

GREAT HORKESLEY VILLAGE NEWS



Autumn/Winter Issue 150
Nov 2026 - Jan 2027



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From the Editor

I have been very busy since the last magazine most notably with jury service which I was apprehensive about but it made me proud to be part of the criminal justice process. It was very intriguing to see they way the courts work and I was pleased that they were air conditioned as it was very hot again outside!

As the evenings are now starting to draw in Rusty will move to only having agility once a week until the weather stops us. Whilst I am looking forward to Halloween and also Bonfire Night they can be incredibly stressful for pets like Rusty, as well as people living with anxiety or sensory sensitivities. The sudden, loud bangs of fireworks and the constant stream of trick-or-treaters often trigger severe panic and distress.

Here is how we can work together to keep the season enjoyable for all:

- If you are using fireworks post a notice in advance on the village Facebook page
- Use low noise fireworks
- Confine fireworks to earlier in the day/evening
- Attend an organised fireworks event
- Look out for "no trick or treaters" posters or houses with no pumpkins

We're looking for future cover photographs. If you have a favourite colour photo taken in Great Horkesley, please email it with details of where it was taken. As the next issue covers February to April, a spring-themed photograph would be ideal.

Issue 150 front cover photo courtesy of: Sam Jarvis.

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

Best wishes Caroline



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Great Horkesley Parish Council

www.greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk

clerk@greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk

As always, the first ordinary council meeting back after the summer 'break' was a busy one!

Some recent updates since the last village news:

- There has finally been some positive progress with the legal proceedings for taking over ownership of the village green. We are hoping to complete the process in the near future.
- We received the disappointing and frustrating news that the request for a speed limit reduction between Great Horkesley and Chesterwell has now been rejected. GHPC offered to fund the change so that there would be no direct cost to ECC and the previous County Councillor responsible for transport had agreed to progress the change, yet it was not formally approved before the most recent local elections. Since then, the new County Councillor responsible for transport has put a stop to the change in speed limit. Cllr Tempest talks about this further in his report.
- Gt Horkesley Parish Council has agreed to become the freeholder of the new Scout Hut HQ being built as part of the Hopkins Homes development around the Manor and will also take ownership of the new allotment land on the same development. More information will be coming out about the allotments in due course.
- Coach Road has finally been prioritised for repair work.
- Residents are encouraged to respond to the current Local Plan consultation, as the Parish Council will be. Again, further information is in Cllr Tempest's report.

We have heard back from the external auditors and are pleased to share that GHPC 'passed' its audit for the 2025/26 financial year. As we head towards January, which is sure to come around quickly, work has now started on putting together the budget for the 2027/28 financial year. The cycle never ends!

Parish organisations will be invited to apply for a grant from the Parish Council during October. Please find further details and an application form in the Grants Policy & Procedure on the Parish Council's website (www.greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk/governance-documents).

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

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

On Tuesdays

2pm - 4pm Craft Club (Meeting Room)
(2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month only)
Tel: 01206 271713 - Margaret
(see page 56)

7pm - 9pm W.I.
2nd Tuesday of the month only
Tel: 07763488774 - Marilyn
(see pages 36/37)

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

On Wednesdays

11am - 12pm Seated Chair Yoga
Tel: 07927494927 - Lisa-Dawn

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

On Thursdays

1pm - 2pm Mum & Baby Pilates
Tel: 07545349123 - Marion

7pm-9pm Tai Chi
Term Time Only

On Fridays

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

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

For enquiries and bookings please contact 07827911934

or email: hallbookings@greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk

Check availability on our website:

www.greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk/booking-enquiries

Great Horkesley Parish Council

Chairman - Paul Tempest

Hello Great Horkesley, I hope you all had an enjoyable summer. With the evenings drawing in and the cooler weather arriving, it certainly feels as though winter is on its way. As always, the Parish Council has been busy, and I wanted to share a few updates on the key matters affecting our village.

Local Plan

The Local Plan is an important document that will shape future development, housing, infrastructure and land use across our area for many years to come. It sets out where new homes may be built, how green spaces will be protected, and what facilities and services will be needed to support a growing population. Colchester City Council is currently consulting on the latest stage of the plan, and this is a key opportunity for residents to have their say. The Parish Council will be submitting a formal response on behalf of Great Horkesley, focusing on the issues that matter most to our village, but we strongly encourage residents to review the proposals themselves and share their own views directly.

Your feedback really does make a difference. Whether you have concerns about traffic, infrastructure, environmental impact, or simply want to ensure Great Horkesley retains its character, this is the moment to speak up. Details of the consultation, including how to respond, can be found on the Colchester City Council website, and we will also share links via the GHPC Facebook page.

Manor Park Development

Many of you will have noticed that work has now begun on the Manor Park development. While any construction project inevitably brings some disruption, we are hopeful that the impact on residents will be kept to a minimum. There are, however, several positives that will come from this development. These include new allotments, a Scout Hut, and—most importantly in my view—a new bike and foot path running up to Chesterwell along the A134. As many of you will remember from my previous update, Essex County Council recently rejected our long standing request to reduce the speed limit on this stretch from 60mph to 40mph, despite the clear safety concerns raised by GHPC for children walking to school and other regular users of the route. Given that decision, the new bike/foot path becomes even more important. We are currently investigating whether the path will include a physical barrier separating pedestrians and cyclists from road traffic. I believe this is important, and GHPC will continue to push to find out more details. Anything that improves protection for those travelling on foot or by bike is a step in the right direction.

Coach Road

At our last Parish Council meeting, we received confirmation that Coach Road has now been scheduled for repair. Anyone who has driven along it recently will understand just how urgently this work is needed. This is a welcome development, and we will continue to monitor progress.

Staying Connected

As always, I encourage residents to stay in touch with GHPC. Our Facebook page continues to grow and remains one of the easiest ways to keep up to date with village news, council activity, and updates from our village warden. If you use Facebook, please do follow the page and encourage neighbours to do the same. Thank you, as ever, for your continued support and engagement. Our village thrives when residents stay informed and involved, and I am committed to ensuring GHPC remains open, accessible and proactive. If you have any questions, concerns or ideas, please do reach out via the GHPC website or join us at our next monthly meeting. It was great to see that some residents came to observe our last meeting.



WREATHMAKING DIY SESSION

Create your very own beautiful wreath to take home!

FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER
BISHOP WILLIAM WARD PRIMARY SCHOOL
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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.

Little Owls Preschool

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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.

Phone 01206 273226

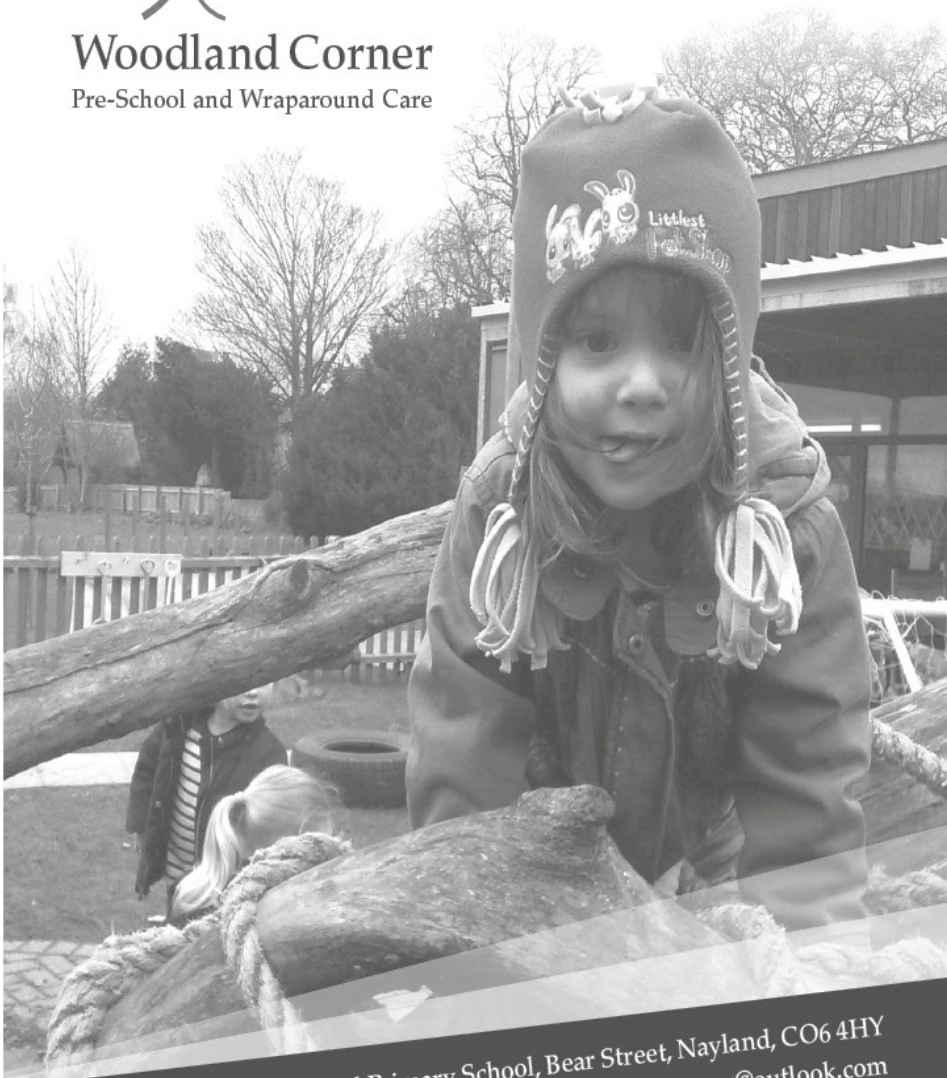
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Tel: 01206 263054 Email: woodlandcorner@outlook.com
Web: www.woodlandcornernayland.blogspot.co.uk

Woodland Corner is a registered charity no. **1168815**



West Bergholt Gardeners' Association

Our 2026/2027 season is in full swing as we approach Winter however there is still time for you to join us. Upcoming speaker topics include "Attracting Birds and Wildlife to your Garden", "Plants for Pollinators" 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.

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 next meeting is on Monday 16th November where we welcome Jaime Blake who will be letting us know that "Diamonds are Forever".

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



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



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 62). Myland Guides are particularly in need of someone willing to train as a leader and will receive plenty of support.

All the units will be taking part in the Remembrance services at All Saints in November. Girlguiding launched its new uniforms for all sections in the summer and so look out for the brightly coloured new Rainbow tops and comfortable blue tops for guides and stripey Brownie tops!!

Great Horkesley Rainbows



We have eighteen girls in the unit with a long waiting list – five new girls joined us in September and have settled in well. We

started the term by making mini scarecrows to decorate All Saints Church for Harvest then followed up with a Wizard of OZ evening as our leaders all have names from the Wizard of Oz story. This term we are undertaking the Innovate Stage 1 Skills Builder looking at Slippery Slopes, Puppet Pals, Exciting Experiments, Go Gobots and finally Clap Tap Pat, all designed to see how different things work in the world. Our Interest badge for the term will be Storyteller, looking at stories from around the world and making up our own versions of well-known tales. We will be celebrating Divali/Bonfire Night after half term. Our County Commissioner's Winter Good Turn challenges units to do something for their community so the Rainbows and Brownies units are collecting items for Tots To Teens, a local charity providing extras for local children ready for Christmas. We will be having a joint Christmas party with the Brownies with an entertainer coming to amuse the girls as well as making Christmas crafts.

Great Horkesley Brownies



We have twenty girls at Brownies; all the older girls having left at the end of the summer term and six Rainbows plus two girls new to

Guiding joining us. We enjoyed making bread to decorate All Saints for Harvest and some to take home to bake. This term we are completing several Unit Meeting Activities – Girlguiding meeting plans to cover different topics and to let our new girls get to know their Sixes. These will include Trash Fashion, Slime Time, In a Fix, Bottle Mansions and Disaster Strikes. We completed the Space Interest badge early in the term, looking at the skies, designing rockets, and learning about the planets. The Brownies will also be collecting items for Tots to Teens, making Christmas crafts, and enjoying the Christmas party with the Rainbows.

Great Horkesley Guides



The Guides are growing in numbers but there are still spaces for new members to join. The Guides are taking part in the County Good Turn too, collecting items for the Colchester Food Bank. They will

be joining other members of Girlguiding at a special showing of the new Disney Film Hexed in December. Plans are in progress for next years summer camp at Thorington. The Patrols all take an active part in planning meetings, taking it in turn to share their ideas and interests – these often include some form of cooking or craft.



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Last Posting Dates for Christmas 2026

Consumer customers - last posting dates for inland services

To ensure your Christmas letters and parcels reach their destination in good time, it's always a good idea to post as early as possible.

Royal Mail - UK Inland services*

Date	Service
Friday, 18 December	2nd Class, 2nd Class Signed For
Saturday, 19 December [†]	Royal Mail Tracked 48 [°]
Monday, 21 December	1st Class, 1st Class Signed For Royal Mail Tracked 24 [°]
Wednesday, 23 December	Special Delivery Guaranteed [°]

[†] Saturday, 19 December is the last posting date for Royal Mail Tracked Returns[°] 48 to arrive back with the sender before Christmas.

Parcelforce Worldwide - UK Inland services*

Date	Service
Monday, 21 December	express48 and express48large
Tuesday, 22 December	express10, expressAM and express24

We are back in action here at Bishop William Ward with some new members of staff and children, including our wonderful Foundation Stage class, to welcome into our school community. At this time of year, we also think of the pupils now starting their secondary school adventure and wish them every success for the future – we hope they will continue to be ‘happy, respectful, lifelong learners’. Our term has started well and the pupils are enjoying the continued fine weather. The school playground has changed significantly since I was at school – we now have crates, tyres and tarpaulin to build dens with; a scooter area; Lego, doll’s houses, dinosaurs and cars to play with; a large range of dressing up; mud kitchens and digging areas; a tyre park, play frame and outdoor gym, in addition to the ever-popular games of football that take place on the sports pitch and field. It is always a joy to be outside at lunch time seeing the children’s creativity and happiness.

Our Year 6 pupils have just returned from a week away in Norfolk at the PGL centre in Overstrand. They spent the week engaging in different adventurous activities, including abseiling, archery, laser tag and buggy building. The children stay in dormitories and eat together in the canteen (three cooked meals a day to keep them going!). It is such a valuable experience, giving the children the opportunity to become more independent and sharpen up their team work skills. This year’s cohort were a great credit to the school in the way in which they conducted themselves and took part with high levels of enthusiasm. We look forward to celebrating at our Harvest Festivals soon. Donations will be made to Colchester Food Bank and our friends at Tiddlywinks will also be collecting items. We will invite families into the school to join us as we sing the harvest favourites and each class gives a short performance. You are all welcome to join us on December 5th for our Christmas Fair. The Friends of BWW will be working hard through the term to make sure it is a lovely event to start our Christmas celebrations. We will then be into the season of carols, concerts, activity days and Christmas dinner – it is always a special time of year to work at a school.

If your child is starting school next year, please sign up to one of our tours to come and see what’s going on at BWW. This year, we are also offering some ‘stay and play’ sessions where children can bring their grown up into our Reception class to explore the sorts of things we have on offer. Dates for these events are all on the school website.

Drop us an email at

admin@bishopwilliamward.essex.sch.uk or call us on 01206 271336 to book.

Mr Bull



HO HO HO!



Christmas FAIR

Saturday 5th December

11.30am - 2pm

Bishop William Ward School,
Great Horkesley

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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 fantastic few months for 1st Great Horkesley Scout Group, with all our sections getting stuck into exciting activities, learning new skills and making memories together!

There's plenty more to look forward to this term, with all of our sections heading out for a Rix farm visit. We're sure it will be another brilliant opportunity for our young people to learn, explore and have fun together.

Here's to another brilliant term at 1st Great Horkesley Scouts!

Squirrels

This term Squirrels have been feasting on words with the Hungry Caterpillar, exploring the night sky and even making blanket forts! Later this year they will be learning firework safety, commemorating Remembrance, and making their own Christmas decorations.

Beavers

Our Beavers kicked off September with a super spy camp, taking on a laser spy maze challenge and completing a spy scavenger hunt. They showed fantastic teamwork and determination throughout the weekend!

They have already been busy earning their Cyclist Badge, are looking forward to getting stuck into some caving and visiting a local care home to create festive decor with the residents.



Cubs

Our Cubs have been busy out in the community, building a hedgehog house, planting bulbs and learning more about the history of All Saints Church. A huge thank you to John and Gwen for helping the Cubs discover more about the church and its place in our local community.

Coming up, the Cubs are looking forward to an exciting RNLi visit and a chip hike – because no hike is complete without a well-earned portion of chips at the end!

Scouts

This term, our Scouts are focusing on some important Skills for Life, including learning how to make a great cup of tea, ironing and using tools safely.

They'll also be putting their new skills to good use by creating some fantastic wooden festive sculptures, which they will be fundraising with to help raise money for our Scout Hut.

Our Scouts had an amazing summer camp at Tolmers Scout Activity Centre, packed with adventure, challenges and plenty of opportunities to learn new skills. One of the highlights was a day trip into London, where the Scouts completed a treasure trail before enjoying a visit to an underground-themed attraction (and the solar eclipse!). A brilliant week away.



A heatwave, poor crop yields (with grapes perhaps being the exception), a hosepipe ban, and dangerous field fires mean that the summer of 2026 is unlikely to be forgotten in a hurry.

Now that the holiday season is over, we have learned that the Government is putting Local Government Reform on hold. This constant moving of the goalposts does little to help planning, particularly when many council officers are already under pressure and facing uncertainty. Colchester had been working proactively with Braintree and Tendring to explore efficiencies and opportunities for improved service delivery. As things currently stand, there will likely be elections for one-third of Colchester City Councillors in May 2027. In the meantime, we will continue standing up for our villages in Town Halls and beyond. Road defects continue to be reported, with some successes in securing repairs. Clearly, the condition of our roads is not a problem unique to Colchester, and many residents share a frustration at the UK's apparent inability to manage the basics effectively.

Colchester's Local Plan

The key document that determines where housing and growth will be approved is currently under consultation, with contributions invited until Tuesday 13th October. None of us wants to see large areas of inappropriate development or housing built outside agreed Neighbourhood Plans. However, we must also be realistic about what we can influence. The Government is requiring more housing to be delivered, so it is important that local communities have a say in where that housing goes and what it looks like.

As your local councillor team, we spend much of our time dealing with the issues residents notice every day: poor mobile signal, speeding, potholes, planning matters, pressure on local services, and concerns about new development. We also deal with many smaller individual issues that rarely make the headlines but matter just as much to the people affected. If there is something you think we should know about, please get in touch. We will always do our best to help.



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

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

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

To sign up to Litter Warriors, email: community.volunteers@colchester.gov.uk



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

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

Can you help?

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

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

Opening hours Mon-Fri 8.30am - 4.30pm

Contact us on **01206 617865**

Registered Charity No. 1063570



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.

Church News

November & December 2026 – January 2027



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

Some seasonal thoughts from
Rev'd. Heather Wilcox, Priest-in-Charge

Life in all its fullness

Life is a gift and as we journey through these next few months, we are reminded of just how precious that gift is.

In the church calendar, November is a month for remembering, we begin with All Souls, a time for giving thanks for those whom we have loved, but whom we see no longer, and then on Remembrance Sunday we remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, giving up their lives, that we might live in the freedom we know today, a truly remarkable gift.

Then we enter December, and we come to Advent and Christmas, and we are reminded of the ultimate gift of God's son, sent as a gift to all creation, God with us, Emmanuel.

As we give and receive presents at Christmas time, we are reminded that Jesus is the most precious gift we could ever receive, that the gift of Jesus, transforms our lives, gives us hope and promises us life everlasting.

And then in January, we receive the gift of a new year, a fresh start, a new beginning, as we may or may not write our new year's resolutions. Life is a gift, but how often do we see it that way? How often do we recognise just how precious it is, and how amazing it is that we have the opportunities we have today, because of the freedom we have been given.

So, I pray that over the coming months, we might take time to give thanks for the gift of life and as we do so, I am reminded of the words of Jesus in John 10:10 *'I have come that you might have life and have it in all its fullness.'*

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas this year, may we truly welcome the gift of Jesus into our hearts, and live our lives to the full.

May God bless you
Reverend Heather

Thank you!

The **Macmillan Coffee Morning** at St. John's on 24th September raised around £220 for Macmillan Cancer Care.

At the **Harvest Festival** on 27th September 77.8kgs of groceries were donated for Colchester Foodbank and £58 for the support of St. Andrew's College in Kenya.

All Saints' Churchyard now has a **Hedgehog House** thanks to Gt. Horkesley Cubs who built it and planted daffodil bulbs.

Regular Events at St. John's

Take a Break Café at St. John's, Thursdays from 10am to 11.30am.

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, 4pm at St. John's Church
15th November, 20th December (Christmas Special) and 17th January
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':

Interment of Ashes – 15th August, Sally Grootenhuis

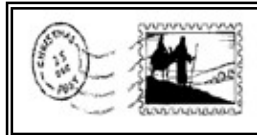
Wedding – 19th September, Neil Springall & Amanda Clancy

We wish them God's blessing and much joy in their future life together.



Share the GIFT of Christmas at our services:

Sunday December 13th 4pm Carol Service at All Saints'
Traditional Carols and readings telling the Christmas story.



Sunday 20th December 4pm at St. John's,
Messy Church, make your own Christingle

Christmas Eve 24th 5.30pm Welcome to Christmas, Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion at All Saints'

Celebrate the birth of Jesus in the first minutes of Christmas Day!

Christmas Day 25th 9.30am Christmas Celebration at St. Mary's West Bergholt
The big day is finally here! Come celebrate the meaning of Christmas.

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 November 2026 - January 2027

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

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

November	1 st	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. John's
	8 th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints'
		10.45am	Remembrance Parade Service	All Saints'
	15 th	4.00pm	Messy Church	St. John's
	22 nd	11.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'

29th 10.30am *United Service for Advent Sunday*
at St. Mary's Langham

December	6 th	11.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	13 th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints'

Christmas Services – see page 23 for details

	13 th	4.00pm	Carol Service	All Saints'
	20 th	4.00pm	Messy Church with Christingle Service	St. John's

Christmas Eve

	24 th	5.30pm	Welcome to Christmas - Crib Service	St. John's
		11.30pm	Midnight Holy Communion	All Saints'

Christmas Day

	25 th	9.30am	Christmas Celebration <i>at St. Mary's West Bergholt</i>	
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	27 th	10.30am	United Holy Communion	
			<i>at St. Peter & St. Paul, Little Horkesley</i>	

January	3 rd	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. John's
	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	<i>United Holy Communion</i>	<i>at St. Peter's Boxted</i>

- 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.



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.

Fireworks Spectacular



King Coel's Kittens are organising their 55th Fireworks Spectacular on **Thursday 5th November 2026** in Castle Park, Colchester. Tickets will be available from the Mercury Theatre or online through the King Coel's Kittens website kingcoelskittens.co.uk at the beginning of September. There will be a selection of food outlets by the Castle Café and the beacon in the upper park.

Gates open at 5.30pm and will be open for entry at Museum Street, both ends of the Folley, Roman Road and the main gates into the park by the war memorial. Please have your tickets available to scan at the gate.

Entertainment will be provided from 5.30pm followed by the Guy Parade from the Band Stand at 7pm. The Fireworks display will commence at 7.30pm.

All funds raised will enable King Coel's Kittens to purchase tangible items for groups of people living within the local community who require additional equipment. This year, King Coel's Kittens have supported Levelbest, Kingsland Church, Scout Groups, Wivenhoe Allotment Group, Culver Square telephone box for books, Stepping Stones and Emmaus

Ticket Prices

Adults £13

Children 5-15 £7

Children 3-4 £1

Under 3 free

No concessions. Ticket holders only on the night.

No alcohol, sparklers or laser beams will be allowed in the park. Bags may be checked.

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Through The Garden Gate



It's October 14th as I write. A pleasant sunny day. The chilly nights tell us we are well into autumn, but the daytime hours are still warm with temperatures often 21c or above in recent weeks. Many of the deciduous shrubs are still in full leaf and my hydrangea shrubs having been trimmed for the winter, have started to grow fresh new leaves again. It's going to be near December time before everything will be bare of foliage.

It's something of a problem planting spring flowering bulbs for fear they might start into growth prematurely. I have planted a couple of species of miniature daffs to put into containers. I like the smaller daffs for their intense scent, although all daffodils have a pleasant scent - more than they get credit for. Daffodils bulbs are toxic, and so not usually eaten by animals, unlike tulip bulbs, which can disappear overnight. Squirrels, mice, and other creatures eat them. I rarely grow tulips as I find they often only flower for one or two seasons and aren't really perennial. I have bought some of the tiny wild tulip bulbs this year though. Will have to see if they will be more perennial. They are very short with beautiful little starry flowers. They grow across Central Asia, from Turkey, Iran, Kazakhstan, and across other unspoiled wild places. I'd love to see them growing in their natural habitat. Their bulbs are so tiny, I wasn't quite sure which end was which. I hope I've got it right!! I shall have to keep the containers as high as possible away from chance of being eaten.



We have had such a long hot and very dry summer, my biggest casualties have been a few of my holly bushes. Early summer there were lots of their tiny flowers giving high hopes of a good show of berries, but unfortunately the berries burned brown in the heat of later summer. The varieties with variegated leaves were the worst affected, and are a sad sight now having been trimmed back too. The hosepipe ban didn't help.



Will we ever have a snowy winter again one wonders. They seem to be a thing of the past. Beautiful to look out on, but of course, makes for tricky driving conditions on our busy crowded roads. Take care everyone.

I have added an image I took of the old oak tree which was on Queen Head Road any covered with hoar frost - I think in the winter of 2009/2010. The tree is no longer with us as it unfortunately became diseased, I believe. Have an enjoyable Christmas everyone.

Jill Plane

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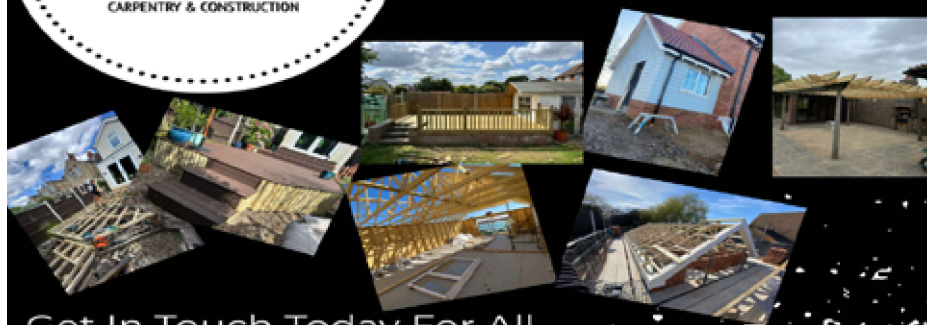
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Great Horkesley

Carols & Lights

6 DECEMBER
5.30PM

GREAT HORKESLEY
VILLAGE HALL



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from the WI



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+ Dessert Bar



Hot Dogs
from GH Scouts



Hot Chocolate
from the Church



BWW Choir



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LIGHT SWITCH ON
+ Carols

6.30PM



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Great and Little Horkesley WI

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theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Did you know that.....

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

Our annual summer trip was a visit to Green Island Gardens. This is an area of 20 acres, professionally designed gardens by Fiona Edmond in woodland decimated by the 1987 hurricane. It includes terrace gardens, Japanese garden, water garden, seaside garden, gravel gardens, and extensive woodland gardens hosting a wealth of unusual plants often of borderline hardiness that thrive in the unique microclimate. A Plantsman's paradise that looks good all year round.



At the 2025 NFWI Annual Meeting, W I Members voted in favour of the Bystanders Can Be Lifesavers resolution. As part of our involvement in supporting this Resolution we organised a Presentation from Colchester First Responders. The Colchester Community First Responders are volunteers trained by the East of England Ambulance Service. They are mobilised to medical emergencies in the community, look after public defibrillators across the area and run

community events to teach CPR. Their aim is to reach a potential life-threatening emergency in the first vital minutes before the ambulance crew arrives. The Responders gave a very informative talk about their roles and how they operate. They also gave us some extremely useful advice on how to respond in various situations.

Great and Little Horkesley WI

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

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

At our September meeting we welcomed Emma Mordue speaking about Life as a Travelling Tudor Player. Emma Mordue is a multi-instrumentalist based in Suffolk. Providing music and entertainment for a variety of events, including weddings, festivals, schools' workshops, gallery openings, parades and pageants. As happy strolling around like a medieval minstrel, or providing melodies from atop a gallery, her favourite thing to do is head up a parade, the wilder the better. Past parades have included flaming torches, horses, big black beastly dogs. We listened to Emma playing a variety of instruments from the Tudor times, including recorders, Crumhorn and Bagpipes. Some members even joined in with a Tudor dance.



Our Charity for this year is Dedham Therapy farm. The farm provides bespoke, person-centred therapeutic services and occupational therapy using nature and animals. Some members were fortunate enough to be able to visit the farm and have a guided tour as well as hearing more about the valuable work that the team are engaged in. The farm covers 14 acres of countryside and is home to farm animals, including goats, sheep, pigs, chickens, alpacas and rabbits.

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:

10th November - Flower Crafting
8th December - Christmas Party
12th January - Burlesque Evening

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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

Support Local: A Guide to Colchester's Independent Gems

H. Gunton Tea and Coffee Specialists, trading at 81-83 Crouch Street, is Colchester's oldest fine food shop and a beloved independent delicatessen. Established in 1936 by Herbert Gunton, this fourth-generation family-run institution is currently celebrating its 90th anniversary in 2026. It is famed for maintaining traditional grocer values alongside artisan products.

Dillys Bespoke Florist, located at 6 Crouch Street, is the only dedicated independent florist situated in the very heart of Colchester city centre. Established in 2006, this celebrated women-owned local business has been crafting high-end, elegant floral arrangements for the community for two decades.

Red Lion Books, located at 125 High Street, is Colchester's last remaining independent bookshop and a highly celebrated community hub. Founded in 1978 by Peter and Sarah Donaldson, this proudly independent store has been a constant presence in the town centre for 48 years. Managed by Jo Coldwell, Red Lion Books is having an exceptionally decorated year in 2026, recently sweeping the Colchester Business Awards as both Independent Retailer of the Year and overall Business of the Year, alongside being named a regional finalist for Independent Bookshop of the Year at the prestigious British Book Awards.

Bill & Bert's, located at 2 Sir Isaac's Walk, is a multi-award-winning, fiercely popular independent gift shop that has become a destination attraction in Colchester town centre. Opened in 2018 by seasoned retailer Bill Nettlefield (who named the shop after himself and his faithful dog, Bertie), the business has experienced rapid growth. It recently won the "Best Retailer Initiative" at the national The Greats Gift Retailer Awards.

Dice & a Slice, located at 37 Queen Street, is Colchester's premier independent board game café and a major cornerstone for the local tabletop community. This highly popular, inclusive spot seamlessly blends a cozy, casual café with an enormous library of games. Whether visitors are hard-core tabletop veterans or families seeking a casual afternoon out, it serves as a unique social hub right in the heart of the city.

Meow Cat Café, is located at 39 Eld Lane. It is Essex's first fully adoptable cat café, serving as a unique social enterprise where visitors can enjoy refreshments in the company of free-roaming rescue cats. Founded by owner Becky, the venue operates with a mission to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome abandoned felines.

Mann's Music, trading at 123 High Street, is one of the oldest independent music shops in Great Britain. Established in 1854 by Frederick Mann, this incredible fifth-generation business has been operating under the ownership of the same family for 172 years. Having moved into its High Street premises back in 1891, the shop remains a cornerstone of the city's independent retail scene and enters 2026 as a proud nominee for Independent Retailer of the Year at the Colchester Business Awards.

Santa's Grotto



At the BWW Christmas Fair!

Saturday 5th December

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Wednesday: Girlguiding

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Friday: Table Tennis

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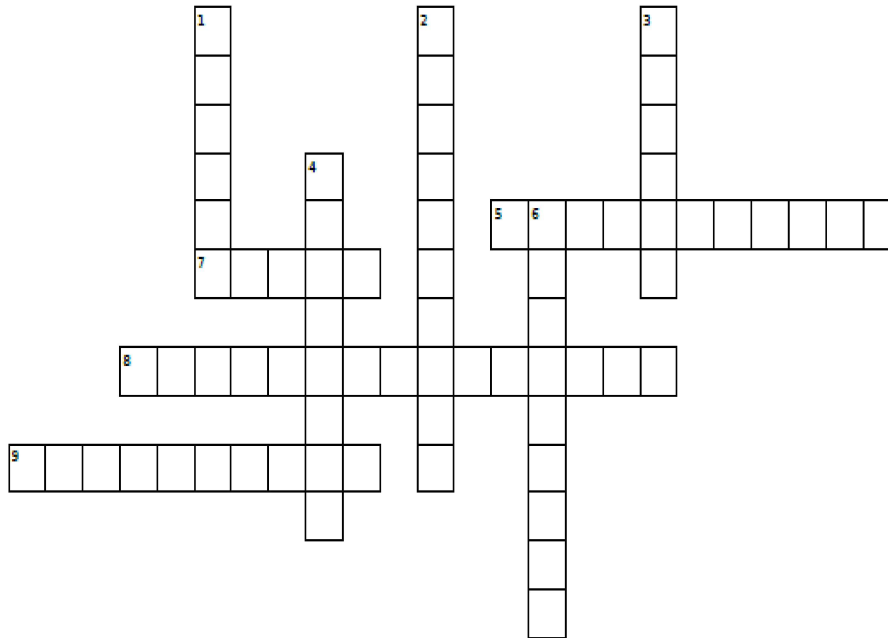
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Great Horkesley Crossword



Down:

1. Group founded in 1909 by Robert Baden-Powell
2. 15th century thatched village pub
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9. Road named after a barge or boat worker

Answers on page 60

ECC Mobile Library



Stops on

Keelers Way, CO6 4HR every third Thursday

11:45am - 12:15pm

Forthcoming Dates:

5th & 26th November / 17th December 2026

2027 dates not yet available

Please support this fantastic service in our community



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For availability and prices contact Caroline Evans

NEW EMAIL greathorkesleyvillagenews@gmail.com

Tel: 07747751063

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**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 greathorkesleyvillagenews@gmail.com
by 6th January 2027**

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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 now closed.

We enjoyed playing on Colchester Band stand on 26th July – always a favourite place to play. We played for the Harvest Festival at Boxted as well as a memorial service for a member of the band family.

We have been invited to join Lexden Choral Society again for their Remembrance Concert at St Botolphs Church on November 7th and are rehearsing a variety of 'British' themed music including Highland Cathedral, Devon Fantasy, A Moorland Suite, and Famous British Marches.

We will also play at Boxted St Peters church for the Remembrance service on 8th November.

Our December engagement list is pretty full already. We play locally around the streets in Boxted – a tradition from the Band's early beginnings as well as carol services in Boxted, Polstead and Wimpole Road churches. We will be playing Advent Carols at Boxted Village Hall on 29th November as part of the Tree lighting afternoon. We invite everyone to join us for a Christmas Concert in Gt Horkesley Village Hall on 12th December at 6pm – music to listen too and maybe a carol of two to join in.

We have several engagements already booked for next year so a busy time ahead – a joint concert with 1st Class Brass in February, a concert at St Marys church Stoke by Nayland in April led by Christopher Bond a well-known arranger and conductor in the brass band world after he leads the band in a workshop during the afternoon. We are also playing at Weeley and Leavenheath fetes and hopefully Castle Park bandstand again.

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. 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.

If you are interested in either joining or listening to the band we rehearse on Wednesday evenings at St Peters School, Boxted, CO4 5YN

Contact Liz Petter 07803935688 or view more information on our website www.bmsb.co.uk

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Colne Valley Flower Club



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

Come along and enjoy the
wonderful arrangements

Guests £5
**Contact Alison
01206 240262**



Meets on the first & third
Wednesday of each month
2pm - 4pm

**Boxted Village Hall,
CO4 5RE**

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

Contact: 01206 271860

Horkesley Craft Group

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

£2.00 this includes refreshments

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

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

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

Future Dates:

10th & 24th November

8th & 22nd December

5th & 19th January

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

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Great Horkesley Carpet Bowls Club



The Essex County Carpet Bowls Association (ECCBA) is in need of a new treasurer. Without a treasurer the association cannot continue to function. Please consider standing for the position if you have the relevant skills.

Severalls Bowls Club closed their greens on 18th September. Carpet bowls resumed at Boxted on 25th September.

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 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**



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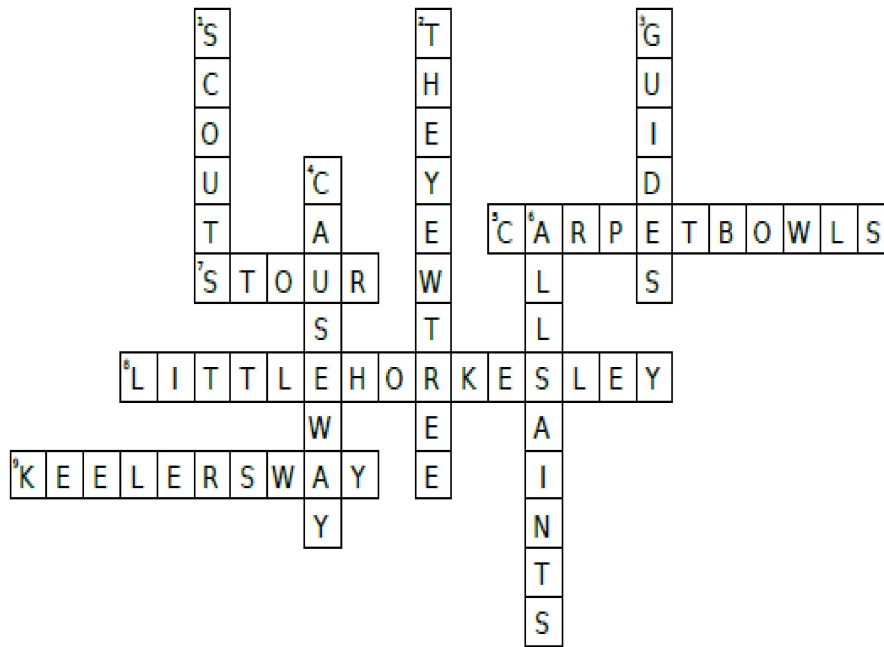
07393 193476

maisyyeetfirst@gmail.com

for bookings and enquiries

Maisy Berridge (MCFHP MAFHP)

Crossword Answers



Down:

1. Group founded in 1909 by Robert Baden-Powell
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UPCOMING EVENTS

05/11/2026	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm Page 51
05/11/2026	Colchester Fireworks, Castle Park 7.30pm Page 26
10/11/2026	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm Page 56
10/11/2026	WI Meeting, GH Village Hall 7-9pm Pages 36/37
17/11/2026	Great Horkesley Parish Council Meeting GH Village Hall 7pm
24/11/2026	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm Page 56
26/11/2026	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm Page 51
27/11/2026	Wreathmaking DIY Sesssion, BWW School 7pm Page 7
05/12/2026	BWW School Christmas Fair 11,30am-2pm Page 17
05/12/2026	GHEC Carols & Lights, GH Village Hall 5.30pm Page 32
08/12/2026	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm Page 56
08/12/2026	WI Meeting, GH Village Hall 7-9pm Pages 36/37
15/12/2026	Great Horkesley Parish Council Meeting GH Village Hall 7pm (only if required)
17/12/2026	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm Page 51
22/12/2026	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm Page 56
05/01/2027	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm Page 56
06/01/2027	Last date for submissions for next GH Village News
12/01/2027	WI Meeting, GH Village Hall 7-9pm Pages 36/37
19/01/2027	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm Page 56
19/01/2027	Great Horkesley Parish Council Meeting GH Village Hall 7pm

For details of:

All Saints' with St John's Church Services see pages 23 & 25

Bank Holidays:

Friday 25th December 2026

Monday 28th December 2026

Friday 1st January 2027

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
Horkesley Care Network..... Lesley Richardson.....01206 271576
All Saints' with St John's Church Parish Office.....01206 243683

Great Horkesley Village News

Editor Caroline Evans 07747751063
NEW E-MAIL: greathorkesleyvillagenews@gmail.com

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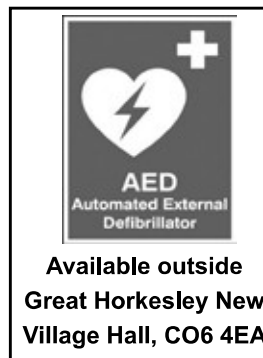
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