Great Hallingbury Highlights

Autumn 2026 Vol. 111

An independent publication giving news on matters affecting Great Hallingbury



Centuries - painted by Gabrielle Vickery

You'd think we didn't have traffic!

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Hallingbury Ladies

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St. Giles' Church

Priest in Charge: Rev'd Sophie Weller
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Venture 85 - short term loan of mobility aids, etc
Monica Swann 01279 653820



Editorial

The National Sport

Do you remember the musical Camelot and the song in which they defined the perfect climate?

July and August cannot be too hot and there's a legal limit to the snow … winter is forbidden till December and exits March the second on the dot … summer lingers through September. The rain may never fall till after sundown. By eight, the morning fog must disappear. In short, there's simply not a more congenial spot as Camelot.

I bet the British would find something about which to complain!

Complaining about the weather is truly our national sport – never mind the football. The recent heatwaves have been enjoyed by some but for many they have been debilitating and more than uncomfortable. And there has been no rain for the gardens! Do I recall all the moans earlier in the year when it didn't seem to stop raining?

Yes, we are living through a change in our climate and no, there is no instant – or even short term - fix. We just have to soldier on and live with whatever comes our way – and, no doubt, indulge in the country's favourite sport – complaining about the weather.

New Gardening Group

You may have seen in the last issue that a new Gardening Group has been established in the Village with monthly meetings at the Village Hall. We are now happy to include what we hope will become a regular feature in the magazine giving seasonal tips and reminders to our readers.

Village Activities

There are several other active clubs that meet at the Village Hall. Hallingbury Ladies is very busy, as you will see from their report later in this publication, but you can join as many or as few of the activities as you wish. On a Friday evening, *Friends of a Crafty Spell* share a variety of craft activities and a couple of times a month we have a Bridge Club which meets on a Sunday evening, suitable for players of all skill levels.

Two quizzes are planned in the next period and you will find information on these on page 21.

The Switch On of the Christmas Tree Lights at the Village Hall has become an important date in Great Hallingbury's calendar. This year it will be on 28th November and you can find full details on the back page.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of the summer – be it at home or away – and stay well whatever you do.

Editor

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Highlights from the Minutes of Meetings of Great Hallingbury Parish Council

11 May, 8 June and 6 July 2026

Present (at all or some meetings): Cllr Alan Townsend (Chairman), Cllrs David Barlow, Mark Bloomfield, Neil Jackson, Andrew Noble, Alan Pinnock and Val Waring, Mrs Urška Sydee (Clerk), Essex County Cllr Geoff Bagnall and District Cllr Geof Driscoll.

Annual Meeting

Election of Chairman 2026 / 2027

One nomination was received, Cllr Alan Townsend. This was agreed unanimously and the Declaration of Acceptance signed by Cllr Townsend.

Election of Vice-Chairman 2026/27

One nomination was received: Cllr Mark Coletta. This was agreed unanimously and the Declaration of Acceptance signed by Cllr Coletta.

Planning Committee 2026 / 2027

Members of the Planning Committee will be Cllrs Bloomfield, Coletta, Noble, Pinnock, Townsend and Waring. Chairman: Cllr Townsend. Vice-Chairman: Cllr Coletta
The remit of the planning committee was reviewed and no changes were made to the Terms of Reference

Working Groups 2026 / 2027

Airport: Cllrs Barlow, Bloomfield, Noble and Townsend.
Police and Neighbourhood Watch: Cllrs Barlow, Coletta, Jackson and Townsend.
Parish Plan: Cllrs Barlow, Coletta, Jackson, Pinnock, Townsend and Waring.
Housing: Cllrs Bloomfield, Coletta and Noble.
Neighbourhood Watch: Cllrs Coletta and Waring

Organisation Representatives

Road Safety: Cllr Coletta
Transport: Cllr Noble
Health: Cllr Jackson
Footpaths: Cllr Pinnock
Tree Warden: Cllr Townsend
UALC: Cllr Townsend
TPLPG (Three Parishes Local Plan Group): Cllrs Jackson and Townsend
SAW (Stansted Airport Watch): Vacancy

Financial Report

A report of the receipts and payments over the financial year 2025 / 2026 had been examined and were approved. The fixed assets were reviewed. The Council wishes to have an external audit (AGAR3).
The Annual Government Statement (AGAR 1) was reviewed, approved and signed by the Chairman.
The Council unanimously approved the Accounting Statement for 2025 / 2026 (AGAR Section 2) which was signed by the Chairman.

Calendar Of Meetings 2026 / 2027

2026: 6 July, 7 September, 9 November
2027: 4 January, 1 March, 10 May
All meetings to start at 20.00 hours.
Annual Parish Meeting: 15 March, 2027

Regular Parish Council Meetings

Chairman's Communications

Cllr Townsend reported that he:

- attended UDC Forum
- chaired Great Hallingbury APM
- cut grass at the Churchyard weekly
- met with UALC secretary
- attended UDC Parish Forum covering planning and recycling
- checked defibrillator weekly
- met clerk weekly.

Vas Speed Sign Start Hill

The VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs) speed sign on Start Hill outside Tocher House is not operating correctly as it is obscured by vegetation. This has been reported to Essex Highways.

Uttlesford District Council

Community Infrastructure Levy: expected

to be released in autumn, currently in consultation. When released, Councils will be able to get 25% which can be spent on projects.
The new UDC design code to be used with planning applications is available on UDC's website. The Government's new number for housing supply is still awaited. Developments on unallocated land in the new Local Plan will be refused. A panel of three people - two members and Head of Planning - will decide on whether an application goes to the committee.

Essex County Council
Cllr Bagnall advised that grants are available for community groups.

Highways Matters
There is an unacceptable amount of litter around the M11 junction 8 which has been reported to National Highways.
The water leak at the Flitch Way bridge has been repaired but the whole section of the road needs to be repaired.

Community Safey Partnership
Ongoing, awaiting update from UDC regarding how VAS scheme will be implemented across Uttlesford.

A120
Cllr Coletta had an informal meeting with Uttlesford District Councillors Sutton, Reeve, Driscoll, Evans, Dean Hermitage and Stuart Harrison, UDC Transport Officer. The feasibility study for a link road from *Land North of Taylors Farm* to the A120 was discussed.

- Estimated funding predicted from £4.2 to £10 million.
- Link road proposed in study was 1.5 km but this was challenged as the shortest road could be circa 500m, reducing overall costs.
- A collaborative approach will be required from all stakeholders to encourage an incentive for all. Residents of surrounding villages (650 from Takeley Street Community group), Great Hallingbury, Takeley and Little Canfield Parish Councils understand need to get road diverting traffic directly to the A120, offering MAG and Pigeon the use of this section of road for additional infrastructure to raise revenue to pay for it.
- Reducing traffic on the B1256 and environmental impacts to Hatfield Forest National Trust.
- Current road proposal in the feasibility study comes almost to Takeley Street which looks alarmingly as if they are looking to connect to Takeley Street. Everyone agreed this proposal will only make traffic issues worse and create a rat run to Stansted Airport. Takeley Street Action group (not present at the meeting) noted that planning application for Stansted Northside included a fourth lane around the M11 junction 8. Pigeon and feasibility study both use this proposed fourth lane in their traffic predictions as a traffic mitigation. This fourth lane proposal has now been withdrawn by the developers at Stansted Northside!
- Currently waiting for Highways Departments to make transport comments on existing planning application at the *Land North of Taylors Farm*.

The next stage will be to invite Parish Councillors and key stakeholders to a formal meeting.

Hallingburys' Speed Watch Group
Inactive due to time restraints and lack of volunteers.

Neighbourhood Watch
Cllr Coletta has met with PCSO in Start Hill discussing anti-social behaviour.
Cllr Townsend reported fuel for grass cutting of the Churchyard had been stolen from the Church equipment shed.

Village Hall
Cllr Pinnock reported that all is progressing well and the Committee is considering putting the hall on main drainage. A

quotation of £20,000 has been received. Email has been sent to Football Club to confirm the Council's decision that they may proceed. Goalposts have been installed. A leak in the Peachey Room roof has been repaired.
The post outside the Village Hall needs repair.

Noticeboard
Noticeboard is on order and delivery is imminent.

Post Box at Top of Goose Lane by Woodside Green
The clerk had contacted MP who wrote to Public Affairs Officer. MP has requested a meeting with Royal Mail.

Bedlars Green Pond
Cllr Pinnock reported that registering the pond as council land with the Land Registry proved to be complex and solicitors might need to be involved. Registering land as council land should have been done in 1965. He expressed concerns as to what is happening with the access to Alpenrose. The clerk to write to National Trust asking them to inform the Council of any changes on the green.

Drop Box
No update.

Salt Bag Partnership
The Council will stay in the scheme for 2026/27. No new salt is needed at present.

Housing Needs Survey
The Council discussed conducting a Housing Needs Survey. It was suggested distributing a leaflet with the village magazine to see how many residents will respond. Cllr Noble did a housing survey In 2011 and 33% of houses were available as affordable at the Mead Field Drive development.

Electronic Devices For Councillors
The Council considered buying electronic devices for Councillors solely to transact the work for the Council. The purchase of eight such devices will be investigated.

Shared Equipment with LHPC
The Parish Council shares ownership of a computer and printer with Little Hallingbury Parish Council. It was concluded that there would be the least interruption if Great Hallingbury Parish Council keeps the computer and the Council agreed to pay half the price to Little Hallingbury Parish Council and to approve expenditure for the purchase of new printer.

Bank
The Council discussed moving to online banking. It was concluded that this is the way forward although the Council will continue to use cheques wherever possible as this seem to be the safest method. The implications of online banking are to be investigated.

Planning
Application No // Site and Development // Decision (the Council's comments are shown in brackets)

Application Decisions

UTT/20/1098/FUL // Land to the East of Tilekiln Green // Construction of 15 new dwellings, including 6 full affordable dwellings, vehicular access and associated parking and landscaping // Unknown Discharge Conditions (No objections but should have provision for electric car charging and sufficient parking spaces)

UTT/25/1542/FUL // London Stansted Airport // Airfield works comprising two new taxiway links to the existing runway (Rapid Access Taxiway and Rapid Exit Taxiway) to enable continued airfield operations of 274,000 aircraft movements and an increase in passenger throughput from 43 million terminal passengers to up to 51 million terminal passengers, in a twelve month calendar period // Approved (Parish Council objections listed in previous issues of magazine)

UTT/25/1854/FUL and reconsultation // Cranwellian, The Street, Takeley // Removal of all existing structures, foundations, internal fences, poles and manege materials, drainage pipes, chambers and

tanks, adaption of the existing site access and erection of six residential dwellings with associated infrastructure // Approved (Parish Council objections listed in previous issues of magazine)

UTT/25/2181/OP // Land at Camps Field, Lower Road, Little Hallingbury // Outline planning application with all matters reserved (except for principal access) for the demolition of existing structures and erection of up to 59 dwellings, including affordable housing, associated green and hard infrastructure, public open space, biodiversity enhancements and principal access off Lower Road // Approved (As a neighbouring Parish, Council objections relating to traffic through our village.)

UTT/25/1542/FUL // London Stansted Airport (Re-consultation) // Stansted Airfield works comprising construction of a taxiway fillet adjacent to the previously consented Rapid Exit Taxiway to enable continued airfield operations of 274,000 aircraft movements and an increase in passenger throughput from 43 million terminal passengers to up to 51 million terminal passengers, in a twelve-month calendar period // Approved

UTT/25/2591/FUL and reconsultation // Land Adjacent 10 Start Hill // Erection of five dwelling houses // Awaiting decision (Council comments relating to Public Safety Zones Policy AIR7, policy AIR6 Strategic Landscape Areas; aircraft noise)

UTT/26/0089/FUL // 1 The Gatehouse, The Street // S73 application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) of UTT/23/0985/FUL (Erection of one detached dwelling with associated private garden, car parking and landscaping and removal of existing relocatable dwelling) // Approved (No objections.)

UTT/26/0131/OP // Land at Latchmore End, Latchmore Bank // Outline planning application with all matters reserved except access for the erection of two dwellings and associated works // Refused (Parish Council objections listed in previous issues of magazine)

UTT/26/0165/FUL // Land North of The Gatehouse, The Street // S73 application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) of UTT/25/2147/FUL (Erection of two detached dwelling houses and related works including; upgraded access, parking, amenity areas and landscaping (alternative to approved scheme at Appeal under application UTT/23/1878/FUL)) -To change the size, design and appearance of the dwelling at Plot 2 from a chalet to a two storey dwelling. To increase the size of private garden areas and alter landscaping // Approved (No objections)

UTT/26/0229/LB // Howe Green House School // Installation of fibre broadband cable // Approved (No objections.)

UTT/26/0300/FUL // Land adjoining Old Tithe Hall, Start Hill // Erection of employment building for use within Use Classes B2, B8, E(g)(ii), E(g) (iii) // Awaiting decision (Parish Council objections listed in previous issues of magazine)

At a later meeting, Mr. Mike Calder gave representation saying the intent is to build small-scale buildings suitable for smaller local businesses. Aware of the Council's concerns regarding highways, drainage and heritage experts have been employed to address these. The developer would like to discuss possible S106 infrastructure improvements with the Parish Council to determine where to focus. The Council will investigate and decide what needs attention.

UTT/26/0515/HHF // 1-2 Greenways, Woodside Green // Double storey side extension, single storey rear extension, changes to front fenestration and external finish // Approved (No objections.)

UTT/26/0530/DFO // Land Adjacent 10 Start Hill // Details following outline application UTT/22/2829/OP for the erection of two dwellings with new access - details of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping // Awaiting decision (Objections relating to public safety zone AIR 7 Air6 flight corridor; number of dwellings (two in application but

four on plan); access and egress; extreme aircraft noise)
UTT/26/0532/HHF // Copper Beech, Tilekiln Green // Demolition of existing conservatory, erection of single storey front, side and rear extensions // Approved (No objections.)
UTT/26/0632/FUL // Stable at Lodge Farm, Woodside Green // Extension and conversion of stable to a dwelling // Awaiting decision (No objections as long as kept to single storey and in keeping with original architecture.)
UTT/26/0720/PDE // Nonane, Tilekiln Green // Proposed single storey rear extension - extending 8 metres from rear wall, maximum height 3 metres and height to eaves 2.1 metres // Decision Unknown (Strong and extensive objections relating to possible unapproved change of use to multiple occupancy with reference to advertised availability of accommodation; possible replication of previously refused application.)
UTT/26/1105/FUL // Start House, Tilekiln Green // S73A retrospective application for internal alterations to change from a House of Multiple Occupation for six households of no more than six individuals into a House of Multiple Occupation for eight households of no more than eight individuals // Awaiting decision (Objections relating to possible anomalies and need for full planning permission for number of HMO licenced occupants; poor access on dangerous bend with potential danger for both vehicles and pedestrians as no pathway and no permitted parking on road; probable inadequate parking on site)
UTT/26/0755/HHF // Wallwood, Woodside Green // Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of replacement outbuilding // Refused (No objections but must stay as outbuilding and not changed into residential dwelling later.)
UTT/26/0928/FUL // Barn At Lodge Farm, Woodside Green // S73 application to vary condition 5 (materials) of UTT/25/0486/FUL (conversion of agricultural building into a pair of semi detached dwellings and associated work - further to UTT/24/0362/PAQ3) // Awaiting decision (No objections)
UTT/26/1143/FUL // Dutch Barn at Lodge Farm, Woodside Green // Conversion of agricultural building into a pair of semi-detached dwellings and associated works following UTT/25/1348/PAQ3 // Awaiting decision (No objections.)

Finger Post at the Triangle of Church Road and The Street

This has been knocked down and Cllr Barlow has collected pieces of the signs. Cllr Coletta advised it has been reported.

Unclaimed Land

There are pieces of land in the village without established ownership. The Council did not claim these in 1965 when the process was easy and seems now to be very complicated, requiring legal help. The way forward would be for individuals to maintain such areas.

Parking By Flitch Way Bridge

This is very dangerous

UDC Enforcement

Vehicles at Pond Views should have been removed in September 2025 but has not been enforced. Now also have a motorcycle problem.

Editor's Note

The above are not the official records of meetings of Great Hallingbury Parish Council. Minutes are displayed on the Parish Council website and on noticeboards through the Village.



The Hundred Parishes Society



Although the Society is not a religious organisation, we encourage visits to parish churches as they are often the oldest and most interesting building in any community. Inside, you may find images of angels in some form or another. These winged creatures are considered to be messengers of God. They also represent goodness, with a promise of heaven if you live a good life.

Angels in churches are depicted in paintings, on stained-glass windows, suspended from ceilings, carved into corbels that support roof timbers or on poppyheads at the end of pews.



Clavering church displays several angels in its medieval glass windows as well as a series of wooden angels suspended from the rafters - they have feathers all over, including on their legs.



It is easy to miss Clavering's angels, but not those at Furneux Pelham. Their bright colours come from a repaint in the 1960s. Some play a lute and others hold a shield with a family crest, presumably of their sponsor. Furneux Pelham also has a series of angels on windows that were painted in the19th century by renowned artists William Morris and Edward Byrne-Jones.



At Elmdon, an angel peeps out from under the lectern from which the vicar preaches, whilst in Linton, one of the carved poppyheads depicts a scribe resting his book on the wings of an angel.



Some churches have carvings on the corbels that support major roof timbers. Hildersham's chancel has especially colourful



decoration, including angels on each of its corbels.

Over the last couple of years, I have given an illustrated talk to many local organisations, taking a peek inside some of our parish churches and including photos of angels in many guises.

Ken McDonald, Secretary
www.hundredparishes.org.uk



Radwinter – stained glass window.



The Gardening Group



Sometimes in life it seems as though the stars align to send you in a direction that feels almost preordained. The new Gardening Group is a prime example of this. I was just heading towards my final exams in Practical Horticulture, having completed my RHS Level 2 in The Principles of Plant Growth and Development at RHS Writtle Agricultural College last year, when I was contacted by a lady who had tried to run a weekly gardening club in Bishops Stortford. She had decided to close it after only a couple of months and wondered whether I would be interested in taking it over. My initial response was No! How would I find the time to run it?! But four lovely ladies who I'd met at Writtle agreed to make it a shared enterprise. We changed the meetings to monthly and asked the gardeners who came to put in their requests for topics to be covered at future meetings.

The aim of the group is to share knowledge about plants and gardening and, with that in mind, we start each evening with a presentation on a current topic. So far, we have looked at Weed Identification and Control; A Look at No Mow May; Plant Supports; Growing Media and Composting and Taking Cuttings. There are usually plants to buy, cakes to enjoy and the opportunity to meet other gardeners. What more could one wish for?



We have run successful workshops in the Kitchen Garden at Glebe House where people have learnt how to sow seeds, construct plant supports and how to produce plants for free by taking cuttings. It is wonderful to watch people's confidence grow as they learn how to propagate in a small group setting.

Each evening ends with a Question and Answer session and with seasonal advice and, with that in mind, I offer you the following:

As I write this, we are experiencing a second prolonged heat wave and there hasn't been significant rainfall for over a month. In order to help your plants survive this, you should give them a thorough soaking at least twice a week and spread a mulch over the flower beds. This can be bark chippings, wood chip, cut grass, leaves or composted green waste; anything to trap in the moisture. Water either in the evening or early morning to avoid the scorching of wet leaves in the sun and to avoid excess evaporation.



Flowers should be dead headed to ensure continued blossoming and if they start to lose their vibrant green and become yellow in colour, it can mean that they require feeding. You can buy granular or liquid plant food such as seaweed extract that you add to your watering can or, better still, come along to the Gardening Group and learn how to make your own plant food for nothing!

Happy gardening!

Claire Layer

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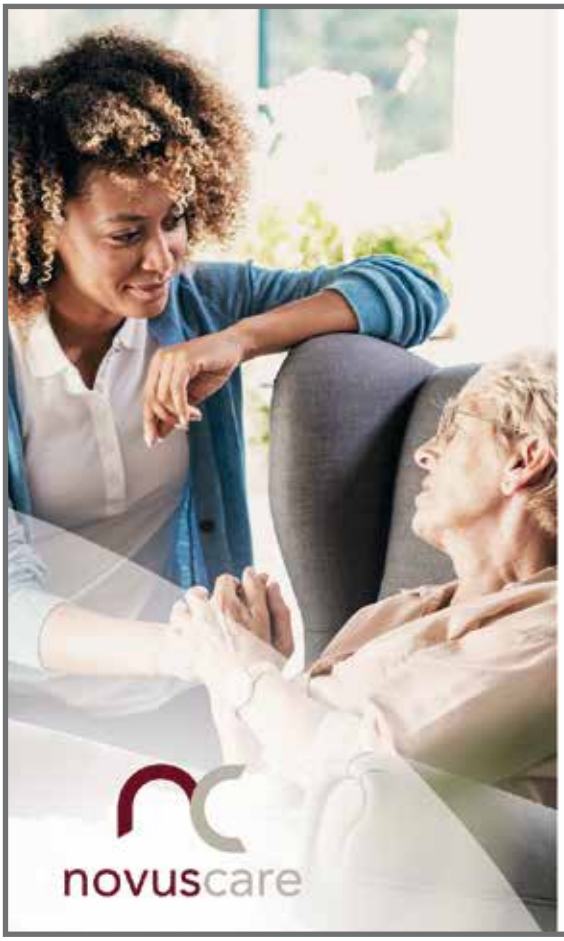
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Great Hallingbury History Society

Trip to West Stow Hall

Having been brought up in a very old house, I'm a sucker for a visit to a Tudor country house. Where some people see grandeur and links to monarchs, I see twisted beams, cobwebs and domestic stories. Don't get me wrong, I love to discover the stories behind important men such as Sir John Crofts, who purchased the house from the crown in 1540, but what I'm seeking is a lived-in connection that allows me to imagine living in the past. Well, West Stow Hall met everyone's expectations; connections with monarchs as well as with commoners. It fed our imaginations and entertained in wonderfully unexpected ways.

We were met in the shaded colonnade for a refreshing glass of squash and then taken on a tour of the house that revealed unexpected treasures: ceilings that had been raised; fireplaces that had been built, covered up, reduced and then enlarged again; coats of arms that were acquired and added to the gatehouse entrance in ancient times to raise the importance of the building (keeping up with the Jones's doesn't quite fit the bill…); Victorian modernisations that covered up the *old fashioned* Tudor façade; walls that were put up, taken down, moved and then removed again in a constant attempt to aggrandise the dwelling; beams that showed the tapered fingers of scorch marks had been relocated so that these ancient marks, designed to keep away evil, now face sideways and even upside down!



Upstairs held more delightful surprises aside from sloping floors and wood panelled walls. There were original Tudor windows against which ten butterflies, who had presumably metamorphosed inside the building, beat their wings; the hush of this warm, sunlit space felt truly magical and then … the gatehouse chamber, in which a beautifully preserved wall painting laid hidden. It is known as the *Four Ages of Man* and alludes to man's carnal intentions and preoccupations. It is thought to date from 1575 and remains in excellent condition. I couldn't help but think that the artist definitely wouldn't have dared voice these views in modern society!



Our hosts were the current custodians of West Stow Hall, Alan and Eileen Gilbert, who went to such lengths to make us feel welcomed as well as entertained. Their knowledge, pride and love for the building shone through. They have clearly devoted the last 14 years of their lives to the repair and renovation of the house which, being a grade 1 listed building, requires a special level of perseverance and expertise. Our expected tea and cake was generously augmented by sandwiches, scones with homemade jam, cream and strawberries and at least four different cakes. (I sound like Elizabeth Bennett's mother in Pride and Prejudice!)

So, if you do get the opportunity to visit, I thoroughly recommend it - although I did accost Alan at the end of our tour to try to persuade him to speak to Great Hallingbury History Society… watch this space!

Claire Layer

Easy Eating



Rosemary has made this many times and says it is very easy.

Pork & Sage Meatballs

Serves 4

Ingredients

1 onion, peeled and chopped
1 fat clove garlic, peeled and crushed
2 tblsp olive oil
3 tblsp chopped sage
500g pork mince
2 x 390g cartons chopped tomatoes with basil and oregano
Pinch of sugar

Method

1. In a deep-sided frying pan, gently soften the onion and garlic in half the oil for 8 - 10 minutes.
2. Cool slightly, mix with the sage and pork and shape into 12 balls.
3. Brown in the rest of the oil, add the tomatoes, sugar and some seasoning and simmer, covered, for 10 minutes.
4. Good with mash or pasta



Apple Cake

This is a cake or pudding if you add cream or custard.

Ingredients

225g / 8oz self-raising flour
1 tsp baking powder
225g / 8 oz caster sugar
2 large free-range eggs
1 tsp almond extract
150g / 5oz unsalted butter, melted
350g / 12oz cooking apples, peeled, cored and sliced (225g / 8oz prepared weight)
25g / 1oz flaked almonds

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 160C/Fan 140C. Gas 3. Grease and line the base of a 20cm / 8in diameter deep, loose-bottomed or spring form cake tin with non-stick baking paper.
2. Measure the flour, baking powder and sugar into a bowl. Stir in the eggs, almond extract and butter. Beat well using an electric hand whisk until smooth.
3. Spoon half the mixture into the base of the prepared tin. Arrange the apple slices on top in a neat pattern - not touching the sides of the tin. Overlap the slices and pile them up slightly in the centre. Spoon over the remaining cake mixture, then level the surface.
4. Sprinkle the top of the cake with the flaked almonds and bake in the preheated oven for about 1½ hours until pale golden brown and shrinking away from the sides of the tin. The centre of the cake may have a slight dip depending on the variety of apples used.
5. Remove from the oven and release from the sides of the tin. Leave to cool in the tin for about 15 minutes.
6. Turn out the cake onto a serving plate and serve while it is still warm with cream or créme fraîche

Rosemary Nugent

The Friends of Water Lane Hall

Community Asset Needing Funding

East Herts Council has confirmed its intention to transfer ownership of Water Lane Hall to the community but now funding is needed for essential building works.

Why Water Lane Hall?

Who's going to use Water Lane Hall Arts Studio? Why do we need another venue; we have South Mill Arts? Who's going to pay for it? These are a few of the questions that *Friends of Water Lane* are asked. Here's a little insight.

My husband and I formed Contexture Theatre in 2013 to bring professional theatre productions to Bishop's Stortford and the surrounding villages. We produced plays such as *Abigail's Party*, *Journey's End* and *Educating Rita*, as well as organising the outdoor event, *May Games* and the playwriting festival, *Write Here! Write Now!*

There wasn't an available or affordable rehearsal space we could use 9-5 pm, 5 days a week for 2 weeks for each production, so we ended up rehearsing in a derelict car showroom, friends' front rooms or our conservatory. When we did hire a church hall, they complained we used too much toilet paper; and we lost an entire day's rehearsal due to us needing to be silent for the funeral service downstairs. In other venues we hired we were told to keep the noise down because we were disturbing the office or meeting next door or, conversely, we once were trying to rehearse a serious scene and all you could hear was *I like to move it, move it!* from the Zumba class in the next room. You can't hire schools because of scheduling and safeguarding. And hiring South Mills Arts' 300 seat theatre to perform in was proving to be too expensive.

Other arts organisations in the Bishop's Stortford are similarly scattered around the town: exhibiting in dis-used shops; rehearsing in inappropriate settings; and performing in venues that are under-equipped, over-priced and unsupportive.

What Would We Achieve?

Water Lane Hall would provide all the local artists a home. A Hub. A centrally located venue that has access to two multi-storey carparks, benefiting from footfall from all the local shops, restaurants and amenities. The hall would become a go-to destination and the audiences would greatly benefit the town centre businesses. The renovated hall would be a 200-seat venue which can house Paddy Lennox's *Laughing Bishops Comedy Club, Uncle Funk, Bish Bash Acoustic Nights*, plays, classical music, choirs, youth theatre and many other performers.

There are four spaces for classes, rehearsals and workshops with a hall and café perfect to exhibit artwork and photographic prints by local artists. Young people living in the region can benefit from workshops and holiday camps throughout the year. It would be run by volunteers until fundraising and grants enabled the venue to hire permanent and part-time staff.

Needed Right Now

Our truly valued Members of *Friends of Water Lane* started this process in 2021 and have put together an impressive business plan, applied for various grants, including The National Lottery, turned the hall into a community asset, held monthly raffles and organised acoustic night and quiz night fundraisers. Since then, many more people have joined our cause as volunteers.

We need to fix the roof and drains before we can re-open the venue to the public and put on fund-raising performances. We're in a Catch-22: the council won't give us the keys until we can raise the funds to start the repair work. The sooner we raise £40K, the sooner we can open. If you would like to become a volunteer, are interested in putting on an event, or want to hear about our upcoming events, please send us an email to: info@waterlanehall.org. Alternatively, if you'd like to make a donation you can go through our link: https://www.goodhub.com/go/waterlanecic which also adds Gift Aid to every donation. I look forward to seeing everyone there in the very near future. *Gailie Anderson*



THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF EASTON LODGE

Who knows what weather will be thrown at us for the rest the summer? After droughts and heatwaves, we are still hopeful for some light overnight rains to benefit the plants and an occasional soaking for the trees (but not on our open days!). The dahlia border is coming into flower but would really appreciate some rain. The courgettes, beans and cucumbers are loving the heat, so should be available throughout the month for visitors to buy!

The Gardens are open on Thursdays through the summer holidays and on into the autumn, from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm, last entry 2.00 pm. On Thursdays visitors enjoy a quiet stroll and chatting with the Trust's volunteers as they work to keep the Gardens looking lovely - weeding and deadheading mostly at this time of year. Families love the relaxed space, exercising the brain a little with garden sized Connect 4 and draughts or being a bit more energetic with hoola hoops! On Thursdays, the Trust's volunteers serve hot and cold drinks and homemade cakes and welcome picnicking and dogs on leads.



On 4th September we will have ***Bat Walks*** starting at 7pm and 9.30.

Our Open Day on 20th September will celebrate ***Apples and Bees*** and on 18th October it will be ***Autumn and Halloween***. The Gate will open from 11am, last entry 4pm. There will be a trail and craft activity for children as well as music. Refreshments will be available from the Trust's kiosk and from the Giggly Pig. For further details and timing, please look at our website www.eastonlodge.co.uk Advance tickets (at a discount) can be bought through Trybooking.com.

Jill Goldsmith

Little Hallingbury Primary School

Young Cricketers Triumph

Alongside the hard work leading up to Year 6 SATS and then the fun of the Year 6 play, we always make time for lots of sports in the summer term at Little Hallingbury School. This term, we have:

- held a sports multi-skills afternoon for our younger years, led by the Year 5 children;
- taken a team of 40 children to an athletics competition at the all-weather track at Carver Barracks;
- sent a group of Year 2 children to a mini *sports talent camp* run by Year 6 Sports Ambassadors from our school and other primaries, held at Joyce Franklin Academy;
- sent Year 3 and 4 children to a sports multi-skills afternoon in Stansted;
- held our annual sports day.

However, this term has really been all about cricket! The whole school has had a chance to have some cricket coaching from an Essex Cricket coach, funded by the *Chance to Shine* charity. The children have loved their Friday morning cricket sessions and even Reception pupils were brave enough for a cricket taster session!

To put these new cricket skills to the test, we entered a mixed Year 6 team into the *KAS Dynamo Cricket League* with other schools in Bishop's Stortford. We managed to squeeze in a few fixtures after school, despite the rain and then the heat. We particularly enjoyed our fixture against Howe Green House School as we were able to take a second team so all of the members of the weekly after school cricket club could take part. We qualified for the KAS final which was held at Little Hallingbury Cricket Club, and finished fourth overall.

We also entered a Year 6 girls' team and a Year 6 boys' team into the local *Uttlesford School Sports Partnership (USSP)* tournament

at Manuden Community Playing Fields. The children learnt so much during the morning and, whereas the boys missed out qualifying for the USSP finals by a couple of runs, the girls proved to be a strong team and qualified for their finals. These were held at the Saffron Walden Cricket Club and there were some strong teams from some of the larger Saffron Walden schools. The girls enjoyed the tournament, again improving as the rounds progressed, and finished fifth overall out of nine schools.

The younger children also had an opportunity to practise their cricket skills when all of Ash Class (Year 1 and 2) entered the local *USSP Three Tees Cricket tournament* back in April at Manuden Community Playing Fields. The children were split into four teams and enjoyed playing this simplified version of cricket, where the batter hits three balls off three tees and then runs between two sets of stumps until the fielding team have placed the three balls back onto the tees. The game is fast and furious with plenty of opportunity for everyone to get high scores, which the children love. The whole class improved their batting, throwing and team work skills through the morning, but the team consisting of Frankie, Lara, Sonny, Maci, Carter, Elsie and Finley particularly excelled and qualified for the finals later in the term.



The USSP finals were played on a hot day in the beautiful surroundings of the Audley End House cricket ground. There were fourteen schools present from all over Uttlesford, some with 90 children in Year 2 from which to select their team compared to the 26 children in Year 1 and Year 2 combined at Little Hallingbury. But the children were not daunted and took each game as it came. Their batting was particularly strong with several big hitters making it hard for the opposing fielding team to return the balls to the tees quickly. In the group stage of the tournament, they beat Great Easton, RAB, St Mary's Saffron Walden, Clavering and Bentfield schools, before meeting Great Dunmow who had won four of their matches and drawn one. The children were getting tired at this point and the batting did not go so well against Great Dunmow's very organised fielding team and we were unable to win this final group match. The group result was really close as both Little Hallingbury and Great Dunmow had lost one match but, as Great Dunmow had also drawn a match, we progressed as winners of our group to the final against Thaxted, the winners from the other group.

After a hydration break (which may have also included some much needed snacks) the team were back to their big hits. They batted first and, with strong performances all round, set Thaxted a total of 64 runs to beat. Thaxted put up a good fight but were only able to score 49 runs. The Little Hallingbury team were over the moon to be crowned *Uttlesford Three Tees Cricket Champions 2026.* *Nichola BC*

Texas v Australia

A Texas farmer went on vacation to Australia. He met up with an Australian farmer who proudly showed off his wheat field.

That's nothing, said the Texan. *Back home, we have wheat fields that are twice as large as this.*

Next the Australian pointed out his cattle.

They're nothing, said the Texan. *Back home, we have longhorns that are twice as big as your cows.*

Just then, half a dozen kangaroos bounded across the road.

What are those? asked the Texan.

The Australian replied, *Don't you have grasshoppers in Texas?*



Training Your Dog - *Questions about training dogs*

Why Me?

I have been asked several questions about training dogs. Why me, you ask?

I joined Bishop's Stortford Dog Training Club in the 1980's when our daughter was allowed to have a puppy. Although a stray born at Wood Green Animal Rescue to a Labrador bitch, he grew into a German Shepherd but with floppy ears. Nichola needed help training Guy (we had picked him up on a 5th November). I was their Taxi driver to Silver Lees for training.

In 1991, my wife bought me a puppy (Tryfan, well he was Welsh), again from Wood Green. He was a Border Collie but, as his coat grew, proved to be a cross with a Bearded Collie. Both my daughter and I progressed through the classes and started entering Obedience Competitions. I was then asked to become a Trainer which I did for several years while still competing in Obedience.



Tryfan with his awards
The red rosettes are all for 1st place

So How Do You Control Your Dog?

Your dog must be socialised with other dogs and people. Many Vets run socialising classes for puppies that they have innoculated. Well worth a try.

Make sure you allow your young dog to meet other dogs and people. Talk to other dog walkers and ask them to allow their dog to socialise with yours.

Teaching Your Dog

Take time to teach your dog to respond to basic commands. Always give a tasty reward for successful response. If your dog is not a puppy, use the same methods but it might take more time as your dog may already have ingrained habits which you are trying to overcome.



SIT

From a very young age, whenever your dog sits give it a reward while in that position. Later add the command, SIT, when giving the reward. Repeat the reward and command as much as possible.

DOWN

As above, whenever it lies down give it a reward and then progress to the command DOWN when giving the reward. Repeat the reward and command as much as possible.



PULLING ON THE LEAD

This needs great patience to overcome. DO NOT PULL THE DOG BACK TO YOU; that will encourage the dog to pull as when it pulls, you pull, so the dog thinks it's a game. When it pulls, STAND STILL and wait until it returns to you and reward with a treat. Then give a command to WALK-ON. If it shoots off again, STAND STILL, as above. REPEAT, REPEAT, REPEAT. Patience will be rewarded. My other daughter's dog took 25 minutes to walk 30 yards but we won.

COME

Most important for the safety of your dog. Again, when it does come to you make a fuss and reward it. REPEAT,REPEAT,REPEAT. Add the word COME to the reward. When the

dog responds in the house and garden, extend the training outside using an extending lead. Again, other dog walkers can be helpful by warning them what you are doing and training as above.

What Is Most Important?

PATIENCE

Do not lose your temper and chastise your dog. It will remember your reaction more than the praise you gave it other times. A near neighbour had a nice dog but it would run around at the end of it's walk and not come to him. When it finally did, he would verbally chastise it and put it straight on a lead. Not surprisingly, it did not come to him. He should have praised it and rewarded it when it finally came to him and gradually encouraged it to respond to his command to COME.

TASTY TREATS

Not just shop bought treats but small pieces of cheese, chicken and sausage. Use a plastic bag to protect your clothes.



SOCIALISATION

A lonely dog will always want company. Allow as much meeting with other dogs as possible. You will be surprised how friendly most dog walkers can be. We moved to Sheering, sharing a house with our daughter (the one that had Guy). We now know many more people in the village and village news through our dog walking contacts. We know all the dog's names; not so sure about the owner's names.

Special Request

Extending leads are very useful, I use one all the time. They allow a little freedom in busier places. BUT, BUT do not use an extended lead on pavements or country lanes. You may feel your dog is under control but if it is five yards ahead of you and sees a cat or another dog, it will be in the road before you can react. Care for your dog and keep the lead short on pavements and country lanes.

Richard Simmonds



Our County of Essex

So Much To Be Found on Our Doorstep

Following on from the article above, there are dog walking trails around the county, the latest located at *Weald Country Park*, near Brentwood. You don't necessarily need a dog to walk a trail!

For us, Hatfield Forest is so near and there for us to enjoy but you might like to try some of the other Country Parks, many of which have special activities for children.

Have you visited any of our nearby vineyards? Apparently there are around 50 of them in Essex with *Great Lodge and Bardfield Vineyard* near Braintree and *Saffron Grange Vineyeard* at Little Walden. Many are open for you to visit and tour - and for you to buy their produce of course.

More information on heritage visits, childrens activities and days out - as well as vineyards and country parks - can be found in *Essex Explorer*, a seasonal publication issued by the County Council to which you can connect online at www.explore-essex.com

I hope you find some fun and interest.

Citizens Advice

Check Your Bills - Could You Save Money?

Many people pay more than they need to for everyday services. A quick review could help you save.

Ask yourself:

- Do you still use everything you're paying for?
- Are you on the best deal available?
- Could a simpler option work just as well?

Typical Costs to Keep in Mind

- Broadband (light use – emails,browsing, occasional video calls) - You might expect to pay around £20 – £30 per month. If you're paying much more, it may be worth reviewing your package.
- TV Services - With a TV licence, you can access Freeview at no extra cost. Consider using one streaming service at a time and switching as needed. Bundles can offer value, but only if you'll use everything included.
- Mobile Phones - SIM only deals can be as low as £5 – £15 per month. Check if you're still paying for a handset you've already paid off.
- Energy Bills - Prices vary, but it's worth checking you're on the best tariff available and not overpaying.



Small changes can save money each month.

Need help?

Uttlesford Citizens Advice is here if you need free, confidential guidance on money, benefits, housing or work issues.
To speak to one of our friendly advisers
Call: 01799 618840
Email: help@uttlesfordca.org.uk.
www.uttlesfordca.org.uk

Essex Police

Key Safes

Key safes can be a simple way to give access to family or carers but, if they're not used carefully, they can make it easier for someone to get into your home, especially when they're easy to spot or still using the original code.
Placing them out of sight, changing the code regularly, using a high-quality, police-approved model and only sharing the code with people you trust can make a big difference.



Lumiio Wristbands

We're working with Uttlesford's Community Safety Partnership and the Community Action Network to raise awareness of Lumiio wristbands, designed to help keep people living with dementia safe.
The wristbands work like an ID bracelet. By tapping them with a smartphone, key information such as emergency contacts can be accessed. This helps police and the public quickly identify someone, contact family or carers and reduce distress if they become lost or confused. They are not tracking devices and do not share locations. If you care for someone with dementia, this may be something to consider.
For more information or to request one, please contact PCSO Michael O'Donnell-Smith from Uttlesford Neighbourhood Policing Team

Be fraud smart

Planning to go to a concert or sporting event? Stay safe when buying tickets! Only buy tickets from places you trust like the event website or the venue. Be careful if someone asks you to pay a *holding fee* or wants money sent by bank transfer.
This is often a scam.
If you can, use a credit card. It gives you more protection if something goes wrong.
If it doesn't feel right, stop and check before paying.

Poppy Events 2026

Again this year, July seems early to be writing about the Poppy Campaign but the next magazine will not be available until after this year's Royal British Legion's events.

Collecting Boxes

We will be placing Poppy Boxes in shops etc. in the Hallingburys as usual as we no longer have individuals involved in house to house collections. Our local schools are strong supporters of the campaign and those of you with young children will hear about this from them around the end of October.

Poppy Coffee Morning

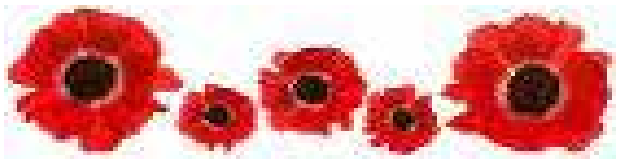
As she did last year, Mrs Christine Coultrup has offered to hold a Poppy Coffee Morning at Pantiles, Great Hallingbury. This will be on Tuesday, October 27th, running from 10.30 am – noon. There will be sale tables for cakes, plants and other donations; a raffle and, of course, tea, coffee, cake and biscuits. You will be able to get your poppy at the event as well as donating.

School Remembrance

On Friday, November 6th, Howe Green House School is inviting the local community to their traditional *Whole School Act of Remembrance* at 10.50 am with refreshments beforehand at 10.30. We are always made very welcome at this event and it would be good to see many members of the community there.

I look forward to meeting you at one of these events.

Gill Sewell
Hallingburys Poppy Appeal Coordinator





Charity Quiz

Proceeds go to 50k Charity Trek across the Sahara in aid of Noah's Ark Children's Hospital

Postponed for the Football Rescheduled to

Saturday 12th September

7pm for 7.30pm start

Great Hallingbury Village Hall

Tables of 6 - 8 £5 person

Bring your own drinks and nibbles

Winner's prize and raffle

To book contact Val Waring
valwaring@googlemail.com



Great Hallingbury Village Hall



GOOD PRIZES AND RAFFLE

Saturday, 5th December, 2026

Great Hallingbury Village Hall 7 for 7.30 pm

£5 per person at the door - table of 6 or 8 or join another group

Reservation essential - contact Val (valwaring@googlemail.com)

Bring your own food and drink

Have another convivial evening
Support the Village Hall
Happy Christmas



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The Great Hallingbury Festival



50 Years ago

1976 is best remembered in the United Kingdom for its record-breaking scorching summer, the driest summer for over 200 years. A heat wave brought temperatures consistently over 32° for sixteen consecutive days in late June and early July. During this heatwave, the Great Hallingbury Festival was held on the weekend of 2nd and 3rd July.

Festival Location

The Festival took place in the grounds and gardens of Hallingbury Place. The great house had, of course, been demolished in 1924-25 but the extensive outbuildings had been purchased and renovated, together with the gardens which had been remodelled by the Lockett-Agnews who had rented the house since 1909. Bricks from the great house were used to build Morleys. The Clock House was the former stables. The Water Garden House had been converted from a coach house. Ladywell House was formerly a laundry and one time home of the head groom. Four neighbouring families co-operated to allow the festival to take place in the old Hallingbury Place grounds and gardens.



Many of the festival's attractions took place at the bottom of the stately Cedar Drive. Jacob Houblon (1736-1783), while on the Grand Tour, had brought home some cedar cones from Lebanon in 1758. The drive was altered and lengthened in the 19th Century and now the Cedar Drive was the setting on both afternoons for the performance of a Pageant written by Shirley Mackrill, at the time a history teacher at Chelmsford Girls' High School. Much of the historical research for the pageant, which focused on historical events in the life of Great Hallingbury, had been carried out by Heather Cocks, a local historian. Villagers took part including pupils from Great Hallingbury Primary School. Dr William Walther, a leading member of Bishop's Stortford's *Water Lane Dramatic Society*, was the producer of the pageant.

The Pageant

The performance opened with a family (father, mother and two children played by Ernie and Nora Field and their twin sons) standing at the bottom of the Cedar Drive. The boys asked their parents whether the drive led to a grand house. Their question was answered through the different scenes of the pageant which recalled various events in the life of Great Hlallingbury from the Stone Age until the auction of Hallingbury Place in 1923.

The scenes included:

- The visit of commissioners from William the Conqueror for the Domesday Survey.
- The visit of Queen Elizabeth for two days in 1561 to Hallingbury Place.
- The famous letter sent to the 13th Baron Morley or 4th Baron Monteagle, warning him of the Gunpowder Plot.
- The baptism of Jacob Houblon in 1736, when the hospitality was so good that local people *lay in heaps around the house dead drunk*.
- The rebuilding of Hallingbury Place in the early 1770s by Jacob Houblon (played by Hugh Cocks, the husband of the local historian).
- The re-opening of St Giles' Church in December 1875, following its restoration by John Archer- Houblon (1803-1891).
- The final scene was the auction of Hallingbury Place in 1923. The auctioneer was played by Mr Trigg who was an auctioneer for Sworders.

At the end of the pageant the ghost of Lady Morley appeared, played by Doreen Hayward. According to the Houblon Family History, written by Lady Alice Archer-

Houblon in 1907, the ghost of Lady Morley traditionally haunted the path under the trees near Morley Pond, *the moonbeams glancing on her white dress*.

The Festival

If one of the highlights of the festival was the pageant, another was the performance by a Swedish Choir called *Sound 68*. It was a mixed sixty-strong choir founded eight years previously, with ages ranging from 15 to 19, with a supporting group of trumpeters, pianos, bass and drums. The choir had appeared on Swedish television and played to capacity audiences in the Golden Room of Stockholm Town Hall, building a formidable reputation in Scandinavia with a repertoire ranging from classical to pop music. The choir performed on the Saturday afternoon and at an open air service on the Sunday morning. During their visit to Great Hallingbury the members of the choir stayed as welcome guests in homes of Great Hallingbury residents.



A *Bar-B-Q* Barn Dance was held on the Saturday evening at Harps Farm. Musical accompaniment for the dancing was provided by the fabulous London Freeway Group.

On Sunday afternoon an open clay pigeon shooting competition took place in the grounds of Ladywell. Visitors were able to *see 12-bore shotguns in the hands of some of the most skilled men in this fast growing competitive sport*, according to a report in the Herts and Essex Observer.

Other attractions were archery, pony rides, a Punch and Judy Show, vintage cars, a hot air balloon, an art show, sideshows, produce stalls, a raffle, home-made refreshments and a licensed bar. The gardens were open from noon and on both days families brought picnic lunches to eat in the grounds of Hallingbury Place.



Do You Remember the Event?

This article has partly been based on reports of the Festival published in the Herts and Essex Observer in July 1976. I am also indebted to Christine Coultrup for sending me a pageant script and a two minute coloured film of the pageant. Christine also drew my attention to the photographs of the pageant printed in Ernie Field's publication, *When The Busy World Was Hushed*, published by the History Society.

On a personal level, I have some memories. Heather and I portrayed two of the earliest inhabitants of Great Hallingbury. We were meant to be a couple from the Stone Age, dressed in animal furs, but I am not sure that our performance was totally convincing. We also entertained some members of the Swedish choir for tea in our home at Linkside Road which, at the time, was part of the parish of Great Hallingbury.

I am hopeful that this article may revive happy memories of fifty years ago for some of the readers of *Highlights* who may have their own personal memories of the festival which they would be willing to share. Perhaps you have other photographs so, if anyone has memories or artefacts to share, please would you kindly contact me or Christine Coultrup, Chairman of the Great Hallingbury History Society. Thank you.

Philip Hays

Parish Council Chairman



Hello to you all and, as always, I hope you and your families are keeping well.

By the time you read this we will be moving into Autumn and the crops will all have been brought in. In our gardens maybe the grass will be turning green again!

What a summer it has been and England coming so close to being in the semi-final of the World Cup. It is good to see our youth football teams are now regularly using the Village Hall field on Saturday mornings.

The heat wave has, unfortunately, brought several wild fires. As I have said before, it is so important if having BBQ's to make sure that they are kept well supervised at all times.

We now have our fourth Prime Minister in four years. We can only hope that the government will get it right now and really make the country great again.

The Parish Council has been having its usual bi-monthly meetings, as well as some Extra-ordinary meetings on planning issues.

Cllr Neil Jackson and myself have continued to cut the church grass as necessary but we would still appreciate some more help if anyone is willing!

Unfortunately the Speed Watch Team has not been able to go out due to lack of volunteers available at any one time. Please do think about joining the team. It's easy to pass the test and become a member. Anyone interested should contact Cllr Mark Colletta. As speeding traffic through the village seems to be getting worse, it would be a really worthwhile thing to do.

We are still having problems with the pot holes in the village, particularly the the road at Tilekiln Green which has allegedly been filled and made safe, according to Highways, so no further action is needed. If this is the standard of work, it is clearly not good enough. Therefore we have complained to our new Essex County Councillor to get the road here properly repaired.

Our now Annual Event which we will be hosting, along with the Village Hall Committee, is the turning on of the Christmas Lights. This will be held at the Village Hall on 28th November. It will be advertised around the Village. Please do make an effort to come along as it's so nice to see our villagers getting together to enjoy the start of the festive season.

Please also look out for your fellow villagers and, if you know of anyone who is struggling, do get in touch with Uttlesford so that they can advise on grants that may be available.

I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for all their hard work and, of course, our Clerk Urška, who keeps the wheels turning.

Very best regards,

Alan Townsend, Chairman





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Bedlars Green, Great Hallingbury

www.hallingburychristmastrees

Hallingbury Christmas Trees



1. Which hat created in 1865 is still a trademark?
2. Which ballet term is Italian for *first ballerina*?



3. Barbara Windsor made her Carry On debut as agent Daphne Honeybutt in which 1964 film?
4. Of what things is batology the study?
5. Which future US president married Nancy Davis in 1952?
6. In England and Wales, what is the next bank holiday after New Year's Day?
7. The coat of arms of Henry VII features which red Welsh emblem supporting the royal arms of England?
8. Which England cricketer was the only fielder to run out Don Bradman in Tests — at Adelaide in 1928-29?
9. The great white species of which predatory fish has 300 triangular, serrated teeth?
10. *Music City* and *Nash Vegas* are nicknames for which city in Tennessee?
11. The Easter Rising of 1916 took place in which modern-day country?
12. Which South American country sits on the largest proven oil reserves in the world?



13. How many points does a try score in rugby union?
14. What is the name of the title heroine of Janice Hadlow's novel *The Other Bennet Sister*?
15. In The Beano, what sort of arachnid is Dennis the Menace's pet, Dasher?
16. Which British kitchen appliance manufacturer is named after the engineer Kenneth Wood?
17. *Wheel-well stowaways* take fatal risks to travel by what means?
18. Which French company is the largest tyre manufacturer by annual revenue in Europe?

Answers on page 25

Book Corner



Book Corner

The Secret Keeper

by Kate Morton

Every family has its secrets, some fairly minor, others more dangerous.

The story begins during a summer birthday party set in the quiet and peaceful English countryside. Laurel, at sixteen, is in the tree-house hiding from her four siblings, dreaming about her boyfriend, a move to London and the bright future which could await her after drama school. Then she notices a man walking towards the house and sees her mother come out carrying the *special* cake-knife. Although Laurel can't hear everything being said, she realises that Ma is frightened and then her mother suddenly lifts the knife and plunges it deep into the stranger's chest. He falls to the ground and Laurel, seeing the blood flow out, realises he is dead.

Forward fifty years! Laurel, now a successful actress, has returned for a celebration of her mother's 90th birthday. Dorothy by now is very frail and, when Laurel first sees her in hospital, she seems to be asleep. There is a photo album of the family when they were all younger and Laurel sits by the bed talking to her mother about the photos as if Dorothy can hear her. A photo dated May 1941, that Laurel has never seen before, slips out of the album showing two young women. Their arms were linked as they laughed at the camera and Laurel realises that one of them is her mother. Her sister tells her that it had fallen out of a copy of *Peter Pan* which had an inscription in the front saying, *For Dorothy. A true friend is a light in the dark. Vivien*. Her mother had never spoken of anyone called Vivien and what was the connection with the play?



As Laurel tries to uncover the secrets of her mother's younger life, the story shifts back to the 1940's where we *meet* a younger Dolly, Jimmy, Vivien, Henry Jenkins ……. and discover all the secrets of Dorothy's life. *A riveting read* – albeit 588 pages in the paperback!

84, Charing Cross Road

by Helene Hanff

Non-fiction, for a change and very short!

Once upon a time in 1949, Helene Hanff, an American woman living in New York City, found it difficult to buy books that she liked to read. Luckily for her, she had some British neighbours who told her about a bookshop in London which specialised in second-hand books – Marks and Co. at 84 Charing Cross Road.

She duly writes to the bookshop and her letter is answered by Frank Doel, the shop's buyer. As Helene and Frank exchange letters over the years, their relationship deepens beyond mere business. Helene's witty and direct style of writing contrasts with Frank's (at first) reserved and polite answers. Gradually they find common ground in their shared love of literature.

Touched by the stories of rationing and hardship in post-war Britain, Helene starts sending food parcels to Frank and the other staff at Marks and Co. She longs to visit London and meet Frank in person but financial and other circumstances prevent her from realising her dream. In 1970, Helene published their correspondence *as a gift to future readers and writers* (her words). End of book!

However, my copy includes more of her writing. In 1971, she achieves her ambition as the publishers of her book want her to come to Britain to help publicise it. She kept a diary of all her experiences while she was here which was also published. One of the people she met was Leo Marks who was the son of Ben Marks, the founder of the book-shop.

During the war, Leo Marks was a cryptographer and, in 1998, published an account of his experiences. I bought his book many years ago and, until recently, had never connected him with Helene Hanff's *Leo Marks*, even though he refers to his father's business on the first page of his book! *We live and learn*.



Jan Baldwin

The Physiotherapist

JULIE HERBERT MCSP BSc (Hons) MAACP

Associate NATALIE HILLIARD MCSP BSc (Hons)

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Stephen's Gardening Service

All aspects of garden maintenance undertaken



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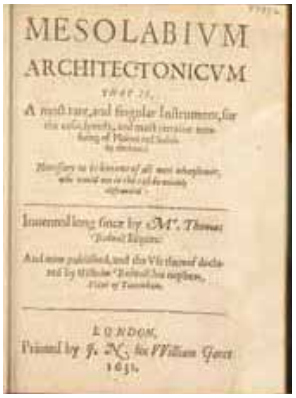
Tel: 07730 201664

Stephen is a long standing Great Hallingbury resident

Great Hallingbury - A Hidden History

Reverend William Bedwell

The map accompanying this piece shows that Bedlars Green was once known as Bedwell Green. This is the primary clue to its association with a well documented family, the first record of which is Stephen de Bedewell, 1229. The two most famous members of the family were Thomas and his nephew William.


MESOLABIVM
ARCHITECTONICVM

Thomas, 1547-1595, fellow of Trinity College lived in Braughing and became master of ordinance at the Tower of London. He developed civil engineering projects to defend Tilbury and Gravesend against the Spanish Armada and also invented the carpenter's rule or mesolabium which aided gun aiming.

William, 1561-1632, was born in Great Hallingbury and became a great mathematician and Arabic scholar. Educated at Trinity College like his uncle, he became Rector of St Ethelburgas, Bishopsgate and Vicar of All Hallows , Tottenham.

William spent many years creating an Arabic dictionary which, by 1599, was 1400 pages long - too long to be printed at the time. The following year he met the Moroccan ambassador, Abd el-Ouahed ben Messaoud, when it is believed he acted as interpreter during the Moroccan's visit to Queen Elizabeth. In 1612 he traveled to Holland which was a center of Arabic studies at the time and, by 1615, he had published *A Discovery of the Impostures of Mahomet* as well as the *Koran*.

Not content with translating the Koran into English, he became one of the *First Westminster Company* charged with translating the King James Bible into English.

As a mathematician he wrote up and published his Uncle's carpenter's ruler, (mesolabium architectonicum). As an historian he produced the first local history of Tottenham where he is buried.

Alan Pinnock



Little Hallingbury Cricket Club

Saturday Team

The team has continued its fine form so far and won by 1 wicket against Clogham, by 85 runs over High Beech, by 4 wickets over Potter Street and by 1 wicket over Stansted Hall. All the team have been contributing to the wins, but mention must be made of colts Aarush and Veer, scoring 17 runs of the last two overs to claim victory over Stansted Hall.

In July, the team beat Takely by 141 runs, the number scored by Amit Lakyankar. They beat Thorley by 62 runs, with 13 year old Veer Kalyankar taking four wickets and Stansted by 9 wickets with Amit Kalyankar on 92 and Ollie Latham 91, both not out! Then they lost to Clogham by eight wickets - everything went wrong.

The Saturday Team is still top of the league but by just one point.

Sunday Games

These have produced mixed results but once again there have been good contributions from the colts. The team beat Chrishall by 10 runs, drew with Little Hadham, lost to Reed by 6 wickets, drew with Little Hadham, lost to Great Hyde Hall and beat Great Canfield by 9 wickets thanks to a fine entertaining innings of 92 from Pankaj Saharan. In July, they beat Manuden by 66 runs and Great Hyde Hall by seven wickets, but lost the other two games.

Colts

We have been turning out three teams.

The Under 11s played three games with wins over Dunmow and High Roding Girls. With a very inexperienced team, they performed well at Stansted Hall, losing a close match by just 10 runs. They also lost to a strong High Roding team, despite 29 from Zac and an entertaining partnership of 36 runs from sisters Elvie and Millie.

The Under 13s beat Epping Foresters.

The Under 14s won over Theydon Bois and Matching.

Lots of fine performances from our colts.

We were able to take 40 colts and parents to watch the England and India Women's T20 International at Chelmsford on 28th May. This was funded by the Jack Petchey Foundation with whom we have been associated for many years. They have provided much appreciated financial support for our young players.

We also took a squad of ten boys and girls to play in the mini tournament at the County ground in Chelmsford. The boys and girls performed really well and had a great evening.

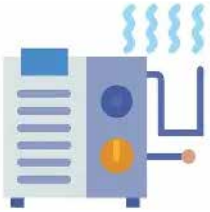
Our annual quiz took place at Little Hallingbury Village Hall on Friday 5th June. This was organised by Joe Ash and well supported by club and Village.

Keith Behagg



"And, if you fall behind on payments, it drives itself back to the dealership."

Thinking about Getting a Heat Pump?



Extra government funding for off-gas grid homes

Great Hallingbury is not on a gas grid so this could be beneficial for residents.
The government has announced increased grant funding as part of the Boiler Upgrade Scheme to upgrade to replace LPG or oil-fired heating systems with heat pumps, beginning 21 July 2026. The new grant value of £9000 (previously £7500) can be used towards air-to-water heat pumps or ground-source heat pumps. The grant remains at £7500 for homes currently with coal-fired or other fossil fuel heating.
You can find more information on Boiler Upgrade Scheme grants on GOV.UK



1. Stetson
2. Prima donna
3. Carry On Spying
4. Brambles
5. Ronald Reagan
6. Good Friday
7. Dragon
8. Jack Hobbs
9. Shark
10. Nashville
11. Ireland
12. Venezuela
13. Five
14. Mary Bennet
15. Spider
16. Kenwood
17. Aircraft
18. Michelin

A Penny for Your Thoughts



A guy said to God, "God, is it true that to you a billion years is like a second?" God said yes.
The guy said, "God, is it true that to you a billion pounds is like a penny?" God said yes.
The guy said, "God, can I have a penny?" God said, "Sure, just a second."

Great Hallingbury History Society

AUTUMN 2026



The Trinity House Story

by Karl Lumbers

Wednesday, 9th September

The Shakespeare Conspiracy

by Julian Whybra



Wednesday, 14th October



Tokens of My Affection

17th Century Traders' Tokens

by Steve Engham

Wednesday, 11th November

Meetings held in
Great Hallingbury Village Hall at 8pm

Entrance Fee Including Refreshments
£3 for Members Membership £10 pa
£5 for Non-members

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Hallingbury Ladies
a.k.a HALS
Fun & Friendship

Summer Fun for Hallingbury Ladies

As usual, the last three months have been busy despite the very warm weather which has slowed some of us down. We always add outings and extra events in the summer and this year has been no exception.

Getting to Know You (2)

Following part 1, we realized that our members would like to hear more about other members lives so we decided to have part 2. After part 1 we were aware of the pitfalls surrounding the organization of the evening connected to addressing all the questions and moving round to each table to answer as many as possible. Having updated the questions, Claire decided that AI might well be able to work out how everyone could move round and access all the questions on each table. It seems she asked the right questions and again we all spent an enjoyable evening as the method worked with everyone finding out a little more about other members. I for one found out that one of our long term members was a £10 Pom! Well done Claire and thanks to everyone joining in with enthusiasm.



Organisation Required

June Treasure Hunt

For our meeting in June, Jan had devised a Treasure Hunt in and around the Village Hall. The weather was so hot we only managed a couple of clues outside. The twenty clues consisted of an item we could see and touch if we wanted to and a cryptic clue. Despite the fact that many of the clues had been part of our previous hunt we all found it tricky - apart from Lesley and Susan who were first with the most correct answers. We did learn something about Hallingbury Ladies however – they are good at sharing information (cheating) !!

Wonderful Wildlife Photography

In July we welcomed Tom Way – a Wildlife Photographer – to speak to us about his life and his fantastic career as a photographer producing amazing photographs. Having studied at university to obtain a Sports degree, he decided to travel before seeking work and, whilst travelling round the world, he started to take photographs, usually of wild life. Now he spends many months each year abroad obtaining the photographs he wants. Even in this country he would take several weeks to get the exact shot he wanted. For some of his favourite subjects, he goes back many times to follow the lives of the same animals. He has photographed an Orangutan family over the last eight years. He has spent six weeks photographing some of the largest elephants in the world near the largest mountains. He clearly loves his work and as an award winning photographer he has taken some fantastic pictures. We will definitely ask him to return to tell us about his pictures of British Wildlife.

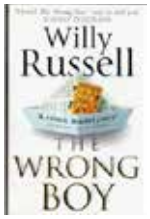


Group Activities

Literary Ladies meet monthly and have completed three books during late Spring and Summer. In May we were disappointed in general by *Murder Before Evensong* written by Rev Richard Coles. I think there were too many unanswered question for the group. June was *The Echo Chamber* by John Borne. Some of us found it a laugh out loud book and most enjoyed it. It was a story about a family, all of whom were pursuing different lifestyles, mostly involving social







media and all that is bad about it. Despite the laughter, the book made a serious point. July was *The Wrong Boy* which was the first book written by Willy Russell. This both amused and saddened us for many reasons.

The **Knit & Natter Group** has met regularly each month, usually at Hunters Meet although one meeting had to take place in a member's house but, as usual, there was cake consumed and a lot of laughter.


Proof of Knitting

Just one **Monthly Lunch** was held in May when a small group met at the *Three Horseshoes*. Monthly lunches will not resume until later in the year.

In May the **Walkers** parked near to the Gibberd Garden and started from there.



During the walk Richard showed everyone the oldest Chapel in Old Harlow, which they enjoyed. Tea was then taken in the Gibberd Garden and those who wished were able to look around the gardens. There was no walk in June due to the extremely hot weather. Fortunately it was a little cooler in July when only three members braved a walk from Rosemary's down to the forest via The Street, walking back through it to Rosemary's. I think they are hoping for more clement weather during the next few months.

Our **Poetry Circle** is still developing and will grow more during the winter months, I think. It has been difficult to fit it in during the summer!!

The **Garden Group** mentioned last time has developed into a separate organisation altogether. Many of the Hallingbury Ladies attend the monthly meetings and other learning groups, as well as people from Villages around. We all take advantage of the help offered by the ladies running the meetings. Thanks to Claire for getting it going initially and continuing to play a big part in it.

Summer Outings



In May a group of members enjoyed a visit to Newmarket and the **National Stud**. Despite a lot of walking, they all enjoyed seeing the mares and foals and hearing about the valuable stallions that are kept there some of the time. The private tour was much appreciated as they saw more than they would on a public visit. Thanks to Avis for arranging such an interesting visit.

Thirteen of us visited **Dave Willet's Garden** in Little Hadham in June. Two of us had been before and enjoyed his talk and home made cakes. It was a shame it was so hot as we were unable to enjoy finding out about the development of his garden and the lovely plants even though shade was provided and there was plenty of tea and coffee on offer.



A visit to **Harlow Dogs** seems to have become an annual event. Even though we had smaller numbers than last year, we all had a good evening with plenty to eat and drink. A big thank you to Dawn for arranging it for us yet again.

Looking Forwards

In August our evening will be the Annual Members Day when the committee has an evening off and the members arrange everything. This will be followed in September by a talk, and no doubt some singing, about Simon and Garfunkel.

We meet at 7.30pm in Great Hallingbury Village Hall on the fourth Wednesday in the month. Visitors are always welcome to give us a try – especially our refreshments which are delicious – so come along and meet us as well as enjoying some tasty eats.

Gill Sewell, Secretary
marjorierosegs@hotmail.com

Little Hallingbury Flower Club



Autumn & Winter Programme 2026

Little Hallingbury Flower Club is looking forward to an exciting autumn and winter programme with a wonderful selection of demonstrations and a hands-on workshop to inspire flower lovers of all abilities.

On Tuesday 15th September, we are delighted to welcome Helen Hare whose demonstration, *Down Under*, will showcase beautiful floral designs inspired by Australia. Sit back, watch and enjoy!

Our Tuesday 20th October meeting will be a practical workshop with materials provided. Members and visitors will have the opportunity to create their own arrangement with guidance available throughout the evening. Further details will be published on our Facebook page nearer the time. As places are limited, please reserve yours by emailing: littlehallingburyflowerclub@gmail.com

Meetings are held at Little Hallingbury Village Hall, with doors opening at 7.30pm for an 8.00 pm start. Visitors are always very welcome with an admission charge of £6 payable on the door. (Extra for materials in October if you wish to take part.)

Join us on Tuesday 24th November for our ever-popular Christmas floral demonstration. Trudie Easton will present *Winter Tales*, a delightful evening of festive floral inspiration to help everyone get into the Christmas spirit. Doors open at 7pm for a 7.45pm start. All the arrangements are raffled, so you may even go home with one! Tickets are £12 and always prove popular, so early booking is recommended by emailing littlehallingburyflowerclub@gmail.com

Whether you are an experienced flower arranger or simply enjoy flowers and meeting new people, there is something for everyone at Little Hallingbury Flower Club. We look forward to welcoming you.

Val McKirdy



St Giles' Churchyard

Gardening Morning

You may well have noticed that the Churchyard grass has been kept mown, yet allowing many wild flowers growing space in their season. Our thanks to Councillors Neil Jackson and Alan Townsend for their time and efforts.

On the morning of **Saturday September 12th, between the hours of 10am and 12 noon**, we are asking for some help from villagers so that we might be able to further tidy some areas of the churchyard, such as around some gravestones, old and not so old.

We would be very grateful if you could spare half hour, one hour, or more. Please bring with you tools and gloves and a strimmer if you have one.

Your help will be very much appreciated. Refreshments will be available in the church.

Look forward to seeing some of you then.

Freda Townsend, St Giles' PCC



Wisdom of the Ancients

The Native Americans on a remote reservation in Wyoming asked their new chief, Akecheta, whether the winter ahead was going to be mild or cold.

Now Chief Akecheta was a modern man, educated in a university, but he hadn't been taught the old ways and the wisdom of his ancestors. He looked into the sky, but he was unable to read the signs as to whether the winter would be cold or not.

Naturally, he didn't want to lose credibility with the tribe so, to save face and be on the safe side, he just told them that the winter was going to be cold and that they should probably start gathering firewood to be prepared.

Now he may not have learned the ancient secrets, but Chief Akecheta was a wise and practical man. So, once he was on his own, he phoned the National Weather Service and asked them for their winter forecast.

Well sir, said the meteorologist, *our forecast suggests that it's going to be quite cold.*

Feeling more confident now, Chief Akecheta went back to his people and told them to collect even more firewood to be prepared.

A week later, he called the National Weather Service again. *Does it still look like it is going to be very cold this winter?* he asked the meteorologist.

Yes sir, said the meteorologist. *It could be even colder than we first thought.*

So once again, Chief Akecheta went back to his people and he ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find.

Two weeks later, Chief Akecheta phoned the National Weather Service again. *Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?* he asked the meteorologist.

Yes sir, said the meteorologist. *The signs are that it's going to be one of the coldest winters we've ever seen.*

How can you be so sure? asked Chief Akecheta.

Well sir, the meteorologist responded, *the Native American tribe up the road has been collecting a crazy amount of firewood recently.*



Services in the Hallingburys

September - November 2026

G = St Giles' M = St Mary's

G	Sep 6	9 am	Holy Communion
M	Sep 13	11 am	Morning Worship
G	Sep 20	11 am	**Harvest Festival Morning Worship**
M	Sep 27	11 am	**Harvest Festival** Holy Communion
G	Oct 4	9 am	Holy Communion
M	Oct 11	11 am	Morning Worship
G	Oct 18	11 am	Morning Worship
M	Oct 25	11 am	Holy Communion
G	Nov 1	9 am	Holy Communion
G	Nov 8	10.50am	**Remembrance Service**
M	Nov 8	10.50am	**Rembrance Service starting at War Memorial**
G	Nov 15	11 am	Morning Worship
M	Nov 22	11 am	Holy Communion
	Nov 29	11 am	Six Villages Service for Advent at St Mary's, Sheering
M	Nov 29	4 pm	**Christingle Service**

Please Check for the most up-to-date and accurate information on our website at www.thesixvillages.org which has details of all services taking place across the Six Villages, and information about special events, our contact details and how to get involved.





Great Hallingbury Village Hall & Parish Council

Christmas Tree Lights Switch On 2026



with Mulled Wine, Mince Pies, Sausage Rolls

Saturday November 28th at 6.30 pm



Social Evening NO CHARGE

Bring your own drink and nibbles



Calendar

September 2026

1 District Councillors' Surgery - Village Hall 2 - 4 pm
2 Gardening Group - Village Hall 7.30 - 9.30 pm
4 Easton Lodge *Bat Walk* starting 19.00 or 21.30 hrs
7 Great Hallingbury Parish Council - Village Hall 8 pm
7 LH History Society - *Fakes and Forgeries* - LH Village Hall at 8 pm
8 Hallingbury Panto Group - *New Members' Night and Script Reading* - LH Village Hall at 7.30 pm
9 History Society - *Trinity House* - Village Hall 8 pm
12 St Giles' - *Tidying the Churchyard* - 10 am - noon
12 *Charity Quiz* - Village Hall 7 for 7.30 pm
15 LH Flower Club - *Down Under* - LH Village Hall 7.30pm
19 Library Van - Bedlars Green 13.45 - 14.15
20 St Giles' - *Harvest Festival* - 11 am
20 Easton Lodge *Apples and Bees* Open Day
23 Hallingbury Ladies - *From Les Mis to Lion King* - Village Hall at 7.30 pm

October 2026

5 LH History Society - *Life in the Medieval Countryside* - LH Village Hall at 8 pm
6 District Councillors' Surgery - Village Hall 2 - 4 pm
7 Gardening Group - Village Hall 7.30 - 9.30 pm
10 Library Van - Bedlars Green 13.45 - 14.15
14 History Society - *The Shakespeare Conspiracy* - Village Hall at 8 pm
18 Easton Lodge *Autumn and Halloween* Open Day
20 LH Flower Club - *Practical Workshop* - LH Village Hall at 7.30 for 8 pm
27 *Poppy Coffee Morning* - Pantiles 10.30 am - noon
28 Hallingbury Ladies - *Floggit* - Village Hall at 7.30 pm
31 Library Van - Bedlars Green 13.45 - 14.15

November 2026

1 LH History Society - *Craft Fair* - LH Village Hall 10am - 4pm
3 District Councillors' Surgery - Village Hall 2 - 4 pm
4 Gardening Group - Village Hall 7.30 - 9.30 pm
6 Howe Green House School *Whole School Act of Remembrance* - 10.30 am
8 St Giles' - *Remembrance Service* - 10.50 am
9 Great Hallingbury Parish Council - Village Hall 8 pm
11 History Society - *Tokens of My Affection* - Village Hall 8pm
21 Library Van - Bedlars Green 13.45 - 14.15
24 LH Flower Club - *Winter Tales* - LH Village Hall 7 pm
25 Hallingbury Ladies - *Sales Evening and Christmas Crafting* - Village Hall at 7.30 pm
28 *Christmas Tree Lights Switch On* - Village Hall 6.30 pm
28 *Social Evening* - Village Hall after Christmas Tree Lights Switch On

December 2026

5 *Christmas Quiz* - Village Hall - 7 for 7.30 pm

Come to the next Parish Council meetings - ask your questions - give your views. See how the Parish Council works for you.
7th September 9th November
8 pm at the Village Hall

Highlights is an independent publication compiled and edited by C. J. Coultrup, Pantiles, Great Hallingbury and printed by TradePrint Ltd. E&OE This Newsletter is not the official record of the Great Hallingbury Parish Council; only the Minutes of Meetings are the true record. Neither the Council nor contributors are responsible for the accuracy of the contents. Content of advertisements is the responsibility of the advertiser. Contributions and dates for the diary would be welcomed. Thanks go to everyone who has contributed or helped in its production and distribution. Editor: gthallhighlights@gmail.com