

GREAT HORKESLEY VILLAGE NEWS



**Summer/Autumn Issue 149
Aug 2026 - Oct 2026**



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From the Editor

Since the previous issue of the magazine, we've had a fantastic three months filled with community-oriented activities in the village, including the Summer Fayre and several church events. It is lovely to see The Half Butt re-open for business and having a well deserved refurbishment.

And, of course, we must talk about the weather! It has been very hot, with varying levels of comfort among humans and animals alike. Like any other conscientious dog owner, I made certain Rusty had access to lots of water, a cool mat and fan. His usual walks and agility training were shortened to prevent us both from overheating.

Hedgerow birds have been visiting our garden more frequently, appreciating the plants' shade and the cool water in the birdbath. The water was also enjoyed by many insects who are great for the eco-system.

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 November to January, a Winter theme would be ideal. Issue 149 front cover photo courtesy of:

Sara Canham.

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

We have a new Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Paul Tempest, who is being supported by Cllr Christopher Arnold as Vice-Chairman. All other roles and responsibilities for our councillors remain broadly unchanged for this municipal year.

Our Assistant Clerk has been working hard at keeping the community updated via our social media channels over the last few months, and our 'Meet the Councillor' posts have been popular.

Some recent updates since the last village news:

- Transfer of ownership of the Jubilee Village Green to the Parish Council is still ongoing. We were expecting to take this over back at the beginning of the year but some legal stumbling blocks, particularly around wording of contracts, have caused severe delays. This meant that the Parish Council did not own the space in time for our annual Village Fayre, so agreed to pay the hire charges to the City Council so that the Fayre could go ahead.
- In April's meeting we heard from local residents noting their concerns regarding ongoing changes to the old Westwood Home Farm buildings, converting them to mixed commercial use. GHPC made representations to the City Council and have since heard that Planning Application 260450 was refused and works cannot be carried out under permitted development. Therefore, the owners will have to put in a formal planning application should they wish to proceed.
- The A134 speed limit reduction between Great Horkesley and Chesterwell has stalled – Cllr Tempest explains more in his report later in this magazine.
- GHPC was consulted on possible ideas for street names for the new Manor Development once built. Councillors requested that some streets be named after prominent historic females from the local area, as currently any streets in Great Horkesley named after people are only related to men. The Council is pleased that this suggestion was considered and executed by the City Council (see page 6).
- In May, the internal audit of GHPC was completed and the auditor was very positive about our accounts and processes. The notice for the period of public rights has begun, everything has now been sent off to the external auditor, and we should hear back from them in a few weeks to say whether GHPC has 'passed' its audit for the 2025/26 financial year.

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.

All meeting agendas, minutes and other council documentation, as well as information on our village hall and how to book a hire, can be found on the council website.

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
(see page 64)

7pm - 9pm W.I.

2nd Tuesday of the month only

Tel: 07763488774 - Marilyn Hurst
(see pages 48 & 49)

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

suffolkfreemason.org.uk

On Wednesdays

10am - 11am Pilates

Term Time Only

Tel: 07788 584769 - Natalie Mitchell

2pm - 4pm Afternoon Tea

(2nd Wednesday of the month only)

Tel: 01206 271713 - Margaret
(see page 13)

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

12pm - 1pm Pilates

Term Time Only

Tel: 07788 584769 - Natalie Mitchell

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

Check availability on our website:

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

Great Horkesley Parish Council

New Chairman - Paul Tempest

Hello Great Horkesley, some of you might already know me, but for those who don't, I'm honoured to introduce myself as the new Chairman of our Parish Council.

For my day job, I work for an IT consulting services company, but my true passion lies right here in our community.

My wife and I moved here 11 years ago. After moving around quite a bit in life, we were looking for the perfect place to settle down and raise a family. With our two sons now attending the local schools, we can safely say we found exactly what we were looking for here.



I originally joined the Parish Council a couple of years ago simply to help out where I could.

When I started, I set myself three main goals:

1. Get a new defibrillator installed outside the village hall.
2. Improve our local park facilities.
3. Get the speed limit reduced from 60 mph on the A134, as so many of our local children walk that route to the Trinity school.

I'm proud to say we got the defibrillator sorted but the other two projects are unfortunately still ongoing. If there is one thing I have learned since joining, it's that the wheels of local government and dealing with various departments can turn slowly and require a lot of perseverance. However, I am fully committed to pushing these important initiatives forward for our village and I will not stop.

When I'm not working or handling council business, I enjoy a game of football on the park with my boys. My sons play for local football teams and I enjoy spending most of my weekends standing on different football touchlines cheering them on. We also love getting out as a family to go geocaching, and we've set up a cache right here in the village for others to find.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our previous Chairman Cllr Christopher Arnold, our Parish Clerk Teri Duckworth and the rest of the Parish Council team for their support and their ongoing time and effort that they commit to helping our community.

I'm looking forward to serving as your Chairman. If you ever have any questions, ideas, or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out via the GHPC website or come along to our next monthly meeting.

Great Horkesley Parish Council

Chairman's Report

A134 – Speed Limit Change

I wanted to give residents an update on the long-running request to reduce the speed limit on the A134 between Great Horkesley and Chesterwell. As many of you will know, GHPC has been pressing for more than three years for the national speed limit on this short section of A134 to be reduced to 40mph. It is currently 60mph, despite having 30mph limits at either end. Anyone who has walked or cycled along that stretch will understand why this remains such an important issue for the village. The path is used regularly by children travelling between Great Horkesley and Trinity School, as well as by other pedestrians and cyclists. When vehicles (especially large ones) pass at speed, the route can feel intimidating and, in our view, unsuitable for the growing number of young people using it every school day. GHPC had offered to fund the change so that there would be no direct cost to ECC. The previous Essex County Councillor responsible for transport had agreed in principle to progress the change, but unfortunately it was not formally approved before the recent local elections. Since then, we have been waiting for a response from the new Essex County Councillor responsible for transport. We have now received that response and, very disappointingly, the request has been rejected. We are receiving some support from within the ECC to review this verdict so there may be hope still but we shall have to see how it progresses. Wearing my GHPC hat, I want to reassure residents that we will continue to do everything we can to make this route safer. We will keep pressing the case with Essex County Council and support any practical improvements that help pedestrians and cyclists. Speaking personally, as a parent with one child already walking this route to school most days and another due to do so from September, I find this decision extremely difficult to accept. I know many families will feel the same. I will not be letting this issue drop, and I will continue to push for a safer outcome for our village.

Great Horkesley Summer Fayre

A huge thank you to the Community Events Team for organising another fantastic Great Horkesley Summer Fayre. It was a really enjoyable day for the village, with a lovely atmosphere, great weather and plenty for families to enjoy. It was clear how much effort had gone into making the event so well organised and welcoming. The Fayre continues to be a brilliant addition to village life, bringing residents together and showcasing the strong community spirit we have here in Great Horkesley.

Great Horkesley Facebook Page

GHPC is working hard to be more visible and easier for residents to keep in touch with. One of the best ways to stay up to date is by following the GHPC Facebook page, where we are now sharing more regular updates from around the village. Recent posts have included introductions to your parish councillors, updates on work carried out by our village warden, and other useful information for residents. A big thank you to Grace, our Assistant Clerk, for helping to keep these updates coming. If you use Facebook, please do follow the page and encourage friends, family and neighbours in the village to do the same.

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- 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't'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/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....

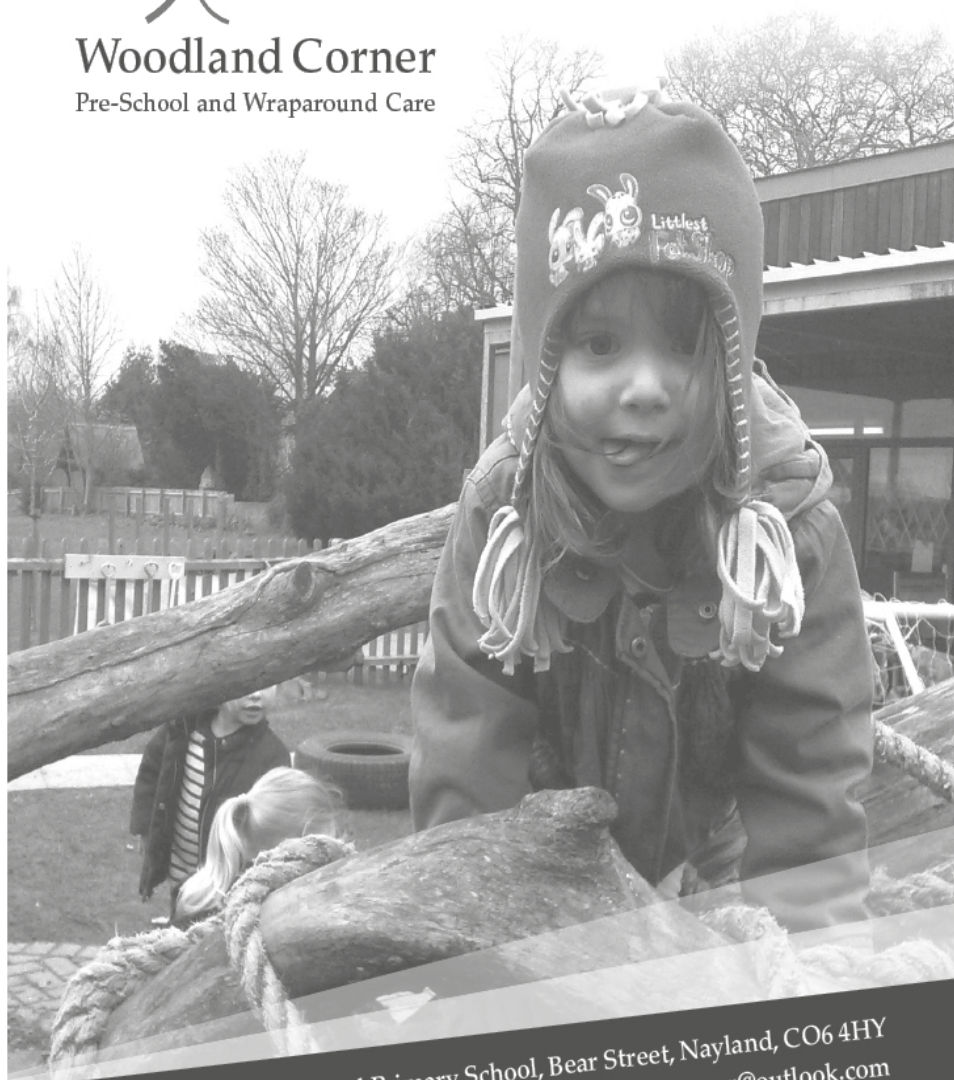
- on your drive (encourage visitors to do the same)

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



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Web: www.woodlandcornernayland.blogspot.co.uk

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West Bergholt Gardeners' Association

The WBG 2026 / 2027 season gets underway in September and we have some great presentations to look forward to this year. Topics include such things, amongst others, as "How to Plan a Beautiful Border", "Attracting Birds and Wildlife to your Garden", and going from "Farm to Florist".

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. As well as our speaker programme we organise a number of visits to interesting gardens or garden related venues, usually in late Spring or early Summer. This year, for example, we visited The Gardens of Easton Lodge near Dunmow, Bucklers Farmhouse near Coggeshall, and Polstead Mill near Stoke-By-Nayland. You can become a member of this friendly club for the annual subscription of £25.00 which includes all 8 meetings September through to December, and February through to May. We also welcome visitors for any of the topics which may be of interest at £5.00 on the door. Our first meeting is on Monday 21st September when we hold our AGM and welcome Neville Stein who will be talking all things Sustainable Gardening.

For further information please contact us via email

wbgardeners@gmail.com



Octavia Concert



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Sunday 11th October 3.30pm

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Please contact Geoffrey Baker on 07909 995880 for more information and to reserve your place or (email geoffreybak@btinternet.com)

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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 66).



Great Horkesley Rainbows

We have eighteen girls in the unit with a long waiting list – five new girls joined us after Easter and have settled in well. This term we completed Stage 1 Skills Builder Explore from the Have Adventures Theme Award, with topics covering Keep Warm, Teddy Travels, Exciting Explorers, Signs from the Sun and Explore Local. Toto led a session of Yoga for the Rainbows to gain their Agility Badge. We spent one evening icing gingerbread men for the County Bake4Fun challenge. The new Rainbows made their Promise on an evening based on some of the original programme ideas and saw the old uniforms and accessories we used to have. There is to be a new uniform launch on 28th July, so we wait to see what is in store for us! The last meeting of term will be a Wicked themed party jointly with the Brownies, so the Rainbows made themselves Elphaba and Glinda accessories to wear that night.



Great Horkesley Brownies

We have twenty-two girls at Brownies, and our five new girls made their Promise at a special owl themed meeting. We worked on Stage 2 Network Skills Builder covering the topics of Listen Look Move, The Plan, All for One and One for All, Friend Detective and Game Over all designed to encourage teamwork and friendship. We completed the Guiding Glow Interest badge, sending letters to one of the Brownies who moved to Australia in April and finding out about the history of Girlguiding. We also took part in Bake4Fun – two gentlemen from the table tennis club kindly judging entries made on the night! We have had the pleasure of three girls completing their Gold Award, which were presented at our Promise night. Eight girls and three leaders enjoyed the Braisfest weekend at Essex Outdoors in June – returned home tired but full of memories!!! Enjoying the good weather, several outdoor unit meeting challenges will be completed before our end of term Wicked party. We look forward to having six Rainbows joining us next term.



Great Horkesley Guides

The Guides are growing in numbers but there are still spaces for new members to join. Two new guides made their Promise this term. The unit has been working lots of outdoor activities including cooking on fires and games as well as activities chosen by the Patrols. They had an exciting time at Braisfest weekend trying new activities such as archery, circus skills, adventure run and zip wire and beach campfire as well as spending two nights there. They also took part in Gt Horkesley Village Fayre running games and drinks stalls.



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NEWS

from the

S

chool



We have had another glorious summer here at Bishop William Ward! The final term of the school year is a time when we can be out and about in our lovely school grounds and off enjoying a variety of school trips. Even with the scorching temperatures, we have continued to be 'happy, respectful, lifelong learners', helped in no small part by the abundance of shade provided by our many trees.

We like to be well-connected with other schools in the area, in order to give our pupils as many opportunities as possible to explore new experiences and develop their many skills and talents. This term, as part of Colchester Schools Consortium, we have sent children to an athletics competition, public speaking event and had visits from other local heads as part of our 'celebration of childhood'. This celebration also involved the pupils engaging in a series of events in their family groups based around the headings: 'active', 'creative' and 'construction', in addition to all spending time in the Early Years area. The children had a fabulous time and hopefully reminded themselves that there is life beyond the screen!

Sports Day is always a highlight of the year, as it gets our whole community together at one time. Once again, families gave great support to their children, watching them compete for their team and individually. This year, the overall trophy went to the Blue Team! As has been the case for the last few years, pupils from St Helena provided fantastic support to the staff in running the event and were a credit to their school. Our football teams concluded their matches as part of the Colchester Primary Sports Leagues. The teams really progressed as the year unfolded and the girls' team in particular became a far more effective unit, with many of the players now joining local clubs. We hope that participating in events such as this gives the children a love of sport and exercise that they can take into their teenage years. Both teams played with a competitive heart, whilst showing respect to their opponents, team-mates and the match officials throughout the season.

As ever at Bishop William Ward, music has played a big part in our summer programme. Our Year 6 pupils have really made the most of the opportunity to learn a brass or woodwind instrument and Mr Arthur, our band leader, has been very impressed with the level that he has been able to take them to. One of the band's highlights was playing alongside the Abbeygate Concert Band – 60 musicians all making a joyful noise in the school hall! We also held our annual summer music concert and the Key Stage 2 children put on a fabulous performance of Oliver! to audiences of delighted family and friends. The choir concluded their series of events this year with a performance at the Great Horkesley Summer Fayre – another year of hard work and sparkling performances wrapped up!

All these events and activities are organised by our hardworking staff so that children can have 'life in all its fullness'. This year we have been celebrating 50 years of The Bishop William Ward CE VA Primary School and looking back through the photos, log-books and newspaper cuttings, it is clear that we are playing our part in continuing the story of this lovely village school.

NEWS *from the* School



To celebrate, we held a 'dress through the decades' day, with children coming in everything from flower-power-flares to modern clothing, via punk rock, 80s' neon, hip-hop, bucket hats and cargo trousers! The children spent the day investigating how life has changed since 1976. We also held a tea party for former staff and governors and, with over 50 attendees, it goes to show what a special place the school has in people's hearts. The whole term has been a valuable opportunity to reflect on the values that have remained throughout the school's time and to see the progress that has been made in terms of teaching, learning and supporting children's wellbeing and ambitions. What a privilege to be a part of that story.

I wish you all a restful, enjoyable summer and look forward to starting another school year when we return in September!

As always, if you want to follow the life of the school in more detail, go to:
<https://www.bishopwilliamward.net/newsletters>

Trees For Advent

After 20+ Christmas Tree Festivals it has been decided to take a break for 2026.

Many thanks to those businesses, organisations and individuals who have faithfully supported this event since it first began.

Some of you took part in the first and each successive festival. We value and appreciate your loyalty.

The first festival was advertised as an event for the community by the community, a concept that has held true across the years. Without the support of Great Horkesley as a community the festival would not have continued for as long as it has.

Thank you one and all.

What will transpire for 2027.....

Gwen Pyett

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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 a full and rewarding summer term for the 1st Great Horkesley Scout Group, with every section enjoying hands-on activities, new skills, and plenty of outdoor fun. Mid-June was a particularly important moment for the group, as we held both our AGM and our Group Camp. At the AGM, the trustee board was confirmed for another year, and we were pleased to report that the group remains in a stable financial position. Our volunteers have once again shown extraordinary commitment — contributing more than 6,000 hours over the past year.

Group Camp brought all sections together for a brilliant weekend of shared adventure. Young people from Squirrels through to Scouts took on a range of activities, including abseiling, outdoor challenges, and plenty of time to explore and play. The whole group gathered around the campfire in the evening — a wonderful moment of songs, stories, and community spirit.

The village fair was another highlight. It was great to see so many familiar faces, and we're grateful to the organisers for hosting such a brilliant event. Thank you to everyone who bought a burger or picked up a gift; all funds raised go directly towards supporting our programme and helping us offer exciting opportunities for our young people.

Squirrels

Squirrels have embraced the outdoors this term, heading out on a bug hunt to discover the tiny creatures living around the hut. They followed this up by building their own bug hotel, creating a perfect habitat for insects to explore. A dinosaur-themed evening brought plenty of imagination and energy, rounding off a fun and varied programme.

Beavers

Beavers have enjoyed a busy term, including a memorable visit to the fire station where they learned about equipment, safety, and the role of firefighters. They also spent an evening strawberry picking at McLaughlan's PYO, discovering how fruit is grown and harvested. To finish the term, they're looking forward to kayaking — a chance to build confidence on the water and enjoy a new adventure together.

Cubs

Cubs continued their tradition of visiting Brightlingsea, enjoying a day of seaside activities and teamwork. They've also been dancing through meetings and had an energetic session at the Northern Gateway Sports Park bike track, testing their cycling skills and enjoying the summer weather.

Scouts

Scouts welcomed an ambulance crew for a hands-on first-aid workshop, learning essential skills before practising them in realistic mock scenarios. They're excited for kayaking at the end of term, and their week-long summer camp during the school holidays promises plenty of adventure — including a trip to London and a packed programme of outdoor activities.





From Cllr Darius Laws:

The City Council, in consultation with residents, has the important responsibility of naming streets in new housing developments. In Great Horkesley, the long awaited 'Manor' development is now moving a step closer. When I was asked for my views on the street names, I felt a real sense of responsibility - these are names that will likely be part of our community for centuries to come. Following a helpful observation from the Parish Council that very few streets in Great Horkesley are named after women, I'm pleased to say I was able to put forward a number of suggestions celebrating the area's female history:

Bridget Lane – named after “Bridget of Horkesley”

One of the earliest recorded women connected to the area. Alongside her husband, Robert de Horkesley, she helped found the priory at nearby Little Horkesley in the early 12th century - reflecting the closely intertwined history of the two parishes.

Beatrice Drive – named after “Beatrice of Horkesley”

Some historical records refer to Robert of Horkesley's wife as Beatrice rather than Bridget, highlighting differences in surviving medieval sources.

Cowper Place – named after “Countess Cowper”

By the 19th century, the Countess Cowper held the patronage of All Saints' Church and its rectory, with her family playing a significant role in the parish.

Beauford Avenue – named after “Lady Margaret Beaufort” (mother of King Hendry VII

Although not born in Great Horkesley, she was one of the most influential women of the Tudor period and is frequently associated with landholdings across Essex.

Colchester Castle: Fixing the roof when the sun is shining....

I had a behind-the-scenes look at the critical maintenance work underway at Colchester Castle. The project involves repairing the masonry and roof to help preserve the fabric of Europe's largest Norman keep for future generations, speaking of which I understand school children from The Trinity School recently got the chance to have a stonemason masterclass at the Castle, learning first hand from the contractors working on site. Stone masonry isn't a profession likely to be impacted by AI and there are some fantastic career opportunities within it. Our Castle remains one of our region's most significant historic landmarks and today houses some extraordinary archaeological finds and artefacts, helping to tell the story of Britain's first Roman city. Colchester is the cultural capital of the East. Alongside our outstanding live performance venues, arts organisations and theatres, our heritage plays a vital role in the vibrancy and success of both Colchester and the wider region. Protecting and investing in these assets ensures that future generations can continue to enjoy, learn from and take pride in our remarkable history. I'm determined to help make the most of Colchester's Heritage and Cultural offerings.



Through The Garden Gate

We are now just into the third week of July, and are having a couple of days reprieve from the uncomfortably hot days of late. No doubt many may enjoy the hotter summer, but it's a bit of a trial, when trying to work in it. The best thing about weather passing 30c during daytime are the pleasant warm evenings being so comfortable to sit outside. It doesn't seem many years back we would complain that a couple of warm days would end with a thunderstorm. There doesn't appear to be much chance of frequent thunderstorms any more, but the heavy rain they bring would be a treat for the poor old lawns and plants.

My potted plants have really suffered this summer especially as I took a holiday just as the heatwave began. Many bought for pollinators are alive, but the flowers have failed to developed properly. I'm disappointed the French Marigolds haven't done well. I thought they would be indestructible. The Pelargoniums (what we call geraniums), have done much better.

This year I'm trying out an Oleander in a large container. I've recently seen them flowering and flourishing in many parts of London, and quite tall specimens.

I'm aware we haven't got the microclimate of London, so will have to give some protection in our coldest months. Quite hardy in Mediterranean countries but incidentally, very poisonous in all its parts.

Back in early spring, I bought a tuber of the Gloriosa Vine for the conservatory. I had a long wait for anything to materialise. Just as I was beginning to think, I wouldn't be so lucky, a little green shoot appeared. It's been a success so far, with quite a few of its amazing flowers blooming nicely. A very beautiful tropical vine. I hope it survives winter as the conservatory is unheated. It has proved frost free so far, with the temperature not dropping below 8/9c during the coldest of winter nights.

We have had some hit and miss holidays this year, which have been either too cold or too hot - three in all. The first travelling to the Dordogne in late March/April. Quite chilly and showery. A couple of log burners had to work hard to heat the thick old stone walls of the little farmhouse. Having said that, the Wistaria was flowering around the nearby town, and the local chateau, so we must have missed some earlier better weather. I would say the Dordogne maybe three weeks or so ahead of our springtime here in UK.

Our second holiday was to South Wales in the last week of May. May hadn't been a good month, but the last week turned out to be the time of the first heatwave. Too hot to move, we sheltered in the shade of the St Gwynno Forest. Extensive woodland covering a large area. Always aware of the local wildlife, we found many birds there more common than we have here in Essex. Lots of Willow Warblers calling, along with Tree Pipits, and Meadow Pipits in different habitat. Bullfinches seem more common in the old narrow country lanes as you pass by. I haven't seen a Bullfinch here at home for a few years.

The third holiday in June, back to the farmhouse in the SW France. We had a temperature hovering between 42/43c. A burning heat, difficult to deal with. We did spend ten minutes standing in the shade of a Poplar Plantation looking for any Golden Oriole nests that might be there, as these plantations are a favoured habitat. ten minutes was enough. It was a treat to get back into the air-conditioned car and drive back to the farmhouse, where we found Golden Orioles flying over the garden. Lots of other interesting wildlife there in the garden Swallow Tailed Butterflies, lots of Hummingbird Hawkmoths hovering over the potted annual flowers, and the big Carpenter Bees, their metallic blue wings glinting in the sunshine; large Hibiscus bush was full of them. I used to think they were flying beetles. We survived the heat, and enjoyed our stay nonetheless. Take care everyone.

Jill Plane

Church News

August-October 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 Anne Mason

It's that time of year when we move from one season to another - from Summer to Autumn. All those anticipated events - World Cup, Wimbledon, Tour de France, British Grand Prix, Commonwealth Games – will be over for another year.

There is an inevitability that the days will gradually get shorter and the temperature will start to fall. The only thing that is constant in our lives is that we all face change, all of the time.

I've just celebrated my 70th birthday and am enjoying more free time in retirement, but with it comes the realisation that I am getting older and am not quite as fit as I used to be! For some of our grandchildren it means moving on to secondary school in September, or exploring universities, or for the two eldest ones stepping into the arena of full-time work.

The Bible uses the idea of seasons to explain the different stages people experience in life, like times for growing, gathering, resting, or starting afresh, just like the natural seasons. King Solomon said, *"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven."* (**Ecclesiastes 3:1**)

Life moves on, time moves on. We will go through different times or experiences in our lives...we will experience joy, laughter, and happiness, but also sorrow and grief, loss, and pain.

The choice we have is how we respond to these times – with reluctance to let go of the past, with perseverance to just keep going, or with a sense of adventure to see what may be around the corner?

Bible verses about seasons provide wisdom and comfort, teaching us that everything has its right time and purpose, and that God is with us during these changes. With social media at the fingertips of many, you can Google Bible verses for almost any situation there is to find wisdom, help and reassurance.

My prayer for us all, *"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."* (Numbers 6.24-26). And don't forget that the sun is always shining above the clouds!

Many blessings, Anne

Forthcoming Events

During August there should be a FREE Summer Fun Morning at St. John's Church, 10.00am – 11.30am. Lots of activities for toddlers and Primary school age children. **All children must be accompanied by an adult.**

*Keep an eye on our Facebook page, search for:
All Saints' with St John's Churches, Great Horkesley*

Sunday 27th September, 11.00am Harvest Festival at All Saints' Church
Celebrating God's goodness and receiving donations of groceries for Colchester Foodbank and cash for St. Andrew's College, Kenya.
See page 41 for details.

Saturday 3rd October, 9.30am-12.00pm, Churchyard Clear-up at All Saints'

Bring your own tools and muscle power, refreshments provided.
Call John Mehen on 07719 948378 for details.

Sunday 11th October, 3.30pm, All Saints' Church
Octavia Choir in concert, FREE admission, donations welcome!
See page 11 for details.

Saturday 24th October, 7pm start, QUIZ NIGHT at the Village Hall
In aid of our work in the village.
See page 35 for details.

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/>

Messy Church

Third Sunday of the month, 4.00pm at St. John's Church
After a break in August, we'll start again on 20th September.
It's FREE and it's FUN!
A time for people of all ages to share in crafts and activities.

From the Registers at All Saints':

1st June: Interment of ashes, Lurenda Maud Hardwick.

2nd June: Funeral of Karen Crowhurst.

Our love and prayers go to their families and friends as they mourn the loss of loved ones.



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. She is assisted by: **Curate, Rev. Emma Barr**, Tel: 07801 659345, email: revemmabarr@gmail.com and

Retired Priest **Rev. Anne Mason**, Tel: 07968 424670
email: revdannemason@gmail.com



Our 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 August-October 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.

<u>August</u>	2 nd	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. John's
	9 th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints'
		11.00am	Morning Worship	All Saints'
	16 th	10.30am	United Service <i>at St. John the Baptist, Mount Bures</i>	
	23 rd	10.30am	United Service	St. John's
	30 th	10.30am	United Service	<i>at St. Peter's Boxted</i>
<u>September</u>	6 th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. John's
	13 th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints'
		11.00am	Morning Worship	All Saints'
	20 th	10.30am	<i>United Celebration at St. Mary's, West Bergholt</i>	
		4.00pm	Messy Church	St. John's
	27 th	11.00am	Harvest Festival (<i>see page 41</i>)	All Saints'
<u>October</u>	4 th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. John's
	11 th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints'
		11.00am	Morning Worship	All Saints'
	18 th	4.00pm	Messy Church	St. John's
	25 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. Prayers are said at all our services and we have regular prayer meetings.



- **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 previous page for contact details).



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.



Thank You!

Summer Term Update

It's been another great year for the Friends of BWW. Our Christmas events, including our Christmas Fair, were the big fundraisers of the year again. A huge thank you to the Boses for organising our wreathmaking evening so that could continue this year too. For Mother's Day and Father's Day the children could visit a gift shop in school, and took home a box of treats for someone special to them. Then in May, we held a repeat of the Colour Run after so many people asked us to do one again. It was great, the weather was perfect for us and you can see how much fun everyone had in the photos taken on the day!

This year the largest amount of money we raised was spent on replacing some play equipment in the playground and also 18 new iPads for use in lessons. We also paid for an international dance workshop for the children, a theatre performance of Oliver in school and reading-themed escape room experiences which everyone loved! This was all as well as our regular annual expenditure including the production licence for the KS2 end of year show, Year 6 leavers' gifts and subsidising school trips.

This summer I will have completed my eighth year as Chair for the Friends of BWW. It's been hard work at times, but ever so rewarding, and over the next two years I will be gradually handing over the reins as then my children will have all moved on from primary school. We still have lots planned though - our Christmas Fair will go ahead as usual on the first Saturday afternoon in December, and it will be time for a return of our much loved Scarecrow Trail in May half term 2027! Keep your eyes peeled in the new year for details on our next theme and how to enter!

Thank you for your support this year, we look forward to seeing you at our community events in 2026/27!



Essex Community Speed Watch

The Essex Community Speed Watch Scheme is a volunteer-led initiative aimed at reducing speeding and improving road safety across Essex. By working alongside Essex Police and other key partners, the scheme helps monitor speeding in local areas and raise awareness about the tragic consequences of speeding on our roads.

With over 1,000 dedicated volunteers now part of the scheme, Essex Community Speed Watch continues to work closely with the Safer Essex Road Partnership (SERP) towards achieving Vision Zero – the goal of zero deaths and serious injuries recorded on the county's roads by 2040. Whilst this goal is ambitious, the dedication and enthusiasm of volunteers across the county are making a tangible difference in creating safer communities.

Each of the over 100 Essex Community Speed Watch Group Co-ordinators play a pivotal role in managing monitoring sessions, submitting speeding data for processing, and recruiting new members. Volunteers are welcome to contribute as much or as little time as they are able, with some groups monitoring roads on a weekly, fortnightly, or monthly basis, depending on the group size and availability of volunteers.

In addition to making an impact on road safety, the scheme offers a great social opportunity for volunteers and provides a way to give back to local communities. It also continues to receive recognition and support from Essex Police and Essex Highways, who endorse the vital role the volunteers play in improving road safety. Essex Community Speed Watch remains committed to playing a key role in achieving the ambitious goals of Vision Zero, while also helping the public understand the catastrophic outcomes of speeding and its devastating impact on local communities.

The Essex Community Speed Watch scheme is celebrating its 20th birthday this year! With more CSW groups being established across the County, educating motorists on the devastating aftermath of the Fatal 4 (speeding, mobile phone use, drug/driving and not wearing a seatbelt), is more important than ever, in a bid to make our roads safer for all users.

For more information or to get involved with Essex Community Speed Watch, please visit: <https://saferessexroads.org/communities/>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet Willey'.

Janet Willey

Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator

community.speedwatch@essex-fire.gov.uk



Roman River Music - A Celebration of Music on Our Doorsteps

The Roman River Festival returns from 20–25 October, once again bringing world-class music to some of the region's most beautiful churches and historic venues. This year's programme offers an inspiring mix of classical masterpieces, folk traditions and outstanding young performers, all within the welcoming atmosphere for which the festival is renowned.



The festival opens at St Mary the Virgin, Wivenhoe, with a performance of Benjamin Britten's complete Canticles, marking the 50th anniversary of the composer's death. The following evening, the Silvanus Quartet performs music by Beethoven and Britten alongside lively Nordic dance tunes at All Saints, Fordham.

Midweek highlights include a lunchtime concert of Mozart and Ravel in Colchester's Old Library and an evening at St Andrew's, Fingringhoe, where the Nocturnalia Ensemble presents a fascinating programme of 17th-century British folk and court music on period instruments. On Friday, the festival showcases talented young musicians Cyrus Yuen and Bethany Reynolds before an evening concert of piano trios by Rachmaninoff, Prokofiev and Beethoven at St Mary's, Dedham.

Saturday's concert at St Peter Ad Vincula, Coggeshall, features chamber orchestrations of Elgar's much-loved Cello Concerto and Mahler's Fourth Symphony. The festival concludes on Sunday at St Michael and All Angels, Copford, where the Bruegel Consort performs beautiful late-medieval Marian polyphony beneath some of Britain's finest surviving medieval church frescoes.

While the musicians perform on international stages around the world, the Roman River Festival has always remained proudly local in spirit. Friendly volunteers and an informal atmosphere make every concert welcoming, whether you are a regular concertgoer or simply curious to experience live classical music in some of Essex's most remarkable historic buildings.

Tickets are on sale now, with general admission £30 and tickets for under-30s from £15. To view the full programme or book tickets visit www.romanrivermusic.com

*Roman River Music is produced by registered charity Wild Arts (Charity No. 1158366).
Photo courtesy of Lucy J Toms Photography.*

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Tolhurst Way: Great Horkesley Honours the Memory of Roy Ralph Tolhurst

In September 2023 local long-time resident Roy Ralph Tolhurst passed away. After his passing some of his friends asked Colchester City Council if they would consider naming a road after him and after explaining why he should be considered they kindly agreed. In the near future 'Tolhurst Way' will be established in his memory. This will be situated on the new development off Nayland Road, near the Horkesley Manor Care Home.

Roy was a very proud Welshman who eventually settled in Essex, marrying his late wife, Barbara. Soon two fine sons, Barry and Graham came along.

Long-time friend Barrie Marshall recalls:

My first memories of Roy "Lofty" Tolhurst date back to 1969 when I was an apprentice mechanic at Scott Brothers Vauxhall in Colchester. Lofty, affectionately nicknamed because of his height, was already renowned as an outstanding mechanic with an encyclopaedic knowledge of all things automotive. Nothing ever seemed to faze him, and he was always willing to help.

His enthusiasm led him to form Evans Tolhurst Motor Engineers with his friend Richard Evans before later establishing Tolhurst Motor Engineers in Mile End, where he built a loyal customer base until retiring in 2005.

Retirement allowed Roy to devote more time to his lifelong passion for the Second World War, particularly Operation Market Garden and the Battle of Arnhem. For many years he organised trips to the Netherlands, taking veterans and friends to annual commemorations, often in his beautifully restored WWII ambulance, "Katy". Inspired by the film "Ice Cold in Alex", Roy painstakingly restored the vehicle with help from Colchester Institute students. It won numerous awards and even led to a friendship with actor Sir John Mills, who was photographed sitting behind the wheel before appearing at Colchester's Mercury Theatre. Roy and his family were later invited to Sir John's home, arriving in the famous ambulance. His Arnhem research also led to lasting friendships in the Netherlands, including museum founder Paul Hendricks in Wolfheze. Roy helped source and transport many important wartime artefacts to the museum, including part of a rare Horsa glider.

Roy also founded SOGS ("Silly Old Gentlemen"), a Sunday morning gathering in a caravan at Great Horkesley where friends met for tea, coffee, bacon rolls and lively conversation. The group continues to meet today, fondly recalling Roy's stories, poems and humour.



Photo courtesy of Dave Baverstock

Tolhurst Way: Great Horkesley Honours the Memory of Roy Ralph Tolhurst

Long-time friend Nigel Everett said:

Roy had an extraordinary ability to connect with people. His interests ranged from engineering and military history to music, culture and comedy, and he loved sharing his knowledge.

His research into Arnhem enabled him to help many families discover the stories of relatives lost during the battle. Among them was renowned human rights lawyer Nigel Rodley, whose father died at Arnhem. Roy uncovered details of his father's final days, bringing comfort to the family, and did the same for others seeking answers.



The SOGS group remembers:

Roy's community spirit extended far beyond his historical interests. He helped organise the annual Remembrance Service at the Mile End War Memorial, using his military ambulance as a public address point and ensuring the site was prepared each year.

He spent many years collecting for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, raising significant sums alongside friend Paul Rickwood. He also organised annual charity dances in aid of Headway and was always willing to use his mechanical skills to help local people,

often refusing payment. Whether repairing the church's lawn tractor, driving neighbours to hospital appointments or joining local Christmas carol singers, Roy was always ready to lend a hand. He also played a key role in establishing the RAF WW2 bomber crew memorial at Safestore on Ipswich Road, Colchester in 2013, ensuring seven airmen who lost their lives are remembered today. Acts of kindness came naturally to Roy. On hearing that an elderly Colchester woman had been mugged, he anonymously donated the amount she had lost so it could be returned to her.

In recognition of his service to the community, Myland Parish Council awarded Roy the Myland Order of Merit in 2016, presented by Sir Bob Russell.

Long-time friend Patrick Mills added:

"Roy, or Lofty as so many knew him, had a special gift. He made everyone feel like a close friend, whether you'd known him for years or had just met him. He was a true gentleman whose jokes, stories, poems and laughter brightened countless lives."

Barrie Marshall concludes:

"In years to come, people will ask why a road in Great Horkesley is called Tolhurst Way. We hope they'll discover the story of a remarkable man who gave so much to his community. Roy 'Lofty' Tolhurst would be deeply honoured to know that his name will live on for generations in the place he loved."

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Friends of BWW Colour Run 2026



Thank you to everyone who took part!

Saturday 24th October

7pm prompt start

at the New Village Hall

Tile House Lane, Great Horkesley



- Teams of up to 6 people
- Entry Fee £6 per person
- Bring your own drinks and nibbles
- Raffle



There will be a wide range of questions to suit all interests, so please encourage your family, neighbours, friends and colleagues to enter a team.

To enter a team (with a team name):

Call, text or email:

Lesley on 07596 256286 / lesleyrchrdsn@gmail.com

or John on 07719 948378 / john.mehen@gmail.com

By 18th October please!

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Great Horkesley Community Events

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to this year's Great Horkesley Summer Fayre and helped make it such a wonderful community event. It was fantastic to see so many familiar faces, neighbours catching up, and families enjoying the day together. The exceptionally warm weather certainly brought its challenges, but it was lovely to see everyone making the most of the sunshine and supporting the event with such good spirits.



Thank you to all our visitors, volunteers, stallholders, and everyone who contributed their time and effort behind the scenes. Your support is what enables our community events to happen.

The Summer Fayre is all about bringing our community together, and once again it did just that. We hope everyone enjoyed the day as much as we enjoyed organising it.

Photos below of the Topsy Tombola and Tractor courtesy of Rix Farm.



We're already planning next year's Summer Fayre - if you have any ideas or you're a local business interested in sponsorship opportunities, please get in touch at ghcommunityevents@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE: Our Christmas Lights and Carols event will be in the evening of Sunday 6th December at the Village Hall.

Sam Jarvis & The GH Community Events Team

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Harvest Festival



At All Saints' Church
Great Horkesley
**Sunday 27th September at
11.00am**

Everyone welcome

Please support our Harvest Appeals
Collecting for:

Colchester Food Bank

(www.colchester.foodbank.org.uk)

supplying groceries and toiletries to needy families in Colchester. (Remember, packets, jars and tins only, no fresh produce and nothing past its use-by date!).



This year, more so than ever, the need for the foodbank is huge and yet, as the cost of living rises the level of donations has fallen. Please make a special effort to support it this time. A list of essential items can be seen at:

<https://colchester.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Please bring your gifts to the service or leave them in the porch of either All Saints' or St. John's Churches in the week before.

Target: 100kgs!

and

The Kenya Connection:

St. Andrew's Theological College, Kabare, Kerugoya, Kenya

Great Horkesley Church has had a connection with this college in central Kenya for many years, dating back to 1974. The cash offering at our Harvest Festival will be added to the support fund.

**Please help your village church in supporting
worthy causes this year,
both home and away.**



Biker's Promise Leads to Special Reunion at Horkesley Manor

A chance conversation at a care home open day has led to a heartwarming reunion of motorcycle enthusiasts at Horkesley Manor Care Home in Great Horkesley.

Resident David, a lifelong motorbike enthusiast, recently welcomed visitors Ian and Chris, who arrived at the home on their motorcycles after Ian promised to return following their first meeting earlier this year.

The connection began during Horkesley Manor's open day in May, when Ian, whose wife Jan is a Regional Director for Stow Healthcare, learned that David had spent many years riding motorcycles. The pair quickly discovered a shared passion for bikes, music and real ale, leading Ian to promise a future visit on his Harley-Davidson.

After rescheduling due to the summer heat, Ian and his friend Chris made the journey from Bury St Edmunds to fulfil that promise. David greeted them with a broad smile before heading outside to inspect the motorcycles. Drawing on decades of experience, he impressed both visitors with his knowledge of bikes, asking detailed questions and sharing stories from his own riding days.

David fondly recalled meeting fellow bikers at Dedham Boatyard before riding to Snetterton Race Circuit, as well as

touring France and Spain and camping in Cornwall with his friend, affectionately known as "Squealer". He also shared memories of attending the world-famous Isle of Man TT races. Back inside the home, the conversation continued over coffee as the group discussed motorcycles, racing, music and favourite local ales. David also spoke about his early career training as a silversmith, a craft he enjoyed and excelled in during his younger years.

Reflecting on the visit, Ian said: "As soon as I met David, I realised he knew a lot about motorcycles and was a really interesting person to talk to. We spoke about bikes, music and real ale, and I promised I would come back on my Harley-Davidson."

When Chris and I arrived, David had a beaming smile on his face. He was fascinated by the bikes and asked lots of questions. The conversation flowed all afternoon and before we knew it, it was time to say goodbye. David is a great chap and we both really enjoyed our time with him."

David was equally pleased with the visit and enjoyed the opportunity to reminisce about some of the adventures and friendships that shaped his life.



The visit is one of many examples of how Horkesley Manor supports residents to maintain connections with their interests, hobbies and personal histories, helping to create meaningful experiences and lasting memories.

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

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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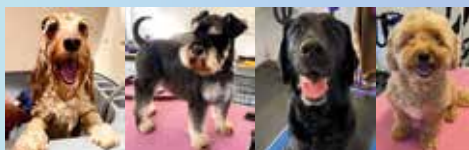


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Great and Little Horkesley WI

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

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Did you know that.....

This WI was formed in 1919 by Mrs M Hitchcock and 3 other ladies, her husband loaning the money to purchase an Army Hut as their meeting place – they repaid the loan in 1923. In July 1980 the inside of the Hall was gutted by fire but, by supreme effort of the members, together with WIs, friends and County Federation it was back in use in April 1981. The Army hut is now situated in Bury St Edmunds at the Great War Huts, a First World War Heritage Project.

In 2013 the W I moved their meetings to the new Village Hall and continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm.

At our May meeting we welcomed Megan and Aby from Dedham Therapy farm who brought along Gizmo and Popeye ,adorable guinea pigs. Dedham Therapy Farm provides bespoke, person-centred therapeutic services and occupational therapy using nature and animals. The Farm enables people to achieve their goals through meaningful and purposeful activities.



The farm itself covers 14 acres of countryside and is home to farm animals which are used in a range of therapy programmes. It has dogs, sheep, goats, chickens, pigs, donkeys, alpacas, rabbits and guinea pigs.



A few of our members attended the Essex Federation County Annual Meeting held at the Brentwood centre. The speaker was Patrick Grant, Founder of Community Clothing and Judge on BBC's Great British Sewing Bee. Two members were lucky enough to have their photo taken with him.

As part of our Dental Health Matters campaign, our members made bags and placed a toothbrush and toothpaste inside. These were given to Tiddlywinks Preschool and the Reception class at Bishop William Award school.

Great and Little Horkesley WI

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



June is the month for the NFWI Annual Meeting which once again was a Virtual meeting streamed from the NFWI London Office.

We organised a watch party and invited other WIs to join us. There were two resolutions to be voted on, and we heard from expert speakers on both topics - Accessible public toilet facilities and Women's homelessness. There were also 3 speakers who all gave interesting and inspiring talks. Anne Boden – founder of Starling Bank, Professor Michele Dougherty – Executive Chair, Science and Technology Facilities Council and Mary Lewis who shared the work of DR Jane Goodhall.



Our June meeting was a food tasting session, giving our ratings on 3 different foods from three different supermarkets. Members were asked for their opinions as to whether the items were Basic, Better or Best. It was a fun evening and generated a lot of discussion.

We continue to meet socially each month for morning coffee, afternoon tea or lunch. We visit and support a variety of local businesses for our social get togethers.

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:

11th August – Beetle Drive
September 8th – Life as a Travelling Tudor Player
October 13th Meet the Town Crier
November 10th – Flower Crafting

INSIDE OUT

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****Bank Holiday Closure****

The surgery will be CLOSED on Monday 31st August. PLEASE be aware when submitting your prescriptions that we need 5 WORKING DAYS to process.

Autumn at the Surgery

This is always a busy time at the Surgery with our Flu Clinics. All patients (including house bound patients) will be invited to attend, however, if you haven't heard by mid-September and believe you are eligible, please contact us. The Flu vaccinations are purchased by the Surgery for all eligible patients; therefore, we would ask you to support your practice by attending the clinics. Thank you.

Adult Flu Clinics:

Nayland - Thursday 1st October / West Bergholt - Wednesday 7th October

Creffield - Thursday 8th October

Children's Flu Clinics:

Nayland - Monday 28th September PM / West Bergholt - Wednesday 23rd September AM

Creffield - Tuesday 8th and Tuesday 15th September

Vaccinations:

All our practices also provide vaccinations for Pneumococcal, Shingles and RSV, if you think you are eligible please contact us and we can book these into our normal practice clinics (not flu clinics).

Please note: as per previous years the COVID vaccination is provided by local pharmacies.

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Keelers Way, CO6 4HR every third Thursday

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15th October

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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.

We 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!!

We entertained the crowds at St Georges church Gt Bromley Flower Festival with a selection of light music and then a concert in Gt Bentley to close their Flower Festival. The theme was the Wonder of Water, so a wide selection of 'water' themed music was chosen including Army of the Nile, Dignity, New World Fantasy, a London Celebration and Vaughan Williams Sea Songs. We look forward to playing on Colchester Band stand on 26th July— always a favourite place to play. Some members of the band joined with Long Melford Band to take part in the Whit Friday march 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 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 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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Come along and enjoy the
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Guests £5

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Arts and Crafts

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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:

11th & 25th August

8th & 22nd September

13th & 27th October

**For more information contact
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Great Horkesley Carpet Bowls Club



The club has a new bank account which does not require a monthly fee.

The internal club pairs and singles competitions are both currently underway.

Interested in trying carpet bowls?

We meet every Thursday 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.**

Mike Hubbard, Great Horkesley Club Secretary



Aimed at beginners and social
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All ages welcome.
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Contact: **Jane 01206 263619**

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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
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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



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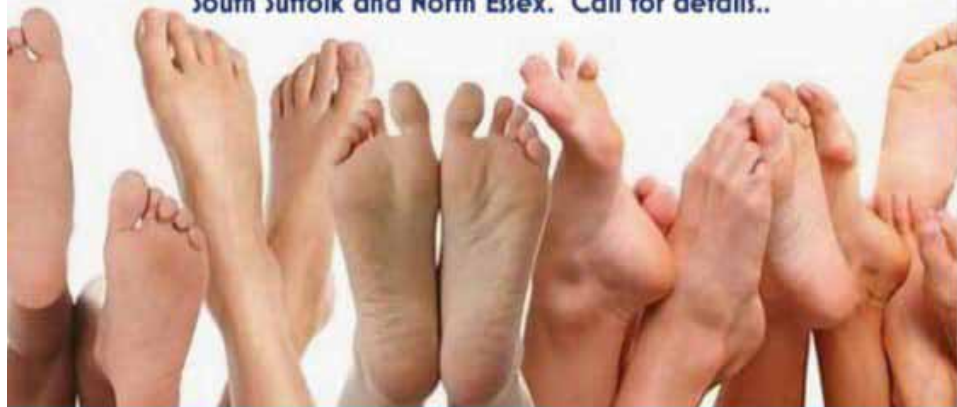
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We will provide you with: a high vis vest, a litter picker and some bags.

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



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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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

11/08/2026	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm Page 60
11/08/2026	WI Meeting, GH Village Hall 7-9pm Pages 48/49
13/08/2026	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm Page 55
25/08/2026	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm Page 60
03/09/2026	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm Page 55
04/09/2026	Last date for submissions for next GH Village News
08/09/2026	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm Page 60
08/09/2026	WI Meeting, GH Village Hall 7-9pm Pages 48/49
15/09/2026	Great Horkesley Parish Council Meeting GH Village Hall 7pm
22/09/2026	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm Page 60
24/09/2026	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm Page 55
27/09/2026	Harvest Festival, All Saints' 11am Page 41
03/10/2026	Churchyard Clear Up, All Saints' 9.30am - 12pm
11/10/2026	Octavia Concert, All Saints' 3.30pm Page 11
13/10/2026	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm Page 60
13/10/2026	WI Meeting, GH Village Hall 7-9pm Pages 48/49
15/10/2026	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm Page 55
20/10/2026	Great Horkesley Parish Council Meeting GH Village Hall 7pm
24/10/2026	Quiz Night, Village Hall 7pm Page 35
27/10/2026	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm Page 60

For details of:

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

Messy Church see page 23

Roman River Music page 28

Colchester Museum (Hollytrees) Dinosaur Exhibition page 46

Bank Holiday:

Monday 31st August

Useful Contacts

Councils

Chairman Great Horkesley Parish Council..	Paul Tempest	
	E-mail: cllr.tempest@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	Sara Naylor.....	cllr.sara.naylor@essex.gov.uk
MP (Harwich & North Essex).....	Sir Bernard Jenkins.....	02072194029

Village Groups

Great Horkesley Community Events	ghcommunityevents@gmail.com	
Gt. & Lt. Horkesley WI President.....	Marilyn Hurst	07763488774
Rainbow Leader	Liz Petter	01206 271511
Guide Leader.....	Ann Dyer.....	01206 273071
Brownie Leader	Liz Petter	01206 271511
Scout 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 Evans	07747751063
	E-mail: horkesleyvillagenews@gmail.com	

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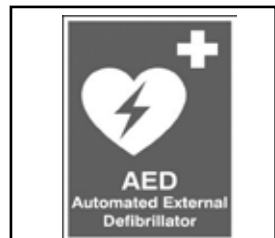
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The Mental Health Advice & Support.....	0800 138 0990
The Silver Line.....	0800 4 70 80 90
UK Power Networks	0800 31 63 105
https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/	
Anglian Water	03457 145 145
https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/	

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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