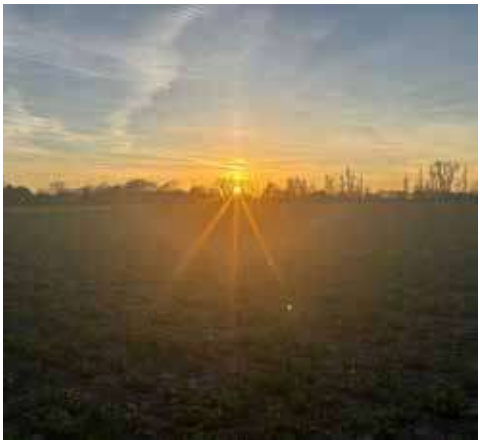
GREAT HORKESLEY VILLAGE NEWS









Spring/Summer Issue 144

May 2025 - July 2025



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From the Editor

By the time the magazine reaches you all the clocks will have gone back and we will have more light in our day, which I am grateful for. Both my dog Rusty and my cat Tigger are enjoying the warming rays of the sun in the garden.
Rusty is now back at agility class and has given me inspiration to help out the Great Horkesley Community Events team to organise a dog show at the Summer Fayre, there is a flyer included in your magazine that gives you all the details. I know there are lots of great dog owners in the village so I look forward to seeing you all. Please ensure you register for the show by scanning the QR code:

I have been busy with many things since the last magazine including doing crafts such as pottery and sewing, which gives me great enjoyment.

Aspiring photographers, please step forward!
For a chance to grace the cover of our upcoming magazine, submit your best colour photo. Given its August to September timeframe, a Summer/ Autumn theme would be wonderful. Please email:
horkesleyvillagenews@gmail.com

Front cover photos courtesty of:
Top left: Giles Caveney (10 years old)
Top right: Sam Jarvis
Bottom left: Declan Foley
Bottom right: Paula Webster

Best wishes Caroline

Contents

	Page
GH Parish Council	4
Village Hall Activities	5
GHPC Chairman's Report	6-7
Community Spotlight	7
City/County Council	8
Mobile Library / Food Pantry	9
Nayland Fete	11
News from BWW School	12
Scarecrow Trail Info	13
Stay & Play / Little Owls Preschool	14
Nayland Surgery	17
Gt & Lt Horkesley WI	18-19
Wild Arts Opera	19
Church News	24-27
Colouring & Maze	28
Puzzles	29
St Helena Hospice / Roman River	31
Neighbourhood Watch	32
Dog Show	36
Summer Fayre	37
Mid Summer Swing Concert	38
Through The Garden Gate	39
Nayland Gardens	39
Scouts	43
Rainbows, Brownies & Guides	44
Puzzle Answers / Summer Recipe	47
Great Horkesley Youth Club	48/49
Freedom Church	52-53
Boxted Methodist Band	63
Get involved with GH Village News	63
Craft & Flower Groups	65
GH Carpet Bowls / Table Tennis	66
In Memory of Eileen Smith	67
Care Network / Friendly Ear	67
Litter Warriors	68
Re-Cycle (Bikes to Africa)	68
GH & Boxted Facebook Group	68
Aldercar Wood Oil Buying Club	68
What's On	69
Useful Contacts	70

Notes from
Great Horkesley Parish Council

www.greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk
Written by Teri Duckworth, Parish Clerk

We are in the process of starting the 'new year' for the Parish Council (the next financial year begins on 1st April and the new municipal year starts on 1st May), and it's beginning to look as though 2025/26 will be a busy one…

You may have already heard of the devolution, whereby Essex County Council (along with Thurrock and Southend) and Colchester City Council will be replaced with a Mayoral Combined County Authority across Greater Essex. Although parish councils will remain unchanged for the moment, this will affect all of us, as powers and funding will be transferred from UK Government to a local authority level. It is proposed that county council elections in May 2025 will be postponed, and the first Mayoral election would take place in May 2026. You can read more about this on the Colchester City Council website (www.colchester.gov.uk/devolution-and-local-government-reorganisation).

The Parish Council has had an initial meeting with Colchester City Council regarding taking over ownership of the village green. A new Jubilee Green Committee has been appointed to oversee the takeover, and we hope that the process will take place towards the end of this year.

The other big issue that the Parish Council is currently facing is residential developments within the village. The 100-dwelling development on the land around Great Horkesley Manor already has outline consent and should bring with it some positive improvements for the village, such as a new footway and cycle lane between Great Horkesley and Chesterwell, allotments and a new (desperately-needed) Scout hut. Now we know that Hopkins Homes are developing the site, the Parish Council is looking to engage with them directly to ensure the development includes these improvements and provides the best possible outcome for local residents.

The development of land north of Coach Road (now Planning Application 250545), which was put forward as a proposed site in the Draft Local Plan is not something that the Parish Council supports. Members of Colchester Planning Committee voted to postpone the decision to put the Local Plan out to consultation till the end of 2025 as councillors felt there were still too many uncertainties in terms of infrastructure plans. At our most recent council meeting, Cllr Laws said that he still believes there is a chance to shape when and where houses in the area will be built, but we cannot stop it all together. Cllr Arnold, our Parish Council Chairman, said that this delay in putting the Local Plan out to consultation gives the Parish Council an opportunity to build a case against the Coach Road proposals and give an alternative option, between now and the Autumn. A Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has been appointed with the mammoth task of attempting to get a Neighbourhood Plan in place before then; if you are interested in joining the group and helping to make this happen, please contact the Clerk.

At the beginning of the year, Councillors unanimously agreed for the Parish Council to pay for a traffic survey to take place on Ivy Lodge Road, after concerns were raised by residents and the Village Speed Watch team. The results of the survey confirmed that the average speed at which 85% of vehicles are travelling on this stretch of road is 41mph, within the 30mph zone, with peak daytime speeds of 47mph, and a peak nighttime speed of over 60mph. Due to the severity of poor compliance with the speed limit, this has now been referred to Essex Highways to identify feasible traffic management improvements, and Essex Police. Councillors have since agreed to fund two more traffic surveys in the village, one along the A134 and one on Coach Road, to hopefully show traffic speeds and volumes in other areas where concerns have been raised.

As we are now fast approaching the financial year end for the Parish Council, over the coming weeks a lot of time will be spent preparing the 2024/25 accounts for the internal and external audits that the Council must complete in the Summer months. Residents are always welcome to attend council meetings to raise any matters regarding the Village, or if you need to contact the Clerk then please email me in the first instance, thank you.

Great Horkesley Parish Council Chairman's Report

People find it hard to believe that the rate of house-building in the Borough of Colchester has not changed much since the early 1970s. Under the current Local Plan, adopted when I was still a Borough Councillor, the aim is to grant 920 consents; under the previous plan, it was 830. Only twice since the 1960s did it top 1000: when the Greenstead estate was built and when Woods' site on Tufnell Way became vacant after they moved to Axial Way. I was closely involved in three revisions of the Borough Local Plan and, each time, we took care to ensure that as closely as possible we met the housing and social needs of Colchester's own growing population but no more.

Angela Rayner's Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government has now ordered that from next year Colchester Council has to grant an arbitrary 1,300 consents per year. It has also ruled that lack of infrastructure will not be an acceptable reason to refuse a planning application. Simply finding the necessary land is not too difficult: at the end of 2023 the planners had "called for sites" as part of the routine refresh of the Local Plan and, as usual, far more land was offered than would be needed to meet the old 920 target. The problem comes in selecting sites which are, or can be, well-connected to existing infrastructure, employment sites and social and leisure facilities or, to put it another way, will become attractive places to live that won't unduly burden existing residents and resources or spoil the countryside.

There was no reason to believe that Great Horkesley would be immune from the Government's determination to revive Britain's economy by building more houses. Even so, the proposal contained in the report that went to the Colchester's Local Plan Committee (LPC) in February shocked me, not only because it was for an extra 400 houses in the village, which was bad enough, but because the site recommended was on the far west of Horkesley Heath. In years gone by, the planners had accepted that new development in the village should have direct access to the A134. Land close to The Causeway had been identified in the "call for sites" process and yet, for some reason, they rejected it in favour of three fields in the "elbow" of Coach Road.

Unexpectedly, the Local Plan Committee rejected their officers' recommendations. Instead, they instructed that more work be done to demonstrate that development of the sites identified could be achieved, so that the Plan should not fail at a later stage. Having studied the voluminous background papers to the LPC report, I can understand this: for example, when the highway authority was asked to rule on whether Coach Road could support the development of those three fields, the number of houses proposed was considerably less. The 400-house proposal had not passed a critical test.

Nevertheless, the report has given confidence to Bloor Homes to bring forward an outline planning application (250545) for the two of those fields on which they have an option. (The third is under different ownership.) It is for "just" 150 houses, a density which if approved would surely make it difficult to achieve 250 houses on the remaining field to meet the officers' aspirations. The application includes a mass of survey data to support Bloor's case that, with improvements, Coach Road could provide access to a further 150 houses. As I write, in early April, I am still working my way through the application but I have to say, it is one of the most thorough I have ever seen.

Great Horkesley Parish Council
Chairman's Report

There is a dilemma here. Would it be better for the planners to support the 150-house proposal, which would help them stave off speculative development proposals elsewhere in Colchester now that the Local Plan process has been delayed? Should they refuse it? Or should they insist on a higher number, in line with their own proposals but which Bloor's data does not currently support? If it's refused by Colchester, we can expect Bloor to appeal to the Government's Planning Inspectorate. Will an inspector agree with CCC that 150 is not enough or grant consent in line with Government thinking that new housing is urgently needed?

One thing is clear: the pressure from central government to build new houses faster will be relentless. It will happen in Great Horkesley. If it's not on those three fields, it will be somewhere else in the village. We are going to have to learn to live with it and make the best of it. The day of the NIMBY is over.

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

Community Spotlight:
Horkesley Care Network

Originating in 1988, the Horkesley Care Network was founded by a group associated with Great Horkesley Church. They asked the village for volunteers and formed a committee. Derek Webber and Denise Leonard, both of Great Horkesley, served as Chairman and Secretary respectively at the time. The Care Network is registered as a charity, run by volunteers, chaired by Lesley Richardson and covers both Great and Little Horkesley.

The Care Network helps those in our community without transportation by driving them to medical appointments, social events and assisting by picking up prescriptions etc. Generous donations are received from those that use the Care Network and this currently covers the outgoings however it is the required insurance that is the biggest expense.

There are currently eight volunteers but more are required to ensure more times of the day are able to be covered. Being a volunteer does not involve a lot of time and it would be greatly appreciated if more people from the community could commit to becoming a volunteer for the network.

Are you able to volunteer? Get in touch:
Lesley Richardson 01206 271576 or Fiona Morrison 01206 271387 / 07826265464

Registered Charity No. 800187



Cllr. Lewis Barber CC
County Councillor for Constable Division
☎ 07876 237137
✉ lewisbarber2707@icloud.com



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



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



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

Build, build, build!

The new Labour government have tasked Colchester to be 40% more houses than planned in this Local Plan period (up until 2033), this represents 11,000 additional houses. Some 900 are being suggested in Langham and 400 in Gt Horkesley. Standing in green fields with pitchforks at the ready won't make a difference and so our strategy is two-fold, Firstly, your Conservative councillors, who sit on the City Council's Local Plan committee, are demanding infrastructure impact assessments before any sites are consulted on. Secondly, we encourage Parish Councils to work with developers and council officers to come up with solutions to mitigate the impact of development as well as enhancements for existing communities for example designating green fields for play parks, wild flower meadows or allotments etc. Additionally, where developer contributions can be achieved new facilities such as community halls might be welcomed.

Scrutinising Colchester Council

Both Darius Laws and Thomas Rowe sit on this important Colchester Committee and to date have been effective (but responsible) with challenges on the Council's approach to Net Zero, Third sector charity partnerships, the Middlemill Weir collapse in Lower Castle Park, Community Safety and the Council's finances. You can follow the work of Scrutiny on the City Council's YouTube pages.

Neighbourhood Watch

Your Conservative Councillors were recently in attendance at a meeting in which the Mayor of Colchester and the High Sherif of Essex commended Great Horkesley resident, Graham Stehle, for his outstanding leadership with Neighbourhood Watch. We encourage everyone to consider signing up to Neighbourhood Watch as it offers useful insights into tackling crimes. Furthermore we must stress the importance of residents reporting crime, don't leave it for someone else to report, they might not. The Police will only act on intelligence and sometimes this takes time to substantiate.

Local Government Reform

Significant changes to local government are anticipated, with Colchester City Council as we know it to disappear with the creation of a single council for North Essex highly likely. This is happening, and in a recent vote in the Town Hall your Conservative Councillors voted to give the Leader of the council (Lib Dem David King) support to begin serious conversations with Braintree and Tendring over the possible reorganisation of local government here in North Essex. The process will throw up some interesting challenges, for example Braintree no longer owns its Social Housing stock and Tendring commission their waste and recycling services, whereas Colchester is in-house. Apportioning Essex County Council's budget in a manner fair for Colchester will be interesting and we will continue to strive to influence outcomes which result in efficiency and value-for-money.

ECC Mobile Library



Stops on
Keelers Way, CO6 4HR
every third Thursday
11:45am - 12:15pm
Forthcoming Dates:
8th & 29th May,
19th June & 10th July
Please support this fantastic service in our community

Monthly Afternoon Tea



Join us on the second Wednesday of each month **2pm - 4pm**
£2 per person
Tea or coffee
Slice of homemade cake
Great Horkesley New Village Hall,
CO6 4EA
Call Margaret
01206 271713



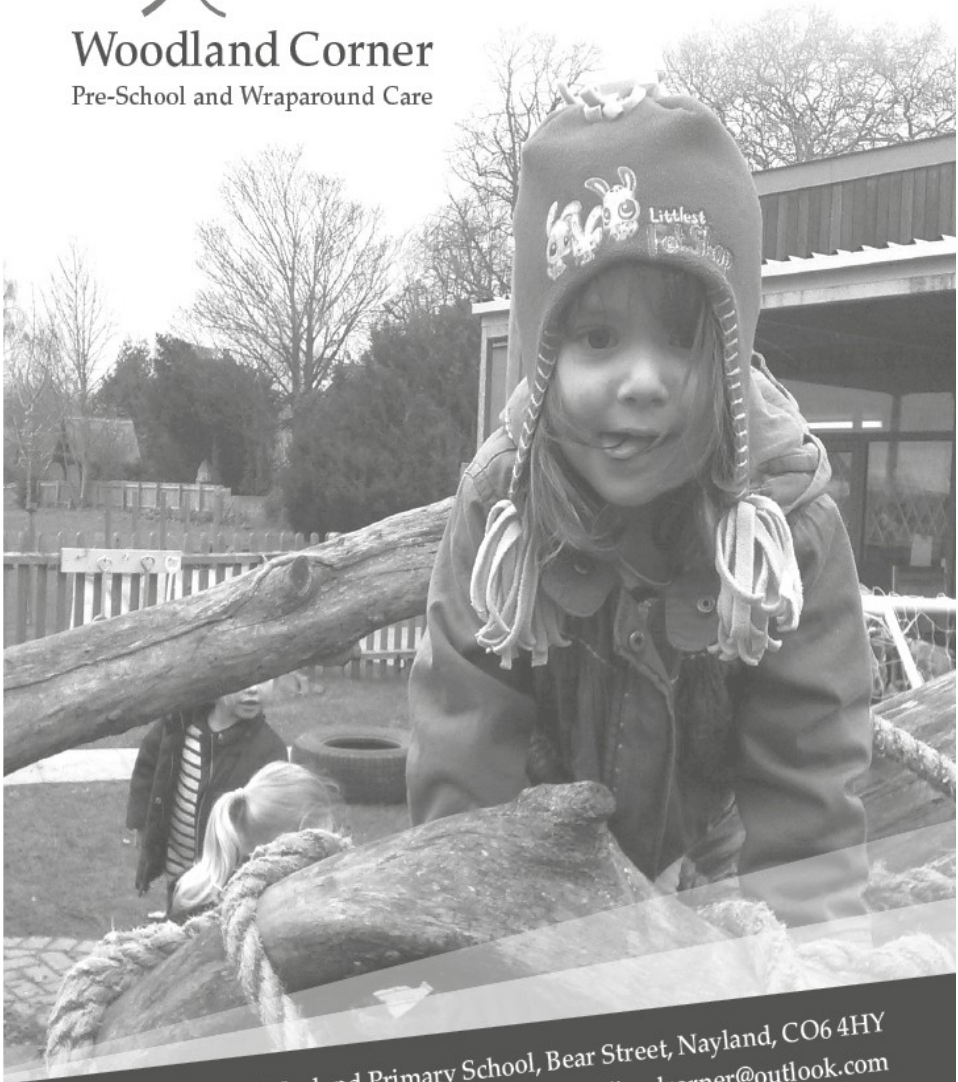




Surplus food items from Fareshare
Bishop William Ward School, CO6 4AT
Starts 3.30pm but be quick as items go fast!
£3 for 10 items
Open to everyone
Every Friday (term time only)
2nd, 9th & 16th May
6th, 13th, 20th & 27th June
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Funds raised for the upkeep of St James' Church

Nayland Village Fete

NEWS *from the School*

Hello from all of us at Bishop William Ward. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt was bathed in sunshine and everyone left the school with beaming chocolatey smiles! We celebrated the Easter story with a service led by Reverend Anne for the last time in her official capacity. We were able to say thank you for all she has done for the school during her time as Associate Priest in Great Horkesley. The fine weather has also meant we have been able to spread out onto the field during our lunch breaks. There is a lot of space in which to play now that we have our 'loose parts' play equipment, mud kitchen and range of toys, in addition to the sports pitch, spiritual garden and outside gym, the children have such fun in their free time! We have a fabulous team of midday assistants who look after the children and keep them safe at lunchtime. We had great fun celebrating World Book Day. The children came dressed as a word of their choice. In addition to various book characters, we had children dressed as 'monochrome', 'colourful', 'sporty', 'non-conformist' and 'thing'! Thankfully no-one went for a sneaky day off, choosing something like 'invisible'! We love reading and local author Sophie Peterson came in to tell us all about her first publication. Another popular visitor was Steel, one of the BBC's Gladiator team. He spoke to the children about the importance of exercise, a good diet and drinking plenty of water. Plenty of photos and fist-bumps for everyone too! This was organised by the amazing Friends of BWW. Other exciting moments this term include: the Year 4 residential trip to Mersea, where they take part in outdoor activities and stay away from home for one night; the Year 2 sculpture trail which was an opportunity for parents to share in their children's art/DT learning; Internet safety day, where we held sessions for parents as well as pupils; a stunning 7-1 victory for our girls' football team; Red Nose Day, with the children coming in wearing red and doing 'crazy hair'; the choir performing in the Colchester Schools Music Festival alongside 400 children from the local community; an African drumming session for the children studying Kenya and our ever-popular Mothers' Day lunches, where special ladies in the children's lives join them for a meal. Another event that took place this term was our Ofsted inspection. The team were thorough and fair and said lots of lovely things about the school as well as working alongside us to set a target that we were already working on. The full report is online, but some of the highlights for me include: Pupils at Bishop William Ward are proud to be part of their school community. They are members of a 'family' where everyone looks after each other; Pupils benefit from a curriculum that is ambitious and well designed; Pupils are given the opportunity to represent the school at some of the many events across the year; From the time children start school, they begin to build a love of reading; Pupils behave well in and around the school; Staff are proud to work at the school. The report itself is lovely but the more specific feedback that we were given during the inspection was extremely positive and encouraging. Onwards to summer!





Great Horkesley Scarecrow Trail 2025

Make A Scarecrow



We invite all local families, clubs, groups and businesses to take part and build a scarecrow for the trail! This year's theme is "**Family Films**". Entry fee is £10 per scarecrow. Your scarecrow could win a £50 prize!
Entry forms & guidelines are available from Bishop William Ward Primary School or email friendsofbww@gmail.com.
Closing date for registration forms is Friday 2nd May.
Duplicate scarecrows are **not** allowed so get forms in early!

Sponsor A Scarecrow



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

Walk The Trail



BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND & HALF TERM WEEK
Sat 24th May - Sun 1st June
9am - 4pm daily
Maps £2 each -
available from 10th May!
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Cooking

STAY & PLAY

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



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Activities for Under 5's

Friday afternoons during School Holidays
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Refreshments provided

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Crafts

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NHS

From the Waiting Room

Nayland Surgery 01206 570371

Please be aware the that the dispensary only will be closed on Monday 14th April. Both the Surgery and Dispensary will be closed on the Bank Holidays Friday 18th April, Monday 21st April, 5th and 26th May. Please also allow for this when ordering your repeat prescriptions.

New Appointment System – There has been a change in how patients can now book appointments. NHS England have steered the focus of General Practice in the direction of Digital Health which means increased access via digital avenues to access healthcare. This allows those who can submit requests digitally can do so. Those who cannot access the surgery are still able to call us and we anticipate waiting times will decrease significantly.

How GP request an appointment - Log onto the Creffield Medical Group website, click on the Contact Us tile and complete the relevant form. Please include as much information as possible. If you call us, we will complete the form for you.

What happens next - Once your medical enquiry has been submitted one of our Lead GP partners will view your request and mark the urgency and correct Practitioner suitable for the medical appointment, we will then send an appointment via text or phone call. For administrative queries, these will go direct to our admin team.

How long will it take - We will process your request or query within 2 working days dependent on clinical urgency. If you need to see a clinician in an emergency, please visit the Urgent Treatment Centre within the grounds of Colchester General Hospital. However, we are delighted to advise that most medical enquires are processed in one day.

Great and Little Horkesley WI

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

At Great and Little Horkesley WI, we are continuing to work with the Colchester Food Bank. This project is funded from the Community Fund of Co-operative Bank. Our application was supported by the team at the Colchester High Street branch. We are now in the process of producing recipe cards which will be placed in the groceries given to those who use the food bank. At our January meeting we used some of the items from the food parcel to make 2 separate family meals. Our pictorial, recipe cards will be available as suggestions on how to use the items clients receive from the food bank. *Colchester Foodbank says "We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why we provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis. Over a third of those we help are children. We are part of a nationwide network of food banks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK."*



We welcomed Age Well East to our February meeting. This organisation advises and provides practical information. They have an expert team of staff and volunteers who empower people to prepare for later years early so they have the knowledge and support available when they need it. We heard about the various services provided by Age Well East including advice and information, community and friendship, emotional support and Dementia Support. Volunteers are always needed by this organisation especially with Befriending via home visits, telephone or hosting friendship groups.

We held an open meeting in March when we invited other local W Is as well as members' family and friends. Our speaker was Steve Lester who gave a presentation on "The Insights of a Provincial Auctioneer " and "A fair share of humour, even in the most serious of subjects". He started out his career as a formally trained jeweller gaining The Retail Jewellers Diploma and subsequently went on to run and own a jewellery business Elizabeth Grace for over 25 years. He is an experienced Fine Art valuer and auctioneer having run several provincial salesrooms across Essex for nearly 20 years. He is also a member of a well renowned Titanic Historical Society, affectionately known as a 'Titanorak' and has been used by a number of TV production companies as a 'go-to' expert. Steve entertained us with amusing tales of his role as an auctioneer as well as advice on what to do in an Auction House and the secrets of successful bidding.

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 aways interesting and thought provoking.

Future meetings:

Tuesday 13th May – Resolutions /Ingenious Food Project
Tuesday 10th June – Women's Land Army
Tuesday 8th July – Dog Therapy

Great and Little Horkesley WI

theWI INSPIRING WOMEN



Saturday 17th May 2025
7.00pm for 7.30pm
Great Horkesley New Village Hall, CO6 4EA
£12 per person with Ploughman's supper
Teams of up to 6 people
Bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles
Grand Raffle
Telephone 01206 271128 for details and tickets

Picnics and Sparkling Opera Return to Essex's Country Houses this Summer

Wild Arts, our very own Essex-based opera company, will return to Layer Marney Tower and Kelvedon Hall this summer with not one but two fantastic fully-staged opera productions. Conducted by Wild Arts Artistic director Orlando Jopling and performed by a cast of top professional singers with an orchestra drawn from the UK's finest chamber musicians, these performances will be the perfect summer treat.

Brand new for this year, and receiving its premiere performance at The Essex Summer Opera Festival at Layer Marney Tower, is a production of Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin, directed by Dominic Dromgoole, who was formerly Artistic Director of Shakespeare's Globe.

On the bill alongside this is a revival of Wild Arts' hit 2023 production of Donizetti's The Elixir of Love. With all the zip and joie de vivre of the original, director Guido Martin-Brandis has relocated this riotous tale of lovers and luck-chasing liars to a 1950's seaside, with a mischievous English translation.

Alongside the music you can enjoy picnics on the lawns of these beautiful country-house venues.

Tchaikovsky Eugene Onegin
The Essex Summer Opera Festival at Layer Marney Tower: 17th, 19th & 21st June
Opera at Kelvedon Hall: 28th June

Donizetti The Elixir of Love
The Essex Summer Opera Festival at Layer Marney Tower: 20th & 22nd June
Opera at Kelvedon Hall: 29th June

Tickets available online at wildarts.org.uk

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SCAN ME



COMPASSIONATE, AFFORDABLE HOME CARE RUN BY HORKESLEY LOCALS

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

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

020 3375 9403

info@ashwoodcare.net

Regulated by Care Quality Commission

www.ashwoodcare.net

info@ashwoodcare.net

SERVICES

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

Head Office Location

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

CARING APP FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS

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

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



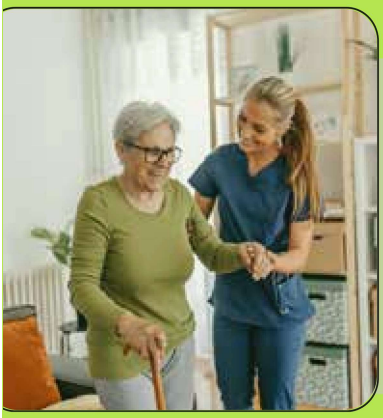
GET STARTED IN 4 SIMPLE STEPS

1 CALL OR E-MAIL TO BOOK YOUR FREE HOME CARE VISIT
Call us on **020 3375 9403** or email us at **info@ashwoodcare.net** to schedule a completely free, no-obligation home care visit from our registered manager and care team.

2 WE CREATE A BESPOKE CARE PLAN TO MEET YOUR REQUIREMENTS
Our team will get to know you & your loved ones, understand the care requirements and create a personalised care plan that meets your preferences. This visit is completely **FREE**, with **NO OBLIGATION** to continue.

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

4 BEGIN THE CARE
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£350

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Church News

May-July 2025

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

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

A letter from
Rev'd. Anne Mason, Associate Priest



'Hide and seek' is a fun game that children, and particularly our younger grandchildren, like to play even though there aren't many places in our house to hide. Is it the challenge of being the seeker, or of keeping very still, hardly breathing, in the hope that we might not be found? I think it's the joyful excitement in that moment when seeker meets hider and shrieks of laughter are shared.

So it is with God. I sense that if he were the hider he would always leave a foot out in the open, or jiggle the curtains behind which he was standing, so that he could always be found. Or, if he were the seeker he would always know where we are and that we are anticipating that joyful moment of being found by him.

The hymn 'Amazing Grace' by John Newton is familiar to many people, and there is a line that says, 'I once was lost but now am found'. As some of you will know, I officially retired from parish ministry at the end of April, but I am so delighted that I was 'found' by God and have enjoyed a relationship with him through his Son, Jesus Christ, for many years.

My husband Tim and I moved to Great Horkesley four years ago and we really enjoy being part of the community. As a part-time Associate Priest, it has been my pleasure and privilege to minister in this parish and five surrounding parishes too, where I have conducted 29 baptisms, 11 weddings and 42 funerals. I have been invited into Bishop William Ward school to lead some worship times and other events, and love being greeted by school children when I'm out walking or on the bus.

And the good news of having been 'found' by God is that the Bible tells us the 'he will never leave you or abandon you'. There are many ups and downs in life and I find it so reassuring to know that God is always by my side. So, wherever you are in your life perhaps allow yourself to be 'found' by God and experience the fullness of a life with him.

PS We're not moving away so please call in to say 'hi' or for a coffee.

Revd Anne Mason (1 Braeburn Road)

Forthcoming Events

Saturday May 24th Churchyard Clear Up at All Saints', 9.30am to 12 noon
Details from John Mehen, Tel: 07719 948378

Saturday May 31st King's Ridge Parishes Rogation Walk,
Mount Bures to Great Horkesley, final stop at All Saints' with Tea & Cake.
Details from the office or Facebook.

Saturday June 21st Midsummer Concert with the Sweeting Swing Band
Organised by All Saints' Alive, *See separate page for details.*

Saturday 28th June Community Summer Fayre,
On the green near the New Village Hal CO6 4EA, 12 noon to 4.00pm.

Regular events at St. John's

Take a Break Café at St. John's is open every Thursday from 10.00am to 11.30am. ***A warm welcome awaits you!***
Come and meet old friends and make new ones. Fresh filter coffee, cappuccino, tea, hot chocolate, toasted tea cakes. Drinks, snacks and toys for children. Give and take library. ***All ages welcome!***
This is where you can collect recycling items ordered through Colchester City Council https://www.colchester.gov.uk/recycling/

"Fun4Families"
Usually every 3rd Sunday of the month,11.00am at St. John's Church

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



From the Registers at All Saints':
Baptism
March 23rd, Henry Eric Stewart
We welcome young Henry into the church family and pray that he may grow in faith and follow Jesus throughout his life.



Who are we?

Website: https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6695/
Facebook: All Saints' with St John's Churches, Great Horkesley

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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

Our Church Buildings

All Saints' Church, CO6 4AJ



St. John's Church, CO6 4FE



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

Who to contact



Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Heather Wilcox
Tel:01206 240906 Email: RevHWilcox@outlook.com
Heather has responsibility for the six parishes of West Bergholt, Great Horkesley, Langham with Boxted, Little Horkesley, Wormingford & Mount Bures. She is assisted by:



Associate Priest: Rev. Anne Mason
Tel: 07895 970834 Email: revdannemason@gmail.com

Church Administrator: Jo Rassell & Donna Luxton share this job and are the first point of contact for enquiries about baptisms, weddings and funerals. They can be contacted at the **Church Office at St. Mary's Church, New Church Road, West Bergholt, CO6 3JE**
Tel: 01206 243683 Email: 6parishescolchester@gmail.com
Usual opening hours: **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10am-12noon**
Please note that enquiries relating to Baptisms and Weddings will be dealt with during office hours, but if you are arranging a funeral and need to contact someone out of office hours, please contact Heather direct on **01206 240906**.

Reader & PCC Secretary
Sandra Baker - **Tel: 01206 271760 Email: spbaker18@gmail.com**
Treasurer:
John Mehen - **Tel: 01206 271653 Email: john.mehen@gmail.com**

Services May - July 2025

There is a service of Holy Communion on Sundays in at least one of the eight churches in the six parishes under the leadership of Rev. Heather.
For more information - please refer to our website or the Church Office.

May	4th	11.00am	Holy Communion	
			Followed by Annual Meeting	St. John's
	11th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints'
		11.00am	Morning Praise	All Saints'
	18th	11.00am	Fun4Families	St. John's
	25th	11.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
Thursday	29th	7.30pm	Ascension Day Holy Communion	St. Mary's West Bergholt
June	1st	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. John's
	8th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints'
		11.00am	Morning Praise for Pentecost	All Saints'
	15th	11.00am	Fun4Families	St. John's
	22nd	11.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	29th	10.30am	United Celebration	St. Peter's Boxted
July	6th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. John's
	13th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints'
		11.00am	Morning Praise	All Saints'
	20th	11.00am	Fun4Families	St. John's
	27th	11.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'

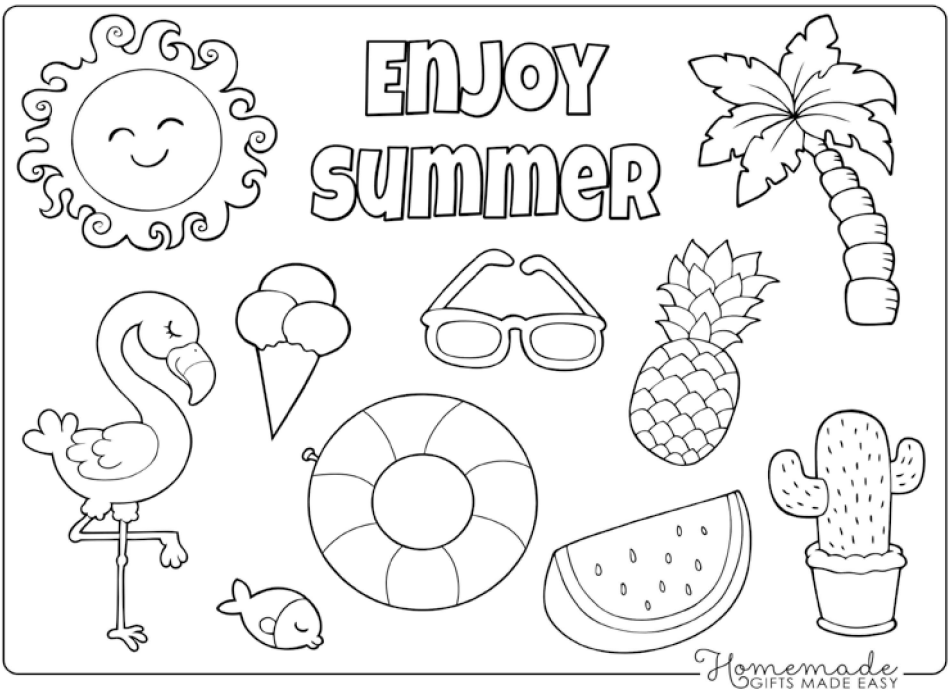
- We have a weekly notice sheet called "*Looking Forward*", which gives details of everything happening across the six parishes. Printed versions are available at our services and to have a copy by email send a request to the office: 6parishescolchester@gmail.com
- ***Say one for me.....***
  If you would like prayers to be said for you or for anyone you know, please let us know by contacting any of the Church Officers.

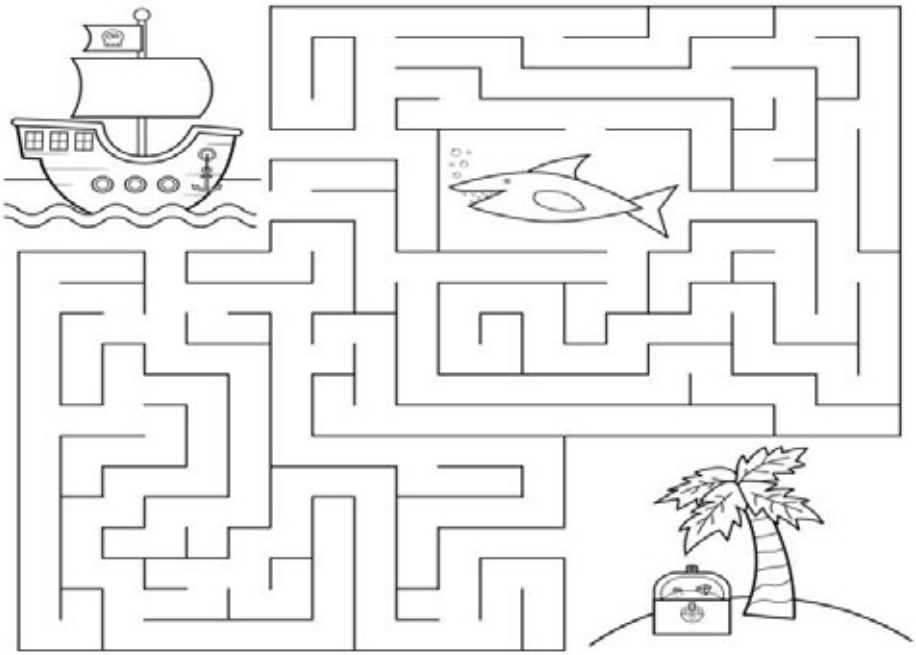


We are very much aware that many readers of Village News do not have access to the internet and may be missing out on what's happening. If you're in that category, do please call the church office or any of the people listed on the previous page.

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).

Great Horkesley Parochial Church Council, registered charity no. 1210925


ENJOY
summer
Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY



Great Horkesley Word Search

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

Find these words:

Abbey
Boudicia
Castle
Colne
Culver Square
Dutch Quarter
Essex
Garrison
Hilly Fields
Hythe
Iceni
Jumbo
Roundabouts
Roman
Rovers Tye
Zoo

Answers to both puzzles are on page 47

Suduko (Medium)

4		1		3			8	
	7			2				3
			6		8			
1		2	5		3			
	4							
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	1				6	9		
8	2		3			7		
	9	6			4		3	1

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.

Stow Healthcare

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

St Helena Hospice's flagship event, Pier to Pier, returns for their 40th anniversary!
The Pier to Pier Walk is returning on **Sunday 18th May**, and this year, it is extra special as St Helena Hospice celebrates 40 years of providing compassionate care to the people you love. This iconic event brings together local people to walk between two piers, either in memory of their loved ones, or in support of St Helena Hospice and the community. Participating in Pier to Pier helps raise vital funds to ensure St Helena can continue to be there for the people you love. The walk can start from either Clacton or Walton Pier. You can choose to walk either the 7 miles between the two piers or challenge yourself to make the return journey - 14 miles in all. On the day, you can enjoy scenic views of the coastline as you walk and explore the extensive event village as well! This year, Pier to Pier will also feature a Silent Disco! For £16, you get three different music channels to listen to throughout the walk. Feel even more connected as you enjoy the music with your fellow participants. As St Helena Hospice marks 40th anniversary, every step you take, every mile you walk from pier to pier, and every pound you raise helps them continue caring for your community.



Help make sure the hospice remains here for the people you love for generations to come. The registration fee for Pier to Pier is £10 for adults or £5 for children. St Helena Hospice is asking everyone to aim to fundraise £40 in celebration of its 40th year. Pier to Pier is open to participants of all ages – including furry friends. The route is designed to accommodate pushchair and wheelchairs as well.

Sign up now at www.sthelena.org.uk/piertopier25

ROMAN RIVER SPRING SERIES

Not to be missed this Spring: Magical concerts from world-class musicians



Jonathan Leibovitz: Sonatas for Clarinet
Thursday 22 May, 7.30pm
The Girling Room, The Minories, Colchester CO1 1UE
Classic FM "Rising Star" Jonathan Leibovitz performs works by Debussy, Brahms, Poulenc, and more. Spotlight performance by young artist Hassan Marzban on recorder.

Tickets available online:
www.wildarts.org.uk/whats-on
From £10 to £35
From the classical to the contemporary, the Roman River Festival has been bringing world-class musicians to coastal Essex for 25 years.
Produced by Wild Arts, Charity no. 1158366

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.



Grahame Stehle's commitment to public safety, crime prevention, and community engagement was acknowledged at the Crime and Disorder Committee meeting on March 11th. His leadership and dedication to enhancing safety earned him the High Sheriff Award for Essex and the Colchester Council's Mayoral Award. His work in crime prevention, civic improvement, and public service has had a significant impact over more than twenty years. In Essex, the High Sheriff Award is a prestigious honour given to those who have significantly contributed to crime prevention, public safety, and community strength. The Mayor of Colchester, councillor Lesley Scott-Boutell, said: "His vision, leadership, and dedication have not only improved crime prevention efforts but have also encouraged partnerships between local authorities, police and the community. As the Mayor of Colchester, I am proud to honour individuals like Grahame, whose selfless contributions continue to shape our city. Mr Stehle's leadership as chairperson of the Colchester District Neighbourhood Watch since 2014 has been pivotal. With his help and guidance, crime rates have dropped by 52% since 2019, and public engagement in crime prevention initiatives has increased. He has expanded the Neighbourhood Watch scheme to around 100 areas, encompassing nearly 5,000 members. Over the past 15 years, Mr Stehle has played a key role in the Great Horkesley community, particularly as secretary of the Aldercar Wood Neighbourhood Watch. He has also helped organise local events, including the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and the opening of the Great Horkesley Village Hall."

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"So so sooooo amazing time. So much love, sharing, movement, relaxation, deep peace and so much more!! Deeply profound and enhancing experience. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! To all the powerful women who came and shared the love. - Brenda

IN GREAT HORKESLEY, ESSEX:

2nd - 3rd May: Embodied Feminine Power

29th - 30th August: Full-body Joy!

31st October - 1st November: Samhain Magic

£185 includes delicious nourishing vegetarian meals and treats, water kefir, somatic practices and rituals, and your retreat gift.

Our annual seaside sunshine retreat on the Catalan Mediterranean is 29th Sept - 4th October, an opportunity to do deep healing work by the sea.



GREAT HORKESLEY COMMUNITY EVENTS



Great Horkesley Dog Show

Saturday 28th June 2025, 1-3pm
Great Horkesley Summer Fayre
Village Green, CO6 4EA

Classes include:

- Best Puppy
- Golden Oldie
- Waggiest Tail
- Best Trick/Obedience
- Dog Judge Wants to Take Home!
- Best In Show (Winners from other classes only)

Classes are £1 each per dog (Entry to Best In Show is FREE). All dogs will receive a certificate for entering. Rosettes given for 1st, 2nd & 3rd in each class, Best In Show and Reserve Best In Show.

Register your dog by scanning the QR code and filling in the registration form.
Entry closes at 6pm on Friday 27th June

Judging to take place by Crufts judge John Carter

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FREE ENTRY
GREAT HORKESLEY COMMUNITY EVENTS
Great Horkesley
SUMMER FAYRE
28th JUNE 2025
12PM-4PM
Great Horkesley
Village Green
Off Tile House Lane CO6 4EA
Wild animal show - Greek Gyros - Pizza - Hog Roast -
Gaming Bus - Huge Raffle & Tombola - Village Dog Show -
Stalls - Licensed Bar - Fairground & Inflatables -
Face Painting - Cakes - Ice Cream and MORE!
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All Saints' Alive presents:



Tickets £10 on the door. Contact Geoffrey Baker on 07909 995880

Through The Garden Gate

It's been so pleasant to see the end of the wintriest weather this last week or so. Temperatures still dropping very low at night, but more recently managing to stay a few degrees above, and really lovely sunny days. The sunshine has brought all the Prunus blossoms out - in the village, and all over the town suburbs The Magnolias following on are also a treat to see. I experiment with growing a few flowering cherries in large containers. So, for anyone with little space for trees, it is possible as long as kept well-watered, and the occasional feed. I've enjoyed watching my little early flowering bulbs bloom which I bought last autumn. Dwarf daffodils are so scented, and the little true-blue Scillas have done well in pots too. I would love to see them in their natural habitat in the world's wild places where they grow naturally, just like our bluebells do in woodlands here. I am picking up lots of birdsong in the garden now with the help of a bird app. The little migrants - the Blackcaps and Chiffchaff have arrived, and I'm sure some lucky people might have nightingales. A previous owner of our house used to hear them here, but I have only heard one once here, a long time back, singing at midnight. It didn't stay and must have moved on to more suitable habitat. They like low scrubby places with thick dense bushes. Unfortunately scrub isn't very popular with people but none the less, there are wildlife places close to Colchester where you can visit to hear them - Fingringhoe being one for anyone not familiar with our area.





Bests to everyone, enjoy the summer ahead.

Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society

Registered Charity No. 268104

NAYLAND OPEN GARDENS

SUNDAY
8th JUNE
1pm-5pm

TEAS in the Village Hall

Tickets £5 (children free)
in advance from:
www.naylandevents.org
or on the day at the Village Hall
or cash only at selected Gardens

www.naylandconservation.org.uk

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or
david.cobbold@yahoo.co.uk

Scouts

1st Great Horkesley Scout Group
Group Scout Leader - Will Lodge
www.1stgthorkesley.co.uk

As Spring comes into bloom all of us at 1st Great Horkesley Scout Group are excited for the warmer days and lighter evenings that allow us to get out and explore - not that we have let the dark of winter stop us. It has been a busy term, as always, with lots going on.

Pancake Day proved a highlight, with Squirrels, Beavers and Cubs all trying out different toppings and even some which substituted traditional ingredients for fruit.

The sections have also marked the Lunar New Year; Science Week with lots of groovy experiments taking place; and World Book Day with storytelling and the Book Readers badge featuring among other activities. Beavers have also enjoyed their first campfire of the year!

Cubs are holding a map skills camp, and have been continuing their theme of hearts as they keep fundraising for a second defibrillator for the village.



Our Scouts spent the first half of term brushing up on their map and compass skills before taking part in a countywide activity hike event. Two teams navigated their way around multiple bases in the countryside surrounding Chelmsford over two days, and a good time was had by all.

Perhaps the highlight of the term though was the award of a Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service to one of our longest-standing leaders - a familiar face in the village, Scilla Watling. Very well deserved, and we are super proud of you King Louie!



As always, we are keen to welcome new volunteers to our group - so if you think you can help young people learn skills for life; or maybe can support our existing volunteers with some of the admin and maintenance; then please do get in touch by emailing gsl@1stgthorkesley.co.uk

Next term will be jam-packed, including with a whole group trip to Jimmy's Farm; St George's Day parade in the city centre; and our group camp and AGM. We can't wait!

Great Horkesley Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

Great Horkesley Old Village Hall, CO6 4BH

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

Great Horkesley Rainbows

We have eighteen girls in the unit with a very long waiting list. We had a busy Spring term completing Stage 1 Innovate Skills Builder which encourages the girls to find out what inspires them so included musical activities, simple science experiments, creative puppet making and what makes a robot work! We did the Storyteller Interest badge which included stories from other countries as well as the retelling of old tales for today which certainly showed some interesting ideas from the girls!! We celebrated Chinese New Year, Thinking Day, St Patricks Day, made Mother's Day cards and finished the term with a joint Spring Extravaganza with the Brownies. Next term we hope to be outside and complete Camp Stage 1 Skills Builder and either Seasons or Agility Badges. There is a County Clue-Dun-It activity Day in June which we hope to attend – activities for the girls to complete based on the board game and as usual finish the term with a joint meeting with the Brownies.

Great Horkesley Brownies

We have a full unit of twenty-four at Brownies this term. The girls enjoyed a wide range of Unit Meeting activities this term so needed to complete some of the Theme awards the girls have been working on. This meant discovering the history of Brownies, puppet making, what makes a friend and keeping fit. We had an interesting couple of weeks working on the Archaeology badge as a unit, looking at things from the past, writing messages in Egyptian hieroglyphics and making time capsules out of different materials which we buried in the carpark and will dig up at the end of term to see what lasts – maps were made so we know where to look!!! We celebrated Chinese New Year, Thinking Day, St Patrick's Day, and crafting for Mother's Day (see photo of a crafted flower pot with fabulous eye lashes!) We have a Pack Holiday planned for the May half term which seventeen Brownies and three younger guides have signed up for so will be preparing for that as well as working on Feel Good Stage 2 Skills Builder and either Dancing or Grow Your Own interest badges.

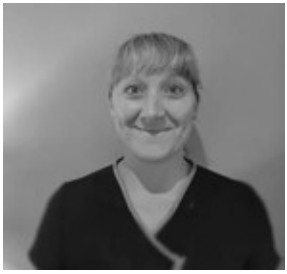


Great Horkesley Guides

The Guides are growing in numbers but there are still spaces for new members to join. Spring term focussed on international activities for Thinking Day, cooking which the guides enjoy, making Mother's Day gifts and badge work. The summer term with its lighter nights always involves outdoor cooking, camping skills and associated badgework and practical activities looking ahead to camp or indoor holidays.

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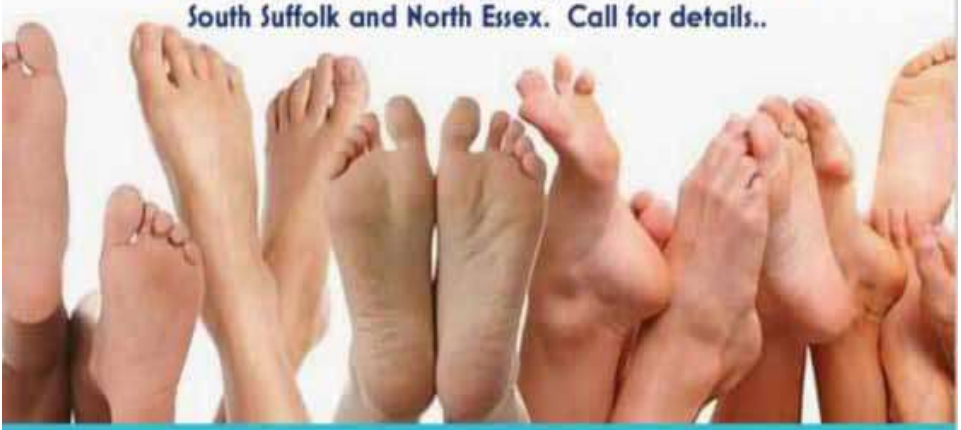
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X G Y F N C Q S K H Q A U A Q U V R E E

Answers from puzzles on page 29

4	5	1	9	3	7	2	8	6
6	7	8	4	2	5	1	9	3
2	3	9	6	1	8	5	4	7
1	6	2	5	8	3	4	7	9
9	4	7	1	6	2	3	5	8
3	8	5	7	4	9	6	1	2
7	1	3	8	5	6	9	2	4
8	2	4	3	9	1	7	6	5
5	9	6	2	7	4	8	3	1

Summer Pudding



Ingredients

- 300g Strawberry
- 300g Blackberry
- 100g Redcurrant
- 500g Raspberry
- Alternatively 12.5kg Mixed Berries
- 175g Golden Caster Sugar
- 7 Slices of day old white bread

Method

1. Wash the fruit. Put sugar and 3 tbsp water into a large pan. Gently heat until sugar dissolves. Bring to a boil for 1 min, then tip in the fruit (not strawberries). Cook for 3 mins over a low heat. The fruit will be softened, mostly intact and surrounded by dark red juice. Put a sieve over a bowl and tip in the fruit and juice.
2. Line the bowl with cling film and prepare the bread: Line the 1.25 ltr basin with cling film. Overlap two pieces of cling film in the middle of the bowl and let the edges overhang by about 15cm. Cut the crusts off the bread. Cut 4 pieces of bread in half, on an angle, to give 2 lopsided rectangles per piece. Cut 2 slices into 4 triangles each and leave the final piece whole.
3. Dip the whole piece of bread into the juice just to coat. Push this into the bottom of the basin. Now dip the wonky rectangular pieces one at a time and press around the basin's sides so that they fit together neatly, alternately placing wide and narrow ends up. Now spoon in the softened fruit, adding the strawberries here and there as you go.
4. Dip the bread triangles in juice and place on top – trim off overhang with scissors. Keep leftover juice for later. Bring cling film up and loosely seal. Put a side plate on top and weight down with cans. Chill for 6 hrs or overnight. To serve, open out cling film then put a serving plate upside-down on top and flip over. serve with leftover juice, any extra berries and cream.

GHYC
Great Horkesley Youth Club

What a Fantastic First Term at Youth Club!
We've had an amazing first term at the Great Horkesley Youth Club (GHYC), filled with laughter, creativity, and plenty of team games—our members' favourite part of every session!

Looking Back on a Fun-Filled Term



Skipping Spectacle: One memorable evening saw us untangle some skipping ropes, and before we knew it, the whole night was dedicated to skipping! For many, it was a brand-new experience, but with practice, they mastered the art. We even used a large rope for group skipping—what fun! Even the helpers couldn't resist joining in and reliving their childhood memories.
Scottish Quiz Night: In January, we tested our knowledge with a Scotland-themed quiz while snacking on shortbread and caramel. Although no one was brave enough to try the haggis, we did enjoy a hilarious potato-themed team game!



Beetle Drive: This classic game brought plenty of laughter, with prizes awarded to our top winners.
Valentine's and Pancake Day: Valentine's was a creative evening where we made cards for our friends (or "Galentines"). On Pancake Day, we devoured delicious homemade pancakes and had team races flipping them, what a hit!
Mother's Day Crafts: We got crafty making handmade glass heart ornaments, beautifully fired by Alison, one of our helpers. To top off the night, we played the amusing game "Don't Drop the Baby!"—a fun challenge where participants had to complete tasks like shopping or hairstyling while holding a teddy "baby."
We'll wrap up the term with an Easter-themed evening before heading into an exciting summer term!

Looking Ahead: Summer Term Fun

Outdoor Adventures: The summer term means it's time to enjoy the great outdoors with exciting games and activities.
Upcoming Highlights: Keep Fit Night: Stay active and healthy while enjoying tasty fruit kebabs.
Bug Night: A creepy-crawly themed evening with a bug quiz and fun surprises.
Football Fever: Celebrate the Football World Cup in June with themed activities.
Summer BBQ: We'll end the term with a big summer BBQ and outdoor games, a perfect way to kick off the holidays!

Summer Term Dates 2025: 9th May, 23rd May, 6th June, 20th June & 4th July

GHYC

Great Horkesley Youth Club

Each evening:

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

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

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

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Tuesday: Dance Rehearsal & Table Tennis

Wednesday: Girlguiding

Thursday: Carpet Bowls Group

Friday: Table Tennis

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Sunday Mornings: A Family Gathering at Gt Horkesley Village Hall



Sunday mornings are a cherished time for us as the family of God to come together. It's a time we all look forward to—a time to worship Jesus Christ, share our concerns with Him, and learn from His Word.

It's amazing how often someone says, "I really needed to hear that!" as the message speaks directly to their situation, offering encouragement and hope. Many leave feeling uplifted, ready to face the week ahead.

Midweek Groups: Walking Together in Faith

Our midweek groups provide opportunities to meet during the week, fostering honest and open friendships. These groups are a space for encouragement as we journey through life with God and one another.

We can't do life alone. Relationships—our relationship with God and our church family—are at the heart of our faith. Whether you're new or have been with us for years, you are warmly welcome to join us.

Personal Encounters with God. Around the world, there are extraordinary stories of people experiencing an encounter with God. For some, God has spoken to them in their dreams, for others, they are drawn towards Jesus and long to find out more about him.

We have just come back from a mission trip to Hungary. And we saw this to be true. We met a young girl who has started coming to church because she was drawn by the love Jesus offers.



Some are invited by friends and discover a deep sense of purpose and meaning to their lives that were missing. For others, they have experienced healing in their soul for past hurts and regrets which they have been unable to be free from before.

There are many reasons why we go searching beyond our everyday lives, but Jesus is always the answer.

God is love. It is the shortest verse in the bible. Everything he does, is from the motive of love, for our good. He can redeem our past. He can give us a certain hope for the future. On a recent mission trip to Hungary, we witnessed this truth firsthand. We met a young girl who started attending church, captivated by the love Jesus offers. Another young man shared how Jesus brought healing to his soul after years of hurt and regret.

One inspiring story involved a young man adopted as a child who, after years of rebellion, encountered Jesus. Overwhelmed by guilt and anger, he turned to Jesus, admitting his shame and seeking forgiveness. Experiencing Christ's love and truth brought him freedom and reconciliation with his mum. Today, he shares his story to inspire others, demonstrating how Jesus can redeem the past and give hope for the future.
Jesus says: "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."
This invitation is for all of us. If you'd like to learn more, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Every Sunday 10am Coffee Great Horkesley Village Hall, CO6 4EA
Start your week with us at Great Horkesley Village Hall. Our vibrant services (starting at 10:30am) feature worship, fellowship, and inspiring teaching, leaving you recharged and ready for the week ahead. Stick around afterward for coffee, cakes, and meaningful conversations.
We have groups for Kingdom Explorers children and youth.
Please contact us if you are interested to know more or if you would like us to pray for a situation in your life, please email us and we will be honoured to pray.

Here's a prayer for you if you'd like to receive it.
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.

Paul & Karen Carr
Freedom Church
Mob: 07754 088078
email - info@freedom-church.co.uk
Website - https://freedom-church.co.uk

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



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BOXTED METHODIST SILVER BAND

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

Boxted Methodist Silver Band has been in existence for over one hundred and twenty-five years and plays in and around the Colchester area at concerts, fetes, shows and church services. It was originally formed as a wind band at the Methodist Chapel to play 'To the glory of God' and to that extent we still do as we have a commitment to play for special services at other churches by request even though Boxted Chapel is closed. We started the year with a successful concert at Boxted with the theme "A Night at the Movies" giving several members an opportunity to play solos in the programme as well as guest performances by a young cornet player from Boxted school who is taught by our principal cornet player Anne Ruddock and members of 1st Class Brass a community band also conducted by her.

Looking ahead, we have the Easter Sunday Service at Boxted St Peters church, a concert at St James Church Brightlingsea on April 26th, the VE Day event at Weeley –Rowhedge Regatta and a special celebration service at All Saints Shrub End Church We hope to have a spot on Colchester Park bandstand this year too. We are also holding an Ensemble afternoon within the band where we get together in small groups to rehearse and play in a friendly competition. This was a regular event before Covid but we are reviving it this year. Our Autumn schedule is also filling up with Remembrance service and concert, and a Celebration concert at Holland on Sea Methodist Church and the many Christmas services and events already booked too. We play a wide range of music from traditional brass band repertoire, through jazz and film music, shows and orchestral arrangements so there is something to suit everyone. If you are interested in either joining the Band – we rehearse on Wednesday evenings at St Peters School, Boxted, CO4 5YN - or just listening to the Band, **contact Liz 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
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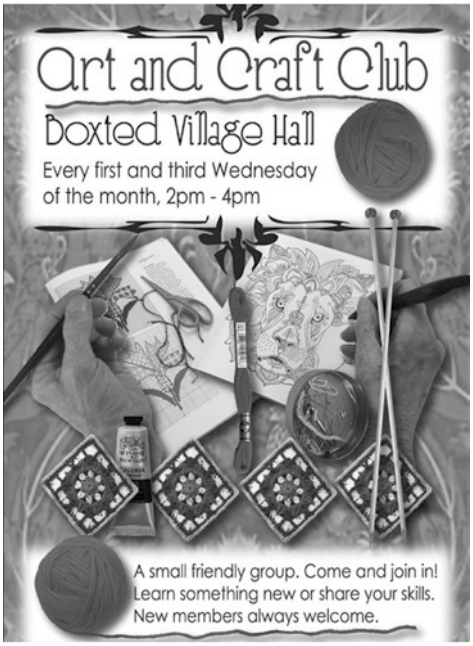
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Colne Valley Flower Club

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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:
13th & 27th May / 10th & 24th June
8th & 22nd July

For more information contact
Margaret Williams 01206 271713



Great Horkesley Carpet Bowls Club



The club Pairs competition was won by Colin Windsor and Michael Hubbard, with Brian Fisher and Rachel Leonard runners up. Trophies are to be presented to the winners and runners up at our annual meal, this is being held at The Cricketers in Fordham Heath. The AGM will be held in April. Two new players have joined us recently; Rose Green and Joe Rogers. If you would like to come along and try the game of Carpet Bowls with us please do so.

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

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

The Boxted Carpet Bowls Club will close for the outdoor season on 25th April and re-open on 19th September. Eight of the current members play outdoors during the summer months.

The Severals Indoor Bowls Club will open in April. An open day is will be held on a Saturday in early May or alternatively visit any Friday at 2pm.

Mike Hubbard, Great Horkesley Club Secretary



Aimed at beginners and social players.

All ages welcome.

Equipment is provided.

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

Contact: **Jane 01206 263619**

Great Horkesley Table Tennis Club



No previous experience is required and bats will be available.

Fridays from 7.30 - 9.00pm
£3 per session.
Great Horkesley
Old Village Hall, CO6 4BH

(on A134 between theYew Tree and Post Office)

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

Steve Holland 07785384676
Janet Faiers 07899951482
Andy Ayton 07871502945

Come and give us a look

In Memory of Eileen Smith



We are sad to report the death of Eileen Smith of Coach Road, Great Horkesley who died suddenly on 11 February 2025, aged 86. Eileen will have been known to many people in the area - she was a keen gardener and member of the local book group, and was an active parishioner at the church of St Thérèse of Lisieux, down in Lexden.

Eileen was born in Halifax, in the West Riding of Yorkshire (as it was then known), in 1938. She and her husband Derek moved to Essex in the 1960s, first to Billericay and then, in their retirement to Great Horkesley.

In January they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. Eileen was a powerful force for good in the communities she lived in - for example, she established a playgroup in Billericay which is still going strong today.

When the youngest of her children had started at school, Eileen retrained as a primary school teacher, despite having left school herself with minimal qualifications. She went on to work at several challenging inner-city schools in the east end of London. She quickly progressed to become head teacher at St Edward's in the shadow of the West Ham football ground at Upton Park, where she transformed hundreds of children's lives. Eileen was buried in the quiet beauty of Oakfield Wood, Wrabness on 28 March, following a moving and celebratory funeral mass at St Thérèse's. She leaves behind a large and growing family who will cherish their memories of her and continue to stand firm to the ideals she lived by: faith, family, environment, charity and education.

Greg & Sarah Smith

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.

Registered Charity No. 800187

The Friendly Ear

Hearing Support Group

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

You are no alone. 1 in 7 adults experience hearing loss.

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

Like to know more?
Contact gill_shrimpton@hotmail.com

LITTER WARRIORS

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

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

- Latest village news
- Local events
- Ask questions

Scan the QR code below to join the Facebook group:

Aldercar Wood Oil Buying Club

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

To join the mailing list email:
aldercarwood@gmail.com

Follow the Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/aldercarwood

A not-for profit syndicate
Straight Road, Boxted, CO4 5QN

UPCOMING EVENTS

02/05/2025	Food Pantry, BWW School 3.30pm (p9)
05/05/2025	Early May Bank Holiday & Nayland Fete (p11)
08/05/2025	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm (p9)
09/05/2025	Food Pantry, BWW School 3.30pm (p9)
09/05/2025	GHYC, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-8.30pm (p48-49)
13/05/2025	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm (p65)
13/05/2025	WI Meeting, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-9pm (p18/19)
16/05/2025	Food Pantry, BWW School 3.30pm (p9)
17/05/2025	WI Quiz Night 7pm (p19)
23/05/2025	GHYC, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-8.30pm (p48-49)
24/05/2025	Scarecrow Trail starts (p13)
26/05/2025	Spring Bank Holiday
27/05/2025	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm (p65)
29/05/2025	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm (p9)
06/06/2025	Food Pantry, BWW School 3.30pm (p9)
06/06/2025	GHYC, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-8.30pm (p48-49)
08/06/2025	Nayland Open Gardens 1-5pm (p39)
10/06/2025	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm (p65)
10/06/2025	WI Meeting, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-9pm (p18/19)
13/06/2025	Food Pantry, BWW School 3.30pm (p9)
19/06/2025	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm (p9)
20/06/2025	Food Pantry, BWW School 3.30pm (p9)
20/06/2025	GHYC, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-8.30pm (p48-49)
21/06/2025	Mid-Summer Swing Concert, All Saints' Church 6.30pm
24/06/2025	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm (p65)
27/06/2025	Food Pantry, BWW School 3.30pm (p9)
28/06/2025	Great Horkesley Dog Show 1-3pm (p36)
28/06/2025	Great Horkesley Summer Fayre 12-4pm (p37)
04/07/2025	Food Pantry, BWW School 3.30pm (p9)
04/07/2025	GHYC, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-8.30pm (p48-49)
08/07/2025	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm (p65)
08/07/2025	WI Meeting, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-9pm (p18/19)
10/07/2025	Last date for submissions for next Village News
10/07/2025	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm (p9)
11/07/2025	Food Pantry, BWW School 3.30pm (p9)
18/07/2025	Food Pantry, BWW School 3.30pm (p9)
22/07/2025	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm (p65)

For details of Church Services see page 27

Useful Contacts

Councils

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

Village Groups

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

Great Horkesley Village News

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

Local Numbers

Post Office 01206 271306
Half Butt..... 01206 370369
The Yew Tree..... 01206 273450

National Numbers

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

Useful Links

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



Available outside Great Horkesley New Village Hall, CO6 4EA



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