

GREAT HORKESLEY VILLAGE NEWS



Spring/Summer Issue 148
May 2026 - July 2026



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From the Editor

It's been lovely to see the flowering bulbs around the village and watch the birds busy with nest building.

It's also been a difficult time for me: I said goodbye to Tigger, my 16-year-old ginger cat, and he is sorely missed. My work meetings, where he loved to make an appearance, aren't the same without him. When I'm ready I'll donate his food and litter to Colchester Cat Rescue, and perhaps one day I'll visit the cats there if my heart allows.

Rusty continues to keep me busy. We have re-started his Agility classes and he loves his agility dog friends. It has also allowed me to make human friends which is a lovely thing. Taking Rusty for a walk is also much more enjoyable this time of year although it has been a tad windy recently which he isn't fond of.

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 August to October, a Summer/Autumn theme would be ideal. Issue 148 front cover photo courtesy of:

Paula Webster

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



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Great Horkesley Parish Council

www.greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk

clerk@greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk

Since the last Village News edition, we have had a little reshuffle of the staffing structure and Grace is now an Assistant Clerk for GHPC. Grace has started up a new Village Hall Facebook page and will be posting updates on this alongside the usual Parish Council Facebook page. Please take a look at both and follow them to see any recent news. This also means she will have some time available to apply for grant funding and assist with any projects the Parish Council has coming up, the main one currently being taking over the ownership and management of the Jubilee Village Green. We are still waiting for further progress on this.

At the most recent ordinary meeting of the Parish Council, members agreed that more information about council decisions should be posted on our social media, so that it is easier for residents to keep up to date with current local issues and future plans. Grace will also be working with the Village Warden to update council pages with photos of work he has been carrying out around the village too. Please remember that residents are welcome to attend any public meetings of the Parish Council, and there is an item on the agenda for parishioners to speak if they wish. As well as the Council's Facebook page, you can also find lots of information on the Council website, including agendas and minutes from meetings, financial reports and monthly reports from the Clerk and Village Warden.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/GtHorkesleyParishCouncil

Internet: www.greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk

Updates from recent meetings:

- The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 19th May 7pm in the Village Hall.
- Members agreed to raise, with senior members of Essex Highways, their significant concerns about the deterioration of Coach Road between Old House Road and the Westwood Park crossroads.
- There is no progress on the transfer of the ownership of the Jubilee Green. We continue to wait for legal due process being carried out by the CCC.
- Members agreed to proceed with the purchase of an external light for the Village Hall, above where the Christmas tree usually goes. This will ensure any events which take place in the area immediately surrounding the Village Hall can be well lit if they take place in winter.

We are still receiving many complaints about parking, particularly during the primary school drop off and pick up times. A large number of people that live in the village still choose to drive to the school, so if you are reading this, please **do not park on double yellow lines, yellow zigzags or on the corners of junctions**, however quick you are going to be. Some parking has been incredibly dangerous, and if this continues then someone is going to be seriously hurt. 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 Horkesley Parish Council



Regular Activities

On Mondays

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

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

On Tuesdays

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

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

Looking for the perfect venue for a family gathering, club, or group activity?

There is a main hall and smaller meeting room available for one off or regular bookings. Parking, kitchen and disabled access are all available.

Set on the village green with a childrens play park right next door!

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

Check availability on our website:

<https://www.greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk/booking-enquiries>



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
✉ dariusglaws@gmail.com



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

Boxted Bridge Needs Fixing!

We recently showed Suffolk Highways' boss, Paul West, the current situation on the ground.

The bridge is owned by Essex County Council. While it is welcome that pedestrians and cyclists can now cross following a recent load test, it remains closed to vehicles. We now urgently need a further assessment to determine whether cars and light vehicles can safely use the bridge. Residents on both sides of the border need progress and we need it soon. We will keep applying pressure on this one!



Great Horkesley Community Events

We are delighted to be returning for our third Great Horkesley Summer Fayre on Saturday 27th June 2026 (see page 30 for full details).

Alongside all your favourite stalls, delicious food and family-friendly fun, we're turning up the summer atmosphere with a live DJ bringing sunshine vibes all afternoon. Feeling competitive? Take on our free

military assault course, open to all ages, and see if you can claim the prize for the fastest time.

We're thrilled to welcome back Spirit of the Wild with their incredible animals, as well as inflatables, face painting, and of course a fully stocked bar.

A huge thank you to our main sponsor, Gemstone Mortgages, whose support helps make this event possible. We're also grateful to Great Horkesley Parish Council and Optimum IFA for their generous contributions. Special thanks go to Jamie Bradbury (JBFC Football), Great Horkesley WI, our brilliant volunteers, and the entire events team for giving their time and energy to bring this day to life.

As always, the wonderful Bishop William Ward choir will open the fayre at 12pm, setting the tone for an unforgettable afternoon.

We can't wait to see you there and celebrate the start of another fantastic summer together!

Sam Jarvis & The GH Community Events Team



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

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 don'ts:

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/dropped kerb
- 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

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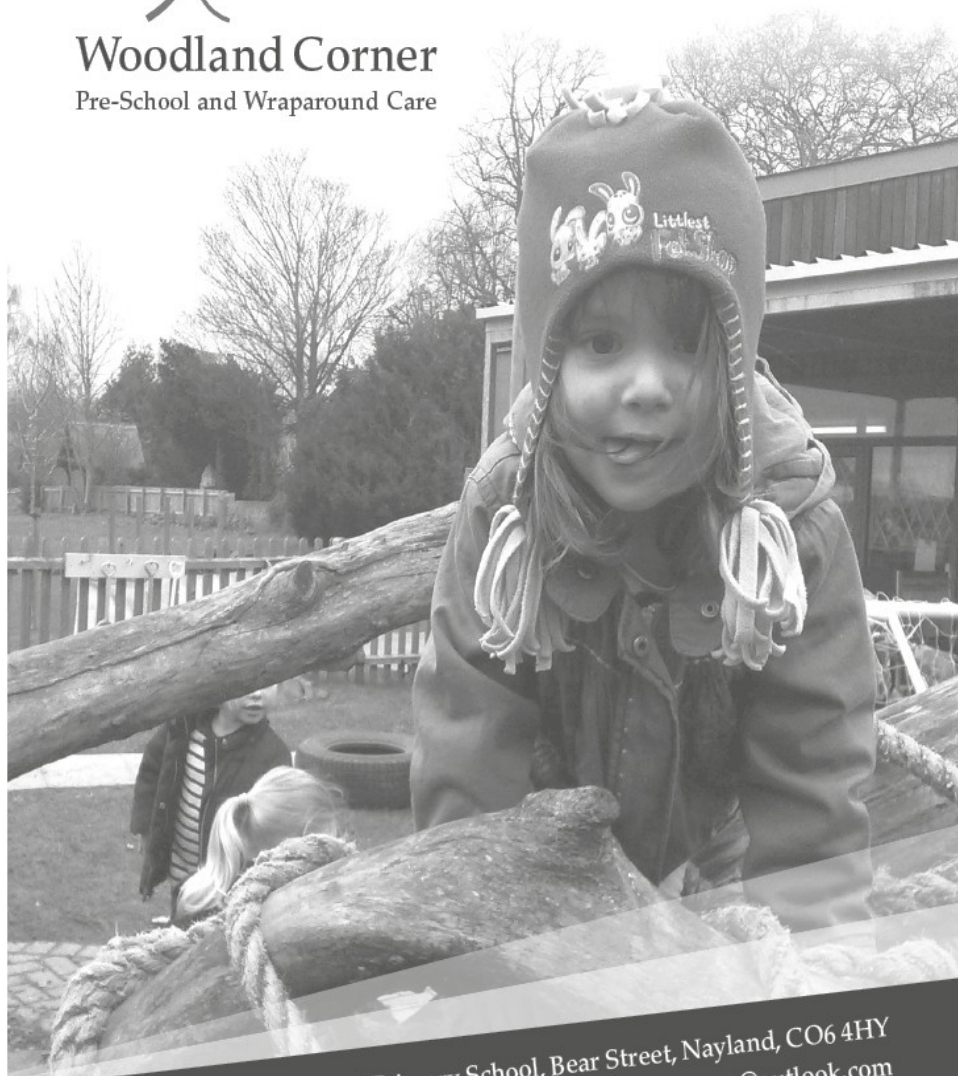
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www.naylandfete.co.uk



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West Bergholt Gardeners' Association

The next meeting of the West Bergholt Gardeners' Association (WBGAs) is on Monday 20th April, where Ian Bull will be presenting "The Herbaceous Border at Hyde Hall".

Our final meeting of this current season is on Monday 18th May where Nick Dobson will be reminiscing about the flowers which were significant to our late queen, Elizabeth II.

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 9.00pm. Tea and coffee is available. 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. Reduced price membership is available for the remainder of this current season, or we welcome visitors for any of the topics which may be of interest at £5.00 on the door.

We also organise a number of visits to interesting gardens or garden related venues, usually in late Spring or early Summer; details are available at our meetings.

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

Fun Dance Class
Every Thursday
9.45am - 10.20am



Pilates
Every Thursday
10.30am - 11.30am

Boxted Village Hall, CO4 5RE
For more details call Jo Clarke
07887518031



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 made Mother's Day cards and enjoyed a joint Easter party to finish the term with crafts and games on an Easter theme – a good chance for the girls to mix and those moving on to Brownies to meet their new Sixes.



Great Horkesley Rainbows

We have eighteen girls in the unit with a long waiting list – five new girls will join after Easter. This term we completed 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 girls completed the Recycling Interest badge incorporating lots of recycling in their Skills Builder including bird feeders from toilet roll inners, games using pictures from calendars and planting bulbs for Mother's Day in chocolate mousse pots. We celebrated Thinking Day by 'visiting' the Guiding World centres and the new girls made their Promise that night. With the lighter evenings coming in the summer term, we will be working on one of the Have Adventures Skills Builders and challenging the girls to Agility or Seasons Interest badges.



Great Horkesley Brownies

We have a full unit of twenty-four at Brownies this term with two new girls joining us from Rainbows and a couple joining us new to Guiding. We completed 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 completed the Inventing Interest badge. We 'went' to Italy for Thinking Day, making Promise pizzas and being Cochinellas for the evening. Next term we will complete outdoor activities from the Unit Meeting Activities pack and a Skills Builder from the Know Myself Theme. We have had the pleasure of three girls completing their Gold Award, two their Silver and four Bronze Awards this term. Eight girls are looking forward to the Braisfest weekend in June.



Great Horkesley Guides

The Guides are growing in numbers but there are still spaces for new members to join. The unit has been working on the 100 years of World Thinking Day challenge badge. The girls enjoyed making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday and making Easter nests and made cards for Mother's Day. They are looking forward to the Braisfest weekend, and this term will start preparing for their summer camp, learning the skills needed for cooking and camping outdoors.



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Saturday 16th May

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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.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Did you know that.....

The WI may know a thing or two about making delicious jam or crocheting beautiful garments, but did you know that WI members across the country are also pretty amazing at playing Walking Netball, Rugby and singing, to name just a few! From singing with Tony Christie at St Pancras Station, London to hiding crafted corgis around the country to celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, WI members are always keen to show off their skills and enjoy a range of exciting events.

Learning has always been part of who we are at the WI - and now it has a new digital home. As the world evolves, so do the ways we access knowledge. VIA is the WI's new online learning platform, designed to reflect the lives, interests and needs of today's learners.

From building new skills to exploring everyday topics, VIA offers flexible, accessible courses that fit around real life - whether you're learning from home or with your WI. Open to everyone (with WI members enjoying free access to most courses), VIA lets you learn alongside friends, family, and your wider community. With clearer navigation and flexible formats, learning is now more welcoming than ever before.

The speaker booked for January was unable to attend due to illness, so we spent an interesting evening hearing from members about how and why they came to live in Great Horkesley. It was fascinating to learn more about our members' lives and their families. We had a fun session in February with Lucy Hewitt who provided a Move it or Lose it taster class. The Move it or Lose it programme of exercises are scientifically proven to improve strength, leading to better balance. It features chair-based exercises and standing exercises and are great fun and improve energy levels.



Some members went to Beth Chatto to learn about Snowdrops and tour the gardens looking at the various varieties. We learnt that there are over 2500 cultivars and they originally came from Europe.

In garden folklore it tells us that before moving snowdrops, one should always tell the snowdrop what is happening, otherwise they will not thrive in their new location.

Great and Little Horkesley WI

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

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

We welcomed Amanda Sutherland in March who has inspired 100s of groups over the last 15 years with her inspirational success story of a journey through fashion studies, costume design and then onto running a creative accessories empire.

Having assisted on many television, theatre and film productions, she entertained us with amusing and inspirational tales of working in the costume industry, and how through hard work and pure dedication the dream job really can be created.

She spoke about her career journey working as an assistant costumier, a bridal wear consultant, a wardrobe assistant for West End shows and as a freelance designer. A stunning display of headdresses and accessories completed the presentation. There was then an opportunity for members to purchase items from her shop. A popular item were the wrist warmers which keep the hands warm without restricting the fingers.



As part of our Dental Health Matters campaign, our members made bags and placed a toothbrush and toothpaste inside.



These were given to children at Tiddlywinks Preschool and the Reception class at Bishop William Ward school. It has been proven that tooth decay is one of the main reasons children are admitted to hospital.

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:

12th May - Dedham Therapy Farm. Resolutions discussion and vote.

9th June – Food Tasting (Basic, Better, Best)

14th July - Outing to Green Island Garden

11th August – Beetle Drive

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

It's been another exciting and activity-packed term for all sections of the 1st Great Horkesley Scout Group. From creative crafts to adventurous outings, our young people have been busy learning new skills, making friends, and having fun along the way.

Squirrels

Our Squirrels have had a fantastic term, diving into their Book Reader Badge with a fun "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" theme. Storytelling came to life through imaginative activities, and the young members really embraced the adventure. They also had the chance to try something completely different—testing out some boxing skills during a visit to a local gym, which proved to be a big hit!

Beavers

The Beavers have been busy getting creative and thoughtful. They prepared delicious treats for a special Mother's Day tea, showing off their teamwork and baking skills. They also celebrated the vibrant Hindi festival of Holi, learning about its meaning while designing and creating their own colourful tie-dye T-shirts—resulting in some wonderfully bright creations!

Cubs

It's been an action-packed term for the Cubs. A highlight was their visit to Suffolk Ski Centre, where they had great fun whizzing down the slopes on ringos. Back at meetings, they embraced the spirit of the Winter Olympics, taking part in their own version of curling using ice pucks—bringing plenty of laughter and friendly competition.

Scouts

Our Scouts put their problem-solving and teamwork skills to the test with an alphabet shopping challenge, racing to collect items for every letter. The evening ended on a meaningful note, as they donated the collected items to the local food bank, showing true community spirit and generosity. They also participated in the County Backpack event (see photo).



Looking Ahead – Summer Term

There's plenty to look forward to in the coming months! Plans include a group trip to Duxford and a group camp at Thorrington, Scouts will also be heading off to their summer camp and to watch the Red Roses at Twickenham, promising more adventure and unforgettable experiences.

We'll round off the term with a very special celebration camp, marking some incredible milestones: 5 years of Squirrels, 40 years of Beavers, and an amazing 110 years of Cubs.

*Thank you to all our leaders, volunteers, and families for your continued support.
 Here's to another brilliant term ahead!*



SCAN ME



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Head Office Location

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3

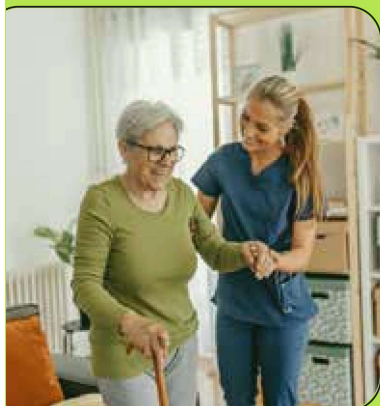
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Church News

May-July 2026

All Saints' with St. John's,
Great Horkesley

***Growing and sharing God's love to
reach out and give hope.***



Some thoughts from

Rev'd. Heather Wilcox, Priest-in-Charge

Making the most of the journey

As spring turns to summer as the next few months unfold, many of us will be planning and going on holiday. As part of that, no doubt we will be looking for the most effective and quickest ways to get to our destinations. However, in that process of determining the quickest way to get from A to B we can lose sight of the fact that the journey is all part of how we get to our destination in the first place.

As I reflect back on long car journeys to holiday destinations in the past, the journeys I remember most are the ones where we planned in a stop at a castle or park along the way, rather than the many times we may have stopped at motorway services. It was when we took the time to slow down, enjoy the journey and visit a castle or park, that we arrived at our destination more relaxed and ready for our holiday.

In the middle of April, I began my three months Extended Study Leave, or Sabbatical, for want of a better word. As part of that Sabbatical, I will be going to Santiago in Spain, but I intend to make the most of the journey and go by foot, walking the 488 mile route from France, over the Pyrenees and then across Spain, a journey that will take me 40 days, from the 21st April – 30th May.

This is a trip that is as much about the journey as it is about the destination. I hope that by the journey I will be shaped and changed, as I take the time to slow down, to learn a different pace and just enjoy being in God's wonderful creation and the great outdoors.

For Christians, faith is a lifelong journey of growth, trust and transformation. Faith is not a static state or a final destination; it is a dynamic process that unfolds over a lifetime. It involves trusting God, embracing challenges and growing spiritually through experiences and reflection. As Pope Francis emphasised, faith is like a pilgrimage: it requires risk, effort and a clear goal and it is never fully complete, always inviting believers to move closer to God and deepen their spiritual understanding.

So where are you on the journey today? As I walk the Camino, I am looking forward to the encounters I may have with fellow pilgrims along the way, a reminder that we are all on our own journeys through life.

And so, my encouragement is for us all, to slow down from all the rushing and make the most of the journey, lest we miss the most important thing.

May God Bless you, ***Heather***

Forthcoming Events

Saturday May 16th at St. John's Church, 6.30pm for 7pm

Spring Wine Tasting Event In aid of All Saints' Alive (charity 1118977) - see separate page.

Saturday May 30th Churchyard Clear Up at All Saints' - 9.30am to 12 noon

Details from John Mehen, Tel: 07719 948378

Come and help keep our Churchyard beautiful.

Saturday June 27th Community Summer Fayre,

On the green near the Village Hall, 12 noon to 4.00pm.

Visit the Church stand and the Giant Tombola!

Regular events at St. John's, CO6 4FE

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/>



Messy Church



NEW!!

Third Sunday of the month, 4.00pm at St. John's Church

***Messy Church is a fantastic and relaxed way
to be together.***

ANYONE and EVERYONE is WELCOME.

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US

IT WOULD BE GREAT TO SEE YOU!

See Separate Flyer for more details.

- ***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*

Heather has responsibility for the six parishes of West Bergholt, Great Horkesley, Langham with Boxted, Little Horkesley, Wormingford & Mount Bures

**Heather is away on Sabbatical until mid-July. All enquiries to the Church Administrator, see below. Heather is assisted by:*

Curate, Rev. Emma Barr Tel: 07801 659345, email: revemmabarr@gmail.com

Rev. Anne Mason (retired) Tel: 07968 424670

email: revdannemason@gmail.com

Church Administrator: is the first point of contact for enquiries about baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Jo Russell & 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 - 12noon

Please note that enquiries relating to Baptisms and Weddings will be dealt with during office hours.

Churchwarden:

Geoffrey Baker 07909 995880 email: geoffreybak@btinternet.com

PCC Secretary:

Sandra Baker: 01206 271760 email: spbaker18@gmail.com

Treasurer:

John Mehen: 07719 948378 email: john.mehen@gmail.com

Services May - July 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.

In Heather's absence the regular pattern of services will change in May and early June, as shown below. Until mid-July a number of visiting clergy will be deputising. We are grateful for their help.

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

<u>May</u>	3 rd	9.30am	Benefice Service	St. Mary's, West Bergholt
	10 th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints'
		11.00am	Morning Praise	All Saints'
	17 th	4.00pm	Messy Church	St. John's
	24 th	11.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	31 st	10.30am	6 Parishes United Celebration Service	All Saints'
			<i>Guest preacher, Mark Wood (KORBAN)</i>	
<u>June</u>	7 th	11.00am	Benefice Holy Communion	St. John's
	14 th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints'
		11.00am	Morning Praise	All Saints'
	21 st	4.00pm	Messy Church	St John's
	28 th	11.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
<u>July</u>	5 th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. John's
	12 th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints'
		11.00am	Morning Praise	All Saints'
	19 th	4.00pm	Messy Church	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.

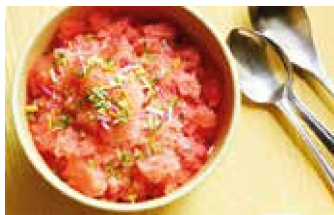


Summer Cooking With Kids

Watermelon Ice

Ingredients:

- 1 Small Watermelon (peeled)
- 1 tsp Clear Honey
- 1 Lime, zested, 1/2 juiced
- Colourful Sprinkles (optional)



Method:

1. Cut the watermelon into bite-sized pieces: you should have about 600g.
2. Transfer to a lined baking tray in a single layer, then open-freeze for 6 hrs or overnight. Transfer to a freezer bag until needed.
3. To serve, tip the frozen watermelon into a food processor with the honey and lime juice; pulse until thick and smooth. Scatter with colourful sprinkles.

Easy Lemonade

Ingredients:

- 3 Unwaxed Lemons (chopped)
- 140g Caster Sugar
- 1Ltr Cold Water
- Sliced Lemon and/or Lime (optional)
- Ice Cubes/Crushed Ice (optional)



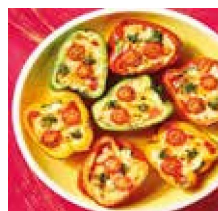
Method:

1. Tip the lemons, sugar and half the water into a food processor and blend until the lemon is finely chopped.
2. Pour the mixture into a sieve over a bowl, then press through as much juice as you can. Top up with the remaining water and serve with plain ice or frozen with slices of lemon and lime.

Bell Pepper Pizza

Ingredients:

- 4 Large Bell Peppers
- 1 Jar Spaghetti Sauce
- 125g Grated Cheese
- Vegetables of your choice e.g. tomatoes, broccoli etc
- Chilli Flakes / Mixed Herbs



Method:

1. Slice peppers in half, remove seeds and place on a baking sheet
2. Top with sauce, then add cheese, then the vegetables
3. Bake for 10 mins in oven (350F/180c)
4. Add chilli flakes / mixed herbs to garnish if you like



Cooking

STAY & PLAY

at Tiddlywinks Preschool
22a Coach Road
Great Horkesley, CO6 4AT
01206 272669



Music

Activities for Under 5's

Friday afternoons during School Holidays
Older children are catered for



Toys

Refreshments provided

£2.00 per family



Crafts

Little Owls Preschool

King George Playing Field, Cage Lane, Boxted,
Colchester, CO4 5RE



At Little Owls Preschool (Boxted) we aim to lay the foundations for future learning in an exciting and stimulating environment. We are a charitable not for profit company, offering childcare and preschool education for up to 6.5 hours a day.

We accept children between 2 and 5 years of age.

We accept 2, 3 and 4 year old funding plus working parent funding.

Monday to Friday - Term Time

Early Bird - 8.45 - 9.15

Morning Session 9.15 to 12.15

Lunch Club 12.15 - 12.45

Afternoon Session 12.15 - 3.15

All Day Session 9.15 to 3.15

We are situated in a very pleasant rural position in the centre of Boxted and have experienced and well qualified staff. Ofsted Registered.

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NEWS

from the

School



Greetings from The Bishop William Ward CE VA Primary School!

We are soon to celebrate our 50th anniversary on the current site. Prior to the school being in Coach Road, the village school was in School Lane in what is now the site of Van Cols Photography. When it moved to the new premises, the name was changed from Great Horkesley Primary School and a new era began! If you have been connected to the school during this time or have any photographs, stories or newspaper cuttings that we could share with the children, please let us know – you can email them to: admin@bishopwilliamward.essex.sch.uk or pop them in and we will copy or scan them. We have a number of events planned for the summer term to mark this occasion.

We have had another term full of fun and learning. It is always a joy to celebrate World Book Day and this year the children came dressed as different book characters. The school was full of heroes, villains, princesses, pirates and Paddington! You may have seen the photograph in the Gazette giving a flavour of what school looked like. There were also opportunities for children to read with each other and celebrate their love of books.

Yet again, our school choir was heaped with praise for their amazing performance of a medley of Greatest Showman songs as part of the Colchester Schools' Music Festival. This is a wonderful event where 400 children from across Colchester get together to celebrate the joy of singing. The festival is in its 73rd year and shows no sign of stopping anytime soon!



Our football teams have been busy with tournaments, friendlies and league matches played from children in Y3-6. This included a second-place finish in the Colchester Primary Schools' League Y5/6 tournament!

The children love visiting or hosting other schools and matches are played with an attitude of competitiveness and respect for teammates and opponents. We will

see further sporting action as we move into the summer, with more football matches, sports day and participation in the local athletics competition.

NEWS *from the* School



As you will know, school funding is not quite what it used to be, so we are always looking for ways to raise money. We are blessed to have an amazing school association – The Friends of BWW. Not only do they put on fabulous events for the community, but they raise valuable funds that pay for special experiences, IT equipment, new books, school trips and much more. Another way we are looking to boost the pennies is through the Tesco blue token system, so if you shop in that part of town, be sure to grab a handful and increase our chances of getting some money! We go live in stores from 28th April.

Managing the finances is one of the roles our wonderful governing body play. We currently have spaces on the governing body for foundation governors. These are governors appointed by the local church or diocese, so if you think you may be eligible for this and are interested in supporting the school, please get in touch by popping in, using the email address above or calling us: 01206 271336.

As ever, if you are interested in what goes on at Bishop William Ward, have a look at the newsletters on our website: <https://www.bishopwilliamward.net/newsletters/>



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



We are looking forward to the Family Colour Run & BBQ on Friday 15th May from 4.30pm at BWW. Hopefully you have secured your ticket before the 1st May deadline. Look out in the next magazine for our up-to-date fundraising figures.

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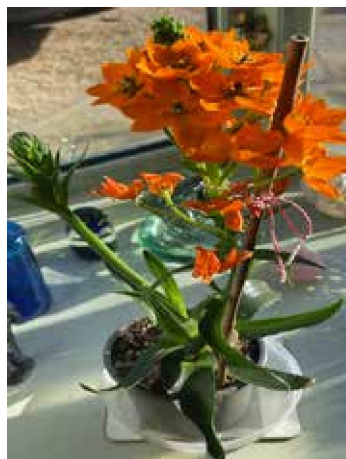


Through The Garden Gate

The weather as I write is typical of April. The chilly wind as clouds pass over, then the brief pleasant warmth we try to hold on to as the skies clear. Lots of jobs to be getting on with. The lawns grown lush and long through the long, wet winter which has hopefully now passed. One of the wettest winters for many years in this area. Shrubs to be cut back also. Not jobs I get involved with - the borders and containers are for me, and there is a lot of them!

I find some plants have thrived, and others looking very poorly indeed or lost. It's difficult to judge hardiness with some, as to which to keep undercover, and which to leave outside. There are always a few losses. We are growing more succulent plants than ever before as the winters become milder. Many of these plants come through winter without problems and fare even better outdoors... but it's tricky!

I recently bought such a plant, which I had better keep as a houseplant. It has beautiful orange flowers and succulent leaves. Unbelievably, it's a closely related plant to the little hardy early spring starry flowering plants we call "Star of Bethlehem". Both are species of *Ornithogalum*'s, but so unlike. It dies back in late summer. My challenge will be to bring it back into flower next year.



I also grow the South African plant "Clivia". Grown as a houseplant in the UK - at least during the colder weather. Large robust plants with healthy shining foliage. I've had mine for many, many years, but getting it to flower has, until now, thwarted me. I gave it a bit more attention early in

the year, with feeding. Lo and behold, it sent up 2 stems of flowers which lasted 3 weeks. They had a delicate scent. I had soaked banana skins and teabags in water for a couple of weeks as a feed.

It must have been just what the doctor ordered. I recommend it.

Enjoy summer everyone and take care.

Jill Plane

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You are invited to **Messy Church** at
St John's Church, Great Horkesley CO6 4FE
on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 4pm
17th May, 21st June & 19th July at 4pm



It's FREE and it's FUN!
A time for people of all ages to share in some
crafts and activities.

*Messy Church is a fantastic and relaxed way
to be together.*

**ANYONE and EVERYONE is WELCOME.
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ENTRY



Great Horkesley SUMMER FAYRE

27th JUNE 2026

12PM-4PM

Great Horkesley
Village Green

Off Tile House Lane CO6 4EA



Wild Animal Show

Have a go - free Military Assault Course

DJ Stock bringing summer vibes!

Fairground & Inflatables

JBFC football crossbar challenge

Greek Gyros

Pizza

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Friday 22nd May to Monday 25th May

Friday, Saturday & Monday

10am-5pm

Sunday 11am-4pm

**A Sale of Contemporary &
Vintage Paintings, Prints and
Pottery by Local Artists**

Tea, Coffee and Homemade Cakes

Sales & Donations In aid of the
Restoration of St Mary's Church,
Stoke by Nayland

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

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

If you have a little free time and are able to help occasionally as a driver please phone for further details.

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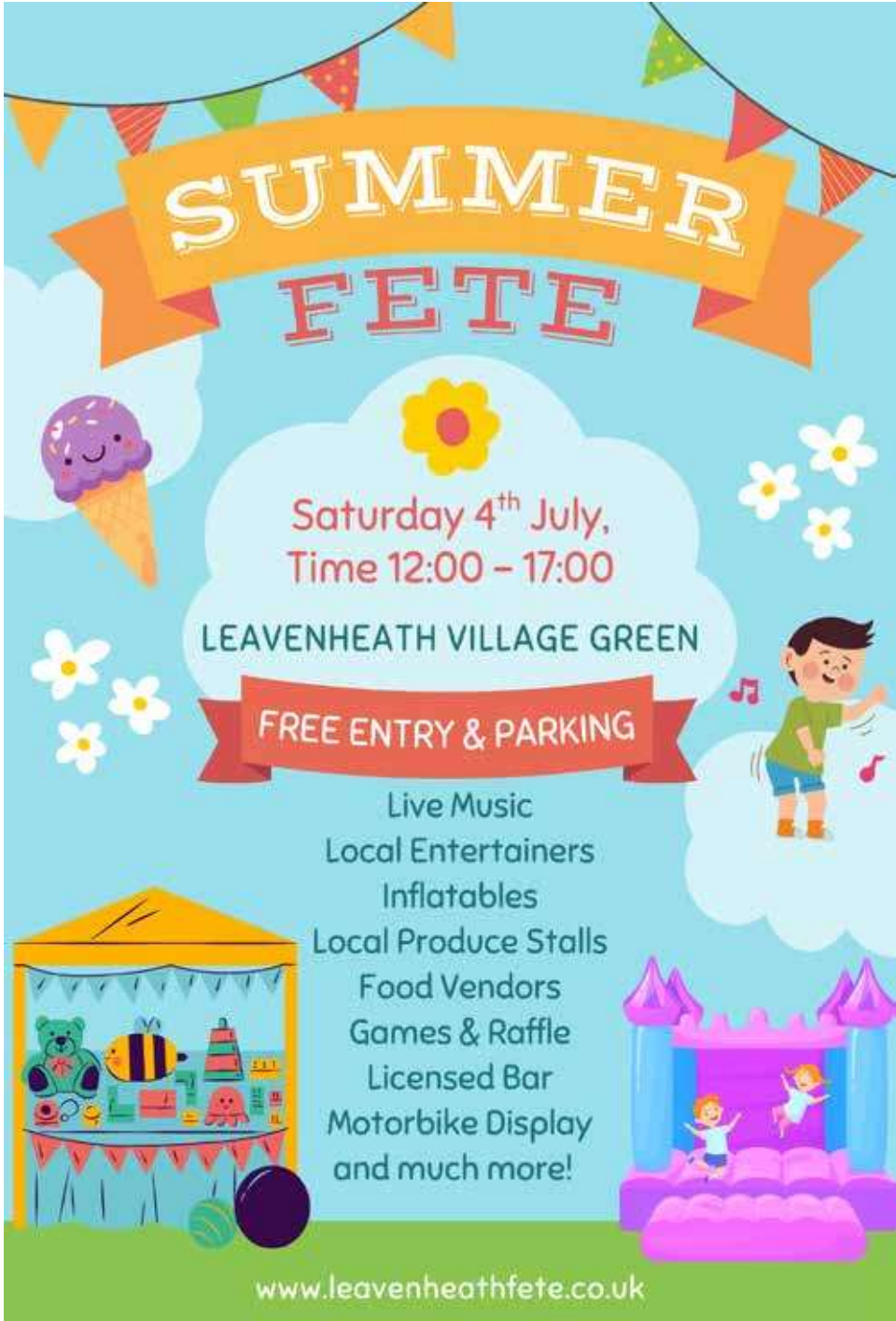
Call Maisy on:

07393 193476

maisyyeetfirst@gmail.com

for bookings and enquiries

Maisy Berridge (MCFHP MAFHP)

A vibrant, cartoon-style illustration for a Summer Fete poster. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds. At the top, a string of colorful triangular bunting (orange, red, green, yellow) hangs across the frame. A large, orange, ribbon-like banner with a white border contains the words 'SUMMER' in white, outlined, serif capital letters and 'FETE' in red, outlined, serif capital letters. Below the banner, a purple ice cream cone with a smiling face and sprinkles is on the left. A yellow flower with a red center is in the center. To the right, three white daisies with yellow centers are scattered. In the center, a white cloud contains the text 'Saturday 4th July, Time 12:00 - 17:00' in red. Below this, a red ribbon banner with a white border says 'FREE ENTRY & PARKING' in white, outlined, serif capital letters. To the right of the banner, a boy with dark hair, wearing a green shirt and blue shorts, is jumping with his arms outstretched, with musical notes floating around him. Below the banner, a list of activities is written in green: 'Live Music', 'Local Entertainers', 'Inflatables', 'Local Produce Stalls', 'Food Vendors', 'Games & Raffle', 'Licensed Bar', 'Motorbike Display', and 'and much more!'. On the bottom left, there is a yellow tent with a blue canopy, displaying various items like a teddy bear, a fish, a lighthouse, and a clock. On the bottom right, there is a large, pink and blue inflatable castle with two children jumping on it. The bottom of the poster is a green grassy field. At the very bottom, the website address 'www.leavenheathfete.co.uk' is written in white.

SUMMER FETE

Saturday 4th July,
Time 12:00 - 17:00

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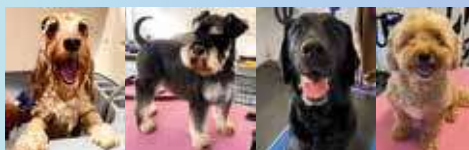
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River Stour Trust

Do you like being outdoors?
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We welcome new members, volunteers and potential skippers, anyone with a love of the countryside and the great outdoors. If you like the idea of training to become an Inland Waterways accredited skipper, taking people out on trips, or being a banksider at Flatford, liaising with visitors and selling trip tickets, we'd like to hear from you.

Our skipper training programme begins in the spring each year and is open to both men and women. After training you are free to give as much or as little time as you would like between Easter and October and would join a friendly group of people dedicated to conservation and the health of the River Stour and its wildlife. But it's also fun, and enjoyable to be doing good in such a beautiful and historic area.

For more information call Kevin Taylor 01206 322122

www.riverstourtrust.org

Registered Charity No. 257806



All Saints' Alive



The Parish Church of All Saints', just off the junction of London Road and the A134 at the northern end Great Horkesley 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
All Saints' Alive, registered Charity Commission No. 1118977**

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From the Waiting Room

Nayland Surgery 01206 570371 Open 8am - 6pm Mon - Fri

**** Bank Holiday Closures **** The surgery will be CLOSED on Monday 4th May and Monday 25th May. PLEASE be aware when submitting your prescriptions that we need 5 WORKING DAYS to process.

****GP Shutdown Events **** The Surgery is closed from 12 noon on Tues 19th May and Tuesday 16th June for training purposes.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - Temporary Changes to Dispensary Opening Hours

To ensure we continue to provide a safe and high-quality service, our dispensary opening hours will be temporarily adjusted due to short term staffing pressures, while a member of our dispensary team undergoes an operation.

Temporary Opening Hours

Monday 9am - 12.30pm then 13.30pm - 17.00pm / Tuesday 9am - 3pm

Wednesday 9am - 12.30pm then 13.30pm - 17.00pm

Thursday 9am - 12.30pm then 13.30pm - 17.00pm / Friday 9am - 3pm

These arrangements will apply from 3rd March. We are hoping this will just be a period of 12 weeks. We understand that the changes to opening times can be inconvenient and sincerely apologise for any disruption this may cause. Please be assured that we are doing everything we can to maintain services and support our patients during this period. Thank you for your patience, understanding and continued support.

Long-Term Condition Review

Reminder to any patient with a long-term condition & on repeat medications to attend their long-term condition reviews (MOT) when notified by our team. These are usually requested in your birthday month. This ensures your medications are reviewed and re-authorised by our Clinical Pharmacist without any delay.

The Friendly Ear Hearing Support Group

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Do they complain the TV is too loud?

You are no 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

ECC Mobile Library



Stops on

Keelers Way, CO6 4HR every third Thursday

11:45am - 12:15pm

Forthcoming Dates:

21st May, 11th June,

2nd & 23rd July

Please support this fantastic service in our community



Advertising in the Great Horkesley Village News

Do you have a business you would like to advertise in the
Great Horkesley Village News?

For availability and prices contact Caroline Evans

email: horkesleyvillagenews@gmail.com

Tel: 07747751063

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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 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.

Since Christmas we have been rehearsing a lot of new music in preparation for the coming engagements and gave our first concert of the year at Frinton in March. A very enthusiastic audience and some exciting pieces of music ranging from Brahms Hungarian Dances to Pompeii by Bastille, March of the Cobblers to Gladiators theme tune!!

Looking ahead to 2026 we have concerts in Gt Bentley and Gt Bromley to close their Flower Festivals, 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. We have been invited to join Lexden Choral Society again for their Remembrance Concert and our December engagement list is full already.

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 Pettey 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 to

horkesleyvillagenews@gmail.com by 9th July 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:

17th & 26th May

9th & 23rd June

14th & 28th July

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

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Great Horkesley Carpet Bowls Club



Our annual prize giving dinner was held at The Yew Tree on 5th March and all 13 current members attended.

Our AGM was held on Thursday 2nd April and a new treasurer was appointed.

Interested in trying carpet bowls?

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.

Boxted Bowls Club closed on 10th April and will re-open on 25th September.

Severalls Bowls Club held its AGM on 17th April and the greens opened on 24th April. An open day will be held at the club on Saturday 16th May if you wish to have a go. Alternatively visit any Friday at 2.30pm

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 experience needed
& bats are available.

Fridays from 7.30 - 9.00pm

Adults £4 / Juniors £2

First session FREE!

**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

Horkesley Manor

Join Our Caring Community – Make a Difference in Colchester!



Horkesley Manor, part of the Stow Healthcare Group, offers exceptional residential and nursing care in a stunning setting, guided by strong family values.

We're looking for compassionate volunteers, willing to donate your time and bring joy to our residents by sharing stories, playing games, or simply having a chat. Whether you can spare an hour a week or occasionally, your presence can brighten someone's day.

We're also offering our two front rooms as free meeting spaces for local groups and organisations. These rooms are perfect for coffee mornings, book clubs, or village events.

If you're interested in volunteering or using our meeting rooms, please get in touch. Together, we can build a stronger, more connected community.



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



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.

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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:



If someone is seriously hurt, in danger, or a crime is happening right now, call 999.

You can report many issues online. it's quick, simple, and available 24/7. Using our Digital 101 service helps us respond faster and more efficiently to those who need us most.

If you prefer to speak to someone, you can still call our 24-hour 101 service.

UPCOMING EVENTS

04/05/2026	Nayland Village Fete, CO6 4JH 1-4pm Page 9
12/05/2026	WI Meeting, GH Village Hall 7-9pm Pages 16/17
15/05/2025	BWW School Family Colour Run & BBQ Page 31
17/05/2026	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm Page 60
19/05/2026	Annual Parish Council Meeting, GH Village Hall 7pm Page 4
21/05/2026	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm Page 55
26/05/2026	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm Page 60
09/06/2026	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm Page 60
09/06/2026	WI Meeting, GH Village Hall 7-9pm Pages 16/17
11/06/2026	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm Page 55
17/06/2026	Parish Council Meeting, GH Village Hall 7pm Page 4
23/06/2026	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm Page 60
27/06/2026	Great Horkesley Summer Fayre 12noon-4pm Pages 6 & 39
02/07/2026	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm Page 55
04/07/2026	Leavenheath Summer Fete 12noon-5pm Page 44
09/07/2026	Last date for submissions for next GH Village News
14/07/2026	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm Page 60
14/07/2026	WI Meeting, GH Village Hall 7-9pm Pages 16/17
15/07/2026	Parish Council Meeting, GH Village Hall 7pm Page 4
23/07/2026	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm Page 55
28/07/2026	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm Page 60

22nd to 25th May Stoke by Nayland Art Exhibition Page 41

For details of:

All Saints' with St John's Church Services see page 25

Messy Church see page 37

Spring Wine Tasting Event see page 15

Churchyard Clear Up see page 23

Bank Holidays:

Monday 4th May & Monday 25th May

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 Hurst07763488774
Rainbow Leader	Liz Petter01206 271511
Guide Leader.....	Ann Dyer.....01206 273071
Brownie Leader	Liz Petter01206 271511
Scout Co-Group Lead Volunteer	Will Lodge.....07729803515
Youth Club	Karen Carr.....07505132664
Horkesley Care Network.....	Lesley Richardson.....01206 271576

Great Horkesley Village News

Editor	Caroline Evans07747751063
E-mail: horkesleyvillagenews@gmail.com	

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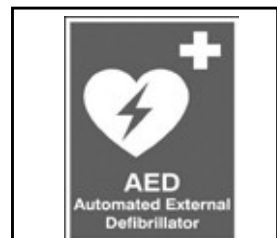
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