

# **GREAT HORKESLEY VILLAGE NEWS**



**Winter/Spring Issue 143  
Feb 2025 - April 2025**



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# From the Editor

I hope Christmas and New Year brought you all joy. It seems like a long time ago already!

Some wonderful things happened in the village over the festive period. Though I was unwell and couldn't attend, I loved seeing the Christmas tree lighting ceremony on Facebook and the Trees for Advent at St Trinity's Church looked amazing.

With the time change in March, I'm excited to be more active and Rusty is thrilled to get back to his agility classes. Despite the weather, we've been attending a follow-up class to enhance his basic training and keep him mentally stimulated. Because he's a working breed, he's always active, which keeps me on my toes!

For updates on Rusty's antics, follow him on Instagram: @rustyredmini

In the next edition I will be writing an article on my latest crafting adventures (pottery & tuffet making).

The magazine has received wonderful feedback, thank you for your support!

You can contact me via: email

[horkesleyvillagenews@gmail.com](mailto:horkesleyvillagenews@gmail.com)

or phone 07747751063 or the

Great Horkesley Village News Facebook page.

*Aspiring photographers, please step forward!*

For a chance to grace the cover of our upcoming magazine, submit your best colour photo. Given its May to July timeframe, a Spring/Summer theme would be wonderful. Please email

**[horkesleyvillagenews@gmail.com](mailto:horkesleyvillagenews@gmail.com)**

Font cover photos courtesy of:

Top: Colin Campbell view from the Half Butt

Bottom: John view from the footpath near the village hall

*Best wishes Caroline*



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# Notes from

## Great Horkesley Parish Council

[www.greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk](http://www.greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk)

Written by Teri Duckworth, Parish Clerk

I hope everyone had a peaceful and pleasant Christmas and New Year! By the time this edition goes out we should have a new Booking Manager in place at the Village Hall.

We do have minimal availability for new regular hirers midweek, so if you are interested in hiring the hall please do contact the Booking Manager on the details above. This week has seen a sharp increase in hire requests for parties so don't leave it too late to book if you are hoping to use the hall for your event. Please remember that the period for which you hire the hall for must include any time you require for setting up and packing away. Hire rates will also be increasing slightly from 1st April - full details can be found on the website.

It was great to see so many people attend the light switch on for the first Village Christmas Tree in December, and I hope this is something that will continue for future years as the first event was so successful. We are still waiting for a date to meet with Colchester City Council to discuss the possibility of the Parish Council taking on ownership of the Village Green. This would hopefully mean more community events could take place on the green and it would also enable the Parish Council to have control over the installation of additional facilities and play equipment and ensure grass cutting takes place more regularly in summer months, but as with everything it would also mean increased costs. There is a lot to discuss, and it is taking some time to get the ball rolling!

Another issue that is taking time to resolve is the dangerous stretch of the A134 between Great Horkesley and Chesterwell. Councillors are very frustrated that more than a year has now passed since Cllr Cunningham agreed to authorise the introduction of a 40mph speed limit and we are continuing to chase for progress. Another highways issue that is brought to my attention regularly is parking. During school drop off and pick up times, please could everyone refrain from parking on any double yellow lines, zig zags, junctions, or opposite bus stops - even if you are only going to be a couple of minutes! On numerous occasions the roads have been blocked due to people parking inappropriately along the bus route, and I have also been told of near misses where adults, and young children, have almost been hit due to inconsiderate and dangerous parking. Keelers Way is another road prone to parking issues and it would be appreciated if people visiting the dentist as well as those that live on the road could ensure that they park sensibly.

Over the last couple of weeks, I have been in the process of drawing up the draft budget for 2025/26 for the Parish Council. This will be discussed at length by the Finance Committee next week and then will be taken to full council for approval, so that the precept figure can be sent to the City Council before the end of January.

At the last meeting of 2024 we welcomed back Caroline Wescomb-Cross as a co-opted member, and she is hoping to get things moving with the Neighbourhood Plan again. The Chairman and a couple of other members recently met with representatives from Bloor Homes to discuss their plans to build 160 new houses on land north of Coach Road. It was made clear that the Parish Council do not support their proposed development on that site.

Residents are always welcome to attend council meetings to raise any matters regarding the Village, or if you need to contact the Clerk then please email me in the first instance, thank you. [clerk@greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk)



# Great Horkesley Parish Council

## Chairman's Report

It's difficult to know where to start because suddenly there is mass of government-driven change coming at us. I shall concentrate on the one that will have the most impact on Great Horkesley: development.

The story so far: every planning authority (Colchester Council in our case) is supposed to have an adopted Local Plan which sets out, among other things, how it is going to meet its housing targets for the next 15 years. Colchester's target was 920 per year but that has been upped to 1300 by the new government. The Plan has to be reviewed every 5 years in a process that involves two public consultations and a public inquiry. Colchester's Local Plan runs until 2033 and the first 5-year review was well under way when the new target was set, so it is that review which be used to tackle the new 380-dwelling deficit. Last winter landowners across Colchester offered a number of large sites for development, including the one north of Coach Road on which Bloor has an option – more on this below. Colchester's planning officers have been out to inspect them all and in a report to their Local Plan Committee on 17th February will recommend some of those new sites for development. An indication of how controversial this will be is the venue for the meeting: Charter Hall (you can watch it online).

The Committee may add and remove sites as it chooses but the outcome of the meeting should be the publication of the new draft Local Plan for consultation. It will undoubtedly identify at least one site in Great Horkesley but there will also be policies designed to protect certain areas of the village from development; retaining the "green wedge" that still, just, separates the village from Chesterwell would be an example of this.

I strongly advise residents to engage with this process. I'll stick my neck out and say – as I have always said about housing development – some of it has got to go somewhere in the village, so don't just tell Colchester Council to stick it somewhere else. I shall recommend to my fellow parish councillors that we try to get the best we can out of this process whilst putting forward cogent arguments against anything we consider harmful. We must be constructive to be heard.

The results of the consultation will be digested by the planners and presented back to Colchester members in the summer with a view to the second consultation taking place in August and September; the inquiry should follow starting in late October. When I was a Colchester member I stood against consultations in holiday periods but this time there's an overriding need: if Colchester Council doesn't adopt the new Plan by February 2026, landowners are likely to take advantage of the government's new planning process by putting in speculative applications on the basis that Colchester hasn't shown how that 380-house deficit will be met.

Mention of speculative applications bring me to Bloor's proposals for the land north of Coach Road which were exhibited in the new village hall (see application 242010 on the CCC website). When parish councillors met a team from Bloor we repeated the argument you can find online, namely that by offering the land last winter when Colchester Council called for sites, they were engaging in a process which would enable the best site for the village to go forward. By then jumping the gun with a planning application for their site before that process was complete, weren't they admitting that it wasn't the best site?

# Great Horkesley Parish Council Chairman's Report

This prompted the admission that the decision to put in a planning application had not been made and would not be made until the draft Local Plan had been released for consultation. So we wait.

I have been asked how the 100-dwelling development on the land around Great Horkesley Manor fits into this. The answer is that it doesn't. Colchester has already given an outline consent for that, so it counts against the existing 920 target. Again, we wait, this time for a developer to apply for reserved matters consent, setting out the detail that was absent from the outline application.

I have also been asked about the village's Neighbourhood Plan, on which a team of residents made a start and collected some very useful data on housing need. Sadly it is some months since progress has been made so I'm very pleased to say that a resident has come forward to take over leadership of that team with a view to getting our Plan in place at the same time as the new Local Plan. That is a tall order. Look out for, and please respond to, yet more consultation – the more people get involved, the stronger the Neighbourhood Plan becomes – and eventually a village referendum.

Have a Happy New Year, everyone.

*Cllr Christopher Arnold  
Chairman, Great Horkesley Parish Council  
cllr.arnold@greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk*



## **Poppy Appeal 2024**

A very big thank you to the schools and business outlets who kindly agreed to have a collection tin in their place of work for the RBL Poppy Appeal in November 2024. Also to the people who kindly donated door to door.

The grand total collected in Great Horkesley in 2024 was **£991.24**

Thank you for your continued support to the RBL Poppy Appeal.

See you all again in November.

Janet Faiers, Local Poppy Collector

The Royal British Legion, formed in 1921, is the UK's largest Armed Forces charity. They provide life long support to serving and ex-serving personnel and their families.

Find out how to get involved or support: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/>



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✉ lewisbarber2707@icloud.com



**Cllr. TOM ROWE**  
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**Cllr. WILLIAM SUNNUCKS**  
City Councillor for Rural North Ward  
☎ 07771 940763  
✉ william@sunnucks.co.uk

## Challenging the Climate Emergency

In 2019, the City Council declared a climate emergency. Recently, the Scrutiny Committee, chaired by Councillor Darius Laws, reviewed the Council's progress.

The Scrutiny Panel acknowledged several commendable efforts, including tree planting, the development of safe cycling routes, and initiatives to reduce the Council's environmental impact. However, the panel identified significant financial and technological challenges. Retrofitting the Council's housing stock and estate comes with considerable costs, and advancing electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure faces technological limitations that require substantial investment—similar to challenges in the domestic car industry.

## Scrutiny Panel Findings and Recommendations

The Scrutiny Panel noted that the term “emergency” implies an urgent need for action, but the Council risks failing to meet its self-imposed climate objectives without substantial capital funding for carbon reduction initiatives. The panel made the following recommendations:

### 1. \*\*Definition of the Climate Emergency\*\*

The Council must reassess whether it can achieve its declared objectives within current financial constraints.

### 2. \*\*Recommendation to Cabinet\*\*

Should the Cabinet find it impossible to meet the Council's Climate Emergency objectives, it should seek guidance from the Full Council. This may involve determining whether the situation qualifies as an “emergency” or whether the focus should shift to managing opportunities for carbon reduction and environmental improvements within existing budgets and business plans.

## Wheelie Bins for All

The City of Colchester Council plans to introduce wheelie bins for all properties, where practical, with implementation expected in 2026. This initiative will likely include co-mingling for recycling—the practice of placing multiple waste types in a single bin.

## Local Government Reform

Significant changes to local government are anticipated, including the consolidation of district and county councils. This reform aims to reduce administrative costs and minimize the number of part-time politicians. While details remain unclear, any initiative that saves taxpayers money and improves decision-making efficiency should be welcomed.



We were thrilled to host our second event of 2024 in December, the Great Horkesley Christmas Lights and Carols, and delighted so many of you could join us. The event built on the Church's annual carols and hot chocolate on the village green, and we hope you enjoyed getting together to celebrate the start of Christmas in the village. I do want to thank the GHCE team - as a group of volunteers we all have day jobs, children and busy lives of our own, but the joy for us comes when the village is together, and in creating that sense of community, which makes all the hard work worthwhile.

Our thanks for the event go to the Great Horkesley Parish Council, for the village's first ever Christmas tree - well done to Jack in particular for making this one happen. We must also thank Seasonal Flower Farm, Luxury by Lily, Goat in a Soap, the Braiswick Girlguiding Rangers, the Great Horkesley Scouts, Moley's Drinks Van, The Mobile Pizza Co and of course the WI and the Church for the mince pies and hot chocolate.



I will give the team a few weeks off (!) and then our attention will turn to the 2025 Summer Fayre, which we are hoping will be even bigger and better than 2024!

Watch out for more details in the next issue of the Great Horkesley Village News, or on our Facebook page (Great Horkesley Community Events), but...

**Save the date: Saturday 28 June 2025 - Great Horkesley Summer Fayre**  
...see you there!

Sam Jarvis  
Great Horkesley Community Events



## ECC Mobile Library



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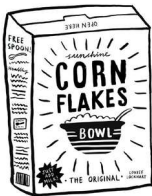
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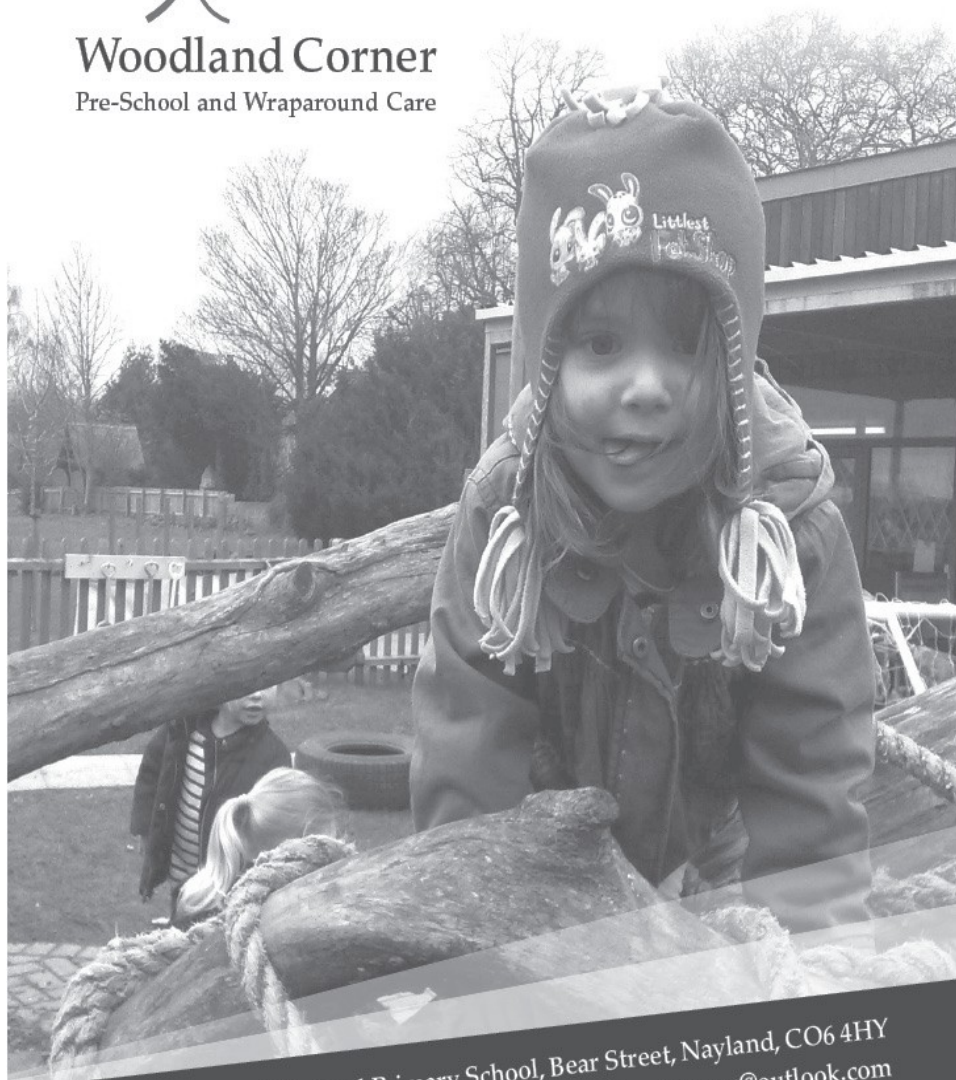
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# NEWS

from the

# School



Hello from all of us at Bishop William Ward. We are back in full swing after the Christmas break. It was lovely to be out in the community over the Christmas period, especially with our choir who sang at the Christmas fair, tree lighting event, Great Horkesley Manor and The Yew Tree - a full gig list! We also celebrated in our usual manner, with nativity plays, carol concerts, Christmas dinner and jumper day, activity day and taking part in the church Christmas Tree Festival (thank you for the votes, everyone!).

We always launch and close our topics with a special event, so we have had a trip to Duxford, French café, Stone Age Forest School session and Viking feast over the last few weeks. Our Foundation Stage pupils enjoyed superhero day and their teacher came in dressed as Bananaman! This term, our topics include: Graffiti – Art or Vandalism?, France; Exploration; USA; Our Colourful Countryside and Kenya. Last term we had a strong history focus and now we are moving on to Geography. The biggest change this term is with our new equipment at lunchtime. Thanks to generous donations, we now have a supply of tyres, barrels, tarpaulin, ropes, logs and crates that the children can use to build dens, castles, rockets – whatever their imagination allows! We have also got some dolls' houses, cars and dressing up to keep the children busy. In the future, we plan to open up a digging area, mud kitchen and scooter rink! If you think that you may be able to help us with any of these items in the future, please let us know. The children have really enjoyed working together and exploring new ways to play and have fun.

The school's Foundation Stage area has had a fabulous revamp and we now have new play equipment with a safety surface and other resources such as a new mud kitchen, water tray and sand pit.

Our youngest children have really enjoyed being the first class to try everything out. As ever, a huge thank you to the Friends of BWW for contributing to this project.

Our girls' football team have had their first matches in the league and started with a win! This is the first season we have had both a mixed and girls' team in the league and both teams have enjoyed positive performances and also taken part in separate cup competitions organised by Colchester Utd.



We have developed a strong relationship with St Helena Hospice over the past year. Not only do we have their logo on our new football kit, their Creation Club team run an after-school club that raises money for this well-loved local charity. We were presented with a certificate to mark the strong collaboration.

I am looking forward to another term celebrating the children's success and seeing them become happy, respectful, lifelong learners! Mr Bull

# Trees For Advent

## Christmas Tree Festival 2024 All Saints' Church, Great Horkesley

How busy was the first weekend of Advent here in Great Horkesley! The BWWS Christmas Fayre, the annual Trees for Advent festival and the lighting of the village Christmas Tree all happening.

On behalf of Trees for Advent I would like to thank all those who decorated and displayed a tree for the festival – another wonderful array and much appreciated by the visitors. Your hard work and time were well worth the effort. Thank you also to those who helped in any way over the two days, and to the admiring visitors who found time in a busy weekend to travel to All Saints' and vote for their favourite tree.

Favourite trees this year were those decorated by the children of Bishop William Ward School and the members of Great & Little Horkesley W.I.



Left: BWW School tree  
Right: WI tree



Well done to them, but without the other participants there would not have been a festival – so you are all winners! I share the comment in the votes tub “I love them all so much, too hard to choose. Happy Christmas all”

Winners of the competitions were:

Find the Tree Topper: Simon & Chrissy, No. 47

The Cake: Liz Petter No. 62

Name the Bear: Amelia – “Snowy”

Congratulations to them.

While walking around the church there was also the opportunity for quiet reflection while remembering special people in our lives, and to put in to words a hope for 2025.

As the events of December and the joys of Christmas have become a memory, may I wish you blessing and strength to face all that 2025 may hold.

**Gwen Pyett**





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## Great and Little Horkesley WI



**The WI is everything you want it to be and more. All things to all women.**

Did you know that in 1915, the first WI meeting in Britain is held in Anglesey (Wales). Only two years later, the National Federation of WIs, a democratic, non-party political and voluntary organisation is formed and mainly led by women who were involved in the suffrage movement.



Although Christmas has been and gone our WI report needs to include our Christmas activities which were enjoyed by members. Our Christmas craft evening in November resulted in some wonderful gonks which then went on to decorate our Christmas Tree in the church for the Advent Christmas tree event. All Saint's church looked beautiful and there was a wonderful display of Christmas trees from various village organisations.



The Hygge Harmony Choir sang for us at our Christmas meeting in December. The choir is a community choir based in Stratford St Mary. They generally sing "popular" songs in harmony with no requirement to read music. They performed a variety of songs in which we were able to join in with and this really helped us to relax and enjoy the festive spirit.



We were pleased to be able to support the Christmas event in the village hall at the beginning of December. Families enjoyed our free mince pies and gingerbread which our members kindly donated. It was lovely to see the Christmas tree alight and sing some Christmas songs and carols.

## Great and Little Horkesley WI

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

Our WI belongs to The Essex Federation of Women's Institutes and an annual Carol service is usually held in Chelmsford Cathedral. This year, it was held in St Botolph's in Colchester and was entitled A Celebration of Christmas.

It included Carols, Readings and a school choir.

The Essex Federation pop up banner was on display in the church. We are very proud that the photo used on this banner was taken by one of our members at a garden party we held some time ago.



At our February meeting we will be hosting Age Well East (formerly Age Concern). This organisation advises and provides practical information. They have an expert team of staff and volunteers who empower people to prepare for later years early so they have the knowledge and support available when they need it.

We continue to meet each other in between meetings at coffee mornings/tea afternoons and have planned our post-Christmas lunch.

**Our WI meeting is held in the New Great Horkesley Village Hall,  
CO6 4EA every 2nd Tuesday evening of the month at 7pm.**

We would be so pleased to welcome you to our meetings which are always interesting and thought provoking.

### Future meetings

Tuesday 11th February – Age Well East

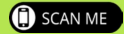
Tuesday 11th March – Insights of a Provincial Auctioneer

Tuesday 8th April – Annual General Meeting

The WI is a unique organisation shaped by its members. In 1915, we set out to give women a voice and to be a force for good in the community. Since then, our members and our ambitions alike have grown tremendously. Today, we are the largest women's organisation in the UK and we pride ourselves on being a trusted place for all women of all generations, to share experiences and learn from each other. A WI membership offers the opportunity to meet women in your local area in-person and virtually, to make friends and make a difference in your community. We campaign nationally on a wide range of issues and provide life-long learning and self-development opportunities for women in England and Wales.

For more information see our website: <https://www.thewi.org.uk/>





## COMPASSIONATE, AFFORDABLE HOME CARE RUN BY HORKESLEY LOCALS

Ashwood care was founded by Horkesley residents with decades of experience as carers with a purpose to provide a quality, trusted and **affordable** home care service within our local community. We're on a mission to drive down the cost of home care and keep loved ones safe, comfortable and living independently in their own homes.


Call or e-mail us to book your  
**FREE** home care visit.


**020 3375 9403**

[info@ashwoodcare.net](mailto:info@ashwoodcare.net)

Regulated by



 [www.ashwoodcare.net](http://www.ashwoodcare.net)

 [info@ashwoodcare.net](mailto:info@ashwoodcare.net)

### SERVICES

- Personal Care
- Cooking & Meal Preparation
- Household Duties
- Visiting Care
- Live-in Care
- Shopping
- Housekeeping
- Palliative Care
- Continence Care
- Companionship Care



### Head Office Location

Door 4 , First Floor East, Nags Corner, Wiston Rd, Nayland, CO6 4LT

# CARING APP FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS

Our mobile app is able to provide real-time notifications to loved ones or even GPs with information on care visits, administering prescribed medication and more.

This provides peace of mind and transparency into the care provided to their loved ones. You can even view care notes, scheduled visits and care plans.



## GET STARTED IN 4 SIMPLE STEPS

1

### CALL OR E-MAIL TO BOOK YOUR FREE HOME CARE VISIT

Call us on **020 3375 9403** or email us at **[info@ashwoodcare.net](mailto:info@ashwoodcare.net)** to schedule a completely free, no-obligation home care visit from our registered manager and care team.

2

### WE CREATE A BESPOKE CARE PLAN TO MEET YOUR REQUIREMENTS

Our team will get to know you & your loved ones, understand the care requirements and create a personalised care plan that meets your preferences. This visit is completely **FREE**, with **NO OBLIGATION** to continue.

3

### ASSIST WITH FUNDING OPTIONS

Our team will help you understand the funding options available such as partial and full funding from local authorities. **Since you receive care in your own home, your house is not included as an asset when it comes to the means test assessment** for funding, which can save you even more money.

4

### BEGIN THE CARE

If you and your loved ones are happy with the care plan, we begin providing care according to your planned schedule. If authorised by the care receiver, we will also onboard friends, families & your GP to the **Caring App for Family & Friends** to provide transparent care, giving peace of mind for friends & family.



**DO YOU KNOW A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER WHO IS IN NEED OF AFFORDABLE HOME CARE?**

**GIVE US A CHANCE TO MAKE THEIR LIVES BETTER AND RECEIVE...**

**£350**



**020 3375 9403**



**[www.ashwoodcare.net](http://www.ashwoodcare.net)**



**[info@ashwoodcare.net](mailto:info@ashwoodcare.net)**

# Church News

February - April 2025



**All Saints' with St. John's,**  
**Great Horkesley**  
***Growing and sharing God's love to***  
***reach out and give hope.***

***Some seasonal thoughts from***  
***Rev'd. Anne Mason, Associate Priest***

The shortest day in 2024 was 21<sup>st</sup> December and since then the days have been getting longer and we'll get more daylight each day until we reach the longest day in June. During these sometimes gloomy months bulbs that start flowering early, such as snowdrops, crocus and hyacinths, grow away in the dark, pushing their way through the cold soil, until they reach the light and give us the joy of seeing their flowers.

The sun gives us light and warmth for free, but often in the winter we have to rely on electric lights and central heating and may be worrying about the increased costs. A good way to keep warm and reduce loneliness is to meet up with others – invite a neighbour or friend round or go along to a café for a hot drink and a chat. Mental health studies have shown that it is good for us to be connected with other people. And faith is good for us too – some MRI scan results indicate that in terms of brain function, talking to God resembles conversing with a friend.

Thinking of light, I'm reminded of an amazing and thought-provoking painting of Jesus by artist Holman Hunt called 'The Light of the World', depicting Jesus standing outside a door and knocking to be let in. He is waiting in the dark with a lantern in his hand, but there is no door handle on the outside - the decision needs to be made by the person whose life and heart is being touched by Jesus. (*You can see the painting in St Paul's cathedral.*)

In the Bible we can read that Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.'  
(*John 8: v 12*)

So, whether it's enjoying the early Spring flowers, having coffee with a friend, snuggling up in the warmth of your own home with a good book or TV programme, or having a chat with God, I pray that you look forward to longer days as the sun shines higher in the sky, and also that you feel the constant warmth of Jesus' love in your life.

***Rev'd Anne Mason***

**Thank you to everyone who supported these events:**

**The Coffee Morning at Take a Break Café** on 26<sup>th</sup> September raised £196 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

**The Harvest Festival** on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September yielded over 100kgs of groceries for Colchester Foodbank.

**The Quiz Night at the New Village Hall** on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October raised £593 for Church Funds.

**Remembrance Sunday**, 10<sup>th</sup> November at All Saints' Church.

£135 was collected for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

**Trees for Advent**, 30<sup>th</sup> November/1<sup>st</sup> December raised over £250 for church funds.

**The Carol Singing** on 1<sup>st</sup> December & the **Christingle Service** on 15<sup>th</sup> December raised £282 for the Children's Society, helping needy children.

---

**Regular events at St. John's Church, Great Horkesley, CO6 4FE**

***Take a Break Café*** at St. John's is open every Thursday from 10am to 11.30am.

***A warm welcome awaits you!***

Come and meet old friends and make new ones. Fresh filter coffee, cappuccino, tea, hot chocolate, pastries, toasted tea cakes. Drinks, snacks and toys for children. Give and take library. All ages welcome!

This is where you can collect recycling items ordered through Colchester City Council <https://www.colchester.gov.uk/recycling/>

***"Fun4Families"***

Usually every 3rd Sunday  
of the month,  
11.00am at St. John's Church

*A fun and informal time together for  
people of all ages,  
with songs, a Bible story and  
craft activities.*

*Refreshments and cake!*



*For more information contact  
Rev Anne Mason 07895 970834  
email: revdannemason@gmail.com*

**From the Registers at All Saints':**

**Service of Thanksgiving & Interment of Ashes**

17<sup>th</sup> December, **Philip Watson**, aged 72 years

*Our love and prayers go out to Philip's sons and their families  
at this sad time.*



## Who are we?

**Website:** <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6695/>

**Facebook:** All Saints' with St John's Churches, Great Horkesley



We are part of The Church of England - Diocese of Chelmsford and you can find out more at: <https://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/>

## Our Church Buildings

**All Saints' Church, CO6 4AJ**



**St. John's Church, CO6 4FE**



Directions to both churches can be found on our website.  
There is a service at one or both churches almost every Sunday.

## Who to contact

**Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Heather Wilcox**

**Tel: 01206 240906 Email: [RevHWilcox@outlook.com](mailto:RevHWilcox@outlook.com)**

Heather has responsibility for the six parishes of West Bergholt, Great Horkesley, Langham with Boxted, Little Horkesley, Wormingford & Mount Bures. She is assisted by:



**Associate Priest: Rev. Anne Mason**

**Tel: 07895 970834 Email: [revdannemason@gmail.com](mailto:revdannemason@gmail.com)**



**Church Administrator:** Jo Russell & Donna Luxton share this job and are the first point of contact for enquiries about baptisms, weddings and funerals. They can be contacted at the **Church Office at St. Mary's Church, New Church Road, West Bergholt, CO6 3JE**

**Tel: 01206 243683 Email: [6parishescolchester@gmail.com](mailto:6parishescolchester@gmail.com)**

Usual opening hours: **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10am-12noon**  
Please note that enquiries relating to Baptisms and Weddings will be dealt with during office hours, but if you are arranging a funeral and need to contact someone out of office hours, please contact Heather direct on **01206 240906**.

## Reader & PCC Secretary

Sandra Baker - **Tel: 01206 271760 Email: [spbaker18@gmail.com](mailto:spbaker18@gmail.com)**

## Treasurer:

John Mehen - **Tel: 01206 271653 Email: [john.mehen@gmail.com](mailto:john.mehen@gmail.com)**



## **Services: February - April 2025**

There is a service of Holy Communion on Sundays in at least one of the eight churches in the six parishes under the leadership of Rev. Heather Wilcox.

**For more information** - please refer to our website or the Church Office.

<b>February</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. John's
	9 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints'
		11.00am	Morning Praise	All Saints'
	16 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Fun4Families	St. John's
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
<b>March</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. John's
<b>Wednesday</b>	5 <sup>th</sup>	8.00pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion	St. John's
	9 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints'
		11.00am	Morning Praise	All Saints'
	16 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Fun4Families	St. John's
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	30 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Mothering Sunday Family Service	St. John's
<b>April</b>	6 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. John's
<b>Palm Sunday</b>	13 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)**	All Saints'
		11.00am	Morning Praise **	All Saints'

### ***Holy Week and Easter***

**Monday to Thursday** 9pm/9.30pm Compline on Zoom

*(Log in details available from the church office)*

**Maundy Thursday** 17<sup>th</sup> 8pm Agape Meal\* St. John's

\* a simple meal shared to remember the Last Supper

**Good Friday** 18<sup>th</sup>  
10.00am Meditation on the Passion St. Mary's, West Bergholt

**Easter Sunday** 20<sup>th</sup> \*\*  
11.00am Easter Praise with Holy Communion All Saints'

27<sup>th</sup> 10.30am United Celebration \*\* St. John's

**\*\*The pattern of services may change, check with "Looking Forward" or the office.**

- We have a weekly notice sheet called "Looking Forward", which gives details of everything happening across the six parishes. Printed versions are available at our services and to have a copy by email send a request to the office: 6parishescolchester@gmail.com

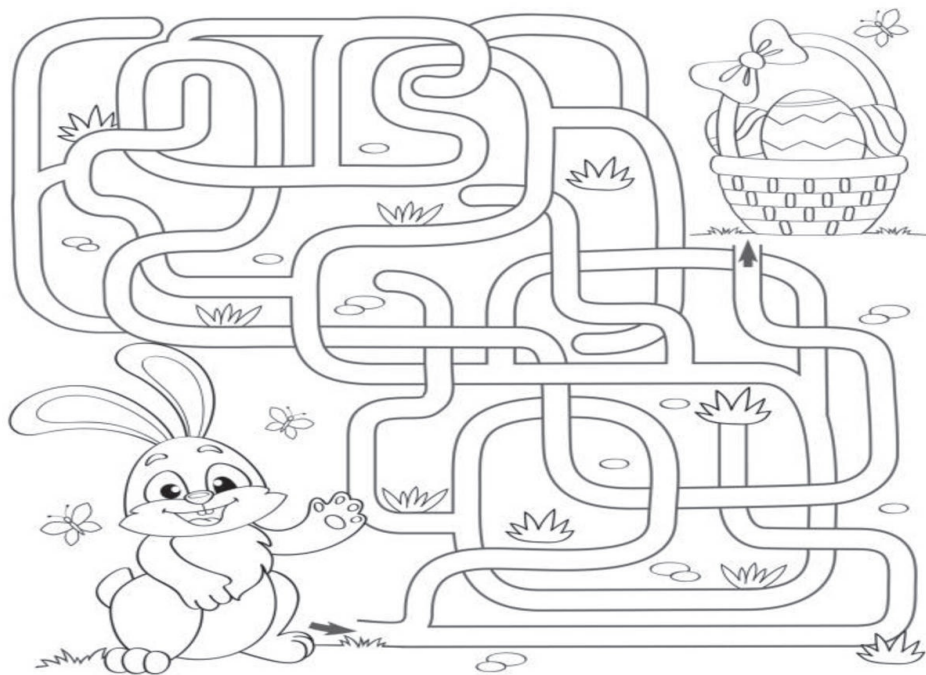
#### • **Say one for me.....**

If you would like prayers to be said for you or for anyone you know, please let us know by contacting any of the Church Officers.



*We are very much aware that many readers of Village News do not have access to the internet and may be missing out on what's happening. If you're in that category, do please call the church office or any of the people listed on the previous page.*

# Easter Colouring & Maze



## Great Horkesley Wordsearch

M L S E R Y G N R X A D X K E G V F U A  
P D C O C H H K F I G Y F C Z P N W P I  
E P O X U X K H N V A V W N J B T N Q O  
Y G U D H P C T I D D L Y W I N K S M K  
C S T O M O R P F T H E H A L F B U T T  
O W S I W K G C G J U N Z N N X A J O Y  
I V I L L A G E H A L L I E F W K G M L  
T R X G H B F I X A Z H J K Q N D D S P  
S K S F C E R P L A Y G R O U N D P N V  
B I S H O P W I L L I A M W A R D C S J  
M J A K O D K L O P Z L V N A A W H B Z  
P E I H K J F K K N T B S H O P A U H V  
Q B C A R P E T B O W L S T J X B R Z U  
S Q S D M O B I L E L I B R A R Y C K U  
G R F C S B Q P I U I U S D C P S H O U  
O D V C Z A T H E Y E W T R E E S N W E  
X H Y O U T H C L U B F B B M P M M P K  
P G E L B L U E O W L G D E N T I S T W  
Q G I Y L S O A N E B S J Y C R A R P K  
X G U I D E S T D P K Z W I G G D K N Y

Find these words:

Bishop William Ward  
Blue Owl  
Carpet Bowls  
Church  
Dentist  
Guides  
Mobile Library  
Playground  
Scouts  
Shop  
The Half Butt  
The Yew Tree  
Tiddlywinks  
Village Hall  
WI  
Youth Club

Answers to both puzzles  
are on page 67

## Word Scramble - Book Titles

RLOD OF TEH SRGNI  
TEH THBBIO  
SNSEE DNA IEITYSLNIBS  
JNAE EREY  
YMOB CDKI  
RKTNESIANNFE  
RWA DNA EPCEA  
LTIELT EMNWO  
TRAEG SITENEOTPACX  
HET SDYYESO  
MIRDMALDHCE  
AAILMN AFRM  
UDLACRA  
HTE MSHDAANID EALT  
TAIYNV FIRA

[illegible]



# **Summer Ball**

## **2025**

### **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

**Wivenhoe House Hotel**

**Wivenhoe Park, Park Rd, Colchester, CO4 3FA**

**Tickets are now available to purchase from  
Stepping Stones, Wilson Marriage Centre,  
Colchester, CO1 2LR at £60 per person.**

**We have tickets available and once they are  
gone, they are gone.**

**Monthly payment plans can be arranged.**

**Ticket price includes a 2-course meal and wine on the  
table. If you would like more details, then please do not  
hesitate to contact us at**

**[info@steppingstonesplayandlearn.org](mailto:info@steppingstonesplayandlearn.org)**

**Check us out at**

**[www.steppingstonesplayandlearn.org](http://www.steppingstonesplayandlearn.org)**





📍 pooches.doggrooming

📷 pooches\_doggrooming

☎ 07752190108

✉ Janie.james@live.co.uk

📍 Gun Hill Trading Estate,  
Dedham, CO7 6HR

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**NO CAGE DRYING / PRICES ON REQUEST**





## Help to Keep Great Horkesley a Welcoming, Safe and Tranquill Community

Visit our website: [www.colchesternhw.org.uk](http://www.colchesternhw.org.uk)

### When you are a member of Neighbourhood Watch:

- Membership is free and you don't need to attend meetings
- You will receive information about crime happening where you live and in places you visit. Such knowledge makes you street wise and adopt safer behaviours
- You will pay less for House Contents Insurance
- Our free window stickers are a deterrent to burglars and thieves
- We encourage members to report crime and suspicious behaviour, to the Police or anonymously through CRIMESTOPPERS
- Out of all crime committed in Colchester City Centre 73% of victims are visitors, often from safe communities like ours!

Please just send an email to: [aldercarwoodnw@gmail.com](mailto:aldercarwoodnw@gmail.com) asking to join

We need your name(s), home address and a contact telephone number. That number would only be used in exceptional circumstances. Your details will never be shared with any other organisation.



# OPTIMUM

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not sure where you stand?  
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Website: [mariarosaaccounting.co.uk](http://mariarosaaccounting.co.uk)

*Based in Great Horkesley*

# Great Horkesley Scarecrow Trail 2025

## Make A Scarecrow



We invite all local families, clubs, groups and businesses to take part and build a scarecrow for the trail! This year's theme is "Family Films". Entry fee is £10 per scarecrow. Your scarecrow could win a £50 prize!

Entry forms & guidelines are available from Bishop William Ward Primary School or email [friendsofbww@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbww@gmail.com). Closing date for registration forms is Friday 2nd May. Duplicate scarecrows are not allowed so get forms in early!

## Sponsor A Scarecrow



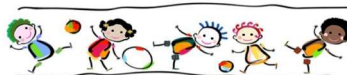
We are looking for companies and individuals to sponsor our event. Sponsorship packages from just £50 available. For our last trail in 2023 we sold over 500 maps and estimate over 1,000 people walked the trail! If you would like to sponsor us please email [friendsofbww@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbww@gmail.com) for more information.

## Walk The Trail



### **BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND & HALF TERM WEEK**

Sat 24th May - Sun 1st June  
9am - 4pm daily  
Maps £2 each -  
available early May!



Friends of  
Bishop William Ward School



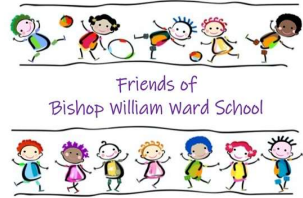
*Pull out pages 35 to 38 of this issue to then pull out pages 33/34 & 39/40 to have a leaflet about the Scarecrow Trail and also the form to submit your entry.*

## **Entry Form**

### **Great Horkesley Village Scarecrow Trail 2025**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June**

Brought to you by the Friends of Bishop William Ward School



### **THEME: FAMILY FILMS!**

Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name to appear on the sign: \_\_\_\_\_  
(eg: family surname, business name, group, club or school class)

Chosen family film: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **CONTACT DETAILS**

Contact address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Exact location of scarecrow during trail week (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Terms and Conditions**

We undertake to maintain and display our scarecrow at the above location, from 9am until 4pm every day during the week of Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2025 to Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025 inclusive. We also agree to abide by the rules and guidelines of the competition.

Our £10 entry fee will be paid: In cash (enclosed) / By bank transfer (email for details)

Completed entry forms and payment must be returned to Bishop William Ward School, no later than Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025. Please sign below on behalf of the business, group, school or family stated above.

Name in block capitals: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



# Through The Garden Gate



A happy New Year to everyone!

I had hoped to write about a spring garden, but I'm sitting here looking out on a garden which is white with frost, and an extremely low temperature showing 3 degrees celsius below freezing on the thermometer on the house wall. Very little movement in the way of plants except few pink flowers on a Chaenomeles shrub (Quince), which I grow in a container - I think it must be a particularly early flowering one. There is a winter flowering Clematis by the front door, and a small tree in the border, a hybrid Prunus, which flowers through the winter months. I think it's a tree that should be more widely planted as a street tree. Cheering for people through the long grey winter days we get.

The nicest thing about a cold winter days is seeing more wild birds coming to garden feeders. In a large nearby tree nearby I often see the Tree Creeper on the stout branches, and also a pair of Great Spotted Woodpeckers. My latest visitors - a Nuthatch and the Grey Wagtail - birds I have always hoped to see here. So that was a nice surprise. The Grey Wagtail usually seen near water. Our little pond is covered, but the Wagtail is finding water in the birdbath and any old upturned lid which holds a little water.

I must soon venture out to do a bit of trimming, but I'm not a very good cold weather gardener so will wait until it is a little less chilly! One wonders what's in store for us in this new year of 2025. Hopefully not too wet and not too hot - but that seems a big ask in recent years. So fingers crossed.

In the meantime my mind turns to the succulent plants I have sheltering in the potting shed. It isn't entirely frost proof, but most of the less hardy plants come through in pretty good condition considering it is an unheated place. It's a pleasant reminder of warmer lands when I walk in there. There are a few succulents I grow which are just hardy enough to sit the out through winter outside on the patio.



Mostly Sedums, so very attractive to butterflies during the summer months. Last summer I had a pair of the beautiful little Small Copper butterflies on the Sedums every day from morning, as soon as the temperature high enough, until the sun passed over late afternoon.



Sedums attract other butterflies too. It's worth checking which Sedums are worth buying if interested in wildlife. It's a rewarding hobby to know you are helping biodiversity. The garden nurseries are now offering lots of helpful plants. Take care everyone. **Jill Plane, Great Horkesley**

# St Helena

## St Helena's Hero Run returns for March 2025!

Run, walk or fly across the finish line at St Helena Hospice's Hero Run this March! Hero Run is coming back on **Sunday 23rd March** at Colchester Sports Park, and everybody is invited! Children aged 4 and above can participate in the 2km Family Fun Run, with a parent accompanying them for free! Alternatively, you can choose to take on the 5km or 10km runs, with the 5km open to ages 7 and above, and the 10km open to ages 16+.

What matters is to come dressed as your hero, whether that's a superhero, a sports icon, a family member, a celebrity or a nurse. After all, not all heroes wear capes! This year, there will be an expanded event village for more family fun. A variety of exciting activities await you there – delicious food, classic games, face painting, and meeting our mascot, Saunders!

Marcus Poston, St Helena Hospice fundraising manager, said: "We are thrilled to be bringing back Hero Run once again and we hope to see lots of families and individuals joining us, dressed as their heroes, to have fun and raise money for St Helena Hospice. This year is extra special as it's St Helena's 40th anniversary. By taking part, you will be helping more local people to access the end of life care and support they need to allow them to make their own choices and live with dignity,

regardless of their personal circumstances. By getting involved and dressing up as your hero, you will be a hero to the 4,000 plus people supported by St Helena every year."

**Sign up now at [www.sthelena.org.uk/herorun25](http://www.sthelena.org.uk/herorun25)**

## Win big with hospice's Ruby Raffle!

To celebrate their 40th anniversary, St Helena Hospice has launched a special Ruby Raffle with many fantastic prizes to be won! Prizes include the top cash prize of £2,040, second prize of £540 and ten more prizes of £40 each. Every ticket you buy will help St Helena Hospice provide compassionate care and bereavement support to over 4000 people each year in north east Essex. Over the past four decades, St Helena Hospice has cared for two generations of the people you love. All the money raised from the Ruby Raffle will help ensure the hospice can be here to support the next generation when they need it most.

Online entries end on **Thursday 13th March**, with the draw taking place on **Friday 14th March**.

*Buy your raffle tickets online now at [www.sthelena.org.uk/raffle](http://www.sthelena.org.uk/raffle)*





# **A Thank You to Sandy Comber Editor of Great Horkesley Village News 1989 - 2024**



Many of you may know or recognise Sandy but maybe you didn't know that Sandy was, until last year, the editor of the Village News since its conception 1989! That is 35 years!

Sandy and her family, husband Bob, and their children Debra and Andrew, moved to Great Horkesley from London. At that time there was only one bus service, a small school, one very small grocery store and a butcher's shop. The basics were all that could be expected as the norm for a small English village. Changes came later on when more people came to live in Great Horkesley. There was an expansion of homes being built and young families moving into them.

A group of new residents decided that we needed some fun events to bring the village together, and the first event was a Fun Run which became a regular annual event, and the "FUNraisers Committee" was born. Then followed the annual Village Show which also ran for many years. During these years, the "FUNraisers Committee" saw a need to provide residents with details of all village events, which included coach trips to see London's Christmas lights, the Annual Barn Dance and barbecue, visit to the Mary Rose exhibition, tickets to see several television programmes being recorded and many other fun events.

The first issue (just one sheet of A4 paper) of the Village News was in June 1989 and it is still delivered free throughout the village, from the A12 bridge up to and including all homes as far as All Saints' Church, and has been primarily self-funding, with small annual grants from the Parish Council during the last few years.

The Great Horkesley Village News grew considerably during these years, the size and content of the Village News has expanded with local businesses advertising their services. The Village News has received many awards for its presentation from the Essex Community Magazine, including Best New Entry, several Highly Commended and a MERIT award in 2014. Under her guidance, it's helped other associations to promote their events and it has brought villagers together. Her efforts via the Village News have been helped by the assistance of local volunteers in providing news and delivering the magazines. Her efforts and those of the volunteers, have helped to bring the Great Horkesley community closer together.

So, for all that she has done via the Village News she deserves our thanks and appreciation. The "FUNraisers Committee" became sadly depleted over the last few years, with only Sandy as Editor of the magazine, Mick Mead as the Treasurer and Jan Mead as Distribution Co-ordinator. All three remaining members of the original Committee deserve recognition of their commitment to the Village.

The new Editor and Treasurer is Caroline Evans, taking over from Issue 142 with Sam Jarvis as the new Distribution Co-ordinator.

*Written by Charles McKay, Great Horkesley Resident*

My thanks also goes to Sandy for her time and assistance as I became Editor. It is lucky that we live so close to each other, as I was always at her door to get training and take in her wealth of knowledge!

*Written by Caroline Evans, Editor Great Horkesley Village News*

# Tree Surgeon



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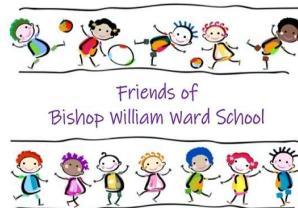
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# Great Horkesley Village Scarecrow Trail 2025



## Rules and Guidelines

The theme for our 4<sup>th</sup> Scarecrow Trail is **Family Films**.

The first thing you need to do is choose the film your scarecrow will represent. **Duplicate scarecrows are not allowed**, and scarecrows will be accepted on a first come first served basis, so if you have something in mind, please get your entry forms in early!

Is there a heroic character you idolise? Or could you recreate a famous scene from a family film out the front of your house? Maybe there's an animal in your favourite film that you would like to build as a scarecrow?! There are lots of possibilities...try and think outside the box!

### Competition Rules

- The competition and trail starts at 9am on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May and runs until 4pm Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> June.
- Scarecrows need to be visible each day of the trail from 9am until 4pm.
- Scarecrows need to be maintained, as far as possible, in good condition for the duration of the trail.
- The organisers will provide a laminated A4 poster which must be displayed with the scarecrow. If, for some reason, the scarecrow is not available during the trail week **the poster must still be displayed** for trail followers to see so they can complete the trail.
- The organisers will take photographs of all the registered scarecrows during the first day. Registration of a scarecrow permits the Friends of Bishop William Ward School to use the photos of scarecrows on social media and in promotional literature/displays.
- Duplicate characters will **NOT** be allowed, and the acceptance of characters will be made on a first come first served basis. Confirmation of entry acceptance will be sent out as soon as possible by the organisers. Please do not begin making your scarecrow until you have received confirmation that your entry has been accepted!
- If the organisers have to limit the number of scarecrows on the trail, priority will be given to early entrants. Some entrants may be asked to consider alternative locations for their scarecrows in order to maintain an accessible and reasonably spaced and balanced trail.
- Winning scarecrows will be decided by votes from members of the public who have purchased a trail map. If there is more than one category, scarecrows may only win one category and the organisers' decision is final. The makers of at least one winning scarecrow will receive a £50 cash prize. The organisers reserve the right to change the categories and prize monies to best fit the number of votes received during the trail week.
- The entry fee of £10 and completed entry forms must be returned to Bishop William Ward School no later than Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025. Late entries will not be accepted.

There will be a trail competition for all trail followers who have purchased a map. The winner of the trail competition will be drawn from all correct entries and will receive £50. The organisers' decision is final.

## Competition Guidelines

- Above all the Scarecrow Trail is about having fun – and we hope that you do!
- When making your scarecrow, think about the theme and the characteristics and/or situation that will make your choice of scarecrow instantly recognisable.
- Scarecrows can be made in the traditional format (i.e. based around a cross shaped frame and making use of straw), or as ANY kind of modern interpretation.
- Face masks, paper mâché and other materials may all be used but thought should be given to how these will stand up to the elements throughout the duration of the Scarecrow Trail.
- It is recommended that scarecrows in the front garden of private houses are set back from their front boundary fences to minimise the risk of vandalism. Commercial premises may wish to display their scarecrow either standing or seated outside during the hours they are open, and in their windows whilst they are closed. When making the scarecrow, take into consideration how easy it will be to move it, if required.
- Scarecrows can be standing, seated, lying down – however best suited to their character.
- Consider making a “storyboard” of the construction of your scarecrow to display alongside for trail followers to look at.
- Further information will be sent out to all accepted entrants before the trail week.

If you have any further questions, please contact Teri by emailing [friendsofbww@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbww@gmail.com).

You can also find us on Facebook: Friends of BWW Events

*N.B. Organisers refers to the Friends of Bishop William Ward School.*

*Entrants refer to families, individuals, organisations, groups or businesses entering a scarecrow into the competition.*

*Information given on this form will be held by the Friends of Bishop William Ward School until the completion of the scarecrow trail and will only be used for the purposes of the scarecrow trail.*

La





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With the short days and dark nights, 1st Great Horkesley Scout Group is looking ahead and planning camps for when the warmer weather arrives – but still having plenty of fun in the meantime too!

The group had an enjoyable run-up to Christmas, including singing carols in the city centre to raise funds for the Cubs' chosen charity, the Colchester Community First Responders – two of whom even joined us for the evening. The Cubs are raising money to part-fund a second defibrillator for the north end of the village. We also had our traditional Christmas Sing-a-long at All Saints Church, including our special rousing interactive rendition of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Meanwhile our Squirrels and Beavers took in the wonders of Enlightened in Castle Park.

This term our Scouts (10 ½-14) kicked off with some traditional scouting – building and lighting fires and toasting marshmallows – and will be working on their map and compass skills ready to take part in a County event in March hiking around the Essex countryside.

Beavers (6-8 years) will be learning how to care for animals with a trip to Pets At Home in Sudbury, looking out for wilder beasts with the Big Garden Birdwatch, and creating junk models using recycling.

The Cub (8-10 ½ years) section will be looking at Chinese New Year (Year of the Snake if you're wondering), exploring the importance of mental health, and having a Happy Heart Day and cake sale as they continue to fundraise for the First Responders.

Our youngest cohort, the Squirrels (4-6 years) will be marking Pancake Day, doing some science experiments, and taking part in a mini-beast hunt too. All of the above is just a selection of the things sections cover as part of our mission to teach young people skills for life; not just practical things, such as first aid and fire lighting, knots and navigating, but also building resilience, confidence and perseverance too.

This is only possible thanks to the hard-work and dedication of our volunteer leader team and trustees – who also benefit from ongoing learning opportunities provided by Scouts – and we are always looking for more people to join us.

You do not have to be outdoorsy, or crafty, or anything else in particular – everyone has different skills to offer, and as long as you can bring bundles of enthusiasm then there is a place for you in Scouting.

1st Great Horkesley Scout Group is also desperately seeking a new hut, and would welcome support from people who may have particular skills or experience in building projects or initiatives of that ilk.

So if you think you could fit the bill, please don't hesitate to get in touch by emailing [gsl@1stgthorkesley.co.uk](mailto:gsl@1stgthorkesley.co.uk) and be part of a movement supporting young people in our community.



# Great Horkesley Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

Great Horkesley Old Village Hall, CO6 4BH

If anybody in the village is interested in joining us as a leader and member visit the Join Us page on the Girlguiding website

(<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/>) or contact any of the leaders listed on the Useful Contacts (see page 70).

## Great Horkesley Rainbows



We have eighteen girls in the unit with a very healthy waiting list. At the end of last term, we joined with Magdalen Wood Rainbows for a pre-Christmas overnight which the girls enjoyed. This term we will be undertaking the Stage 1 Innovate Skills Builder which encourages the girls to find out what inspires them so includes musical activities, simple science experiments, creative puppet making and what makes a robot work! The Interest badge linked to this is Storyteller which includes stories from other countries as well as the retelling of old tales for today. We will also be celebrating Chinese New Year, Thinking Day, a Girlguiding annual special day on 22nd February remembering our counterparts throughout the world but especially Italy this year, St Patricks Day and Mother's Day. We will be joining with the Brownies for a Spring Extravaganza at the end of term.

## Great Horkesley Brownies



We have a full unit of twenty-four at Brownies this term – just one Brownie leaving and going on to Guides. We were pleased to present 4 Silver and 7 Bronze Awards at the beginning of the term and will be working on lots of Unit Meeting activities this term, tidying up the minutes needed to complete some of the Theme awards the girls have been working on. This means a wide range of activities from discovering the history of Brownies, puppet making, what makes a friend and keeping fit. We will be working on the Archaeology badge as a unit and making time capsules as part of that. We will also be celebrating Chinese New Year, Thinking Day focussing on Guiding in the USA, St Patrick's Day and crafting for Mother's Day. We have a Pack Holiday planned for the May half term which hopefully most of the girls will be able to join us.

## Great Horkesley Guides



The Guides are growing in numbers but there are still spaces for new members to join. They had fun at a regional takeover of Pleasurewood Hills late last term and went to the special Girlguiding showing of Moana 2 at the cinema. Before Christmas they took part in County Commissioner's challenge and collected 64 kg of items for the Colchester Food Bank. They also made sweets as gifts for Christmas. This term they will be focussing on international activities for Thinking Day, no doubt involving cooking which the guides enjoy.

Find out more about Girlguiding on the website: <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/>



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# GHYC

## *Great Horshesley Youth Club*

Goodbye 2024 and hello 2025! We do hope this year will bring you many blessings.

### **Looking back...**

The Youth Club had a wonderful Autumn term. We welcomed some new members as well as familiar faces.

A very loud evening is playing Bingo where after much tension and excitement, the winner receives a bag of Haribo!

In October we had a great time, largely in the dark with glow in the dark fun & games. As the end of the evening approached, the young people didn't want it to end! Patrick, one of the helpers gave a great talk about overcoming fear.



Bonfire Night saw fun with sparklers & munching hotdogs on the patio area.

Late November was Christmas Tree decoration making for the Tree Festival.

It's wonderful to see the young people engrossed in creativity & sitting round chatting as they make things.

The Christmas Party ended the term. We played party game favourites such as musical chairs as well as team games involving dressing up to cut

chocolate with a knife & fork! A particularly hilarious game was dressing one of their team- mates as a



snowman with a carrot stuck in their mouth as his nose! Again, as the evening ended, they still wanted to keep playing!

### **Coming Up...**

This term will include a Beetle drive, a Scottish evening – yes we will have haggis ready for any willing brave souls to try as well as a team quiz!



Valentines, Pancake Day, Mother's Day and Easter all fall in this term so we will have those themes each evening as the core of our activities. Its going to be fun!

### **Term dates for new year 2025**

14th Feb > 28th Feb / 14th March > 28th March / 11th April > 25th April

# GHYC

## *Great Horkesley Youth Club*

Each evening:

- Starts at 7pm and finishes at 8.45pm
- The team are all volunteers who come from the parish church and Freedom church and the village.
- We have a list of rules for everyone's benefit.
- We have a tuck shop where they young people can buy sweets and drinks.
- We often enjoy food treats!
- There are craft activities and console games and table tennis and pool and board games out each week as well as our theme activities for the week.
- We always have a short film clip or talk and prayer of blessing to close.
- Youth Club is for those students in Year 6 and above.

For more information or to enrol, please contact **Karen Carr on 07505 132664 or email [info@freedom-church.co.uk](mailto:info@freedom-church.co.uk)**

Karen and all the team at Great Horkesley Youth Club (GHYC)

### Easter Egg Brownies

#### Ingredients

- 5 creme eggs
- 175g/6oz dark chocolate, broken into small pieces.
- 175g/6oz unsalted butter, plus extra for greasing
- 2 tbsp cocoa powder
- 3 large free-range eggs
- 150g/5½oz caster sugar
- 150g/5½oz light brown sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla bean paste / vanilla extract
- 115g/4oz plain flour
- ½ tsp fine sea salt
- 150g/5½oz shortbread biscuits, roughly chopped (optional however they add structure to the batter to help the creme eggs stay in place when cooking)

#### Method

1. Place the chocolate eggs in the freezer. (This will make them easier to cut cleanly and means they won't melt too much in the oven.) Grease and line a square 20cm/8in cake tin. Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4 (kids please ask an adult to help you with this).
2. Place the chocolate, butter and cocoa powder in a heatproof glass bowl and set it over a saucepan of gently simmering water, making sure the water does not touch the bowl. Stir until completely melted and then remove from the heat. In a separate bowl, whisk together the eggs, caster sugar, light brown sugar and vanilla until smooth. Pour into the chocolate mixture and mix well. Add in the flour and salt and mix until smooth. Stir in the shortbread biscuits (optional). Pour the mixture into the prepared tin.
3. Take the chocolate eggs out of the freezer and slice them in half vertically. Nestle them into the brownie mixture, with the insides of the eggs facing up, and bake for 27-30 minutes until just set. Remove from the oven and leave to cool completely before slicing into squares.



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The Autumn term was an exciting one!

## Supporting each other

Back into a more normal routine after the summer, we continue to enjoy life as a fellowship of people walking through the ups and downs of life together when we gather at the Village Hall on Sundays or in our Girls and Men's groups during the week. Our year ended with a Carol Service in December where our Kingdom Explorers acted the Christmas story, helped by the youth.



## Mission to Hungary & Ukraine

*Hungary:* Paul & I had a mission trip abroad too. We went first to stay with a missionary family who run a church in Hungary. Here, we taught young missionary couples about marriage and working together, as we have done so for over 30 years and learnt a lot about what to do and what not to do! Paul spoke at their church, and I taught at a Women's Weekend Conference which was held in a hotel just outside Budapest in the countryside. It was a beautiful location for the ladies to spend time enjoying a rest, worshipping Jesus, and time for prayer and good food.

*Ukraine:* From here we travelled into Ukraine. It was a 2-day train & bus journey to our



destination, Kremenchuk in the East. When the bus arrived in this city, the family greeting us pointed out the hoarding where we had alighted. It was where the shopping centre once stood before a missile razed it to the ground killing many. We stayed with a pastor and his family who we have been supporting since the start of the war.

There has been an explosion of interest in finding out about Christianity amidst the fear, devastation and loss in their lives. It was a privilege to spend time with so many, young and old struggling in the midst of war. Many were afraid for their husbands, sons and young men and women on the frontline. Others were struggling to work having lost their businesses and jobs and fled their homes in the east.



I had no idea before we went how relevant our story would be to the people of Ukraine. One of violent death of a loved one, losing all you worked for and your home. The vulnerability and sense of helplessness.

The trauma of loss. The sense of injustice.

Some 35 years ago I cried out to God (who I didn't really believe in) when my 18-year-old sister died in a road traffic accident. I experienced his peace. I chose to find out more about him. Later on, we lost our home, our money, it was unjust. Yet Jesus brought us through.

We visited a refugee family in a village. They had lost everything. The dad was working from 4am until 10pm on a farm with a break from 9-12 noon. It was hard, unfamiliar work. They were renting a 2-room bungalow. We were able to say with credibility that we understood what it was like, having lost everything many years ago and starting again. That with Jesus he can bring us through the deep valleys in life. That we don't have to get stuck in the valley, he can lead us through.



Not only that, we are also better for it. We learnt that Jesus is trustworthy, and our experience changed our hearts and attitudes.

We visited wounded soldiers in hospital. In preparation for this, we spent several hours making up packs to give them as the basics are not provided for there. Each pack contained a bar of soap, a toothbrush & paste, razor, chocolate bars, socks and a copy of the New Testament. Our visit moved me to tears. It was their eyes. They were full of sadness, hopelessness, fear and brokenness. We were able to shake their hand and pray with them. They were so, so thankful to have visitors as they were far from home and loved ones.



We were able to bring them hope, love and peace in Jesus. As we left a nurse commented to the pastor “I knew you had been because I can see the men are so happy.”

We taught a large group of refugees about Jesus; we spoke at their church where many were moved to tears and gave their lives to Jesus. We recorded teachings for them to listen to after we left. We parted with hugs and tears. It had been a very full time. It was an exhausting 2-day journey back to Hungary from where we flew home.

*These verses in the bible had come alive.*

*What a wonderful God we have—he is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of every mercy, and the one who so wonderfully comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials. And why does he do this? So that when others are troubled, needing our sympathy and encouragement, we can pass on to them this same help and comfort God has given us.*

*2 Corinthians 1:4-7*

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We have groups for Kingdom Explorers children and youth.

Please contact us if you are interested to know more or if you would like us to pray for a situation in your life, please email us and we will be honoured to pray.

**Paul & Karen Carr**

**Freedom Church**

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**email - [info@freedom-church.co.uk](mailto:info@freedom-church.co.uk)**

**Website - <https://freedom-church.co.uk>**



Partnering with the local Anglican church, we run the Gt Horkesley Youth Club, providing a welcoming space for young people to connect and have fun! See pages 48/49.



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# BOXTED METHODIST SILVER BAND

## Did you know that we have a Silver Band in the next village?

Boxted Methodist Silver Band has been in existence for over one hundred and twenty-five years and plays in and around the Colchester area at concerts, fetes, shows and church services. It was originally formed as a wind band at the Methodist Chapel to play 'To the glory of God' and to that extent we still do as we have a commitment to play for special services at other churches by request even though Boxted Chapel is closed. We had a successful but very busy December with carol services in Boxted, Polstead and Wimpole Road Methodist church, carols and festive music at the Boxted tree lighting afternoon, playing at Mersea and Long Melford Christmas events as well as playing carols around Boxted at outdoor carols in Nayland and Stoke by Nayland, outside supermarkets and our usual mad dash around on Christmas Eve playing at individual houses across the area. We raised £2,690.70 which will be shared between the Band and Emmaus Colchester.

The New Year Honours list included a British Empire Medal awarded to John Polley a loyal member of Band for eighty years plus. We are really pleased for him and it is a well-deserved award.

Looking ahead to 2025 we have several events already booked – concerts in Weeley and Holland on Sea, Rowhedge Regatta and a special celebration service at All Saints Shrub End church and a local spring concert in Boxted. We hope to have a spot on Colchester Park bandstand this year too.

We play a wide range of music from traditional brass band repertoire, through jazz and film music, shows and orchestral arrangements so there is something to suit everyone. If you are interested in either joining the Band – we rehearse on Wednesday evenings at St Peters School, Boxted, CO4 5YN - or just listening to the Band, **contact Liz Pether for details (07803935688) or view more details on our website.** We have had several new players join us recently, but there is always room for more, especially Bb bass player, so if you used to play and have been thinking about taking it up again come and see us.



## Are you keen to get involved with the Great Horkesley Village News?

### Would you consider submitting an article to be published?

I am looking for articles about:

The villagers' perspective of Great Horkesley

History of the village

Book reviews

Recipes

Pets

Local walks

**Submit your article, including photos where relevant, to  
horkesleyvillagenews@gmail.com by 10th March**

## Colne Valley Flower Club



Meets on the third  
Wednesday of each month  
(excluding December)  
**7.30pm Orpen Hall**  
**West Bergholt, CO6 3BG**

Come along and enjoy the  
wonderful arrangements

Guests £5  
**Contact Alison**  
**01206 240262**



## Art and Craft Club

**Doxted Village Hall**

Every first and third Wednesday  
of the month, 2pm - 4pm



A small friendly group. Come and join in!  
Learn something new or share your skills.  
New members always welcome.

**More information: Tel 01206 271860**

## Horkesley Craft Group

Your local craft group meets **every 2nd and 4th Tuesday** of the month  
from 2.00pm to 4.00pm

£2.00 this includes refreshments

We are a lovely bunch of friendly souls who meet together for an  
informal friendly afternoon.

Join us at the **Great Horkesley Village Hall, CO6 4EA**

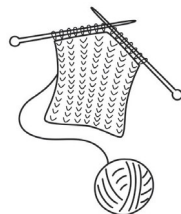
All you have to do is come along, bring ANY craft you are interested  
in and share with others your ideas and skills. If you have no favourite  
craft at the moment, come along anyway and get new ideas! Look  
forward to seeing you there!

Future Dates:

February 11th & 25th / March 11th & 25th

April 8th & 22nd

**For more information contact**  
**Margaret Williams 01206 271713**



# Great Horkesley Carpet Bowls Club



Our club singles competition has been completed, the winner was John Mehen, with Michael Hubbard as runner up. The club pairs competition is now under way, we have five pairs competing.

If you would like to come along and try the game of Carpet Bowls with us please do so.

**We meet every Thursday evening from 7pm at Great Horkesley Old Village Hall, CO6 4ET.**

**Please contact our chairperson Dott Simkin on tel 01206 271249 or text 07508731251 for further information.**

The Boxted Carpet Bowls Club had a Christmas lunch at Harpers Cafe on 20th December, 15 members attended and a photo can be found on their Facebook page.

*Mike Hubbard, Great Horkesley Club Secretary*



Aimed at beginners and social players.

All ages welcome.  
Equipment is provided.

**Every Monday 2 - 4pm  
Nayland Village Hall  
CO6 4JH**

Contact: **Jane 01206 263619**

## Great Horkesley Table Tennis Club



No previous experience is required and bats will be available.

**Fridays from 7.30 - 9.00pm  
£3 per session.**

**Great Horkesley  
Old Village Hall, CO6 4BH**  
(on A134 between the Yew Tree and Post Office)

If you would like to come along and try or take it up again, please contact:

**Steve Holland 07785384676**

**Janet Faiers 07899951482**

**Andy Ayton 07871502945**

Come and give us a look

M L S E R Y G N R X A D X K E G V F U A  
 P D C O C H H K F I G Y F C Z P N W P I  
 E P O X U X K H N V A V W N J B T N Q O  
 Y G U D H P C T I D D L Y W I N K S M K  
 C S T O M O R P F T H E H A L F B U T T  
 O W S I W K G C G J U N Z N N X A J O Y  
 I V I L L A G E H A L L I E F W K G M L  
 T R X G H B F I X A Z H J K Q N D D S P  
 S K S F C E R P L A Y G R O U N D P N V  
 B I S H O P W I L L I A M W A R D C S J  
 M J A K O D K L O P Z L V N A A W H B Z  
 P E I H K J F K K N T B S H O P A U H V  
 Q B C A R P E T B O W L S T J X B R Z U  
 S Q S D M O B I L E L I B R A R Y C K U  
 G R F C S B Q P I U I U S D C P S H O U  
 O D V C Z A T H E Y E W T R E E S N W E  
 X H Y O U T H C L U B F B B M P M M P K  
 P G E L B L U E O W L G O E N T I S T W  
 Q G I Y L S O A N E B S J Y C R A R P K  
 X G U I D E S T D P K Z W I G G D K N Y

## Answers from puzzles on page 29

RLOD OF TEH SRGNI	<u>LORD OF THE RINGS</u>
TEH THBBIO	<u>THE HOBBIT</u>
SNSEE DNA IEITYSLNIBS	<u>SENSE AND SENSIBILITY</u>
JNAE EREY	<u>JANE EYRE</u>
YMOB CDKI	<u>MORY DICK</u>
RKTNESIANFFE	<u>FRANKENSTEIN</u>
RWA DNA EPCEA	<u>WAR AND PEACE</u>
LTIelt EMNWO	<u>LITTLE WOMEN</u>
TRAEG SITENEOTPACX	<u>GREAT EXPECTATIONS</u>
HET SDYYESO	<u>THE ODYSSEY</u>
MIRDMDALDHC	<u>MIDDLEMARCH</u>
AAILMN AFRM	<u>ANIMAL FARM</u>
UDLACRA	<u>DRACULA</u>
HTE MSHDAANID EALT	<u>THE HANDMAIDS TALE</u>
TAIYNV FIRA	<u>VANITY FAIR</u>

# From the Waiting Room

## West Bergholt Surgery 01206 570371

Firstly, we would like to wish all our patients a very **HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR!**

It seems, at this time of year, there are lots of viral bugs floating around, so please wrap up warm, make sure you keep hydrated and practice good hand hygiene. Unfortunately, Antibiotics will not help with most viral infections, but if you need any advice, please either call 111 or use your local pharmacy facilities.

Most pharmacies (including West Bergholt Pharmacy) can help you with seven conditions without needing a GP appointment, these are:

- Sinusitis (adults & children aged 12years +)
- Sore Throat (adults & children aged 5years+)
- Earache (children & young adults aged 1-17years)
- Infected insect bite (adults and children aged 1+) Impetigo (adults & children aged 1+)
- Shingles (adults aged 18+)
- Urinary tract infection (Women aged 16-64)

**Announcement of Retirement:** Dr Nicola Hilton based at Nayland Surgery will be retiring at the end of March 2025. Dr Hilton will be sorely missed by staff and patients alike. Dr Hilton has been a valued member of the team at Nayland Surgery since 2019 & has worked for the NHS for 38 years, 35 of those years she has dedicated to being a GP. Putting the patients first, taking time to listen and always goes above and beyond. We wish Dr Hilton all the best in her retirement.

**Did You Know???** The NHS provide a First Contact Physiotherapist MSK Service. The role of the FCP's in Primary Care is to assess patients with soft tissue, muscle & joint pain and decide on the most appropriate management pathway. FCP's are physios with expertise in the assessment & management of MSK conditions, they may also be known as Advanced Practice Physiotherapists (APP). If you are over the age of 16 and feel this service will benefit you, please contact the surgery and speak to reception.





Litter Warriors is a Colchester City Council initiative to support and enable local communities to help maintain a clean and green Colchester by litter picking an area of open space or street that's important to you. This may be the street you live in, your favourite park or open space.

We will provide you with: a high vis vest, a litter picker and some bags.

Litter Warriors is a great way to bring families, friends and neighbours together and maintain pride in our local neighbourhood.

To sign up to Litter Warriors, email:  
[community.volunteers@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:community.volunteers@colchester.gov.uk)



Re-Cycle (Bikes to Africa) accepts unwanted second-hand bikes and ships them to Africa.

Our partners distribute the bikes and teach repair and maintenance skills to keep them roadworthy. Since 1998 over 100,000 have been shipped to over 13 African countries.

### Can you help?

If you have a bike in your shed or garage that you no longer want please don't dump it take it to:

**Unit 8 The Grove Estate, Colchester Road, Wormingford, CO6 3AJ**

Opening hours Mon-Fri 8.30am - 4.30pm

Contact us on **01206 617865**

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## Great Horkesley & Boxted Community Group

Join our online community

- Latest village news
- Local events
- Ask questions

Scan the QR code below to join the Facebook group:



## Aldercar Wood Oil Buying Club



Helping the residents of Great Horkesley & Boxted to secure a great price when purchasing heating oil

To join the mailing list email:  
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Follow the Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/aldercarwood>

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

11/02/2025	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm (p65)
11/02/2025	WI Meeting, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-9pm (p20/21)
13/02/2025	Food Pantry, BWV School 3.30pm (p10)
13/02/2025	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm (p10)
14/02/2025	GHYC, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-8.30pm (p48-49)
14/02/2025	Valentine's Day
25/02/2025	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm (p65)
28/02/2025	First day of Ramadan
28/02/2025	Food Pantry, BWV School 3.30pm (p10)
28/02/2025	GHYC, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-8.30pm (p48-49)
05/03/2025	Ash Wednesday
06/03/2025	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm (p10)
07/03/2025	Food Pantry, BWV School 3.30pm (p10)
10/03/2025	Last date for submissions for next Village News
11/03/2025	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm (p65)
11/03/2025	WI Meeting, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-9pm (p20/21)
14/03/2025	Food Pantry, BWV School 3.30pm (p10)
14/03/2025	GHYC, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-8.30pm (p48-49)
21/03/2025	Food Pantry, BWV School 3.30pm (p10)
25/03/2025	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm (p65)
27/03/2025	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm (p10)
28/03/2025	Food Pantry, BWV School 3.30pm (p10)
28/03/2025	GHYC, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-8.30pm (p48-49)
30/03/2025	Clocks go forward 1 hour / Mother's Day / Eid al-Fitr
04/04/2025	Food Pantry, BWV School 3.30pm (p10)
08/04/2025	WI Meeting, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-9pm (p20/21)
08/04/2025	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm (p65)
11/04/2025	GHYC, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-8.30pm (p48-49)
13/04/2025	Palm Sunday
18/04/2025	Good Friday (Bank Holiday England & Wales)
20/04/2025	Easter Sunday
21/04/2025	Easter Monday (Bank Holiday England & Wales)
22/04/2025	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm (p65)
25/04/2025	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm (p10)
25/04/2025	Food Pantry, BWV School 3.30pm (p10)
25/04/2025	GHYC, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-8.30pm (p48-49)
24/05/2025	Scarecrow Trail starts (p33-34/39-40)
12/07/2025	Stepping Stones Summer Ball (p30)

For details of Church Services see pages 27

## Useful Contacts

### Councils

Chairman Great Horkesley Parish Council..Christopher Arnold.....	07703168125
Email: <a href="mailto:cllr.arnold@greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk">cllr.arnold@greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk</a>	
Parish Clerk.....Teri Duckworth .....	07375095486
Email: <a href="mailto:parish-clerk@greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk">parish-clerk@greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk</a>	
City Councillor.....William Sunnucks .....	07771940763
City Councillor.....Darius Laws .....	07786007560
City Councillor.....Tom Rowe.....	07375238749
County Councillor.....Lewis Barber.....	07876237137

### Village Groups

Gt. & Lt. Horkesley WI President.....	Marilyn Hurst .....	07763488774
Rainbow Leader .....	Liz Petter .....	01206 271511
Guide Leader.....	Ann Dyer.....	01206 273071
Brownie Leader .....	Liz Petter .....	01206 271511
Scout Group Leader .....	Will Lodge.....	07729803515
Youth Club .....	Karen Carr .....	07505132664
Horkesley Care Network.....	Lesley Richardson.....	01206 271576
Freedom Church.....	Paul/Karen Carr. ....	07754088078

### Great Horkesley Village News

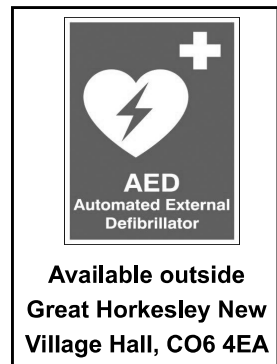
Editor Caroline Evans..... 07747751063 [horkesleyvillagenews@gmail.com](mailto:horkesleyvillagenews@gmail.com)

### National Numbers & Websites

NHS Triage .....	111
<a href="https://111.nhs.uk/">https://111.nhs.uk/</a>	
Crimestoppers .....	0800 555 111
<a href="https://crimestoppers-uk.org/">https://crimestoppers-uk.org/</a>	
Action Fraud .....	0300 123 2040
<a href="https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/">https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/</a>	
Samaritans .....	116 123
<a href="https://www.samaritans.org/">https://www.samaritans.org/</a>	
The Mental Health Advice & Support.....	0800 138 0990
<a href="https://mnessexmind.org/">https://mnessexmind.org/</a>	
The Silver Line.....	0800 4 70 80 90
<a href="https://www.thesilverline.org.uk/">https://www.thesilverline.org.uk/</a>	
UK Power Networks .....	0800 31 63 105
<a href="https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/">https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/</a>	
Anglian Water .....	03457 145 145
<a href="https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/">https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/</a>	

### Useful Links

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 Graffiti / Fly Tipping  
<https://www.colchester.gov.uk/StreetCleaningRequest/>  
 Potholes  
<https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us/report-pothole>





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