of names, results and statistics. From runner beans to luscious lemon cakes, Eric knew the number of entries and the names of past winners.

For many years he and Betty were the show, working tirelessly behind the scenes in the weeks leading up to the big day; working non stop on the day itself and in the days following, making sure all the trophies were engraved.

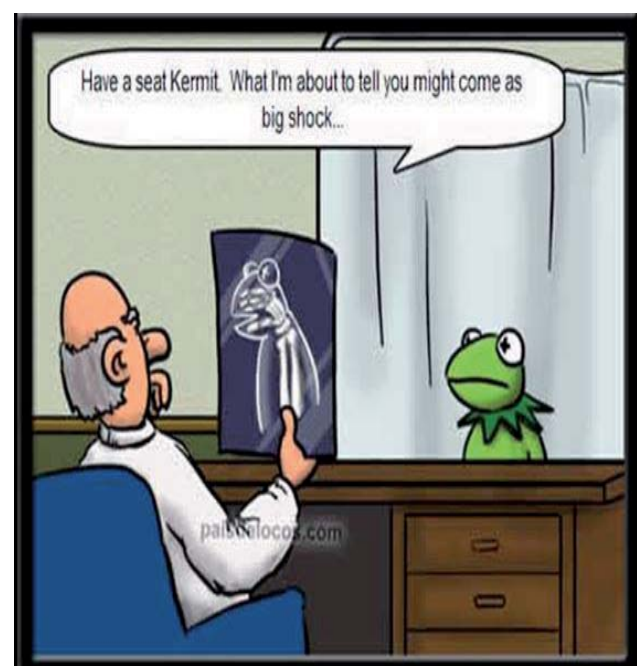
In the week of the show Eric was very much hands on, helping to get the tables out of storage, putting them up and chalking the different number of entries on each one. This invaluable support continued long after he had left the committee.

He was a welcome figure at each committee meeting and if we were ever in doubt about which flower, vegetable or cake to include in the schedule out would come his records with the number of entries for each going back years.

Much of what we see and enjoy in the show today is down to the successful format that Eric devised over many years. The Flower Show is one of the highlights of the year in Great and Little Hallingbury and the always modest Eric Rogers helped make it such an integral part of life in the two villages.

Geoff Petts

Remember that this year's Flower Show is on Sunday, 24th July, at Harps Farm.



Bishop's Stortford Dog Training Club



There are now several dog training establishments in the Bishop's Stortford Area but we remain a Club and our Trainers only receive a small contribution to their travelling expenses. This makes our subscriptions very economic. Any spare income is donated to local or dog charities each year and, in 2015, we were able to give £250 to each of the following:

Bark and Read supports dogs going into schools and being read to by the children as many less able readers are happy to read to the dogs but not to an adult.

Centre Algarve runs a home in the Algarve which enables families with special needs members to experience a foreign break. It is organised by the Stansted Airport taxi company.

Our 6 Week Puppy Classes are proving very popular. We do advise puppy owners to book their places as soon as they have a puppy so that they can start their course as soon as possible after their puppy is out of quarantine.

Our Companion Show last April in support of Foxdells Animal Rescue raised £1,000 for the Charity.

Richard Simmonds

Report presented to Great Hallingbury's Annual Parish Meeting in March, 2016



St. Giles' Church Great Hallingbury



Throughout the last year members of the Parochial Church Council have continued to explore the most appropriate method of heating St. Giles' Church in the 21st Century. It has been a challenging time as we have had to cope with the problems of obtaining permission to proceed from the Diocese and from English Heritage. The good news is that Ian Irving Fynn is hoping to start work in the late spring, when the weather is warmer, to install three oil-fired boilers in the church vestry. The heating will, therefore, be in place for church services and events this winter. On behalf of the PCC, I should like to thank the members of the Great Hallingbury Parish Council for their very kind donation of £2,000 towards the cost of installing the new heating. Thank you also for your regular donation towards the maintenance and upkeep of the churchyard.

Last summer the church continued to be open on Wednesday afternoons for people to visit and reflect and have a cup of tea. We had some interesting visitors who had learnt about the open afternoons from the church website or had links to St. Giles' Church through family histories.

In January of this year the village celebrated the life of Ernie Field. The service in St. Giles' Church was a very fitting tribute to Ernie, who was such a well respected member of the Great Hallingbury Community, participating fully in so many village activities. The tributes given by members of the family and the number of people who attended his service showed the love and esteem in which Ernie was held.

On behalf of the Great Hallingbury Parochial Church Council I should like to thank everyone in the village who has supported the church during the last year, especially our Gift Day in July, our Harvest Flowers Weekend in September and at special services such

as Remembrance Sunday. The support of everyone in the village for St. Giles' Church is very much appreciated.

Thank you also to all the residents of Great Hallingbury who have supported The One Hundred Club. At present we have 90 members, which means each month £45 is given out in prizes and £45 is given to the PCC to help maintain the fabric of our beautiful and historic village church. If you are interested in joining the 100 Club this year, it is not too late. Please contact Heather Hays or Philip Hays for further details on 01279 651851 or at philipandheatherhays@googlemail.com

*Heather Hays, Churchwarden
Report presented to Great Hallingbury's
Annual Parish Meeting in March, 2016*

St Giles' Services

June 2016 - September 2016

It is anticipated that work on the heating will take place in June. Please check the website for up to date information <http://www.hallingburychurches.co.uk/>.

Jun 12	10 am	Morning Prayer
Jun 26	10 am	Family Communion
Jul 10	10 am	Morning Prayer
Jul 24	10 am	Family Communion
Jul 31	10 am	United Benefice Family Communion St. Giles'
Aug 14	10 am	Morning Prayer
Aug 28	10 am	Family Communion
Sep 11	10 am	Morning Prayer
Sep 25	10 am	Family Communion
Oct 9	10 am	Harvest Festival

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.

The Hallingbury Choir

Presents



*A Serenade
for Summer*

**LITTLE HALLINGBURY
VILLAGE HALL**

**Saturday 25 June 2016
at 7.30pm**

Admission by Ticket **£5.00**

available from Ann Luke 01279 653025 or any Choir Member
Also at the door



Please bring your own DRINKS and GLASSES

St. Giles' Harvest Flowers & Cream Teas

with stalls



Saturday, 8th October, 2 - 5 pm

Sunday, 9th October, 2 - 4 pm



Calendar

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 - *1916 An Eventful Year plus AGM* - Village Hall 8 pm
- 14 Friendship Club
- 15 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35pm - 1.55pm
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm
- 22 WI - *Mystery Meeting* - Village Hall 7.30 pm
- 25 Hallingbury Choir - *A Serenade for Summer* - Little Hallingbury Village Hall 7.30 pm
- 26 Easton Lodge Open Day- Dunmow Wind Band
- 29 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35pm - 1.55pm
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm

July 2016

- 2 Great Hallingbury Village Hall - *Summer Quiz Night* - Village Hall 7.30 for 8 pm
- 4 Great Hallingbury Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall 8 pm
- 5 Olive Branch - *Social Meeting* - The Rectory 2.15 pm
- 12 Friendship Club
- 13 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35pm - 1.55pm
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm
- 19 Olive Branch Outing
- 24 Hallingbury Flower Show - Harps Farm 12 noon - 4 pm
- 27 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35pm - 1.55pm
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm
- 27 WI - *Confessions of a Speaker* - Village Hall 7.30 pm

August 2016

- 9 Friendship Club
- 10 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35pm - 1.55pm
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm
- 21 Easton Lodge Open Day
- 24 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35pm - 1.55pm
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm
- 24 WI - *Members' Day* - Village Hall 7.30 pm

September 2016

- 5 Great Hallingbury Parish Council Meeting - Village Hall 8 pm
- 6 Olive Branch - *Ploughman's Lunch* - Langham, Latchmore Bank
- 7 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35pm - 1.55pm
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm
- 13 Friendship Club
- 14 History Society - *The Peasants' Revolt of 1381 in Essex* - Village Hall 8 pm
- 18 Easton Lodge Open Day - Apple Day
- 21 Library Van - Bedlars Green 1.35pm - 1.55pm
Woodside Green 2.05 - 2.25 pm
- 28 WI - *Animal Charity* - Village Hall 7.30 pm

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

Monday, 2nd July 8 pm Village Hall
Monday, 5 September 8 pm Village Hall

Great Hallingbury Village Hall



SUMMER QUIZ NIGHT

Raising funds to improve the Village Hall

Saturday, 2nd July, 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

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- 3 - Do We Stay or Should We Go
- Speed Watch in Great Hallingbury
- 5-7 - The Police Years
- 7 - Great Hallingbury Carpet Bowls Club
- 9 - Great Hallingbury Highlights
- Italian Funeral ... RIP
- 10 - Great Hallingbury Friendship Club
- Hawaiian Holiday
- 11 - Hilarious Things My Mother Taught Me
- Neighbourhood Watch
- 12 - Hallingbury Flower Show
- 12-13 - 1st Great Hallingbury Brownies
- 15-16 - Great Hallingbury Annual Parish Meeting
- 16 - It's Not a Bird
- 17 - Lost and Found
- Great Hallingbury Village Hall
- 18-21 - Litter Picking in Great Hallingbury
- 22-25 - Great Hallingbury Parish Council Highlights
- 25 - Loving Wives
- 26 - Easton Lodge
- 26-27 - Great Hallingbury History Society
- 28 - Crime Alerts
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- Companion Dog Show
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