Great Hallingbury Highlights

Winter 2026 Vol. 111

An independent publication giving news on matters affecting Great Hallingbury



To All Our Readers, Contributors and Advertisers

Greetings and Good Wishes for a Happy Festive Season

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Have you heard about Murphy's Law?
Yes. Anything that can go wrong will go wrong.

How about Cole's Law?
No? It's julienned cabbage in a creamy dressing.

Editorial

Almost the end of another year with this, the 2026 Winter issue of *Great Hallingbury Highlights*.

2027 Elections

The Government has abandoned its plans - at least temporarily - to change the structure of local government. We will have elections next May but these will be for the existing Uttlesford District Council structure with which we are familiar.

At the same time, we will be electing a new Parish Council for Great Hallingbury. We are allowed eight councillors and any resident on the electoral register may choose to stand so, if you would like to consider this prospect, why not attend the next Parish Council meeting so you have a clear idea of what might be involved.

You may, of course, choose to stand for election to the Uttlesford Council. Most district councillors are affiliated to a political party but guidance on applications is available on the Electoral Commission's website.

Winter Health

There is talk of all kinds of strange weather occuring this winter with impacts from the El Nino current in the Pacific and changes in the Polar cap. I don't know how this might affect us but I hope that all our readers will stay safe and well throughout the Winter. You will find some practical advice on page 15 from physiotherapist Julie. Twenty years ago I myself proved, much to my astonishment, that exercise can overcome pain!

Christmas Celebrations

Once again we will have a village Christmas Tree at the Village Hall with what is becoming a traditional switching on of the lights. This will be on Saturday, 28th November, so do come and enjoy mince pies and mulled wine afterwards, not forgetting sweets for the children. Why not stay on to enjoy a social evening with other residents - just bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Another tradition is the service of Carols and Nine Lessons which will be held in St Giles' Church this year on Sunday, 20th December.

Please do attend these events and be part of the village.

Good Wishes

However you celebrate this Season and holiday period, we wish you good health, happiness and good fortune at this time and for the New Year.

Editor

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Hallingbury Ladies
a.k.a HALS
Fun & Friendship

Late Summer News for Hallingbury Ladies

These three months have not been so busy because the continuing hot weather again slowed us down. We usually have more outings and extra events in the summer and this year that did not happen.

August Members' Day

Our traditional Members' Day was completely arranged by the members with the Committee having an evening off! When we arrived, the hall was decked out with a French theme and we were all given a red, white and blue neckerchief. The members had red berets and there was an artists' easel with a very French looking portrait on it. We were introduced to our speaker, local artist Gabrielle Vickery, who was going to paint a copy of a picture while we watched and in an hour. Whilst she was painting, Gabrielle told us what she was doing and how she was retrieving the colours and effects from the original painting and also entertained us with humorous, as well as serious, anecdotes from her life so far. Her copy was painted in an hour.



A French buffet followed this very enjoyable entertainment. A big thankyou to the members.

Simon and Garfunkel



In September we had a presentation from Martin Orkin about the careers of Simon and Garfunkel. His talk was accompanied by their music and a visual presentation on the screen. A most enjoyable evening with most of our members humming along to the well known songs of the duo and feeling sad when we heard about their falling out.

Floggit

Just under 50 people gathered in the Village Hall in October for our Floggit evening – when we auction off unwanted items and add the monies to our funds to cover the fees of speakers and also, now, their ever increasing mileage costs. Jan and Val were our auctioneers and the selling was brisk and carried out with humour. After the first half, refreshments were served and the delicious cakes were served with an accompanying cup of tea or coffee. After this the raffle was called and then everyone was invited to make offers for the remaining unauctioned items so that the members did not have to take them home again. It was a very enjoyable evening attended by members and friends, some of whom we had not seen since our last Floggit two years ago



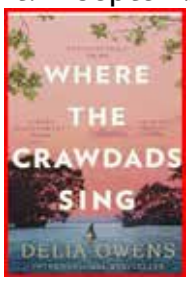


Group Activities

Literary Ladies continue to meet monthly and have completed three books during late Summer and Autumn. In August we enjoyed *Hamnet* by Maggie O' Farrell; a rather sad book loosely based on William Shakespeare's family and particularly the



death of his son, Hamnet. The descriptions of life in those times were harrowing and the expert author made some of us believe that it had really happened the way she wrote it. September was *Where the Crawdad's Sing* by Delia Owens. It was enjoyed by everyone and provoked an enthusiastic discussion. The story of a young girl who more or less brought herself up was detailed and interesting.



October's book is *The Bone Garden* by Tess Gerritson. This is a fast paced novel which is rather gory, set in 19th Century America and now. It made us realise why medical help did not work and how far we have now come. There was also a mystery to be solved which added to the interest.



The Knit & Natter Group has met regularly each month, usually at Hunters Meet although one meeting took place in a member's house but, as usual, there was cake consumed and a lot of laughter. We have been knitting little suits, hats and blankets for the *Fish and Chip Babies* in Africa. Some African women are so poor they have nothing prepared for their babies when they arrive so they take them home wrapped in newspaper, hence the name. Some members have been making their own items and some have just nattered.

Our only **Monthly Lunch** was in September when we went to *The Coach and Horses*. Sadly that was not a success as the service was very slow and it was time for tea when the group finally left to go home.

The **Walking Group** met more regularly. In August, the walk was around Hatfield Heath on a very hot day. Those that went were pleased to have refreshments in the Tea rooms afterwards !! In September there were more members available and they had a very pleasant walk starting in Woodside Green and stopping for refreshments at Gill's before walking back through the forest. With cooler weather it was enjoyed by all.



The group managed to find a cooler day in October and decided to walk from Avis's yard to the reservoir. The walk became a little longer than planned when they got confused about the way back.

Our **Poetry Circle** meets now and is about to have its second meeting. More on their activities next time.

Outings

Our last event of the year was an afternoon tea at Hadham Golf Club. Twenty of us planned to attend the event but on the day one member was unwell but was able to get her tea taken to her. Sadly we were disappointed with the tea on several levels and it was an unfortunate end to our summer activities.

Looking forwards

In November our evening will be a Shopping evening with several stalls and, of course, refreshments. Our Christmas Party is in December with its usual fun and games.

We meet at 7.30 pm 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

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Uttlesford District Council





A year in the life of a District Council (The good bits)

The good bits are the decisions made by the hard work of the officers and councillors that benefit you, the residents.

Just some facts to begin

In the District of Uttlesford, the population size has increased by 14.9%, from around 79,400 in 2011 to 91,300 in 2021, and is still growing. This is higher than the overall increase for England (6.6%) where the population grew by nearly 3.5 million to 56,489,800.

As of 2021, Uttlesford is one of the least densely populated of all local authority areas in the East of England, with around one person living on each football pitch-sized area of land.

Across the country the population has continued to age. In Uttlesford, there has been an increase of 36.3% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 10.5% in people aged 15 to 64 years and an increase of 11.3% in children aged under 15 years.

The English region with the largest population increase was the East of England, which grew by around 8.3% or 488,000 more residents.

You can find more facts like this on the UDC website www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/7045/Local-statistics-and-census

The council has 39 elected members (Neil and I are amongst them) who would normally be required to attend a possible 100+ meetings per year depending on committee positions and responsibilities held. Along with circa 250 officers, it is a small team compared with the population total for the district and covers a wide range of roles.

Why not check out vacancies on the website.

Now the good bits

25th March 2026

The Local Plan was approved with 26 votes for, 1 against and 6 abstentions.

The council resolved to:

i. Note the content and scope of the Inspectors' Final Report dated 16 January, including the Main Modifications (appendix to the Inspectors' Report).

ii. Adopt and formally publish the Uttlesford Local Plan (2021- 2041).

This had been in the making for around six years after Uttlesford residents had suffered a blight of speculative building with no infrastructure as the previous plan (2005) aged without modification.

Also, on this date (25th March) the Secretary of State announced the government's decision to implement the proposal for five unitary authorities in Essex. This would have seen the creation of West Essex Unitary Authority, joining Uttlesford with the District councils of Epping Forest and Harlow and taking on aspects of Essex County Council. *Please see 7th September for update.*

20th May 2026

This day saw the annual Change of Chairman and Vice Chairman. Councillor Donald (Elsenham) was elected to the Chair for 2026-27. I (Geof Driscoll) was honoured to be elected Vice-Chair by my peers at Uttlesford District Council. The second time that I have had that honour.

14th July 2026

Uttlesford's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule was adopted by the Full Council on 14 July 2026.

The Community Infrastructure Levy will help to generate funds from certain types of new development to contribute to infrastructure improvements to support growth and make a difference to local communities.

The CIL is a charge on a new development granted planning permission that creates over 100 square metres net additional floorspace (gross internal area), or one or more new dwellings of any floorspace.

Some types of applications that won't be CIL-liable include those relating to hazardous substance consents, hedgerows, listed building consents, overhead power lines and tree preservation orders.
Details on charges can be found on the Uttlesford website, see below. CIL came into effect from 7 September 2026.

7th September 2026
Uttlesford District Council noted the Government's update on Local Government Reorganisation in Essex. Following updated legal advice, the proposal for a new authority comprising Uttlesford, Epping Forest and Harlow councils will no longer proceed. The Government has also confirmed that local elections in May 2027 will take place on existing district council boundaries while the review continues.

Would You Like More Information
You can review and expand on the above and many other subjects by contacting the Communications team which is responsible for the council's free magazine for tenants, *Housing News*, as well as press campaigns and publicity. Alternatively, you could sign up to *Keep Me Posted* which is our email newsletter and alerts service.
You can sign up for relevant, bite-sized chunks of information on topics such as recycling, planning, health and wellbeing, job vacancies, emergency alerts and extreme weather. When you sign up you can choose which news alerts you want to receive. If you change your mind later, you can opt in or out of the service or individual topics at any time.
To sign up you will simply need to submit your email address and chose the email newsletters that you would like to receive.
Telephone: 01799 510442 or 510404
Email: media@uttlesford.gov.uk
Complete an online enquiry form
You can get in touch with us using alternative methods via our contact us page. https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/

Good Wishes
Should we not meet before Christmas, both Neil and I wish you a safe and enjoyable time however you celebrate the period and don't forget that we can be contacted via our council email throughout the period.

Cllr Geof Driscoll
cllrdriscoll@uttlesford.gov.uk
Cllr. Neil Reeve
cllrreeve@uttlesford.gov.uk

Little Hallingbury Cricket Club
End of Season Report

The final league game of the season was rained off which meant the Saturday team ended up second in the league and will be promoted to the premier division!

The Sunday team beat Stebbing by 76 runs and then lost to Sawbridgeworth Sunday team by seven wickets, despite a fine 55 from Joe Ash. Our final game saw us beat Manuden by six wickets, thanks to fine batting from Mohit and Joe Ash (again).

Our end of season BBQ was well supported and the sun shone. End of season awards were presented:

- Junior Player - Joe Mann
- Most improved - Millie Shea
- Young cricketer - Panav Patel
- Most improved - Thomas Hutley
- Jack Petchey award - Darcy Hunt

Senior awards:

- Most runs - Paritosh
- Most wickets - Vimal Soni
- Club Man of the Year - Paul Ash

It has been decided to enter a second team in the HEBL playing on Saturdays. This will be mainly to offer a chance for younger members to play competitive cricket. With a full list of friendly fixtures for Sundays and colts under 11s and under 13s, it looks as if we are in for a busy time.

Indoor practice starts at Leventhorpe School from February and the under 13s have already played two, won two at HECC.

Keith Behagg

Essex Police

Rural Community

Great Hallingbury is a rural community and, as such, the Police sometimes have to take this aspect into account.

We have seen in previous issues the huge impact that fly tipping can have on our village and particularly on our farming community and hare coursing is now receiving more attention from Essex Police. Three men arrested in the Bardfield area (not so far away) are due in court this month to answer accusations in relation to hare coursing.

Essex Police has launched a new Rural Independent Advisory Group, possibly the first in the country, to assist them to focus on crimes specifically affecting farmers and rural communities. They have also invested more than £57,000 in new equipment and resources to help their Rural Engagement Team, including the purchase of an all-terrain vehicle and mobile ANPR technology, enabling officers to better access remote areas and target those suspected of machinery theft, hare coursing, poaching and other rural crimes.



Diesel Oil

With the current political situation in the middle east, we are all very conscious of the current high cost of diesel oil. Essex Police is encouraging everyone to secure fuel tanks as diesel thieves often target tanks on farms and construction sites and from lorries, trucks, tractors and generators.

But here in Great Hallingbury, with no mains suppy of gas, many residents rely on fuel oil for their home heating. These tanks can have locking filler caps so make sure your tank is locked. Theft from domestic fuel tanks is not unknown.

Whatever your situation, simple steps such as securing tanks, using motion-activated lighting and checking fuel levels regularly can make you a much harder target.



Autumn Leaves

Autumn is a time of outstanding natural beauty. As the trees turn vibrant shades of yellow, orange and red, we're treated to a final burst of colour before the onset of winter.

The depth of colour seen in autumn leaves is influenced by the blend of chemical processes in the leaves and weather conditions. Therefore, as the weather conditions in autumn vary from year to year, so too does the intensity of the leaf colours.

How Well Do You Know your Autumn Leaves

Answers on page 25



1
English Oak?
Spindle?
Wild Service Tree?

6
Rowan?
Elder?
Walnut?



2
Field Elm?
Hazel?
Pear?





7
Common Beech?
Wild Cherry?
Black Poplar?



3
Common Beech?
Walnut?
Field Maple?

8
Hornbeam?
Juniper?
Sweet Chestnut?



4
Common Hawthorne?
Horse Chestnut?
Sycamore?





9
Wild Service Tree?
Norway Maple?
London Plane?



5
Ash?
Silver Birch?
Common Lime?

10
Aspen?
Black Poplar?
Alder?



With Acknowledgement to the Woodland Trust

Parish Council Chairman



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

By the time you read this the clocks will have gone back and we will be well into Autumn. With the shorter days come colder temperatures and we become aware of the need to wrap up well and keep warm. It is also very important that we keep an eye on our neighbours and make sure they are OK.

Cllr Neil Jackson and I have been regularly cutting the church grass. It would be nice if we could get some more volunteers to help.

The Parish Council has continued to hold regular meetings and comment on planning issues as necessary. We keep chasing Essex County Council about pot holes. We did not hold a litter pick this October due to lack of support and the fact that we get so much abuse from motorists who have no respect for our village.

The Christmas Tree Lights will be turned on at the Village Hall on Saturday, 28th November. It is such a lovely event and it was a joy to see so many of you there last year. There will, of course, be mince pies, sausage rolls and mulled wine so come along and say hello. It really marks the beginning of the festive season.

As I write this, it is the 60th anniversary of the Aberfan disaster in which so many children and adults lost their lives. I remember being at school and thinking, *how could such a thing happen?*.

I have had a meeting with our MP, Chris Vince, with regard to the missing post box at the top end of Woodside Green. This problem has been ongoing for over two years so I only hope that he can get it replaced. I would like to thank Cllr Neil Jackson who has been chasing this from the very start.

Also I send my thanks to Urška, our Parish Clerk, for all her hard work.

My very best regards to Christine Coultrup for hosting the coffee morning for the Poppy Appeal and to Gill Sewell who is the co-ordinator for this area.

My very best wishes to you all and I hope you have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Cllr Alan Townsend, Chairman,
Great Hallingbury Parish Council.

What To Do in the Holidays

Essex Attractions

Our home county of Essex offers many opportunities for you and your family to enjoy themselves.

Country Parks

There are nine country parks across the county, including the Flitch Way which runs through out village. These provide good locations for walking and some offer regular park runs for the more athletic. You can find lots of information at https://www.explore-essex.com/places-to-go/our-parks-and-places

Museums

If the weather is problematic, there are over 40 museums in Essex covering a wide range of topics. Some are only open part time so you may wish to check https://www.essexportal.co.uk/essex-information/essex-museums

Heritage Places

As you can imagine, we have a wealth of heritage destinations ranging from the Knights Templar barns at Cressing, Norman Hedingham Castle with its trail of Christmas lights and a Christmas market to Martello towers in a number of locations. You may find something interesting on https://www.essexportal.co.uk/essex-information

THE FORGOTTEN GARDENS OF
EASTON LODGE

News for December 2026

And so we reach the end of the year. And what a weird one it has been. Although we hated all that rain in January and February, we look back and think how lucky we were to start the spring with the lilypond, well and water butts full. The roses, lavender and gaura kept us smiling and the bees happy through the heat and drought of the summer, but we probably enjoyed as many flowers in the wildflower border in October as we had in July! And while we had some really lovely autumn colour in November, some plants seemed to consider that the little rains we had meant it was spring again: so we also spotted flowers on the rhododendrons and the rosemary hedges! Who knows what the winter will bring and whether we will be ready for what might be another challenging summer next year.



As an organisation run by volunteers, Christmas is a time to reflect on and celebrate all that we have achieved together. The glory of the Gardens is of course a good indicator of how well we are doing. And we have had lots of lovely feedback from visitors. It is difficult to choose which to share, but, as an example, a Japanese lady who hadn't visited since her year of volunteering in 1998 was delighted to see the Tenboudai she had named and the Japanese style planting nearby; and a local care group said their two hour visit had flown by, with excellent and very patient guides, and a very welcome cup of tea and delicious cake.

And finally we can celebrate ourselves. Many new volunteers have joined us and working together we have had fun, while learning and sharing skills. So we will raise a toast to our Trust!

We hope that you, our loyal readers and visitors, have enjoyed seeing what we have been up to and that you make a mental note to visit us again to see our snowdrops in February and then through the rest of the season!

Best wishes for the festive season from all of us at The Gardens of Easton Lodge.

Jill Goldsmith



An Armed Hold-Up



A man charges into a bank wearing a balaclava and wielding a handgun. He shouts 'this is a raid - everyone get on the floor!!', and proceeds to empty the cash drawers.

As he runs towards the door with the loot, a brave customer yanks off his balaclava. The robber immediately shoots the customer in the head and shouts, 'Did anybody else here see my face?'.

The robber notices another customer peering from behind a counter and goes over and shoots him in the head also. 'Did anybody else see my face?' he shouts again, waving his gun around.

There is silence for a few seconds before a male voice is heard from a distant corner, 'I think my missus caught a glimpse....'

Great Hallingbury - A Hidden History

The Grounds of Hallingbury Place

Although most people assume that the grounds around Hallingbury Place and the forest lake were created by Lancelot [Capability] Brown, it is far from the whole story; much of what he planned was not executed.

By 1754, Sir Jacob Houblon had created an eight acre lake by damming Shermore Brooke, stocking it with fish and building a small house to enjoy his creation. Some of the rides and walks had been established along with a small garden. It wasn't until 1757 that Brown submitted a plan to revise the lake as seen in the accompanying plan. He was paid £100, which equates to around £250,000 today! He was paid a further £50 (£125,000) in 1762. It is not clear how much money was related to the forest as opposed to the grounds near the house.



Brown's 1757 plan for Hallingbury Place
(D/EAH acc 6 158.34) Reproduced by permission of the Berkshire Records Office

What is clear is that not all of the work was carried out. The far end of the lake was never extended and the bridge was never built. It must be remembered that there was dispute over ownership of some of the forest.

Brown returned in the 1770s with new plans for the gardens and two lodges to be built at the estate entrances. The lodges were not built at that time. East and West Lodges are additions from the mid 1800s. There is also some evidence that the lake near the house was designed and built by Humphry Repton (1752-1818) in the early 1800s.

It is evident that, in his desire to create his fashionable ideas for open parkland, Brown destroyed the established Elizabethan/Tudor gardens leaving behind a landscape that has the distinct feeling of the late 1700s.



Hallingbury Place in Peacock's Polite Repository of 1793
Courtesy of Essex Gardens Trust

Alan Pinnock

The Famous Red Tape

In the year 2007 (or 2027) the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in England and said, "Once again, the earth has become wicked and over-populated and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing along with a few good humans."

He gave Noah the CAD drawings, saying, "You have six months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights."

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard - but no Ark. "Noah!" He roared, "I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?"

"Forgive me, Lord," begged Noah, "but things have changed. I needed Building Regulations Approval and I've been arguing with the Fire Brigade about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I should have obtained planning permission for building the Ark in my garden because it is development of the site even though, in my view, it is a temporary structure. We had to then go to appeal to the Secretary of State for a decision.

Then the Department of Transport demanded a bond be posted for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions to clear the passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it.

Getting the wood was another problem. All the decent trees have Tree Preservation Orders on them and we live in a Site of Special Scientific Interest, set up in order to protect the spotted owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls - but no go!

When I started gathering the animals, the RSPCA sued me. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the accommodation was too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space.

Then the County Council, the Environment Agency and the Rivers Authority ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood.

I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission on how many disabled carpenters I'm supposed to hire for my building team. The trades unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only accredited workers with Ark-building experience.

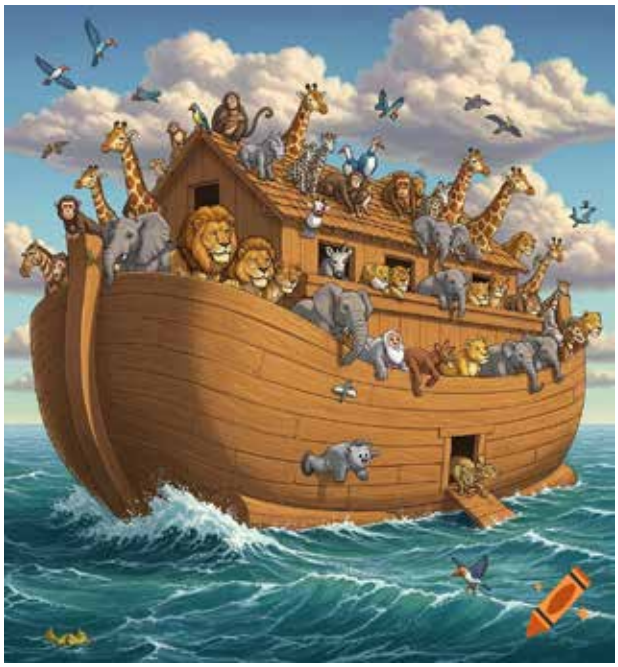
To make matters worse, Customs and Excise seized all my assets claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species.

So, forgive me, Lord, but it would take at least 10 years for me to finish this Ark."

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine and a rainbow stretched across the sky.

Noah looked up in wonder and asked, "You mean you're not going to destroy the world?"

"No," said the Lord. "The British government beat me to it."



Physiotherapy Is Not Just for Injuries: Move Better, Live Better

How Physiotherapy can help you stay active, independent and enjoy everyday life.

Physiotherapy is often associated with recovering from an injury, operation or hospital stay. However, it offers much more, helping people of all ages to improve mobility, manage pain and maintain independence. Whether gardening, climbing stairs, playing with grandchildren or enjoying a countryside walk, moving comfortably is essential to our quality of life.

Why Movement Matters

As we age, changes in strength, balance, flexibility and joint function can make everyday activities more challenging. Pain can also discourage movement, leading to reduced strength and confidence. However, it is never too late to benefit from physical activity. Regular movement supports physical and mental wellbeing, while strength and balance exercises become increasingly important as we get older.

How Physiotherapy Can Help

Chartered Physiotherapists assess movement, identify factors contributing to pain or difficulty and develop personalised treatment plans around individual needs and goals.

Treatment may include manual therapy, acupuncture, electrotherapy, taping and tailored exercises to improve mobility, strength and balance. Physiotherapists also provide advice on managing activity and support recovery following illness, injury or surgery. Prehabilitation, or prehab, before procedures such as hip or knee replacements can also help prepare patients for surgery and support postoperative recovery.

Preventing Falls and Maintaining Confidence

Falls can have serious consequences, particularly for older people. Improving strength, coordination and balance can help reduce falls risk and maintain confidence in everyday activities. If you have fallen, feel unsteady or worry about falling, a Physiotherapist can assess your needs and recommend appropriate exercises and strategies.

Small Steps Make a Difference

Staying active does not require a gym membership. Walking, gardening and regularly getting up from a chair all contribute to a healthier lifestyle. Weight-bearing activities also help maintain bone health. UK guidelines recommend adults work towards at least 150 minutes of moderate activity weekly, alongside strength exercises on two or more days. Older adults should also include balance activities. Start gently and build up gradually. If you have persistent pain or a long-term health condition, seek advice from your GP or Physiotherapist about exercising safely.

A Healthier, More Active Community

Walking with neighbours, joining an exercise group or participating in community activities makes movement enjoyable while strengthening social connections. Physiotherapy is about more than treating injuries. It helps us move comfortably, build confidence and preserve independence at every stage of life. Move better, live better.

Your Local Physiotherapy Clinic

Based in Great Hallingbury, Julie Herbert and Natalie Hilliard are Chartered Physiotherapists with over 35 years' combined experience.

The Physiotherapist Julie Herbert & Associates
The Street Barn Clinic, The Street,
Great Hallingbury, CM22 7TR
Book an appointment: www.thephysiotherapist.net

Genius Dog

As a butcher is shooing a dog from his shop, he notices a £10 note in the dog's mouth and a message that reads: "5 lamb chops, please."

Amazed, he takes the money, puts a bag of chops in the dog's mouth and quickly closes up shop to follow him.

He watches in awe as the dog waits for a green light, looks both ways and trots across the road to a bus stop. The dog checks the timetable and sits on the bench. When a bus arrives, the dog walks to the front, inspects the bus number and hops on.

Dumbstruck, the butcher boards too, following the dog as the bus travels to the suburbs. After a while, the dog stands on his back legs, pushes the "stop" bell, and gets off. The butcher follows closely.

The dog runs up to a house, drops the bag of lamb chops on the doorstep and backs up. He takes a big run and whap! slams into the door. No answer.

The dog repeats the process — slamming into the door several times — then jumps on a wall, circles the garden, beats his head against a window and jumps back down, waiting at the door.

Finally, a big guy opens the door and starts cursing and shouting at the dog.

The butcher, furious, runs up and yells, "What the hell are you doing? This dog is a genius!"

The owner replies, "Genius, never … it's the second time this week he's forgotten his keys!"



Easy Eating

Sausage Casserole

Serves 2-3

Ingredients

8 Lincolnshire pork sausages (options: Hampshire breed free range or Cumberland sausages)
a little oil for frying
200g smoked lardons
225g small shallots
1 tsp heaped plain flour
375ml strong dry cider
1 clove garlic, crushed
1 bay leaf
1 tsp rounded freshly chopped thyme (plus a few springs)
1 medium Cox's apple, cored and sliced thickly into rings (no need to peel)
a little butter
freshly milled black pepper

Method

1. Preheat oven to 180°C, gas mark 4
2. Place medium sized, flameproof casserole (needs a tight fitting lid) over medium heat, add a little oil and when hot, brown the sausages all round. It's important to get them well browned.
3. Using a draining spoon, remove sausages and brown lightly the lardons and shallots.
4. Sprinkle in the flour to soak up the juices, then gradually stir in the cider.
5. Pop the sausages back in along with the garlic, bay leaf, fresh thyme and sprigs. Add some freshly milled black pepper (no salt needed).
6. Cover with lid as soon as it begins to simmer, then transfer to oven for 30 minutes.
7. Remove lid and continue cooking for further 20-30 minutes.
8. Towards the end of the time, fry the apple rings in butter till golden and soft and use to garnish casserole.

Sticky Gingerbread

Serves 10

Ingredients

100g golden syrup
100g black treacle
75g unsalted butter
75g light soft brown or muscovado sugar
150g plain flour
1 tsp ground ginger
1/2 tsp ground cinnamon
1 egg, lightly beaten
75ml milk
finely grated zest of 1 unwaxed lemon
1/2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
75-100g finely chopped preserved stem ginger in syrup (drained)
To finish (optional)
50g icing sugar, sifted
1 tbsp lemon juice or water
50g whole stem ginger (2 pieces)

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 170°C, gas mark 3
2. Put the golden syrup, treacle, butter and sugar into a small saucepan. Place over a gentle heat and stir until the butter has melted and the ingredients are evenly blended. Set aside to cool
3. Sift the flour, ground ginger, mixed spice and cinnamon into a medium mixing bowl. Make a well in the centre and add the cooled treacle mixture, egg, milk and lemon zest. Using a wooden spoon, beat well until the mixture is smooth and glossy
4. Dissolve the bicarbonate of soda in 1 tbsp hot water. Add to the mixture with the chopped ginger and mix thoroughly to create a pourable batter.
5. Pour into a 1 litre loaf tin, approx 20 x 10cm, lightly greased, base and long sides line with baking parchment.
6. Bake in the oven for 50-60 minutes or until the cake is firm to the touch and a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean.
7. Leave in the tin for 10 minutes before turning the cake out onto a wire rack to cool.
8. When cold, if you wish, mix the icing sugar with the lemon juice or water and drizzle over the cake, then top with slivers of stem ginger

This cake is best stored for 3-4 days before eating. It keeps well for 2 weeks and freezes beautifully.

Sausage Casserole

adapted from a Delia Smith recipe



This will need some very creamy, fluffy mashed potatoes.

Sticky Gingerbread

a nice alternative to Christmas cake



Sticky Gingerbread ***continued***

Looking After Great Hallingbury Village Hall

Charity:

Great Hallingbury Village Hall is a registered charity and has to conform to the requirements of the Charity Commission. The Charity Trustees are the four officers plus several committee members.

Who is Involved:

We have four officers - Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. There is a committee comprising 6 - 8 elected members plus representatives nominated by each organisation associated with the village that regularly uses the Village Hall such as Hallingbury Ladies, the Gardening Group, Bridge Club and Parish Council. Everyone is a volunteer except we pay for caretaking, cleaning and booking services. The committee usually meets 4 - 6 times a year.

History:

The hall was built in 1931, funded by public subscription and the Diocesan Authority and ownership of the Parish Hall was vested in the Parochial Church Council. In 1995, the Parish Hall became the Village Hall with the grant of a long lease from the PCC to the Village Hall charity. The Peachey Room was added in 1996 and a few years later the stage was removed and the kitchen and storage facilities enlarged. Also in the late 1990's, the Parish Council purchased the adjacent field and made it available to hirers of the Village Hall. After the Korean Aircrash in late 1999, the hard standing car park was built at the expense of Stansted Airport as an emergency centre for the Village. The village sign mounted alongside the hall was designed and provided by Great Hallingbury History Society in 2011.

Objectives:

We are responsible for maintaining the fabric of the hall and its operation. Major recent projects have included the installation of a heating system driven by air heat pumps and a new wood floor. A built in projector and sound system and hearing loop have all been added in the last few years.

Finance:

Funds for maintaining the hall derive from hiring fees, fund raising such as Quiz Nights, donations and grants for specific projects.

Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for providing administrative duties including ensuring that committee meetings are properly administered, helping to draw up agendas and planning and preparing for committee and general meetings, sending out notifications, minutes and other papers in a timely fashion, taking minutes at committee meetings and accurately recording decisions and actions and monitoring committee member action points, dealing with correspondence and arranging for any necessary reporting.

Likely commitment: 2-3 hours per week.

Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining accurate records of the income and expenditure of the charity, preparing and submitting invoices to regular hirers, operating the charity's bank accounts in accordance with the committee's regulations, preparing and presenting financial reports to both general meetings and committee meetings, presenting year end accounting records to the nominated scrutineer for approval and dealing with any related correspondence.

Likely commitment: 2-3 hours per week.

Great Haillingbury Village Hall

Change of Chairman



Back in 2018, Lee Cox took the reins as Chairman at the Village Hall, following the departure of Martin Mugele. Lee has now decided that the time is right to step aside and for a new Chairman to take over.

Firstly, the Village owes a huge thank you to Lee for all the time and effort he has committed to this role over the last eight years. He and Sarah will still be looking after caretaking and booking activities as hitherto.

At the 2027 AGM, which will take place on 5th April, 2027, at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, officers (chairman, vice chairman, treasurer and secretary), committee members and trustees are elected or re-elected. All residents of Great Hallingbury on the electoral roll are invited and are entitled to a vote. Meanwhile the committee has appointed an interim Chairman.

Next April, there will certainly be an opening for both a Chairman and a Vice Chairman. So that everyone knows what is involved, brief job descriptions for all officers are included here.

As Lee has so often reminded us, the Village Hall is the only remaining community building in Great Hallingbury – we have no pub, no shop, no school. The Village Hall is there to benefit everyone in Great Hallingbury and we need people to be involved in looking after it. If you are interested in joining the committee to help retain this splendid facility in the village, and especially if you would be ready to take on an officer role, please email our Secretary, Val Waring at secretary@ghvh.org

Chairman

The Chairman is responsible for the smooth running of the administration of activities in the Village Hall, organising, setting agendas and chairing the meetings of the Village Hall Committee, ensuring that all issues involving the Village Hall are dealt with quickly and efficiently, relying on the various Committee members, looking for ways to improve the running of the Village Hall, to assess new ideas and to promote the Village Hall both internally and externally, working with other officers to ensure all the Charity records are kept up to date, along with the necessary administration, supporting and sometimes leading on ad hoc projects, reporting to the Parish Council at its bimonthly meetings, personally or through the Parish Council's designated representative on the Village Hall Committee.

Likely Commitment: 3 - 5 hours per week.

Vice Chairman

The Vice Chairman has a key role and is responsible for supporting the Chairman and ensuring the effective management of the organisation including deputising for the chairman when necessary and assuming any or all of the duties in the Chairman's absence, liaising closely with the Chairman and assisting in overseeing the business of the Village Hall.

Likely commitment: 1 - 2 hours per week.

Desirable Attributes for Chairman and Vice Chairman:

- Strong communication skills, good leadership and a friendly *can do* attitude.
- Good organisational skills and ability to juggle differing priorities.
- A professional outlook when dealing with all third parties

Great Hallingbury Village Hall



GOOD PRIZES AND RAFFLE

Saturday, 5th December,2026

Great Hallingbury Village Hall 7 for 7.30 pm

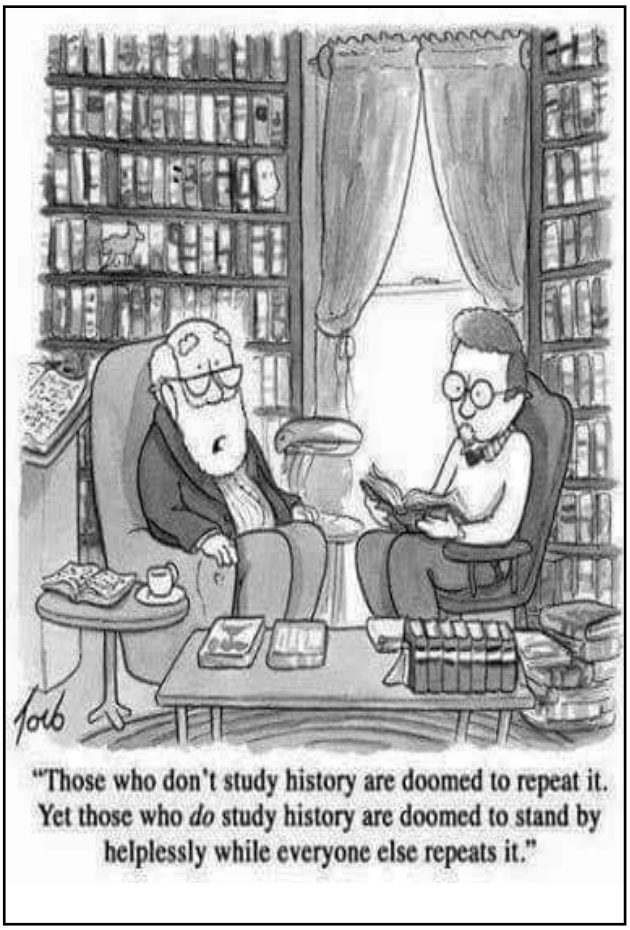
£5 per person at the door - table of 6 or 8 or join another group

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

Bring your own food and drink

Have another convivial evening
Support the Village Hall
Happy Christmas





"Those who don't study history are doomed to repeat it. Yet those who *do* study history are doomed to stand by helplessly while everyone else repeats it."

Charity Quiz Night

Nominate Your Favoured Charity

Each year the Village Hall Committee plans to hold a charity quiz night. This year we have supported a children's hospital in Wales but the choice could be yours.

We invite you to nominate a charity that you would like to benefit from our quiz night in 2027. We would provide the hall but your charity would run the whole evening and receive income.

To nominate a charity, please write to or email the editor who will pass your suggestion to the Village Hall Committee.

The chosen charity will be selected randomly in January.

Book Corner



Book Corner

A Redbird Christmas

by Fannie Flagg

Oswald Campbell is about to face another cold, damp winter in Chicago when his doctor tells him he has terminal emphysema and, unless he leaves Chicago, he'll be dead by Christmas. He hears of a small Alabama town called Lost River which would be a much warmer place during the winter and Oswald decides to go there.

Renting a room, he finds himself warmly welcomed by Lost River's good-hearted – if somewhat eccentric - community. There's his landlady, Betty, a force to be reckoned with, the ladies of the town who do their good works through the Polka Dots Secret Society and the local store-keeper who nurses both his own broken heart and an injured Red Cardinal called Jack. Before long, Oswald has stopped smoking and drinking, taken up birdwatching and water-colour painting. By the time the summer comes, he realises he is still alive!

Then there is Patsy, a neglected and crippled little girl from the trailer park in the woods. She becomes fascinated by the redbird but, at first, won't speak to anyone. Gradually, Roy wins her over and she comes to the store every day to play with Jack. Soon she is befriended by the community and, by holding lots of pasta bakes, fish fries and rummage sales, enough money is raised for an operation to correct the problem with her leg so that she can walk properly.

This is quite a short book but there is so much that will make you laugh or give you a lump in the throat – and, with the requisite Christmas miracle at the end, it would be a lovely little present to find in your stocking this Christmas!



The Proving Ground

by Michael Connelly

If you're a fan of the author's *Harry Bosch* books, you will already have met Mickey Haller, a defence attorney turned civil litigator – but this book is a fascinating foray into the world of Artificial Intelligence - a subject very much in the news today!

He is about to represent a mother whose teenage daughter was fatally shot by her ex-boyfriend - whose defence is that he did this on the advice and urging of his AI chatbot *girlfriend*.

The question before the court is how far the powerful AI company, is responsible for its software. They are offering the mother a substantial amount of money if she agrees that the chatbot was incapable of influencing the boy. They have targeted the youth market as its primary user, so obviously do not want to admit to any wrongdoing in public.

Haller's client, however, is not interested in the money; she wants an admission that their AI system is defective and safeguarding is needed to prevent AI from ever encouraging another killing. *Who is responsible when tragedy springs from algorithms written in cold code?*

After a while, as the case proceeds in court, the narrative seems to move away from fiction and become totally believable – and possibly frightening? Obviously, the author is not arguing that robots will be ruling the world in the near future! But, in this graphic courtroom thriller, he does make a convincing argument for regulating artificial intelligence, protecting young people and making sure that technology does not outpace morality.



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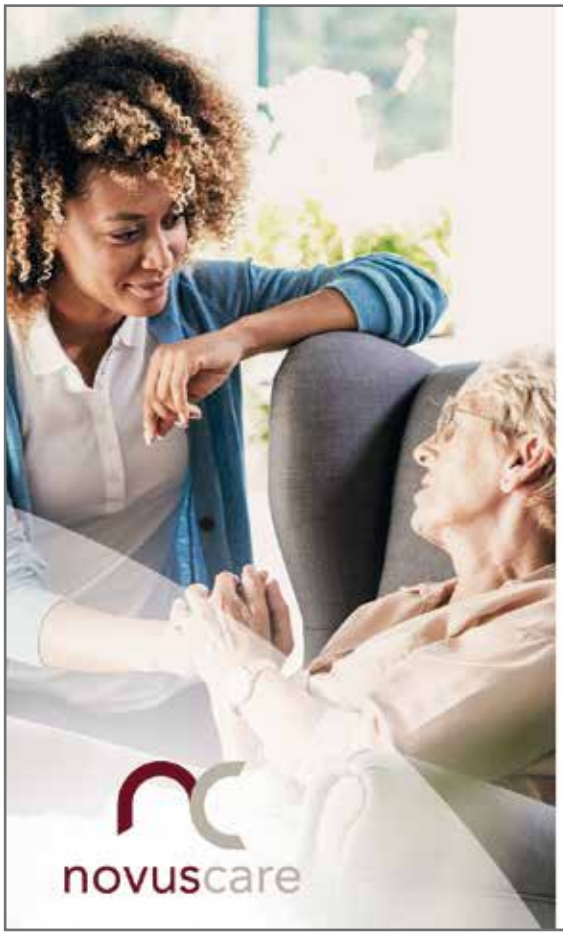
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Snippets from Local Newspapers over the Decades

Read all about it!

100 years ago

Record Price Paid for a Painting from Hallingbury Place

The Essex Chronicle (3rd December 1926) reported the sale of ***Pinkie***, painted by Sir Thomas Lawrence, for a record price of £77,000. It was bought by the art dealer, Duveen. The picture, formerly hung on the walls of Hallingbury Place, and was then the property of the late Mr William Lockett-Agnew.





(***Pinkie*** is the traditional title of a portrait painted by Thomas Lawrence in 1794. It is now in the Huntington Library at San Marino, California, where it normally hangs opposite ***The Blue Boy*** by Thomas Gainsborough).

90 years ago

Ringing the Bells to Remember the King

The Herts and Essex Observer (1st February 1936) reported that the bell ringers of St Giles' Church responded quickly when the sad news of the passing of King George the Fifth was announced and rang a muffled peal on the ancient bells of the church. They also rang again on the evening of the King's funeral. The funeral from St George's, Windsor, was broadcast in the church and much appreciated by a good congregation. (*A muffle is a pad, traditionally made of leather, attached to the clapper of a bell to reduce the impact of the clapper against the bell's sound bow. This dampens the bell's strike note while retaining the hum, creating a softer, echoing sound.)*

80 years ago

Grand Amateur Boxing Tournament

The Herts and Essex Observer (15th June 1946) reported that *Last Friday evening will long be remembered by everyone in Hallingbury and for miles around.* As the reporter approached, fully half an hour before the advertised time to commence, his driver remarked: *This looks like a big sports meeting more than a village boxing show*, for there were streams of cars, cyclists and pedestrians.

The event was organised by the Great Hallingbury Entertainments Committee and held at Howe Green Moat, lent by Mr Marcus Ashby. As dusk drew nigh, the ring was floodlit and the big crowd settled down to a feast of boxing – twelve bouts in all. Mr Boyd Gibbins acted jointly as the Master of Ceremonies and the referee.

The highlight of the evening was a special contest, for which a cup had been presented by Mr E Leyns. After the three rounds had been keenly contested, the judges disagreed on the result. The referee said that it was very difficult to give a final verdict and so he asked the two competitors if they would box a further round, to which they agreed. The enthusiasm was so great that the referee had to ask the audience for quiet, so that the boxers would not be distracted. This remarkable bout finished amidst tremendous applause and the Leyns Cup was awarded to the winner. A hurried conference on the spot was held by the committee and it was agreed that the loser should also be presented with a cup, to the applause of the crowd.

Thus ended one of the best evenings of

boxing that the reporter could remember.

70 years ago

Presentation of a debutante



The Tatler (21st November 1956) published a photograph of Miss Sally Anne Faure, who was a debutante that year and was presented at Court to the Queen by her mother in March. Mr and Mrs P H Faure lived in The Grange, Great Hallingbury.

60 years ago

Proposed Route for the Motorway

The chief topic of discussion in Great Hallingbury in 1966, apart from the World Cup, was the proposed route of the new M11 motorway. An article published on 28th January in the Herts and Essex Observer focused on the reaction to the proposed route. Shock, irritation and frustration were the overwhelming moods. Mr Wyndham-Brown of the White Cottage, who will have a motorway in his back garden, commented that it was ironical that he had moved from London to the village to get some peace and quiet. Mrs Betty Ripley of The Timbers was totally shocked that the motorway would go right through the middle of her house, where she has lived with her husband and two children for 16 years, having come to this *quiet corner* of Essex to avoid the noise and bustle of towns.

Mrs Nesta Streeter, who farms more than 700 acres in partnership with her son, estimated that she would lose 120 acres and her farm would be split in half. The milking equipment at Harps Farm would be cut off from the pastures used by her 70 cows. Mr Coleman of Woodside Green Farm said that the motorway would split his holding in half, *making it very inconvenient, if not uneconomical*.

Fortunately, by the end of the year a new route had been proposed by the Ministry of Transport, which was described by Mr James McGowan, Chairman of Great Hallingbury Parish Council, as the *best of a bad lot* (Herts and Essex Observer: 9th December 1966). Mr McGowan said that he was relieved that the *motorway will pass through Anvil Cross and no nearer the village. (Construction for this section of the motorway eventually commenced in 1972 and it was officially opened in June 1975).*

50 years ago

Theft of a Rolls Royce

In January Mr Roger Bliss returned home from a holiday in Barbados to find that his Rolls Royce, for which he had waited about a year, had been stolen from a locked garage at his home at Latchmore Bank, Great Hallingbury.



A 1970's Rolls Royce Silver Shadow

The car, valued at about £16,500, had only been used for a short time by Mr Bliss before he went on holiday. Delivery time for a new Rolls Royce was up to two years. Fortunately, about ten days after the theft, the car was found in a car park in Dover and reunited with Mr Bliss. The police thought that the thief had intended to take the car out of the country. (Herts and Essex Observer: 15th January 1976).

40 years ago

Local Artist has Paintings Displayed

In April Mrs Sylvia Richards, local artist and former head of art at Hockerill School, was commissioned to paint a series of ten pictures to adorn a bank which was due to open in Cambridge in November. The series of watercolours depicted some of the city's colleges, including Magdalene, King's and Corpus Christi. Mrs Richards, who is also a textile designer, has work in private collections in Britain, Australia and the United States. The Cambridge water colours were commissioned by the Trustee Savings Bank. (Herts and Essex Observer: 27th September 1986).

Philip Hays

Essex County Fire & Rescue Service

Be Ready for Whatever the Weather Brings

There's been plenty of conversation recently about being prepared for emergencies, with the Government's new ***Be Ready*** campaign encouraging households to think about how they would cope if everyday services were disrupted for a few days.

But what does being prepared actually look like, particularly if you live in a rural community?

At Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS), we know that living in the countryside can bring its own challenges when extreme weather strikes. From flooding and storms to prolonged dry spells and wildfires, severe weather can affect our homes, roads and the services we rely on.

We want to encourage residents to take a few simple steps to help keep themselves, their homes and their neighbours safe.

A few things you can do today:

- Think ahead: Keep a torch, spare batteries, a charged power bank, essential medication and some long-life food and bottled water at home in case of a power cut or disruption to supplies.
- Know your local risks: Check whether your property or nearby roads are prone to flooding. Think about alternative routes if roads become impassable.
- Reduce fire risks: During dry weather, keep grass and vegetation around your property under control. Take extra care with barbecues and never leave them unattended.
- Prepare for storms: Check gutters, drains, fences and roof tiles and secure garden furniture and other items that could be blown around in strong winds.
- Look out for neighbours: If you live in a more isolated location, agree how you could check in on elderly or vulnerable neighbours if bad weather affects power, phone signal or road access.

A little preparation goes a long way.

Being prepared doesn't mean expecting the worst or buying lots of extra equipment. It's about thinking ahead, knowing what to do and looking out for one another.

Rural communities are often well placed to support each other and a little local knowledge and preparation can make a real difference when an emergency happens.

For more advice on staying safe in rural areas, visit www.essex-fire.gov.uk/rural.



How Well Do You Know Your Autumn Leaves?

Answers to Quiz on page 10

1. English Oak
2. Hazel
3. Field Maple
4. Common Hawthorn
5. Silver Birch
6. Rowan
7. Common Beech
8. Hornbeam
9. Wild Service Tree
10. Aspen



What's the Password?

Me: What's the wifi password?
Bartender: You need to buy a drink first.
Me: Okay, I'll have a coke.
Bartender: Is Pepsi okay?
Me: Sure. How much is that?
Bartender: $3.
Me: There you go. So what's the wifi password?
Bartender: You need to buy a drink first. No spaces, all lowercase.

Citizens Advice

Heating Bills On The Rise: Don't Wait To Get Help

For many households the approach of autumn means more than shorter days and colder mornings. It also means thinking about when to turn the heating back on - and how much it will cost.

This is a particular concern for anyone who relies on heating oil with the average price in September 2026 around 50p per litre higher than a year earlier. Gas and electricity costs have also risen following the increase in the energy price cap on 1 October, with a further rise forecast for January 2027.

With high energy costs putting even more pressure on household budgets, local charity Uttlesford Citizens Advice is encouraging local residents to get in touch. Their trained advisers can help you explore the support available, including:

- Energy costs – ways to reduce bills and energy use.
- Energy efficiency advice on measures that could make your home warmer and more affordable to heat.
- Financial support – checking whether you are entitled to benefits or other help with household costs.
- Grants for energy efficiency home improvements
- Energy debt advice if you are struggling with bills or have fallen behind with payments.
- Heating oil – support for households that use heating oil, including information about oil-buying schemes.
- Other energy support – including the Warm Home Discount, Priority Services Register, prepayment meters and emergency fuel support.

Cllr Reeve, the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change at Uttlesford District Council, said:
We know that rising energy costs can place real pressure on household budgets, particularly for residents who rely on heating oil. That's why we are pleased to support the valuable work carried out by Uttlesford Citizens Advice, helping residents access advice, financial support and practical measures that could make their homes warmer and more affordable to heat. Seeking advice early can make a significant difference and I encourage anyone with concerns to explore the help available before the colder weather arrives.

Uttlesford Citizens Advice is here for anyone looking for ways to reduce their energy bills, improve their home's energy efficiency and understand their options. You don't need to be receiving benefits or on a low income to seek advice. Advice is always free, confidential, independent and impartial.

Find out more:
Uttlesford Citizens Advice – Utility Bills & Warm Homes 01799 618840
help@uttlesfordca.org.uk

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Little Hallingbury Primary School

Sports Roundup
Autumn 2026

The Little Hallingbury School community is very proud of its busy sporting calendar, offering opportunities to learn new skills as well as excel and win medals! This year it has become a little trickier to maintain all these sporting opportunities as the Government has withdrawn its Sports Premium funding that schools previously used for things like equipment, costs associated with attending events including transport and specialist coaches coming into school to offer high quality PE lessons. However, we are determined to find new ways to continue to be *sporty*!

At the beginning of term, we hosted the Uttlesford Schools Sports Partnership (USSP) Sports Ambassador Training for our own Sports Ambassadors - Sophie, Darcy O, Dylan and Zach - and for Ambassadors from other local primary schools. Just before half term, the Sports Ambassadors got a chance to put their training into practice, supporting a sports multi-skills event for local primary schools which our Year 3 and Year 4 children attended. The younger children thoroughly enjoyed the event and the Sports Ambassadors were complimented on their leadership skills.

We normally attend an archery competition in the Autumn term but, in order to save transport costs, this year USSP came into school with their archery equipment. All the children in KS2 had the opportunity to shoot some practice arrows and then recorded their scores for 4 rounds of 3 arrows each. The children with the highest scores were then put into teams and the team scores will be compared to other local primary schools to see who qualifies for the Uttlesford Finals in Saffron Walden in the spring. We are awaiting the results…..

On one of the first cold wet days of the year, twenty one Year 5 and 6 children played in a USSP tag rugby tournament against seven other teams. Despite the unkind weather, the children showed their resilience and played on. The A team of Erin, Evie, Darcy R, Zack, Dylan, Lincoln, Jacob, Lenny, Oscar and Charlie came second and have qualified for the USSP finals in November.

Lastly, a massive *Well done* to Mabel who came second in the Year 3 and 4 USSP Golf Competition at Great Chesterford earlier in the term.



Nichola BC

Why did the frog take the bus to work?
His car got toad.

What do you call a pig that knows karate?
A pork chop.

What do you call a horse that lives next door?
A neigh-bor.

Why do fish live in salt water?
Because pepper makes them sneeze.

What did the Dalmatian say after lunch?

What do you call a dog magician?
A labracadabrador.

What do you call a fish with no eyes?
Fsh.

Why are frogs always so happy?
They eat whatever bugs them.

What's brown and really sticky?
A stick.

What do you call a sleeping bull?
A bulldozer.

Why did the giraffe get such bad marks?
He always had his head in the clouds.

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Highlights from the Minutes of Meeting of Great Hallingbury Parish Council

7th September, 2026

Present: Cllr Alan Townsend (Chairman), Cllrs David Barlow, Mark Bloomfield, Neil Jackson and Val Waring, Mrs Urška Sydee (Clerk), District Cllr Geof Driscoll and Essex County Cllr Geoff Bagnall

Uttlesford District Council

Local Government Reorganisation has been suspended therefore UDC elections will take place in May.

Cllr Driscoll discussed the land next to Great Hallingbury Cemetery and Memorial Garden. A caravan was moved to the cemetery ground and there was digging taking place on the driveway over the bank holiday weekend. Enforcement has opened the case and it will be followed in the High Court where both sides will be heard. An injunction was served that day.

Cllr Waring reported that the land on the site of the proposed cemetery / memorial gardens is in two separate plots. The current injunction only relates to one plot as this is where the work was being undertaken over the Bank Holiday Weekend in August. No injunction can be sought on the other plot as nothing had taken place at the time. Cllr Waring has alerts set up with the Land Registry to advise of any land movement in the future.

Village Hall

Cllr Waring reported that she is now the Village Hall secretary.

Post Box at the Top of Goose Lane by Woodside Green

The Clerk reported that no additional communication had been received regarding the post box at the top of Goose Lane. Cllr Townsend has requested a meeting with MP Chris Vince on site to discuss this.

Cllr Jackson reported that the other post box had been knocked by a vehicle and was repaired within three days.

Planning

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

Application Decisions

UTT/25/2591/FUL // Land Adjacent 10 Start Hill // Erection of five dwelling houses // Awaiting decision

UTT/25/2591/FUL // Land adjacent 10 Start Hill Re-consultation // Erection of five dwelling houses // Awaiting decision (Parish Council objections have been listed in previous editions of the magazine)

UTT/26/0300/FUL // Land adjoining Old Tithe Hall, Start Hill // Erection of employment building for use within Use Classes B2 (General Industrial), B8 (Storage and Distribution), E(g)(ii) (Research and Development), E(g)

(iii) (Industrial Processes), complete with vehicular and pedestrian access from Dunmow Road, parking provision, landscaping and all related infrastructure // Awaiting decision (Parish Council objections have been listed in previous editions of the magazine)

Reconsultation - no additional comments

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 // Approved (Parish Council objections have been listed in previous editions of the magazine)

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 it is kept to single storey and in keeping with its original architecture.)

UTT/26/0928/FUL // Barn At Lodge Farm, Woodside Green / S73 application to vary condition 5 (materials) // Approved (No objections.)

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 (Great Hallingbury Parish Council objections described fully in previous editions. Additional Comments: Is this chalet style residence to be privately owned and, if sold on, will it will be sold with shared parking access? How will the shared parking work given that the chalet style has 3 spaces, some of which will presumably be needed by the occupants. The Start House original plan had space for 3 cars which has now become 6 but even 6 plus all three of the spaces at the chalet style property only comes to 9 for a 10 bedroomed property. How can the landlord know that any less than all ten occupants have a motor vehicle in which case there are still not enough parking spaces)

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)

Applications Discussed at Meeting

UTT/26/1626/CLE // Annexe at Lindsell Cottage // Certificate of Lawfulness for the use of the existing annexe as a separate dwelling (Parish Council comments / observations: Does this building meet current building standards with regard to its construction and being fit to become a dwelling? Does it have adequate parking and access? Is it connected to mains drainage? Does it comply with current environmental regulations for heating and efficiency? On the postcode finder on Royal Mail *The Shed* is not listed. Has that *house* always been subject to separate council tax – certainly on the application form it states it has been since 2016 but what about the previous decade and utility bills? At the time at which it *became* a house was the relevant planning permission or any relevant building certificate etc obtained? This is very pertinent to an application for a Certificate of Lawfulness. Is there adequate parking or is the parking limited to that outside Lindsell Cottage? Historically properties at the side of this one have had difficulty accessing their drives with cars at Lindsell Cottage. If this is a separate dwelling and both are sold / occupied, then parking could be an ongoing issue. All these would have to be addressed before we could comment further)

UTT/26/1788/FUL // Hatfield House and Stortford House // Proposed single-storey rear extensions to each of the two semi-detached dwellings (No objections.)

UTT/26/1598/FUL // Land South of The Street // Erection of a self-build detached dwelling, stables, garaging and associated work // (Objections: it is overdevelopment)

UTT/26/2003/FUL // Martinside Stud, Anvil Cross, Church Road // Extension of existing stables to provide rest facilities // (No objections but it must not later be developed from stables to domestic dwelling)

UTT/26/1987/FUL // Bishop's Stortford Bowling Club, Bowling Lane // Installation of six floodlighting units // (No objections)

Late Planning Matters

UTT/26/2222/FUL // Site adjacent Little Jenkins // Change of use and conversion of existing buildings to provide six self-contained residential dwellings (Use Class C3), together with minor associated extensions and alterations, including the construction of a linking extension and external staircase, and associated landscaping, parking and amenity provision // (Concerns regarding access were raised with overuse of single track)

Essex County Council

Highways:

Lower Road in Little Hallingbury has been repaired.

The road at Start Hill near the bridge still needs to be repaired. Cllr Bagnall will try to get a timeline as to when this will be done.

Flooding near the property *Captains* still

appears when raining. The clerk to email location to Cllr Bagnall who will investigate.

Crime Prevention

Private security will be on trial in Braintree, Colchester and Chelmsford for three months after which its effectiveness will be assessed.

Pond View, Woodside Green

Cllr Jackson reported that *Pond View*, which had been illegally occupied, is now cleared and a moonscape huge ditch dug so no one can go in or out.

Remembrance Day Wreath

The Council agreed the purchase of a wreath for Remembrance Sunday and for Chairman, Cllr Townsend to lay it.

Next Meeting

It was proposed and agreed that November, January and March meetings start at 19:00. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 09 November 2026 in the Village Hall starting at 19:00.

I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now

An elderly gentleman.....

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

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

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

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

Great Hallingbury History Society

WINTER 2026/7



Personal Histories

by GHHS Members

Wednesday, 9th December

City Livery Companies

by David Williams

Wednesday, 10th February



Kelvedon Hall

by Philip George

Wednesday, 10th March

Meetings held in
Great Hallingbury Village Hall at 8pm

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

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The Gardening Group

At the beginning of October, we celebrated six months of being in existence. I know that doesn't sound very impressive when there are groups in the village that have been running for nearly 60 years, but baby steps…!



October's Speaker Christine Lavelle

We marked this exciting event by inviting RHS Associate of Honour, Christine Lavelle, (our former lecturer and horticultural guru) to give a talk to members. Christine has worked for more than 40 years in horticulture and received this award in 2026 in recognition of her contribution to the progress of practical education, organic growing, sustainability and community engagement. But this doesn't give a sense of the lady herself: she is a no-nonsense Scot with a wicked sense of humour who often has people leaping out of their seats to perform alongside her!

She took us through her adventures in the Namibian desert as she and her husband Mick drove them and their two teenage children in search of the elusive Welwitschia mirabilis (the plant kingdom's equivalent of the animal kingdom's duck-billed platypus!)

It was a fascinating talk and the 50 plus members that came along to hear Christine benefitted from her vast knowledge during the Question and Answer session at the end. Did you know, for example, that the reason rainwater is far more beneficial to plants than tap water is due to its slightly acidic pH? Despite the presence of nutrients in the soil, plants are sometimes unable to access them as a result of the pH of the soil; this is all the more reason to collect rainwater wherever possible now that the rain has returned!

The Gardening Group continues to grow from strength to strength and with the average attendance being in the 40's, we are able to plough the money we are making back into the group. We can subsidise the cost of bulbs and plants to make them cheaper than they would be elsewhere and we can offer very cheap workshops where participants come away with plants as well as the knowledge of how to propagate them.

During the summer we have given talks and demonstrations on Sharpening Tools, Pests and Diseases, Hardwood v Softwood cuttings, Bulbs and Lasagna Planting as well as Seed Harvesting and Storage and Orchid Care.



The Committee hard at work packaging bulbs

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month at Great Hallingbury Village Hall 7.30-9.30. There are always homemade cake and biscuits to enjoy during the evening and an opportunity to chat to other gardeners, so give it a go; you'd be very welcome!

Top Tip:

Leaves make a wonderful mulch to trap in moisture and enrich the soil, so blow or rake them off the grass and spread them around the plants on your flower beds where they will gradually rot down to improve the soil; this will ensure that the grass has access to precious sunlight and has a chance to recover after the scorching summer.

Happy gardening!

Claire Layer

The Hundred Parishes Society

At the beginning of September, the Hundred Parishes Society held its twelfth Annual General Meeting. Each year we have chosen a different venue so that we can introduce members to another location they may not have previously visited. Last year, for example, we went to the museum in Saffron Walden where we were given an informative guided tour.

In 2026, it was the turn of Great Waltham, one of our largest parishes and in the far south-east corner of The Hundred Parishes. Before the meeting, I took some of our members on a short walk around the centre of Great Waltham village, pointing out a few of its many ancient buildings.



We passed the fascinating 16th-century private house called Badynghams (above), with four spectacular original chimney stacks, and then the war memorial where the 36 men from the parish who died in the first World War and nine in WWII are remembered.

We moved on for a brief excursion into the Langleys estate, enjoying a view from the footpath of its magnificent Grade I listed Georgian mansion, built in 1719 by the Tufnell family who still own it today.



We then made our way to the parish's Norman church, dedicated to St. Mary and St. Lawrence. Churchwarden David Williams introduced the group to some fascinating features, especially the splendid Everard memorial (below) which is 400 years old. Several members purchased copies of the excellent book about Great Waltham and its church by Church historian, Peter Wells, published within the last year.



Just a short walk took us back to the village hall refreshments and the formal part of the AGM where I and our chairman Douglas Kent were re-appointed.

Where do you think we should go next year?

Ken McDonald, Secretary
Www.hundredparishes.org.uk



Poppy Appeal 2026

This year's Poppy Appeal is well under way with boxes distributed in Great and Little Hallingbury.

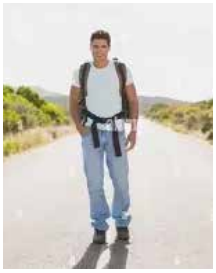
Again this year Mrs Christine Coultrup held a coffee morning in her home on behalf of the Appeal which proved very popular, with standing room only for some of the morning. The cakes were all consumed and the wonderful raffle earned over £350 for the cause.

Final figures are not yet available but we will have taken over £550 at the event. The total amount will be available in the next issue of *Great Hallingbury Highlights* when donations given using the QR code will be included.

Thanks to Christine for holding the event, to everyone who attended and to those who donated separately.

Gill Sewell
Hallingburys' Poppy Appeal Coordinator

Accurate Gauge Needed



A fellow was walking along a country road when he came upon a farmer working in his field.

The man called out to the farmer, "How long will it take me to get to the next town?"

The farmer didn't answer. The guy waited a bit and then started walking again.

After the man had gone about a hundred yards, the farmer yelled out, "About 20 minutes!"

"Thank you. But why didn't you tell me that when I asked you?"

"Didn't know how fast you could walk".

Services in the Hallingburys

December 2026 - February 2027

G = St Giles' M = St Mary's

G	Dec 6	9 am	Holy Communion
M	Dec 13	11 am	Morning Worship
G	Dec 20	11 am	**Nine Lessons & Carols**
G	Dec 25	10 am	**Christmas Communion**
	Dec 27	9 am	Six Villages Service at St John's Church, Bush End
G	Jan 3	9 am	Holy Communion
M	Jan 10	11 am	Morning Worship
G	Jan 17	11 am	Morning Worship
M	Jan 24	11 am	Holy Communion
	Jan 31	11 am	Six Villages Service at Holy Trinity Church, Hatfield Heath
G	Feb 7	9 am	Holy Communion
M	Feb 14	11 am	Morning Worship
G	Feb 21	11 am	Morning Worship
M	Feb 28	11 am	Holy Communion

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

I'm the rare case when today comes before yesterday. What am I?

A Dictionary



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

November 2026

28 *Christmas Tree Lights Switch On* - Village Hall at 6.30 pm and *Social Evening*

December 2026

2 Gardening Group - *Christmas Table Decorations* - Village Hall at 7.30 pm
5 *Christmas Quiz* - Village Hall - 7 for 7.30pm
8 Hallingbury Ladies - *Christmas Lunch & Fun and Games* - Village Hall
8 Little Hallingbury History Society - *Social Evening* - Little Hallingbury Village Hall 8pm
9 History Society - *Personal Histories* - Village Hall at 8 pm
12 Library Van - Bedlars Green 13.45 - 14.15
20 *Nine Lessons and Carols* - St Giles' Church at 11 am

January 2027

4 Great Hallingbury Parish Council - Village Hall 7 pm
6 Gardening Group - Village Hall at 7.30 pm
9 Library Van - Bedlars Green 13.45 - 14.15 - estimated as date list not yet available
27 Hallingbury Ladies - *New Year Meal*
28, 29, 30 Hallingbury Panto Group - *Snow White* - Little Hallingbury Village Hall (see page ???_
30 Library Van - Bedlars Green 13.45 - 14.15 - estimated as date list not yet available

February 2027

3 Gardening Group - Village Hall at 7.30 pm
8 Little Hallingbury History Society - **NEW TIME 2 PM** in Little Hallingbury Village Hall
10 History Society - *City Livery Companies* - Village Hall at 8 pm
20 Library Van - Bedlars Green 13.45 - 14.15 - estimated as date list not yet available
24 Hallingbury Ladies - Village Hall at 7.30 pm

March 2027

1 Great Hallingbury Parish Council - Village Hall 7 pm
10 History Society - *Kelvedon Hall* - Village Hall at 8 pm
13 Village Hall *Quiz Night* - Village Hall at 7 for 7.30 pm
15 Annual Parish Meeting - Village Hall 8 pm

Come to the next Parish Council meetings - ask your questions - give your views.
4th January 1st March **7 pm Village Hall**

Highlights is an independent publication compiled and edited by C. J. Coultrup, Pantiles, Great Hallingbury and printed by Tradeprint Distribution 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 the production and distribution. Editor: 01279 655144 or gthallhighlights@gmail.com