

GREAT HORKESLEY VILLAGE NEWS



**Winter/Spring Issue 147
Feb 2026 - April 2026**



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From the Editor

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year. Welcome to 2026! The village's Christmas celebrations were very festive, including the school's fair, the tree light switch on with carols, and Trees for Advent at the church. I also think it is fantastic to see all the lights on the houses, which brings joy to many people, especially children.

Before I'm done with work, it gets dark; however, Rusty is lit up with a light up collar which allows me to watch him run after his glow in the dark ball on the village green. We also meet lots of other doggies with lights on and it is lovely to say a passing hello to human and dog alike! We have a wonderful dog community in the village however please ensure to use the dog poo bins and report any that need emptying.

If you would like to get involved in the magazine, perhaps contributing an article, then please get in touch. The magazine is for the village, from the village!

For a chance to have your photo as the cover of future magazines please email me your best colour photo and location of where it was taken (Great Horkesley only please).

As the next issue is May to June, a Spring/Summer theme would be perfect. Issue 147 front cover photo courtesy of:

Caroline Evans
"Skyline from Keelers Way towards West Bergholt"

This magazine is also available in full colour on the Great Horkesley Parish Council website.

*Contact me via email:
horkesleyvillagenews@gmail.com*

Best wishes Caroline



Contents

	Page
Great Horkesley Parish Council	4
Village Hall Activities	5
County & City Councillors	6
WB Gardeners' Association	7
Poppy Appeal 2025	7
Orpen Players	9
News from the School	12
Friends of BWW - Quiz Night	13
Mobile Library / Food Pantry	17
All Saints' Alive	19
Church News	24-27
Parking in GH	29
A Female Arborist	30
Gt & Lt Horkesley WI	32-33
Trees For Advent	34
BWW Colour Run & BBQ	35
Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	36
Through The Garden Gate	37
Rainbows, Brownies & Guides	43
GH Community Events Team	46
Horkesley Care Network	48
History of Great Horkesley	50-51
Puzzle Corner	52
Kerbside Recycling	53
Nayland Surgery	61
Friendly Ear	61
Boxted Methodist Band	62
Flower & Craft Groups	64
GH Carpet Bowls / Table Tennis	66
Puzzle Corner Answers	67
Litter Warriors	68
GH & Boxted Facebook Group	68
GH Old Village Hall	68
Re-Cycle (Bikes to Africa)	68
Upcoming Events	69
Useful Contacts	70



Great Horkestone Parish Council

www.greathorkestone-pc.gov.uk

clerk@greathorkestone-pc.gov.uk

I hope everyone had a peaceful and pleasant Christmas and New Year!

2026 is looking to be a very busy year for the Parish Council, with the reorganisation of local government, a new local plan and taking over the Jubilee Green all on the way. The Council was hoping to own the village green from 1st December 2025, but this date has now been pushed back. We are still hopeful that it will happen before the summer.

You may have seen at the very end of last year that the application for outline planning consent on land north of Coach Road was approved. At the time of writing this piece, the Parish Council have not yet met to discuss this decision, so I don't have anything else to report at this stage but will hopefully have more information in time for the next village news.

I am still receiving many complaints about parking around the village, although this month it has been more about recent parking on the pavements along Ivy Lodge Road. This is causing pedestrians, particularly those with wheelchairs or pushchairs, to have to walk out into the road to go around the increased number of parked vehicles. Please ensure you park sensibly and safely in all areas of our village.

Regular hirers at the village hall have changed again recently – a schedule correct as of 1st January can be seen in this edition. Please remember that whether you book the hall regularly or for a one-off event, the period for which you hire the hall for MUST include any time you require for setting up and packing away. At times we are very busy with bookings, so we do need hirers to stick to the period they have hired the hall for and ensure they are out in good time. You must also remove all rubbish and leave the hall in a condition ready for the next hire. Hire rates will be increasing slightly from 1st April 2026 - full details can be found on the website.

Over the last couple of weeks, I have been in the process of drawing up the draft budget for 2026/27 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. It is likely that the precept for residents will increase somewhat during the next financial year, in order to cover the increased costs that the Parish Council will incur when needing to maintain the village green. Again, I will be able to give further information about this in the next edition of the village news.

It is much quicker if you contact the City Council or Essex Highways directly for complaints or reports of potholes, missed bin collections, fly tipping and graffiti – contact details can be found elsewhere in the magazine. If you need to contact the Parish Clerk about any other matters then please email me in the first instance as this will receive the quickest response, thank you.

Teri Duckworth, Parish Clerk, Great Horkestone Parish Council



Regular Activities

On Mondays

4pm - 7pm Impressario Dance School
Tel: 07793140504 - Amy Rackliff

7.30pm - 9.30pm Explorer Scouts
Email: liz.welch@cnds.org.uk

On Tuesdays

9.30am - 10.30am Bounce Class
Tel: 07738432165 - Natasha King

12 - 1pm Exercise Class

2pm - 4pm Craft Club (Meeting Room)
(2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month only)
Tel: 01206 271713 - Margaret Williams
(see page 64)

7pm - 9pm W.I.
2nd Tuesday of the month only
Tel: 07763488774 – Marilyn Hurst
(see pages 32 & 33)

7pm - 9pm Masonic Lodge
(1st, 4th and 5th Tuesday of the
month only)
suffolkfreemason.org.uk

On Wednesdays

2pm - 4pm Afternoon Tea
(2nd Wednesday of the month only)
Tel: 01206 271713 - Margaret Williams
(see page 17)

5pm - 7pm AA Meeting
help@aamail.org / 0800 917 7650

7.30pm – 8.30pm Clubbercise
Tel: 07814404760 - Toni Wilson

On Thursdays

7pm-9pm Tai Chi (term time only)

On Fridays

9.30am - 10.30am Bounce Class
Tel: 07738432165 - Natasha King

2pm - 4pm Tea Dance
(selected Fridays & Sundays only)
Email: thedancesteps@gmail.com

**For enquiries and bookings please contact 07827911934
or email hallbookings@greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk**



Cllr. LEWIS BARBER CC
County Councillor for Constable Division
✉ 07876 237137
✉ lewisbarber2707@icloud.com



Cllr. TOM ROWE
City Councillor for Rural North Ward
✉ 07375 238749
✉ thomas.rowe83@googlemail.com



Cllr. DARIUS LAWS
City Councillor for Rural North Ward
✉ 07786 007560
✉ dariuslaws@gmail.com



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

Roadworks

At the time of print we will be no doubt experiencing diversions on the A12 north of Colchester, this is essential maintenance work being carried out by National Highways. The government cancelled plans to upgrade the A12 and this has had a direct impact on the funding arrangements for fixing the Severalls Lane Bridge. It is quite a sad indictment of the 'system' when you consider that the Orwell Bridge was built from 1979-1982 – half the time Severalls Lane Bridge has been out of action! On a more positive note, our County Councillor Lewis Barber has been working hard with Essex Highways officers to develop safety measures around the Coach Road/Nayland Road/London Road accident prone-junction. Furthermore, Lewis has works hard to identify road defects and has asked for roundabout and lining painting upgrades.

Pavement Parking

We all know there are some areas where cars half-mounting the pavements is a regular routine. It's almost as if there weren't enough parking spaces created when houses were built but we are where we are. Cars parking on the pavement isn't something that can be enforced (unless yellow lines are introduced, which is not a quick process) but there are some instances where pavement parking is causing distress to drivers trying to leave their homes. Please can we all try to encourage consideration for others.

Town Hall Scrutiny

The Scrutiny Committee (which Darius is the chairman of) recently challenged the Colchester City Council on seeking to drop plans to make Cymbeline Meadows a Nature Reserve, as well as pressing to ensure council services remain accessible to those who aren't digitally literate and finally keeping pressure on the debate around the River Colne and the management thereof. Upcoming topics the Scrutiny Committee are going to tackle include: The Council's Annual Budget and a review of the City Centre Public Space Protection Order in which we will look at measures to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour (to include amplified protests).

Elections

Your local Conservative councillors have all voted to support elections going ahead in May. These would include the delayed County Council elections as well as 1/3 of all Colchester City Councillors.

In September, Colchester Town Hall voted to signal its position on local government reorganisation. A majority supported creating multiple new councils, but Darius, Tom, William and Lewis voted for fewer councils and fewer councillors. We remain frustrated that taxes creep up with services being cut. At present, integration is poor. Planning and infrastructure don't join up, local control over public transport is limited, too many decisions are centralised in Westminster, and social care is consuming an ever-larger share of council budgets. The Government will make the final decision on elections in May. During this period of transition, your Parish Council also has a vital role in representing your interests.



West Bergholt Gardeners' Association

Our first meeting of 2026 is Monday 16th February with Sam Morgan talking on Stour Valley Farming.

The Spring speaker programme continues:

Monday 16th March - Brian Wickenden, "Fields to NGS Open Garden in 3 years"

Monday 20th April - Ian Bull, "The Herbaceous Border at Hyde Hall"

Monday 18th May - Nick Dobson, "Queen Elizabeth II - a life in flowers"

You can choose to become a member of this friendly club for the remaining 4 meetings for £15.00, or you can be selective and come along to the topics of interest for £5.00 on the night. For information, our full annual season runs from September through to December, and February through to May. Annual Subscription is £25.00 and includes all 8 meetings during our season.

Meetings are held at The Orpen Hall in West Bergholt on the third Monday of the month. Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start, ending at 9.00 pm. Tea and coffee is available.

In addition to the meetings, we also organise a number of visits to interesting gardens or garden related venues, usually in late Spring or early Summer.

For further information please contact us via email wbgardeners@gmail.com



Poppy Appeal 2025

I am pleased to report that in the Poppy Collection tins I distributed to numerous premises around Great Horkestone during November 2025, a grand total of **£1,638.24** was collected.

This was given a tremendous boost by The Half Butt, who kindly held a quiz, raising a total of £500.00. Many thanks to the Half Butt and to all those that entered.

The church collection, as always at this time of year, was also donated to The Poppy Appeal.

Thank you for your continued support to the Poppy Appeal, as without your help, the RBL would be unable to continue their vital welfare and benevolent work.

Hoping for your support again in the 2026 Poppy Appeal.

Janet Faiers, Local Poppy Collector

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

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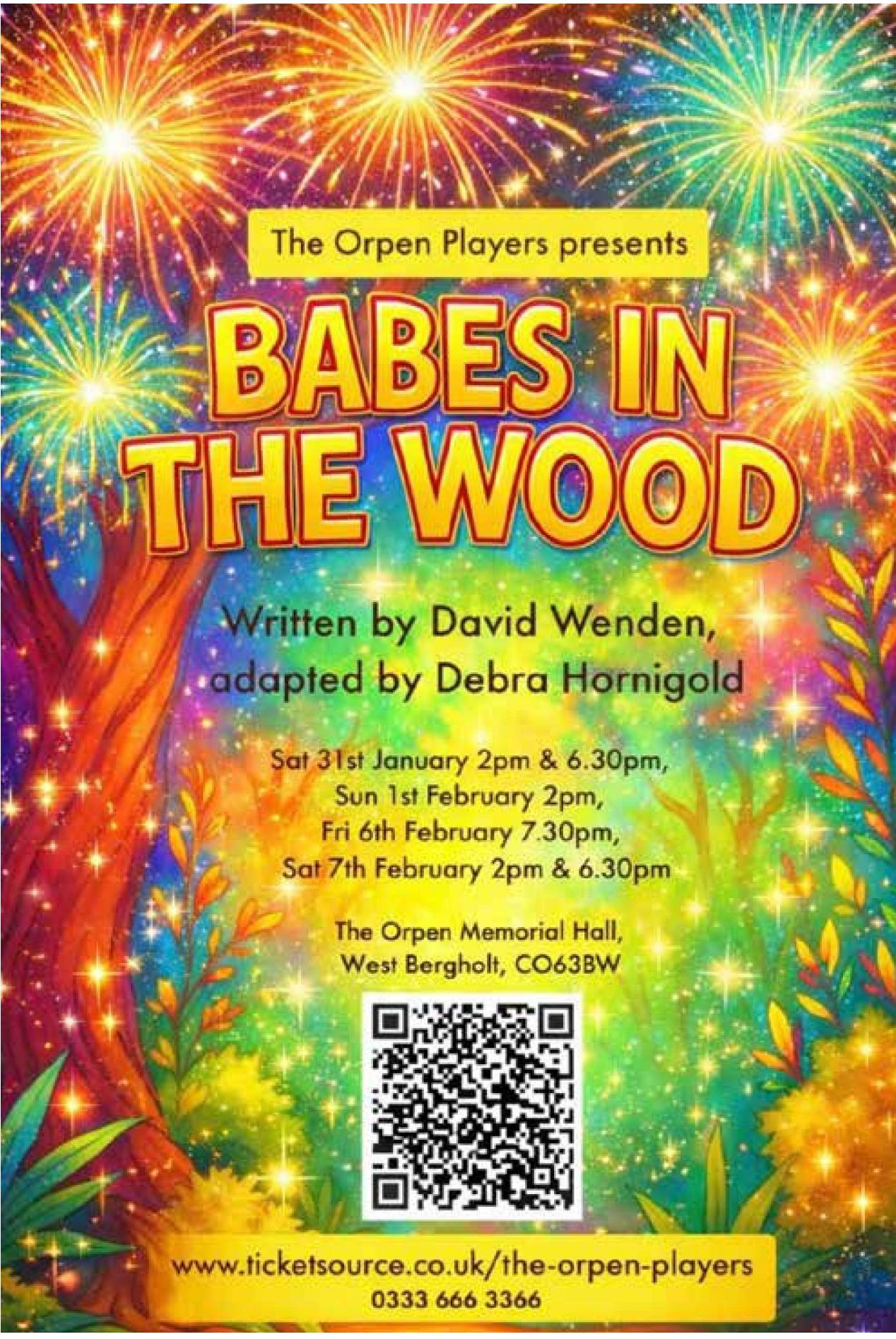
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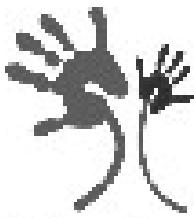
Sat 7th February 2pm & 6.30pm

The Orpen Memorial Hall,
West Bergholt, CO63BW



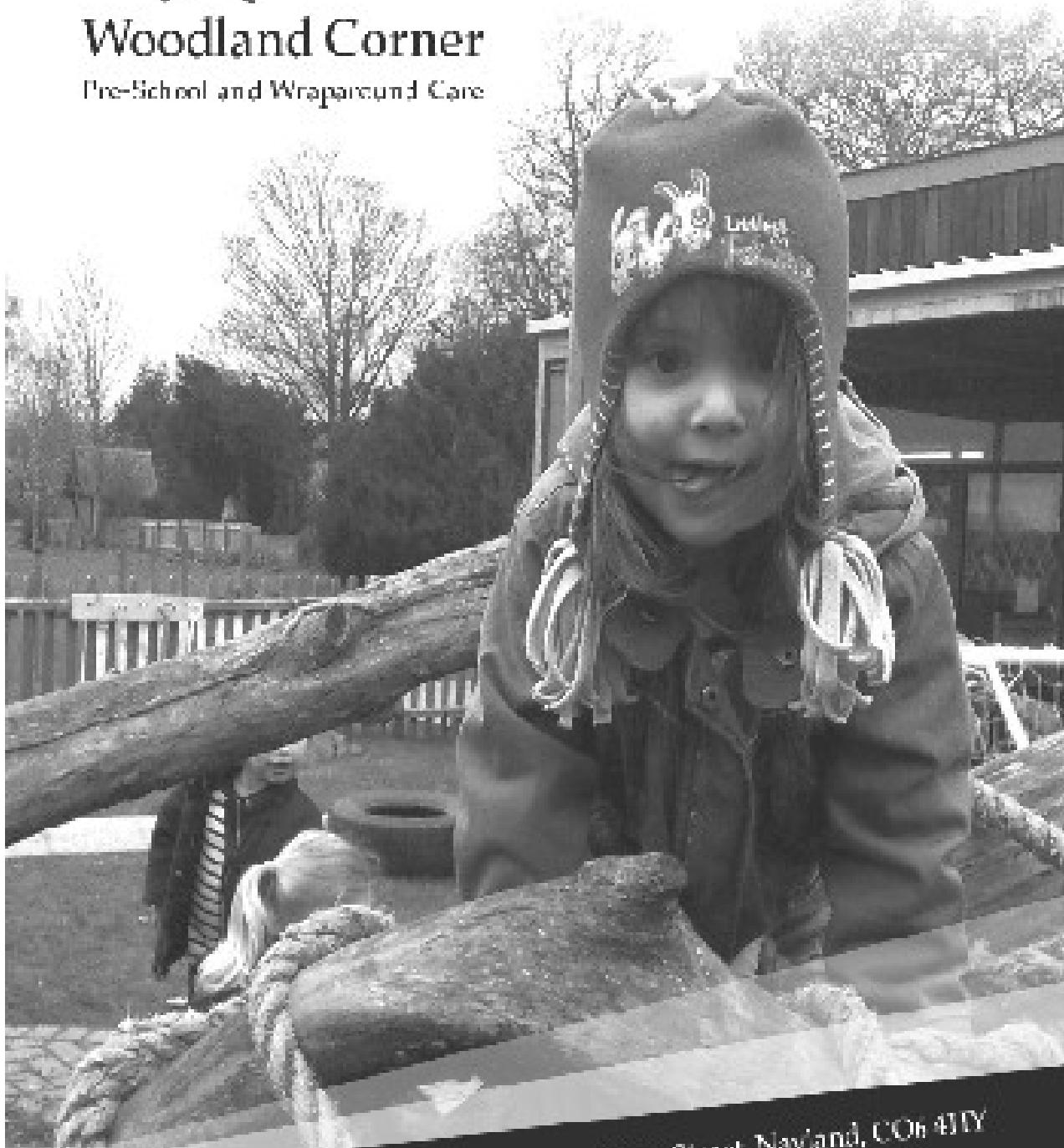
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NEWS *from the* School



Happy New Year to you all from everyone at Bishop William Ward! We are looking forward to another year of being 'happy, respectful, lifelong learners' - this is our vision for the pupils at our school. I am writing on our first day back and we have had a lovely time playing in the snow during our lunch break today – the first 'real' snow we have had for a number of years.

There were also many happy times over the Christmas period with a fabulous nativity, created by our Y2 teacher, which starting proceedings off (including angels arriving on scooters!). We also held a carol service, ate Christmas dinner, enjoyed the Christmas Fair, took part in an activity day, looked at Christmas customs around the world, wore our Christmas jumpers, danced at the discos and sang many joyful songs, both at school and in the community.

You may have seen our choir out and about – we visited Great Horkestone Manor, The Yew Tree, sang on the village green for the Christmas tree lighting and joined the carol service at All Saints' Church.

We have been engaging in a project titled 'No Outsiders'. This is to show that everyone is welcome at Bishop William Ward and there are no outsiders. The approach involves using a series of books to help children appreciate that there are lots of different viewpoints, cultures and beliefs out there and we can learn from each other and all be made to feel welcome, even if we don't always agree with everyone else. This approach is part of our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum and is also addressed as part of our assembly rota.

On a less educational matter, I sometimes receive correspondence from local residents regarding parking around the school. Please be assured that we do not condone or encourage thoughtless or illegal parking. I regularly write to the school community and talk with individuals to try and persuade everyone to park and drive sensibly and keep our pupils safe.

Back to life at school and there will be many engaging and interesting events throughout the coming term, with parent/teacher meetings, football matches, a music festival, drama workshops, World Book Day, school trips and visitors and then our celebrations leading up to Easter. Always something going on at Bishop William Ward – have a look at our newsletter archive on the website if you would like to find out more! www.bishopwilliamward.net

Toby Bull, Headteacher, Bishop William Ward C of E (VA) Primary School



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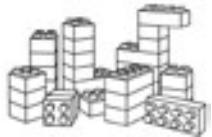
at Tiddlywinks Preschool
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Horkesley Manor Care Home
Nayland Road, Great Horkesley, CO6 4ET
01206 271394
enquiries@horkesleymanor.co.uk

All Saints' Alive



The Parish Church of All Saints', just off the junction of London Road and the A134 at the northern end Great Horkestone stands overlooking the Stour Valley. It has stood there for many centuries, indeed parts of it date back to the 12th-century, and is now a Grade I listed building due to its architectural heritage.

Over those years it has been a centre for Christian worship and prayer and has been the venue for baptisms, marriages and funerals for generations of local residents. Those of you who visit the graves of loved ones or use the nearby footpaths will know of the peace and natural beauty of the churchyard.

As with any ancient building, there is an ongoing need for maintenance and repair. Perhaps more importantly, there is a need to improve the building to make it more suitable for use in the 21st century and beyond, both as a place of worship and a community asset.

Whether or not you have an affinity with Christianity, we hope you feel some connection with the building, living in proximity to it. If you do, we are hoping you might feel able to be involved in some way in supporting the objectives of All Saints' Alive, the independent fund-raising charity founded to restore and develop All Saints' church.

We are seeking people to come on board, whether it be as fundraisers, event organisers or even trustees of the charity. Anyone who would like to be involved would be most welcome, particularly if you have practical and/or administrative skills.

**To find out more, please contact Mr Geoffrey Baker, Chairman.
Telephone: 07909 995880, email:geoffreybak@btinternet.com**

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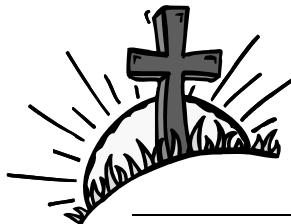
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Church News

February - April 2026



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. Heather Wilcox, Priest-in-Charge***

Christmas Dinners and Easter Eggs.

As we finished our Christmas dinner, we were joking that we would soon see Easter eggs on the shelves in the supermarket next. I wasn't laughing so much when the very next day, having had to pop in for milk, I did indeed find that the Co-op had replaced their pile of mince pies which had sat by the door for the previous couple of months with crème eggs and mini eggs.

Life seems so fast paced. There barely seems to be time to make New Years resolutions, let alone keep to them, when one-year rolls into another with such rapid succession.

And yet, despite the rush from one thing to another, there is also a steady rhythm, as the days begin to lengthen and winter slowly yields to spring, our minds turn to new life, to rebirth. We get busy in our gardens, tidying up from the winter and preparing our borders for the summer, our vegetable gardens get dug over and we get busy pruning once again.

In the steady rhythm of the church calendar, we enter Lent on 18th February, a time of reflection and preparation as we prepare to celebrate Easter, with great joy, and of course many Easter eggs.

The cross is foreshadowed, even at Jesus birth and within our Christmas celebrations, as we remember the gift of Myrrh, offered to the Christ child, by the wise men, and the words of Simeon to Mary and Joseph as they presented Jesus in the temple at 40 days old, as he said 'a sword shall pierce your soul.'

And so perhaps, when I saw those Easter eggs, and probably if I had looked, found the hot cross buns on Boxing Day, I should not have shaken my head, but rather smiled, as it is only by taking Jesus birth, death and resurrection all together, that we get the fullest picture of who Jesus really is, our Lord and Saviour.

So as the year moves on, I hope you will find time to get to know him more this year.

May God Bless you
Heather

Thank you to everyone who supported these events:

The Harvest Festival on Sunday 12th October yielded 120kgs of groceries for Colchester Foodbank.

The Quiz Night at the New Village Hall on Saturday 11th October raised £392 for Church Funds.

Remembrance Sunday at All Saints' Church on 9th November £135 was collected for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Trees for Advent on 6th/7th December raised £185 for church funds.

The Crib & Christingle Service on 24th December raised £129 for the Children's Society, helping needy children.

Regular events at St. John's

Take a Break Café at St. John's is open every Thursday from 10.00am to 11.30am. **A warm welcome awaits you!**

Come and meet old friends and make new ones. Fresh filter coffee, cappuccino, tea, hot chocolate, 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”

Third Sunday of the month, 11.00am at St. John's Church
(Except December)

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



From the Registers at All Saints':

Funeral & Burial

18th December, Dorothy Lister

Our love and prayers go out to Dorothy's family and friends at this sad time.



- **Could you help us with a gift?** Use the QR code or web link <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/gt-horkesley-all-sts-w-st-john-colchester/> or contact our treasurer (see next page for contact details).



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.
The detailed diary of services can be found on the next page.

Who to contact.....

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Heather Wilcox

Tel: 01206 240906 **Email:** 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:

Curate: Rev. Emma Barr, **Tel:** 07801659345, **Email:** revemmabarr@gmail.com

Church Administrator (the first point of contact for enquiries about

baptisms, weddings and funerals): Jo Rassell & Donna Luxton share this job and can be contacted at the Church Office at St. Mary's Church, New Church Road, West Bergholt.

Tel: 01206 243683 **Email:** 6parishescolchester@gmail.com

Usual opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10am-12pm

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

Treasurer: John Mehen

Tel: 01206 271653 **Email:** john.mehen@gmail.com

Services February - April 2026

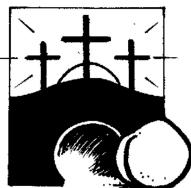
There is a service of Holy Communion on Sundays in at least one of the eight churches in the six parishes under the leadership of Rev. Heather.

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

February	1 st	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. John's
	8 th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints'
		11.00am	Morning Praise	All Saints'
	15 th	11.00am	Fun4Families	St. John's
Wednesday	18 th	8.00pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion	St. Mary's, West Bergholt
	22 nd	11.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'

March	1 st	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. John's
	8 th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints'
		11.00am	Morning Praise	All Saints'
	15 th	11.00am	Mothering Sunday Fun4Families	St. John's
	22 nd	11.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	29 th	11.00am	Palm Sunday Family Service	St. John's

April



Holy Week and Easter

Maundy Thursday 2nd 8pm Agape Meal with foot washing

St. Mary's West Bergholt

* a simple meal shared to remember the Last Supper

Good Friday 3rd

10.00am Meditation on the Passion St. John's

Easter Sunday 5th

11.00am Easter Praise with Holy Communion All Saints'

12 th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints'
	11.00am	Morning Praise	All Saints'
19 th	11.00am	Fun4Families	St. John's
26 th	11.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'

- 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.

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Visit our website: 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 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.

Parking in Great Horkesley

Please be courteous when parking in Great Horkesley

Here are some do's and dont's:

DO NOT PARK....

- near a school entrance (especially on road markings)
- where you prevent or hinder emergency services access
- on/near/opposite a bus stop
- opposite or within 10m (32ft) of a junction
- on a bend/brow of a hill
- in front of an entrance to a property
- opposite another parked vehicle
- fully or partially on the pavement

ALL OF THE ABOVE IS HAPPENING IN OUR VILLAGE!

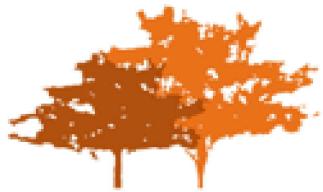
PARKING ON THE PAVEMENT HINDERS:

- Our elderly residents taking a walk or going to the bus etc
- Parents with children/pushchair walking to school/playschool
- The disabled (sight impaired/wheelchair etc)

DO PARK....

- on your drive (encourage visitors to do the same)

IF YOU MUST PARK ON THE ROAD PLEASE DO SO RESPONSIBLY, THANK YOU



Blake Tree Care

A Day In The Life Of A Female Arborist

The day starts early, often before the sun has even tipped above the horizon. Tree work is not a nine-to-five desk job. It's physical, unpredictable, and enriching. It is also a male-dominated industry, which gives young female arborists, such as Jess Riches, a chance to carve themselves a trailblazing role, breaking down stereotypes and paving the way for others. Jess's path to arboriculture wasn't a straight line. She's worked on banana farms, driven buses, and spent years in the tough FIFO construction industry in Australia. "I've always preferred manual labour roles," she explains. "When I came back from Australia, I knew I wanted to continue doing a manual job." When she returned to the UK, she remembered her brother's positive experience with Blake Tree Care. "It seemed perfect. I could learn new skills while using my previous experience in operating machinery."

Ask her what a typical day looks like, and she laughs... because there isn't one. If she's with the 'willows' team, she might spend the day operating machines, using chainsaws, and handling large-scale clean-up. On domestic jobs, she could be hedge cutting in the morning, chipping in the afternoon, and chainsawing in between. Her favourite part? "Definitely domestic work. It's like being a kid again climbing trees, but this time you don't get in trouble!" The joy of the job lies in the variety. Every tree is different, and every site is unique. Climbing and chainsawing bring an adrenaline rush and a childlike sense of freedom. And working outdoors in the Essex and Suffolk countryside is a privilege in itself. But tree work isn't always sunshine and fresh air. "The toughest part can be working in all weathers," she admits. "There have been days in torrential rain that are mentally challenging. But it's never been too bad, you just push through."

Tree surgery is rarely a solo job. The work is demanding, and safety relies on teamwork. For her, that's one of the highlights: "The team all get on well and support me. As I'm new to the industry, they've been keen to teach me anything I don't know." Being the only woman in the crew could feel daunting, but she's never let it hold her back. "From day one, I've never said no to anything. I wanted to do everything the men can do – and I believe I have."

People are often surprised to see a woman in tree surgery. It's still rare in the UK, but her experience has been overwhelmingly positive. "Everyone has been very welcoming. The only challenge is the need to 'prove yourself' as a woman. Men are expected to be able to lift heavy equipment and logs. But with women, there's sometimes doubt. I just got on with it." Her advice to other women? Simple: "Absolutely try it. It's an amazing industry with so many skills to learn. Don't be put off by it being male-dominated. If you put the work in, you'll be just as valued as anyone else."

Jess isn't stopping here. She's working towards gaining formal qualifications in tree climbing and felling. These skills will not only expand her role but also cement her long-term career in arboriculture. As one of the few women in the field, she's proving that anyone can find their place with resilience, curiosity, and passion.

Jess's story proves that arboriculture is about passion, grit, and teamwork. Not gender.



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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 June 2025 the WI members voted in force to support a major new campaign for 2025/2026 titled Bystanders can be Lifesavers – to increase vital CPR and defibrillator skills across the UK. The NFWI will now work across its network of over 180,000 women with locally based charities and other groups to help deliver CPR and defibrillator training across its membership and check the accessibility of their nearest defibrillators. Members will also raise awareness of the campaign with decision makers and the public across its 5,500 regional Federations. A WI membership enables women to find fun and friendship with other women to find fun and friendship with other women, share experiences, make a difference in their communities through our wide-ranging campaigns, including ending violence against women, improving diagnoses for neurodiverse conditions, tackling climate change and transforming NHS dental healthcare.

Our October speaker was John Keen; a metal detector and author of many articles published in Treasure Hunting magazine. John told us about his early life and how that fostered his interest in metal detecting as well as flint tools and Knapping. He brought along various artefacts which we were able to handle including a half million-year-old axe head.



He had many fascinating stories to tell and says that he wants to promote metal detecting as much as possible. He feels that it is important to show his findings to everyone especially children.

We had an enjoyable Craft evening in November and produced items to hang on our Christmas tree in the church. Our crafts included little Christmas mushrooms using corks and paint, heart pouches using felt.



We were also introduced to the ancient Japanese craft of Kumihimo, making braids and cords. In the past these Kumihimo decorations were used as accessories.



Great and Little Horkesley WI

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



During the Christmas lights and carols event, we were pleased to offer villagers free mince pies and gingerbread.



We enjoyed our usual Christmas party at our December meeting and were entertained by the Hygge Harmony Choir. The choir rehearses in Stratford St Mary and generally sings "popular" songs in harmony. Hygge (pronounced Hooga) is a Danish word which means a feeling of wellbeing, joy and happiness.

Our Christmas tree from the Church Christmas tree festival was on display and looked delightful with all our craft work .

At the time of writing we are looking forward to welcoming our speaker Martyn Harrison, Tenor and Stage Director to our January meeting. His talk is entitled "Les Mis to The Lion King" and features music and stories.

We continue to meet socially each month for morning coffee, afternoon tea or lunch.

Our WI meeting is held monthly in Great Horkesley Village Hall every 2nd Tuesday evening at 7pm. We would be so pleased to welcome you to our meetings which are always interesting and thought provoking.

Future meetings:

January 13th – Les Mis to Lion King. Martyn Harrison

February 10th – Use it or Lose it (exercise fun)

March 10th – My Creative Journey. Amanda Sutherland speaks about her career journey through Film, Television and Theatre.

April 14th – Annual Meeting

Trees For Advent

Christmas Tree Festival 2025 All Saints' Church, Great Horkesley

Thank you to everyone.....

who helped decorate a tree – another fantastic display showing ingenuity, creativity, resourcefulness and tinsel!

who came to visit, to vote, to take part in the competitions, to worship.

who helped in any way over the weekend.

Without all of you the wonderful display that is “Trees for Advent” would not happen.

The overall favourite tree was decorated by the Cubs. Well done! The tree representing Horkesley Care Network and decorated by Fiona Morrison was the favourite amongst the adult submissions.



Tree to the left is by the
Cubs.
Tree to the right
represents the
Horkesley Care
Network.



Winners of the “number of buttons in the jar” competition:

Diane Woodrow, Meryl Jackson and Janet Bell

Congratulations to them. There were 526 buttons in the jar!

Thank you again for your support at a very busy time of the year. One regular visitor said “Christmas doesn’t begin until I’ve had my first mince pie, and it has to be at the Tree Festival”.

We hope you were blessed by your visit.

Gwen Pyett



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Squirrels 4-6 years / Beavers 6-8 years / Cubs 8-10.5 years / Scouts 10.5-14 years

Our Group had a lovely run in to Christmas and it was brilliant to see so many members of the Great Horkesley community at events such as the Christmas light switch on, Christmas tree festival, the Bishop William Ward fair, and our own sing-along at All Saints Church - thank you to all who joined us. We also did carol singing in the city centre, in aid of Beacon House.

You may have spotted some of our Christmas craft on sale, and thank you to everyone who bought items; all of which raised funds to support activities for young people. We do still have a limited number of our snowmen available if anyone would like to buy one.

We rounded off 2025 with our busy as usual programme; not least our Scouts hand-making those craft snowmen that you may have seen adorning various doorsteps in the village and our Cubs crafting festive gnomes. Meanwhile our Beavers got busy exploring planets and stars earning their space badge; and Squirrels looked at their favourite books and shared stories together.

We're looking forward to a busy and adventurous 2026. Our volunteers are, as we write, planning our termly activities across the sections.



In addition to our regular weekly meetings, we also have a group trip to Duxford Air Museum to look forward to, as well as our Group Camp in June.

During 2026 we hope to see continued progress towards a new Scout and Guide hut on the Horkesley Manor development - and, as always, we are looking for more volunteers to help run activities for young people aged 4-14 in our community (or help behind the scenes). Please do get in touch if you can help.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year!

44th World Scout Conference UK 2027

In 1907, our Founder, Robert Baden-Powell, brought 20 young people together on Brownsea Island, sparking a movement that now spans every corner of the globe. We have over 600,000 members here and continue our ambitions for young people to join our movement.

Next year, UK Scouts will welcome representatives from 176 National Scout Organisations to London for the 44th World Scout Conference. Together, these delegates will carry the hopes, ambitions and priorities of more than 60 million Scouts worldwide.

Through The Garden Gate

It's the 4th of January as I write, a morning of bright sunshine with a bitterly cold wind. We have had a big change of temperature in the last few days taking us into more wintry conditions.



It's brought a flock of Redwings to the Holly Bushes. They are cautious birds I notice, feeding from deep with the branches where possible. A Sparrowhawk has just zoomed across the garden clearing all birds in an instant. What amazing speed they have, and I can see why the Redwings are wary.



We had a visitor to the garden on Christmas morning - the Red Kite sitting in the Oak outside the bedroom window. They are frequently seen hovering over us these days and no longer what you might call a rare bird. I don't know if birds have a sense of smell, but perhaps the air was full of scents of interest on that particular morning!

Until recently we have had something of a Mediterranean winter. I have been able to leave lots of potted plants outside, even a few of those known to be tender such as the beautiful blue flowering Plumbago, and others - even my pots of parsley, which usually dies back in winter, is still showing that rich emerald green and is still useable. I have been sent some poppy seeds I'm about to scatter (a little belatedly maybe). They flower yellow and sometimes orange, and all shades in between. They are *Mecanopsis Cambrica* - also known as Welsh Poppies. They have scented flowers that attract pollinators I've learned. On this subject I will make another seed hunt over to the village orchards where I have spotted some Sweet Rocket (*Hesperis*), flowering along with a 'weed' called Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria*). The latter no doubt thought of as a pest to some - but a plant used by the caterpillars of the Orange Tip Butterfly. Each year in late summer I have looked for the seeds, but the border already strimmed! I shall have to go a little earlier. At the moment the very early flowering shrub, *Lonicera Fragrantissima* is full of flowers; a shrub worth having for anyone interested in scent. A final word for anyone interested in winter scents, who has space for a wall shrub, or sheltered corner, *Azara Microphylla* - a rare evergreen plant with small yellow flowers might be of interest. There is also a form with variegated leaves.

Happy and Healthy New Year to everyone. Take care with our ever-increasing village traffic.

Jill Plane

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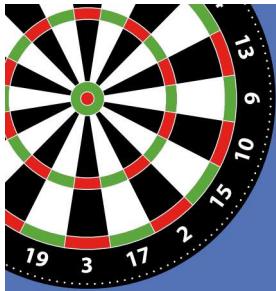


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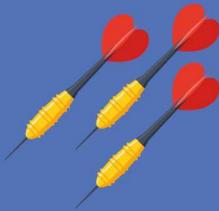
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Great Horkesley Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

Great Horkesley Old Village Hall, CO6 4BH

If anybody in the village is interested in joining us as a leader or young member visit the Join Us page on the Girlguiding website or contact any of the leaders listed on the Useful Contacts (see page 70).

Both Rainbows and Brownies enjoyed a visit to Hollywood Bowl at the end of last term – bowling and supper and lots of chat!!

All three units will be taking part in Braisfest organised by Braiswick District at Essex Outdoors in East Mersea in June, a weekend of different activities and sports. The Guides have two nights, the Brownies one night and the Rainbows a long day, all enjoying a campfire on the beach on the Saturday evening.



Great Horkesley Rainbows

We have eighteen girls in the unit with a long waiting list – five new girls have joined after others moved to Brownies. This term we will be working on the Stage 1 Skills Builder Make Change from the Take Action Theme Award, with topics covering Set the Story Straight, No Problem, Charity Challenges, Growing Cups of Kindness and Care about My Cause – all aimed at thinking about how we can help and care for others. The linked Interest badges are Helper and Recycling so the Rainbows will be challenged to complete one of these. Thinking Day is also an important event in February this term where Girlguiding remembers our founders Lord and Lady Baden Powell and we learn about other members throughout the world choosing a country for crafts and food tasting as well as enrolling our new girls that evening. With the lighter evenings coming we will be to enjoy the outdoors with some games and activities outside too.



Great Horkesley Brownies

We have a full unit of twenty-four at Brownies this term with three new girls joining us from Rainbows. We will be working on the Stage 2 Lead Skills Builder covering the topics of Change the Rules, Dance Challenge, Design Time, Rope Race Challenge and Leader Goals working together in Sixes to sort out problems and improve on given ideas. We will work on the Languages Interest badge in our lead up to Thinking Day. Outdoor activities from the Unit Meeting Activities pack will also take place.



Great Horkesley Guides

The Guides are growing in numbers but there are still spaces for new members to join. The girls enjoyed a special Girlguiding showing of Zootropia 2 at the cinema in December. They took part in the County Commissioners Winter Challenge and collected items for the food bank – 77.1 kg was delivered to the bank. This term they are collecting the plastic tubs our Christmas sweets come in to return to Greene King in a recycling campaign Tubs to Pubs effort. Much of the unit programme is girl led so the Patrols plan what they would like to do – often involves cooking and eating! The unit will be celebrating Thinking Day with food and crafts from other countries.



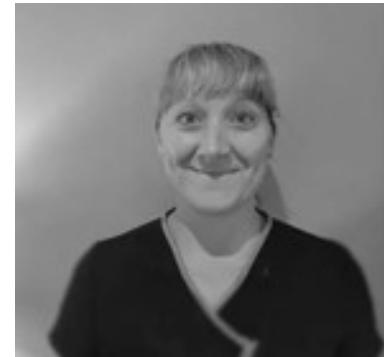
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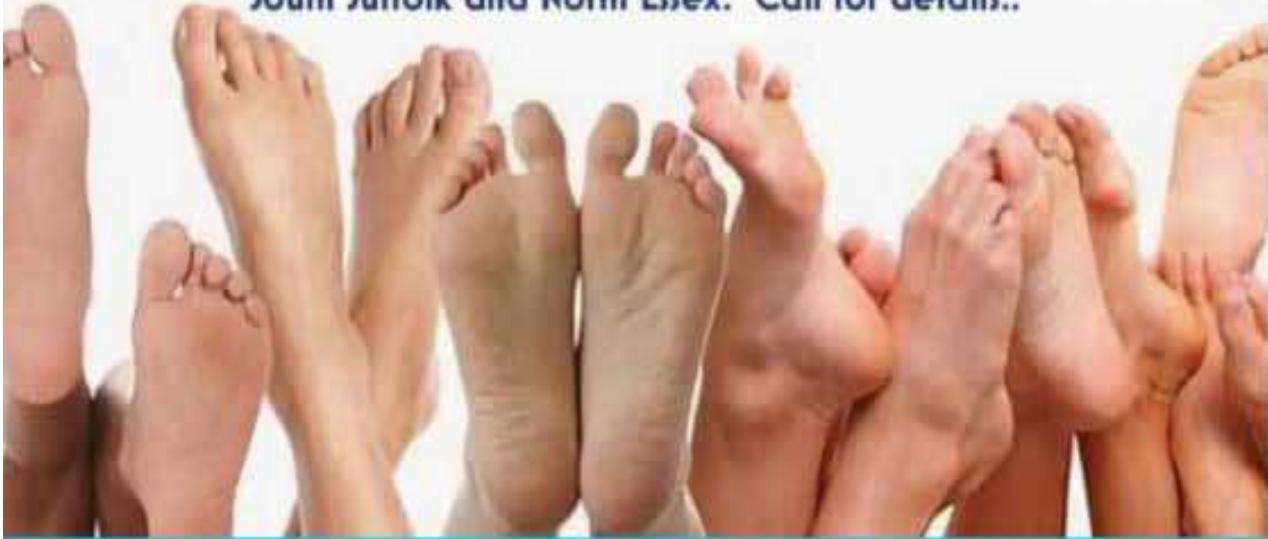
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Maisy Berridge (MCFHP MAFHP)



Great Horkesley Christmas Lights & Carols 2025

Happy New Year from the Great Horkesley Community Events team!

The “2025 Christmas Light Switch and Carols” event was a resounding success; we had a great time and the weather was fantastic. It was lovely seeing so many people attend from the village many of whom decorated an ornament to hang on the tree which was festooned with colourful lights.



The event featured stalls that sold handmade items such as Christmas wreaths, decorations, candles, wax melts, textiles, hair accessories, and 3D-printed items. We were warm and well fed by The Mobile Pizza Co, Meade's Coffee & Dessert Bar and mulled wine and cider - we hope you had a great evening and thank you for supporting us and these local small businesses.

Our thanks to all who contributed to this community event, including...

- Great & Little Horkesley WI for giving out free mince pies and gingerbread
- All Saints' with St John's Church for making free hot chocolate
- Great Horkesley Scouts for the BBQ
- Bishop William Ward school and Mr Bull for their fantastic singing

We are now moving on to organising the 2026 Summer Fayre.....
save the date: Saturday 27th June.

Sam Jarvis
GHE Community Events Team



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Horkesley Care Network

The Care Network is a registered charity which exists to offer help to those in our local community who are without transport. Should you need to get to a doctors or hospital appointment, collect a prescription, attend social activities around the villages, etc. we have a pool of volunteer drivers available to help you.

Phone Lesley 01206 271576 or Fiona 01206 271387/07826265464 and we will make the necessary arrangements

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History of Great Horkesley

Prehistory – Roman period:

Palaeolithic, Neolithic, and Iron-Age activity evidenced by tools and cropmarks. Roman coins and pottery found; Roman road from Colchester to Nayland possibly survives as Horkesley Causeway.

1086: Domesday Book records 67 free and unfree tenants.

c. 1130: Name Horkesley first recorded.

1219–1227 Great Horkesley referred to as “Old Horkesley”.

1232–1235: Meadow disputes along the Stour; park created in the north-east of the parish (later Horkesley Park).

14th century: Westwood Green established.

15th century: Medieval settlement shifts toward Horkesley Causeway; several surviving timber-framed houses date from this period.

16th century:

1548: 200 houseling people recorded.

1575: Great Horkesley described as a “great town”.

Late 16th century: Population growth followed by plague outbreaks (1597, 1603–4).

17th century:

1608: Continued plague mortality and occasional unrest which included a riot.

1671: 85 households recorded.

1691: Robin Hood’s Oak recorded. Known for healing traditions and linked to folklore and local magic.

1705–1713 River Stour canalised and made navigable.

18th century:

1712–69: Inns reduced from four to one.

1790: 50 households recorded.

19th century: Population rises from 482 (1801) to 844 (1871), then declines.

1840: Horkesley Park c. 220 acres; cottages on greens.

1861: Great Horkesley cricket team play at Horkesley Park.

1863: Gt Horkesley C of E school built, School Lane.

1874: Yew Tree Inn first recorded.

20th century:

1914–1919: Woodhouse Farm used as an auxiliary military hospital.

1920s–1930s: Council housing built on the heath; social clubs expand then decline.

1955: Parish boundaries with Little Horkesley reorganised.

1960s–1970s: Major private housing development (Keelers Way & Black Brook Road); population growth accelerates.

1976: Bishop William Ward (primary school) opens.

1991–1996: Population exceeds 2,100.

21st century:

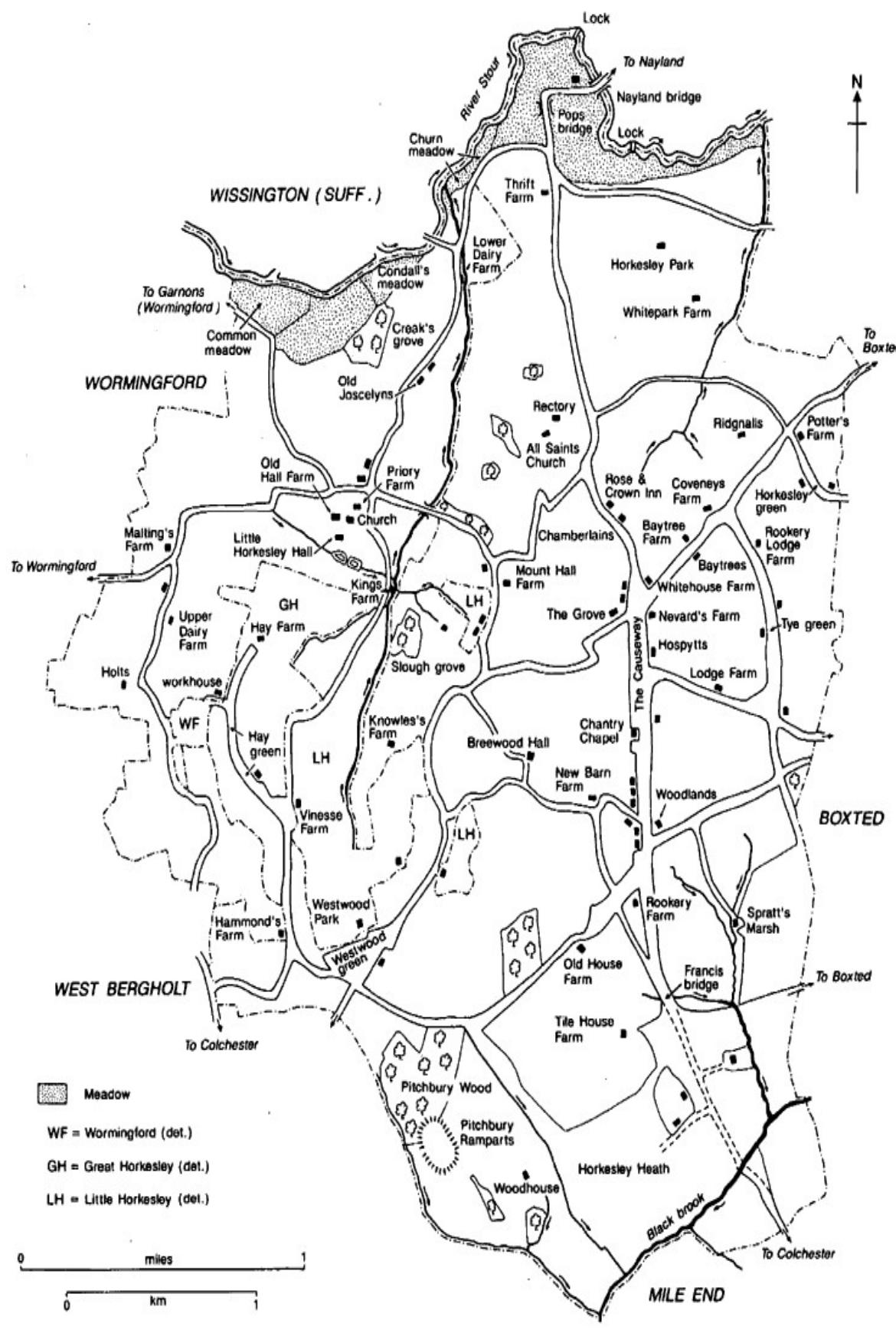
2013: New Village Hall opened on the Village Green, Tile House Lane

2021: Population is 2,697.

2023: Trinity School (secondary school) opens.

2024: Horkesley Hamlet housing development built on the outskirts of the village.

GREAT & LITTLE HORKESLEY c. 1800



Great Horkesley Roads Wordsearch

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

Find these words:
Barnfield
Brick Kiln
Broad
Coach
Crescent
Elstar
Grange
Grantham
Green
Ivy Lodge
Kelso
London
Millers
Old House
Pattinson
Sandon
School
Terrace Hall
Tile House

Answers on page 67

Draw a Line to
Match the Word
to the Image

Answers on page 67

carrot



bucket



cat



pig



dog



peas



rake



well



apple



hen



goat



barn



Cartons and Flexible Plastics Now Accepted In Your Kerbside Recycling!

A reminder to residents that on 29th September 2025, Colchester City Council expanded its kerbside recycling collections to include flexible plastics and cartons, such as Tetra Paks, for the first time. This change applies to all households across Colchester and residents can start including these new materials in their clear plastic recycling bags for plastics recycling.

The Government set out that, from April 2026, all waste collection authorities must begin accepting cartons and, from April 2027, flexible plastics as part of the Simpler Recycling legislation. The council's decision to bring forward these plans reflects the commitment to improving recycling rates and reducing environmental impact.

Allowing residents to recycle these items from home helps cut down car journeys to supermarket drop-off points, reduces landfill waste, and lowers the city's carbon footprint.

Cllr Martin Goss, Portfolio Holder for Waste, Neighbourhoods and Leisure, said:

"We know residents want to do the right thing by recycling more, and we're making it easier for them to do just that. By expanding what can be recycled at the kerbside, we're helping people save time, reduce car journeys, and recycle even more without changing their routine. It's a win for residents and a win for the environment."

What new items should I now recycle?

- Carrier bags
- Freezer / sandwich bags
- Crisps / sweets / snack bar bags and packets
- Bags (e.g. surrounding: bread, fruit, veg, cakes, biscuits etc)
- Dog/Cat food pouches (clean)
- Tetra Paks (e.g. crisp tubes, orange juice/ oat milk cartons etc)
- Plastic nets & labels (e.g. citrus fruits)
- Plastic film wrapping (e.g. around magazines, around multi-pack of cans, around loo rolls, around food products, around milk bottles)
- Cling film
- Plastic liners (e.g. cereal bags)
- Bubble wrap
- Plant pots (only flimsy small ones!)

How do I recycle these new items?

- Put these items in the same recycling bags alongside your usual plastic recycling
- Rinse, squash and put the lids back on any cartons
- Ensure items are food free and are as clean as possible

What items can I NOT recycle at the kerbside?

(all of these can be taken to a recycling centre)

- Chemical bottles (bleach is accepted)
- Blister packs (e.g. tablets)
- Hard plastics (toys etc)
- DVD/CD cases
- Polystyrene
- Coffee machine pods

Where can I get more information or find my local recycling centre?

Visit the Colchester City Council website:
<https://www.colchester.gov.uk/recycling-and-rubbish/>

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Dispensary Opening 9am-12.30pm / 1.30pm - 5pm Mon - Thurs & 9am-3pm Fridays

GP Education Events: The Surgery will be CLOSED from 12noon onwards on Tuesday 24th February for staff training purposes.

We wish everyone a happy & healthy 2026

Winter Blues

We are now Mid-Winter...and as the weather trend seems to be that it gets colder rather than warming up in Spring. PLEASE wrap up warm, drink plenty of fluids & keep your bellies full. There are a lot of germs about, so please use the pharmacy services in the first instance for Sinusitis (over 12yrs old), sore throats (over 5 yrs old), ear infections (ages 1-17 yrs) or UTI's (Women only ages 16-64 yrs).

If you require an appointment please use the online appointment system or telephone our reception team for us to complete the online form on your behalf.

New Year - New You??!!

For information: Suffolk & North East Essex ICB has not commissioned our practice to prescribe Mounjaro for weight management purposes.

Our Healthcare Assistants at all 3 sites are happy to discuss and refer you to any weight management support you might need to achieve a new healthy happier you in 2026. We also have smoking cessation appointments which support you on your journey to stop smoking.

Please either request an appointment using our online appointment system (for routine appointments) or pop into your local surgery and our receptionist will be happy to book you with one of the healthcare team.

Movers & Shakers

We will be saying farewell to Nurse Maddy Arkwright at the end of January, and wish her well in her new job. You may notice a couple of new faces in Dispensary - Josie Ramsamy who has been with us since mid-November as a Dispenser and also Emma Morgan who has been allowed downstairs!! (she has been our prescription clerk for a number of years and now is a training Dispenser).

The Friendly Ear Hearing Support Group

Do you sometimes find it difficult to follow what is being discussed?
Or wonder why so many people "mumble"?
Do they complain the TV is too loud?

You are not alone. 1 in 7 adults experience hearing loss.

We are a mixed, friendly group who are all struggling with this problem. We meet once a month and try to support each other through sharing tips and ideas. In addition, we try to improve our communication skills with some lip-reading and finger spelling practice.

We offer help, understanding and friendship.
Like to know more?

Contact gill_shrimpton@hotmail.com



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 125 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 an extremely busy run up to Christmas including a Christmas concert at Nayland Village Hall and Advent carols at Boxted Village Hall. We played for carol services at Boxted, Polstead and Wimpole Road Methodist churches, as well as playing for Carols on the Quay in Rowhedge. – all different in style but all celebrating Christmas. We also continued the Band's tradition of playing in the streets of Boxted carols around the trees in Nayland and Stoke by Nayland. One special event was for a wedding in Boxted on 20th December where the church was beautifully decorated and the singing amazing.

Looking ahead to 2026 we have concerts booked for March in Frinton, and a fete in Gt Bromley as well as the usual Easter service at Boxted and Colchester Band stand – always a favourite place to play. Some members of the band will be guest players with Tendring Band in the Spring band contest. Others joined the tour to France in November organised by one of our members which took players from around ten different bands and gave concerts and performances around the war graves area.

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 Petter 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 Horkestone Village News?
Would you consider submitting an article to be published?**

I am looking for articles about:
The villagers' perspective of Great Horkestone
History of the village
Book reviews
Recipes
Pets
Local walks

**Submit your article, including photos where relevant, to
horkesleyvillagenews@gmail.com by 5th April 2026.**

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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**



Meets on the first & third Wednesday of each month

**2pm - 4pm
Boxted Village Hall,
CO4 5RE**

A small friendly group.
Come and join in!
New members always welcome.

Contact: 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.

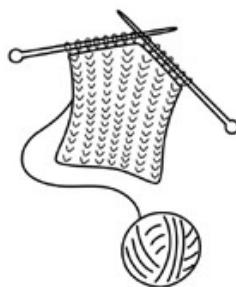
Join us at the **Great Horkesley Village Hall, CO6 4EA**

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:

10th & 24th February / 10th & 24th March
14th & 28th April

**For more information contact
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Great Horkesley Carpet Bowls Club



We entered a team into the church quiz in October however we did not do as well as we had hoped.

The club singles competition has been completed and everyone won at least one match. The overall winner was Michael Hubbard with Brian Fisher finishing as runner up.

It was noted that information on various websites and social media was out of date, we believe that the correct details now show.

Interested in trying carpet bowls?

We currently have 13 members so still room for more!

We meet every Thursday evening from 7pm at Great Horkesley Old Village Hall, CO6 4BH (on the A134 between The Yew Tree and the Post Office).

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

Many outdoor bowlers from Severals have joined Boxted Bowls Club for the winter season, membership there has increased to 22. We play in the village hall and have room for three carpets from 2pm till 4pm on Friday afternoons.

Mike Hubbard, Great Horkesley Club Secretary



TABLE TENNIS

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:

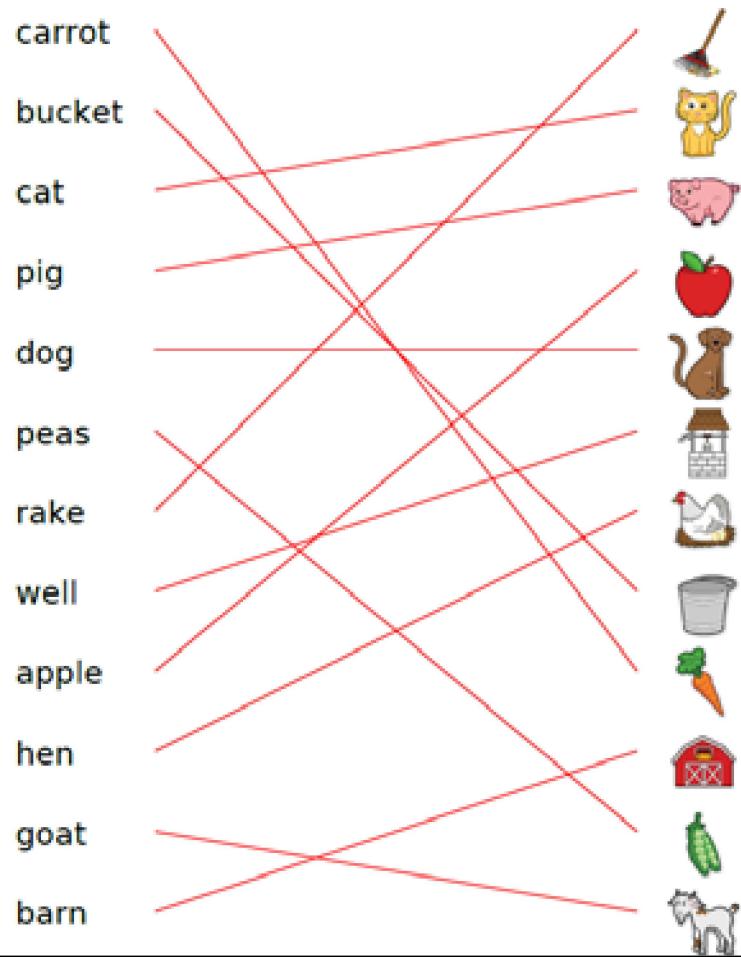
**Steve Holland 07785384676
Janet Faiers 07899951482
Andy Ayton 07871502945**

Come and give us a look

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

Answers from
page 52

Answers from
page 52





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



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
- Get the latest village news & event information
 - Contact residents for queries/recommendations

Scan the QR code below to join the Facebook group:



Great Horkesley Old Village Hall CO6 4BH



Current Bookings:

Monday: Rainbows, Brownies, Lecture Group & Table Tennis

Tuesday: Dance Rehearsal & Table Tennis

Wednesday: Girlguiding

Thursday: Carpet Bowls Group

Friday: Table Tennis

Call Dott 01206 271279 / 07508731251

UPCOMING EVENTS

05/02/2026	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm (p17)
10/02/2026	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm (p64)
10/02/2026	WI Meeting, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-9pm (p32/33)
24/02/2026	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm (p64)
26/02/2026	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm (p17)
06/03/2026	Quiz Night, BWW School 7.30pm (p13)
10/03/2026	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm (p64)
10/03/2026	WI Meeting, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-9pm (p32/33)
13/03/2026	Non Pupil Day BWW School
17/03/2026	Great Horkesley Parish Council meeting 7.30pm
19/03/2026	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm (p17)
24/03/2026	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm (p64)
03/04/2026	Good Friday (Bank Holiday)
03/04/2026	Last date for submissions for next GH Village News
06/04/2026	Easter Monday (Bank Holiday)
09/04/2026	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm (p17)
14/04/2026	WI Meeting, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-9pm (p32/33)
28/04/2026	Great Horkesley Parish Council meeting 7.30pm
15/05/2025	BWW School Family Colour Run & BBQ (p35)

For details of:

Food Pantry at BWW School see page 17

All Saints' with St John's Church Services see page 27

Dart League, Pool League & Quiz Nights available at
The Half Butt Inn - see website for details.

Useful Contacts

Councils

Chairman Great Horkesley Parish Council..	Christopher Arnold	07703168125
	E-mail: cllr.arnold@greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk	
Parish Clerk.....	Teri Duckworth	07375095486
	E-mail: parish-clerk@greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk	
City Councillor.....	William Sunnucks	07771940763
City Councillor	Darius Laws.....	07786007560
City Councillor.....	Tom Rowe.....	07375238749
County Councillor	Lewis Barber.....	07876237137

Village Groups

Great Horkesley Community Events	ghcommunityevents@gmail.com
Gt. & Lt. Horkesley WI President.....	Marilyn Hurst
Rainbow Leader	Liz Petter
Guide Leader.....	Ann Dyer.....
Brownie Leader	Liz Petter
Scout Co-Group Lead Volunteer	Will Lodge.....
Youth Club	Karen Carr
Horkesley Care Network.....	Lesley Richardson.....

Great Horkesley Village News

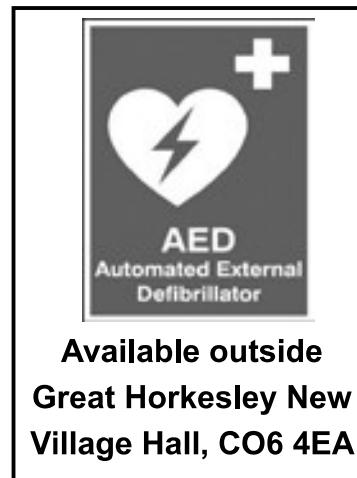
Editor	Caroline Evans	07747751063
	E-mail: horkesleyvillagenews@gmail.com	

Local Numbers

Post Office	01206 271306
The Half Butt Inn.....	01206 370369
The Yew Tree.....	01206 273450
Bishop William Ward School	01206 271336

National Numbers

Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Action Fraud	0300 123 2040
Samaritans	116 123
The Mental Health Advice & Support.....	0800 138 0990
The Silver Line.....	0800 4 70 80 90
UK Power Networks	0800 31 63 105
https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/	
Anglian Water.....	03457 145 145
https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/	



Useful Links

Missed Bin Collections:
<https://www.colchester.gov.uk/missed-bins/>
Potholes:
<https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us/report-pothole>





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