GREAT HORKESLEY VILLAGE NEWS



Autumn/Winter Issue 146

Nov 2025 - Jan 2026



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From the Editor

So the weather is now turning, along with the colour of the leaves and we have started using our trusty log burner to take the chill off the darker evenings. Rusty is coming to the end of his evening agilty training but we are hoping to do some sessions during the day, for a little while at least!
I am also now part of the Great Horkesley Community Events team and I am looking forward to the Christmas Lights & Carols event in November and also helping the team to plan and carry out next years Summer Fayre. Look out for more infomation later in the magazine.

If you would like to get involved in the magazine, perhaps contributing an article, then please get in touch. All issues are funded by local business adverts so please support them as best you can.

The magazine is for the village, from the village!

Aspiring photographers, please step forward!
For a chance to have your photo as the cover of future magazines please email me your best colour photo.
As the next issue is February to April, a Spring theme would be perfect.
Issue 146 front cover photo courtesty of:
Declan Foley
"Path near village hall"
This magazine is also available in full colour on the Great Horkesley Parish Council website.
Questions, feedback, submissions and advert enquiries please contact me via email:
horkesleyvillagenews@gmail.com

Best wishes Caroline

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Great Horkesley Parish Council

www.greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk
clerk@greathorkesley-pc.gov.uk

Over the last few months, the Parish Council have met for an extraordinary meeting on a couple of occasions, in order to discuss responses to current planning applications. Minutes of these meetings and the comments agreed by members can be seen on the Parish Council website. We have still had no update regarding a decision on the proposed Bloor Homes development off Coach Road. The next actions of the Parish Council very much depend on the outcome of the application, so we wait to hear whether it is approved or rejected.

At the last meeting, members were made aware that some residents along Nayland Road have received notification they will lose some of their gardens or front hedges to accommodate the new cycle path and footway to Chesterwell. The Chairman advised any residents in this position with concerns, to contact County Councillor Lewis Barber for further advice and to seek clarification on what is proposed to happen and when. Members were also concerned about the response that Colchester City Council gave when they were consulted on the next stage of the pylons proposal. The Parish Council expressed these concerns to the City Council directly, and again these details can be found in recent minutes.

I have just received the news that there will be roadworks on the A134 under the A12 bridge from the end of October, to hopefully put a stop to the water running down the carriageway causing numerous potholes. We hope this will finally fix an issue that the Parish Council have been pushing to be resolved for many years.

The external audit has been completed. We now look towards getting the draft budget together for the next financial year, which will be discussed in detail by the Finance Committee at the end of 2025 before being agreed by full council in January.

If you are looking to book the Village Hall for an event, please ensure that the period you hire the hall for includes any time you require to set up before and tidy up after. At times we are very busy with bookings, so we do need hirers to stick to the period they have hired the hall for and ensure they are out in good time. There have been a couple of changes to our regular hirer list, so please take a look at the updated sheet in this magazine. One of these changes is that Eagle Ministries will not be hiring the hall on a Sunday morning anymore – unfortunately the hall is no longer big enough to host them, and we are very sad to see them go. However, this does mean that the hall is now available for one-off hires and parties on a Sunday morning going forward. We do also have some availability on Thursdays and Fridays for any new regular hirers looking for a venue.

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.

Wishing everyone a fantastic Christmas and hope to see you at the BWW School Christmas Fair and also the Village Green carols & light switch on, both on the last weekend of November!

Teri Duckworth, Parish Clerk, Great Horkesley Parish Council



Regular Activities

On Mondays *(term time only)*
10am - 11.15am Yoga Class
Tel: 07981022621 – Meg Lyon

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

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

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

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

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

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

On Wednesdays
9.45am-10.45am The Messy Den
(term time only)
Email: info@themessyden.co.uk

On Wednesdays
10.30am - 1.00pm Legends Market
(2nd Wednesday of the month only)
(see page 57)

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

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

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

On Thursdays
10am-11am More Than The Mat (Pilates)
Tel: 07977900661 - Alanna

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

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

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

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



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



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



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



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

Local Government Reform (dry but important!)

In September there was a vote in the Town Hall to signal Colchester's position on reorganisation of Local Government. A majority favoured creating multiple new councils but all four of us all voted in favour of fewer councils / councillors. People want fewer politicians, not more. Less bureaucracy, not more.

The current "two-tier" system is creaking. Taxes go up, services go down, and endless committees gobble time and money like Pac-Man. You can tinker with it all you like - but at the end of the day it's still the wrong machine. We need a system that puts power closer to people, cuts duplication, and stops constantly increasing taxes. We have poor integration on areas such as planning and infrastructure, little control over public transport, too many policy areas centralised in Westminster and a social care budget that is increasingly taking up a larger share of budgets. Not only that, the system has barriers of entry for those who want to become a councillor and, for example, work full time. A new system has the potential to reduce barriers of entry, boosting competition and improving councillor performance and accountability. The Government will make the final call (probably in March) - but one thing is clear, the future must be leaner, simpler, and squarely on the side of local people, not politicians and bureaucrats.

That said there are fantastic professional administrators, dedicated council staff and councillors, who will find a future in whatever is to come and during this 'transition' time your Parish Council have a critical function in representing your interests too!

Great Horkesley Community Events

The Great Horkesley Community Events team had a well-deserved rest after the Summer Fayre, but it didn't last too long before we were together again planning next year's Summer Fayre, and the village Christmas event.

For next year's Summer Fayre, we are booked for Saturday 27 June - we haven't yet made a decision on timings as we are keeping an eye on the World Cup fixtures! We are also planning a slightly different theme, more details to come on that but do save the date!

For details of the Christmas event, please see the poster on page 36. We are so pleased to have been able to build on the Church's long-standing tradition of hot chocolate and carols, working with other village groups such as the Scouts and the WI to bring you a cosy local event to begin the festive season. We are grateful to the Great Horkesley Parish Council for providing the Christmas tree, and of course to Mr Bull and the BWW school choir who will lead us for the carols. We will also be joined by food and drink stalls, as well as some gifts and crafts. The event is on Sunday 30 November, 5-7pm, with the carols and light switch-on at 6pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sam Jarvis & The GH Community Events Team

The Half Butt Inn
Great Horkesley

Our Sunday Carvery Is Back!

Sittings Available
12.30pm, 2.30pm &
4.30pm

Adult £18
Vegetarian £14
Childs £12



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Cartons and Flexible Plastics Now Accepted In Your Kerbside Recycling!

On 29th September 2025, Colchester City Council expanded its kerbside recycling collections to include flexible plastics and cartons, such as Tetra Paks, for the first time. This change applies to all households across Colchester and residents can start including these new materials in their clear plastic recycling bags for plastics recycling.
The Government set out that, from April 2026, all waste collection authorities must begin accepting cartons and, from April 2027, flexible plastics as part of the Simpler Recycling legislation. The council's decision to bring forward these plans reflects the commitment to improving recycling rates and reducing environmental impact
Allowing residents to recycle these items from home helps cut down car journeys to supermarket drop-off points, reduces landfill waste, and lowers the city's carbon footprint.

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

What new items can I now recycle?

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

How do I recycle these new items?

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

What items can I NOT recycle at the kerbside?

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

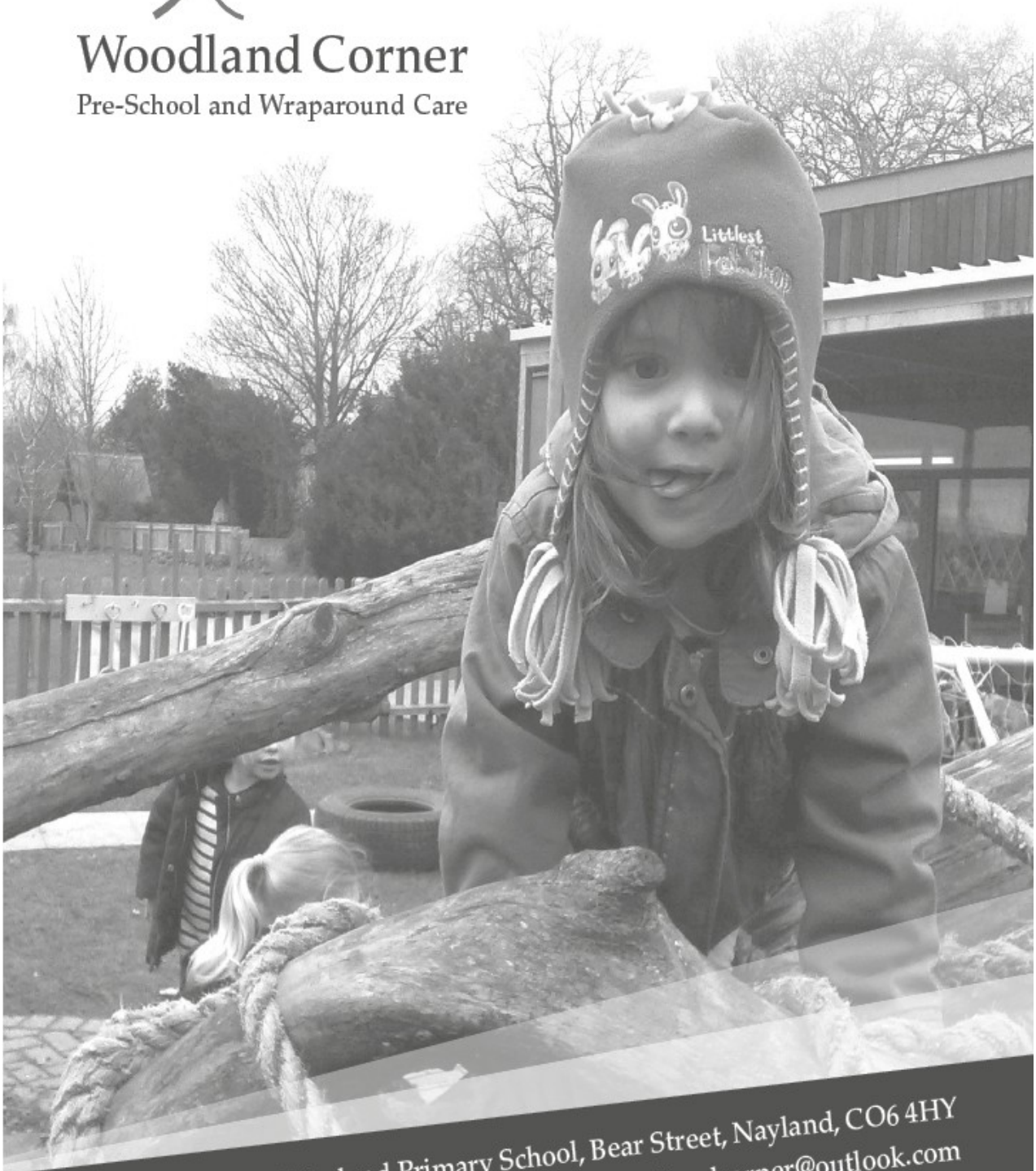
- Chemical bottles (bleach is accepted)
- Blister packs (e.g. tablets)
- Hard plastics (toys etc)
- DVD/CD cases
- Polystyrene
- Coffee machine pods

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

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

Woodland Corner

Pre-School and Wraparound Care



In the grounds of Nayland Primary School, Bear Street, Nayland, CO6 4HY

Tel: 01206 263054 Email: woodlandcorner@outlook.com

Web: www.woodlandcornernayland.blogspot.co.uk

Woodland Corner is a registered charity no. 1168815

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10% off for new customers

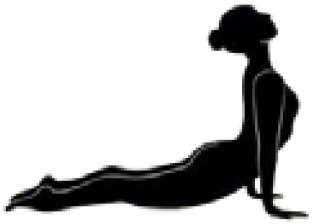
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9.45am - 10.20am





Pilates
Every Thursday
10.30am - 11.30am

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

NEWS *from the School*

We are back in action here at Bishop William Ward with a fabulous new group of pupils to welcome into our school community. We want to wish last year's leavers all the best as they start their new secondary schools – those with whom I have spoken all seem to be enjoying the new challenges and settling into new routines confidently. They performed well in their end of year assessments and are ready to take the next step on their journey. The majority of our pupils now move on to the Trinity School on the Chesterwell estate.

Looking ahead, there are many things to look forward to this term, including a range of special days, trips and visitors. After half term, we will be celebrating cultural diversity as part of our 'No Outsiders' project. Children will study the culture, art, history and geography of a specific country, with all seven continents being covered across the school.

Our Year 6 pupils are just back from their week-long residential trip to the PGL Overstrand Centre in Norfolk. After travelling up on the train, the pupils engage in an action-packed week, including bushcraft, caving, climbing, archery, Leap of Faith and many more activities designed to encourage them to push themselves, work as a team and develop their self-esteem and confidence. A week away to prove that you can survive without a screen!

We have a wide range of extra-curricular clubs and activities for our pupils. This includes our two football teams, both of which will be in action as part of the Colchester Primary Schools Leagues over the next few weeks and terms. In November, the choir will once again be competing in the Rotary Club Junior Schools Choir Competition and will no doubt have a busy schedule leading up to Christmas – we look forward to seeing you for the lighting of the Christmas Tree! (see page 36).

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. It is lovely to invite parents in for the first 'event' of the year, where even our youngest pupils will take part, performing the now traditional 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow'.
You are all welcome to join us on Saturday November 29th 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 you are looking to join Bishop William Ward next year, we have a number of tours throughout the autumn term. Dates are available on our website, along with lots of other information. Take a look through our Newsletter archive if you want to find out more about life at our school. www.bishopwilliamward.net

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



Autumn Term 2025

with the Friends of BWW



Looking forward to an exciting year ahead!

In October we will be holding our AGM which is usually very well attended, and we will come up with lots of ideas for the year ahead at Bishop William Ward!

Our Christmas Fair will again be in November this year, to make it a real community Christmas weekend with the Christmas Lights & Carols on the village green the next day too. The fair will be on **Saturday 29th November** at the usual times of 11.30am to 2pm. Please come along if you are free, we will have lots of fun games, the school choir will be singing for us and the ever popular chocolate tombola and Christmas raffle will be there too! Entry is just £2 for adults and free for children.

Please look out for more details on our other events coming up this year in the next Village News and on the Great Horkesley Facebook group. Next summer we are hoping to see a return of our Colour Run! We like to put on events for the whole community during the year so it is great to see everyone come together.





Cooking

STAY & PLAY



Music

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

Activities for Under 5's

Friday afternoons during School Holidays
Older children are catered for



Toys

Refreshments provided

£2.00 per family



Crafts

Little Owls Preschool

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

At Little Owls Preschool (Boxted) we aim to lay the foundations for future learning in an exciting and stimulating environment. We are a charitable not for profit company, offering childcare and preschool education for up to 6.5 hours a day.
We accept children between 2 and 5 years of age.
We accept 2, 3 and 4 year old funding plus working parent funding.

Monday to Friday – Term Time

Early Bird – 8.45 – 9.15 **Morning Session 9.15 to 12.15**
Lunch Club 12.15 – 12.45 **Afternoon Session 12.15 – 3.15**
All Day Session 9.15 to 3.15

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

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email **NaylandHouse@agecare.uk.com**

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Stops on
Keelers Way, CO6 4HR
every third Thursday
11:45am - 12:15pm
Forthcoming Dates:
13th November
4th December
Please support this fantastic service in our community



Monthly Afternoon Tea



Join us on the second Wednesday of each month **2pm - 4pm**
Great Horkesley Village Hall,
CO6 4EA
£2 per person
Tea or coffee & slice of homemade cake
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)
7th, 14th, 21st & 28th November / 5th, 12th & 18th December / 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th January
Help the environment and bring along your re-useable bag

GHYC
Great Horkesley Youth Club

The sad news is that, after many happy years, we have had to call time on the Great Horkesley Youth Club. It's been an incredible journey — over 11 years of fun, friendship, and community spirit! We've welcomed countless young people through the doors, some of whom we still keep in touch with today. Along the way we've enjoyed visits from the fire brigade and police, held barbecues, fireworks nights, Christmas parties, and so much more. We still have all the youth club equipment and would be more than happy to show anyone what we did if there's interest in starting it up again.





Freedom CHURCH

The good news is that Freedom Church, which has been part of the village since 2010 and involved in many local events, has found a new home as we continue to grow. Sunday 12th October will be our last service in Great Horkesley. From then on, we'll be meeting at Holmwood House School, Chitts Hill, Lexden where we now have a spacious auditorium, a dedicated youth room, and a larger area for children's groups. There's even a welcoming foyer for tea and coffee after the service! We'd love to invite anyone who's curious to come along for a visit, you'll find a warm welcome waiting for you.



A big thank you to all the people who helped along the way with Great Horkesley Youth Club and Freedom Church.

Love Paul & Karen (Mob: 07754088078 / Email - info@freedom-church.co.uk)

The Firework Dog Code

Share our code to ignite change and protect the nation's dogs this Firework night

1. Attend a local organised display!
2. If you do hold your own, let your neighbours know well in advance
3. Limit your display to 30 mins
4. Opt for quieter, lower decibel fireworks
5. If you have a dog, follow our advice to lessen their stress: dogstrust.org.uk/fireworks



#FireworkDogCode

DogsTrust

Office for Product Safety & Standards



Using fireworks at home?

Let your neighbours know in advance
Some people find fireworks distressing

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www.mottsbodyrepair.co.uk

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www.greathorkesleygarage.co.uk

ASHWOOD CARE



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

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- 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.



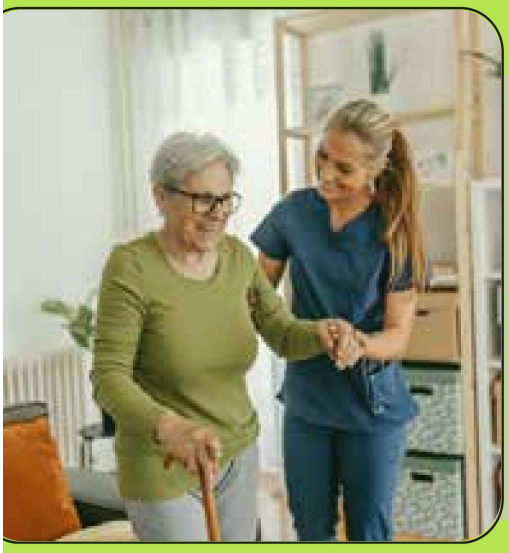
GET STARTED IN 4 SIMPLE STEPS

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
If you and your loved ones are happy with the care plan, we begin providing care according to your planned schedule. If authorised by the care receiver, we will also onboard friends, families & your GP to the **Caring App for Family & Friends** to provide transparent care, giving peace of mind for friends & family.



DO YOU KNOW A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER WHO IS IN NEED OF AFFORDABLE HOME CARE?

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£350

020 3375 9403 www.ashwoodcare.net info@ashwoodcare.net

Church News

November & December 2025 – January 2026



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

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

Where do you find Joy? Each of us, might give a different answer. I find joy in the changing of the seasons, I am particularly fond of Autumn, on a crisp, sunny autumnal morning, walking along a path of crispy leaves, gives me a great, childlike joy. What I really want to do, is run through them, arms outstretched, laughing and smiling, but perhaps age has constrained my childlike enthusiasm.

Joy is found in many other places too, spending time with family and friends, a meal out, the simple pleasures of life.

As Christians one of the fruits of the spirit is joy. Joy is part of who we are, and yet often I have heard it said that Christians don't appear to be too joyful, which is a great shame, after all joy is at the heart of Christianity.

We live in times where it might seem hard to find joy, the world seems to be an increasingly worrisome place.

Cast our minds back 2,000 years or so ago, and perhaps the world was no less worrisome, particularly to a young girl, not yet married, who encountered an angel.

The Jews lived under Roman occupation; conflict sadly was never that far away. Mary's world view might have been smaller, satellite communications and social media were a long way off into the future, but there would have been the stresses and strains of daily living that we all experience today to a greater or lesser extent. So, when an angel comes to announce her pregnancy, it is hard to imagine Mary hearing good news. An unplanned teenage pregnancy, amongst the small-town gossips, and that's before we even consider how Joseph might feel about all this.

Yet, Good News and Joy are at the heart of the Christmas Message. And indeed, as Mary greets her cousin Elizabeth, she sings 'My soul rejoices in God my saviour'. As the angels greet the shepherds on the hillside that first Christmas night, they say 'Do not be afraid, for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people.'

The joy of Christmas is that deep-seated joy, a rejoicing in our souls, that nothing can dispel. I hope and pray you know this joy for yourselves this Christmas time. and that you may have many joy-filled moments.

May God Bless you
Heather

Also from Rev'd Emma Barr, our Curate serving across the 6 parishes.

November Reflections: The Lord is Close to the Broken-hearted

"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." — Psalm 34:18

As the leaves fall and the days grow shorter, November invites us into a season of remembrance. It is a time when we pause to remember those we have loved and lost—family, friends, and members of our parish who have shaped our lives and our faith. In our All Souls services, we gather in quiet reflection, holding those precious memories before God, trusting in His promise to be near to the broken-hearted.

November also brings Remembrance Sunday, when we honour the brave men and women who laid down their lives in service of peace and freedom. We give thanks for their sacrifice, and we pray for peace in our world today. It is a solemn time, yet one filled with deep gratitude and reverence.

Psalm 34:18 reminds us that we are never alone in our grief. God draws close in our sorrow and holds us in His love when our own strength fails. Whether we come to church with tears, with memories, or with prayers unspoken, He meets us there, offering comfort and hope.

As we light candles, lay poppies, and whisper names of loved ones gone before, may we also lift our hearts to the God who brings light into the darkest places.

May we carry forward their love and courage in how we live today.

With every blessing,
Rev Emma

Thank you to all who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning at St. John's on 25 September. We were able to send £250 to Macmillan Cancer Care.



Coming soon: Trees for Advent, All Saints' Church, see page 34

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

Who to contact.....



Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Heather Wilcox
Tel: 01206 240906 **Email:** RevHWilcox@outlook.com
Heather has responsibility for the six parishes of West Bergholt, Great Horkesley, Langham with Boxted, Little Horkesley, Wormingford & Mount Bures.
She is assisted by:
Curate: Rev. Emma Barr, Tel: 07801659345, **Email:** revemmabarr@gmail.com
Church Administrator (<u>the first point of contact for enquiries about baptisms, weddings and funerals):</u> Jo Rassell & Donna Luxton share this job and can be contacted at the Church Office at St. Mary's Church, New Church Road, West Bergholt.
Tel: 01206 243683 **Email:** 6parishescolchester@gmail.com
Usual opening hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10am-12pm

Please note that enquiries relating to Baptisms and Weddings will be dealt with during office hours, but if you are arranging a funeral and need to contact someone out of office hours, please contact Heather direct on 01206 240906.

Reader & PCC Secretary: Sandra Baker
Tel: 01206 271760 **Email:** spbaker18@gmail.com

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

Regular events at St. John's

Take a Break Café is open every Thursday from 10.00am to 11.30am.
A warm welcome awaits you!
Come and meet old friends and make new ones. Fresh filter coffee, cappuccino, tea, hot chocolate, toasted tea cakes. Drinks, snacks and toys for children. Give and take library. ***All ages welcome!***

This is where you can collect recycling items ordered through Colchester City Council: https://www.colchester.gov.uk/recycling/

"Fun4Families"
Third Sunday of the month, 11.00am at St. John's Church
(Except December)
A fun and informal time together for people of all ages, with songs, a Bible story and craft activities. Refreshments and cake!



From the Registers at All Saints':
Interment of Ashes – 28th July - Elizabeth Steedman



Wedding – 18th September - Kenneth Jennngs married Claire Hamblion
We wish them God's blessing and much joy in their future life together.

Share the JOY of Christmas at our services:

Sunday 31st December 3.30pm Carol Service — All Saints'
Traditional Carols and readings telling the Christmas story

Christmas Eve 24th December
5.30pm Christingle Service — St. John's
In aid of The Children's Society. Take a Christingle home.

11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion — All Saints'
Celebrate the birth of Jesus in the first minutes of Christmas Day!

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

Services November 2025 - January 2026

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	2nd	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. John's
	9th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints'
		10.45am	Remembrance Parade Service	All Saints'
	16th	11.00am	Fun4Families	St. John's
	23rd	11.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
	30th	10.30am	United Service for Advent Sunday with the Bishop of Chelmsford	St Andrew's, Wormingford
December	7th	11.00am	Trees for Advent Praise Service	All Saints'
	14th	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	All Saints'
		11.00am	Holy Communion	St. John's
		Christmas Services – see page 27 for details		
	21st	11.00am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
		3.30pm	Carol Service	All Saints'
Christmas Eve				
	24th	5.30pm	Christingle Service	St. John's
		11.30pm	Midnight Holy Communion	All Saints'
Christmas Day				
	25th	9.30am	Christmas Celebration *at St. Mary's West Bergholt*	
	28th	10.30am	United Holy Communion *at St. Mary's West Bergholt*	
January	4th	11.00am	Holy Communion	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'

- 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 page 26.

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.

Royal Mail

PARCEL FORCE WORLDWIDE

Latest Posting Dates for Christmas 2025

Personal 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.

Date	UK Inland services*
Wednesday, 17 December	2nd Class and 2nd Class Signed For
Friday, 19 December	Royal Mail Tracked 48® †
Saturday, 20 December	1st Class and 1st Class Signed For
Sunday, 21 December	Royal Mail Tracked 24®
Tuesday, 23 December	Special Delivery Guaranteed®

† Friday, 19 December is the last posting date for Royal Mail Tracked Returns® 48 to arrive back with the sender before Christmas.

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
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enquiries@horkesleymanor.co.uk

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Great and Little Horkesley WI

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

Did you know that…….

The Women's Institute (WI) was formed in 1915 to revitalise rural communities and encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War. Since then, our aims have broadened, and we are now the largest voluntary women's organisation in the UK. We celebrated our centenary in 2015 and currently have around 180,000 members in approximately 5,500 WIs.

We play a unique role in providing women with educational opportunities and the chance to build new skills, to take part in a wide variety of activities and to campaign on issues that matter to them and their communities.

For over 100 years, the WI movement has been instrumental in achieving positive change for women and for society, campaigning on a range of issues from modern slavery to climate change, mental health, and violence against women. Our vision is to offer support and opportunity to every woman who wants it, giving women a voice to make an even bigger impact and continue being a force for change in our world.



At our July meeting we welcomed Hector, Ruby, Honey and Geoff from Essex Therapy Dogs. They brought along their owners who gave us some background on the four dogs.

Essex Therapy Dogs visit people in various establishments in Essex to provide comfort, help and support to people who need it. The presence of a dog has been proven to help people to feel more relaxed and is beneficial for both mental and physical health.

Currently they are working with Essex University students, the Fire Service, hospitals, residential homes, prisons, hospices and schools.

Essex Therapy Dogs now has over 300 members, 280 dogs, of which there are 84 different breeds. These dogs need to have a certain temperament to become a Therapy dog and the relationship with their owner and behaviour with other dogs is also considered. The group are happy to welcome new dogs and their owners, and a full assessment is carried out.

In September, our speaker was Elizabeth Long from RAMA (Refugees, Asylum Seeker and Migrant Action). She explained that RAMA offers non-judgemental support to people from 130 different living in Colchester and Tendring counties. It provides advocacy, advice, support to access health services and education, practical support including clothing and kitchenware as well as a Therapeutic community offering sports, gardening and English conversation.

Great and Little Horkesley WI

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

Several members and friends enjoyed a visit to Tiptree Tea Rooms, Museum and farm on a sunny afternoon in August. The ‘Tiptree’ story begins around the early 1700s with Trewlands, the farm that was later to become the main site for jam-making in the Essex village of Tiptree. Today, Wilkin and Sons not only makes ‘Tiptree’ preserves, it has a flourishing fresh fruit business and multiple tea rooms in Essex.







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

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

Future meetings:

11th November - Christmas crafts
9th December - Christmas party with Hygge Harmony
13th January - Les Mis to Lion King
10th February - Use it or Lose it (exercise fun)

Trees For Advent

Christmas Tree Fesitval 2025

All Saints Church, CO6 4AJ

Saturday 6th December & Sunday 7th December

11am to 4pm

Anyone can display a tree - individuals, a family, a group of friends/neighbours, a village organisation or business. There is the general theme of 'Christmas' (past ideas include stars, snowflakes, lanterns, gingerbread houses, favourite carol, etc).

The decorations do not have to be handmade but it can be fun if time allows!

We would love to encourage new participants as well as welcome back our faithful supporters.

Set up will be on Friday 5th December, between 11am and 2pm. Bring your tree (artificial is fine, any lights should be battery operated) and have fun setting it up in the company of others.

BOOK YOUR SPACE BY 30TH NOVEMBER

Contact Gwen 01206 271673 / Lesley 01206 271576

(collect your tree Sunday 7th at 4pm or Monday 8th at 11am)

Celebration Service 11am Sunday 7th

Vist the display & vote for your favourite

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www.fredsmithxmastrees.com

Great Horkesley

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS + CAROLS

Nov 30th
5-7pm
Great Horkesley
Village Hall

Mince Pies from the WI

Meade's Coffee + Dessert Bar

Hot Dogs from GH Scouts

Hot Chocolate from the Church

BWW Choir

The Mobile Pizza Co

Mulled Wine + Cider

Gifts + Stalls



GREAT HORKESLEY COMMUNITY EVENTS

LIGHT SWITCH ON + CAROLS 6PM

You are welcome to bring a waterproof decoration to hang on the tree!

HO HO HO!

Christmas FAIR

Saturday 29th November

11.30am - 2pm

Bishop William Ward School,
Great Horkesley

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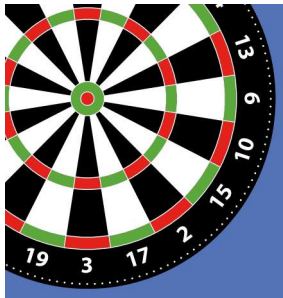


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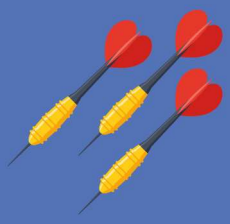
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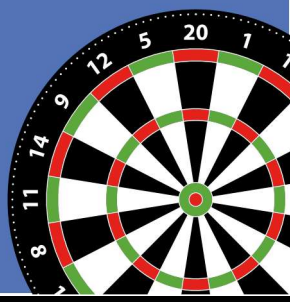
Ladies Who Throw!



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Great Horkesley Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

Great Horkesley Old Village Hall, CO6 4BH

If anybody in the village is interested in joining us as a leader or young member visit the Join Us page on the Girlguiding website or contact any of the leaders listed on the Useful Contacts (see page 70).
All three units will be taking part in Braisfest organised by Braiswick District at Essex Outdoors in East Mersea nest June, a weekend of different activities and sports. The Guides have two nights, the Brownies one night and the Rainbows a long day, all enjoying a campfire on the beach on the Saturday evening.

Great Horkesley Rainbows

We have eighteen girls in the unit with a very long waiting list. This term we will be working on the Stage 1 Skills Builder Live Smart, with topics covering Catwalk Craze, Stick it Fix it, Marvellous Money, Feeling Fruity and Safety Super Heroes – all useful skills for life. We will be completing one of the new Interest badges called Tasty Treats involving no bake cooking and preparation. This term we also will be making Harvest decorations and then Tree decorations for our entry in the Trees for Advent at All Saints church. We will also be taking part in the Remembrance service at All Saints and making poppies the week before. We will be finishing the term with a joint visit to Hollywood Bowl with the Brownies.

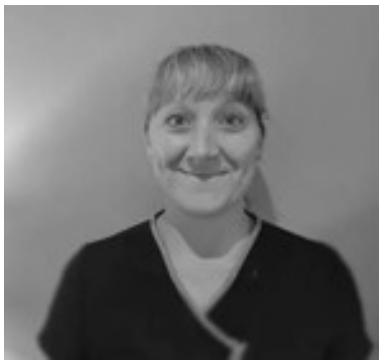
Great Horkesley Brownies

We have a full unit of twenty-four at Brownies this term. We started the term with one of the new interest badges called Gamesmaster with a variety of different types of games to play and discuss. We will be working on the Stage 2 Innovate Skills Builder covering the topics of Edible Architecture, I have an Idea, Mime Time, Made to Measure and Move and Shake. The new Interest badge Crafts will see us making decorations for Harvest, the Advent tree and a section called Delicious crafts on a Christmas theme. We too will be attending the Harvest and Remembrance services at All Saints and going to Hollywood Bowl to end the term. We have been joined by Izzy as a Unit Helper and hope she will eventually undergo the training to be a warranted leader. Claire Smith (Little Owl) was awarded her twenty-year service badge earlier this month

Great Horkesley Guides

The Guides are growing in numbers but there are still spaces for new members to join. The Guides are growing in numbers but there are still spaces for new members to join. Five girls joined the unit at the beginning of term and are settling in well. The unit is planning lots of food and craft activities leading up to Christmas. They will be taking part in the Remembrance service and have booked for the Girlguiding showing of Zootropia 2 at the cinema. Much of the unit programme is girl led so the Patrols plan what they would like to do. Ann Dyer has now stepped back from weekly meetings but is still involved with the unit administration and kindly steps in when we need an extra leader at Rainbow and Brownie meetings.

MIND BODY & SOLES



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www.mindbodyandsoles.com

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Feet First

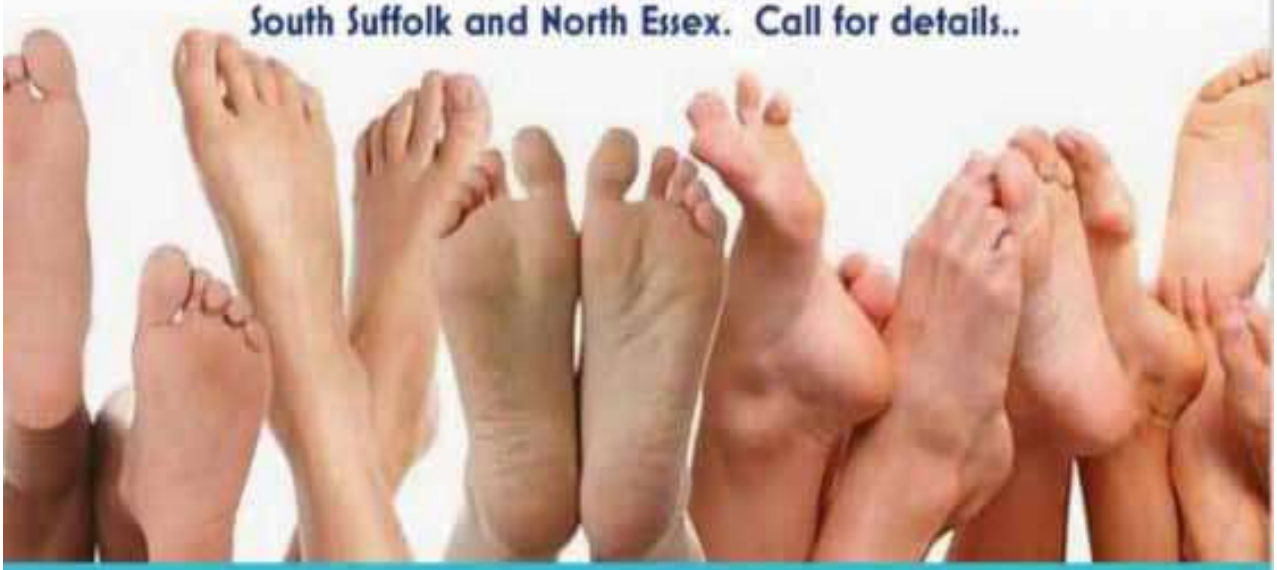
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Maisy Berridge (MCFHP MAFHP)

1st Great Horkesley Scout Group
Co-Group Lead Volunteers: Anne Adkinson & Will Lodge
www.1stgthorkesley.co.uk
Squirrels 4-6 years / Beavers 6-8 years / Cubs 8-10.5 years / Scouts 10.5-14 years



Over the summer the Scouts went away for a week-long camp in West Norfolk, having a whale of a time looking after alpacas, going on a hike, visiting an RAF base and Pleasurewood Hills, bowling and swimming – as well as developing skills for life by cooking (and washing up!) for themselves.
A great time was had by all.

This term the Scouts will be practising their map reading skills, learning first aid and preparing for winter camp – as well as creating some crafty snowmen to follow up on the success of last year's reindeer.

Some of our Beavers have enjoyed their very first nights away at Minecraft Camp, where they built friendships and confidence in a fun setting. They also had a thrilling evening at Thorrington, exploring the 3D maze and trying out slingshots. Later this term, they'll be blasting off into learning as they complete their Space Badge.

Both Cubs and Beavers have been doing their bit for the community by taking part in a litter-picking activity, one on the hospital grounds and one at Highwoods, helping to keep our local area clean and cared for.

Meanwhile, our Cubs are looking ahead to some valuable skills-based activities. They'll soon be learning about road safety and putting that knowledge into practice by developing cycling skills, building confidence both on and off the road.

Our youngest section, Squirrels, will this term be learning about Diwali, working on their story-tellers' badge, and trying exotic fruit while learning where their food comes from. As a group we look forward to coming together for church parades, our carol service, and of course the Winter Fair, where we will be selling some handmade Christmas craft; we look forward to seeing you there!

Work continues on the project to deliver a new hut for the group, with ongoing engagement with both the developers and the parish council on the plans on the Horkesley Manor development - which include a new facility for Scouting and Guiding – and our thanks go to both these organisations for their continued support for both youth movements.

As always we are looking for new volunteers to help run our Group, whether it be behind the scenes with admin or as a young people-facing leader - and, currently, supporting us with our new hut project too. Please do get in touch if you can help.

October is ADHD Awareness Month. It's an opportunity to celebrate individuality, share experiences and reflect on how we can better support Scounts & volunteers with ADHD.

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Easy Christmas Crafts for Kids

Keep your little ones occupied with these easy Christmas crafts.
All these items can either be found around the home or bought cheaply at shops like Hobbycrafts, The Works, The Range or on the internet.

Paper Chain Garland



This craft works really well using patterned wrapping paper. Cut strips of paper, either a mixture of sizes or all the same size (3x6 inch and/or 3x4.5 inch). Then, loop the paper together and staple the ends to create a circle. Thread the next strip into the loop and staple the ends. Keep going until you've created your desired length. Hang it on the mantel, fireplace or on the tree!

Toilet Paper Roll Ornaments



Start collecting those toilet roll inner tubes!
Flatten the tube and cut pieces out at your desired width. Then, create a flower design with the rings, gluing at the center. Decorate with paint or glitter, weave in string and hang on the tree. Get the full tutorial here:
https://diyinspired.com/easy-diy-christmas-ornaments-for-kids/

Mini Canvas Ornaments



Simply use acrylic craft paint and/or paint pens to decorate mini artist canvases. Once dry, attach a ribbon hanger to the back with glue and then add to your tree. In need of some gift inspiration? These make great ornaments and decorative gift tags for grandparents, teachers and friends as well!

Beaded Bow Ornaments



With a bit of guidance, kids can make cute beaded bow ornaments using just wires and beads. String on six smaller beads, one large bead and then six more smaller beads. Next, thread one end of the string through the large bead, repeating on the other side so that the two tails come out of the large bead. Then, add six more smaller beads to the ends of the string and secure each tail by wrapping it around the last bead. Add wire to the top so you can hang it on your tree.

Santa Advent Calendar



Cut out Santa's head and red hat on pieces of white and red paper. Draw on his eyes, pink cheeks and nose, then jot down 1-25 on his white beard. Starting 1st December stick a cotton ball on each number with glue until Santa's beard is complete.

Colouring Corner





Christmas Biscuits

These easy Christmas biscuits are a great family-friendly bake. Cut out a range of festive shapes from the spiced orange dough and get creative decorating with pretty coloured icing. Makes 24 Biscuits. 30 mins to prepare & 12 mins to cook.

Ingredients



For the biscuits:

- 225g self-raising flour, plus extra for dusting
- 1 orange, zested
- ½ tsp ground mixed spice
- 115g golden caster sugar
- 115g British unsalted butter, cut into cubes
- 1 medium egg, beaten

For the decoration:

- 400g icing sugar, plus extra for dusting
- 1 tsp red gel food colouring
- Silver pearls crispy / gold crunch sprinkles / white chocolate stars
- Ready to roll green & red icing

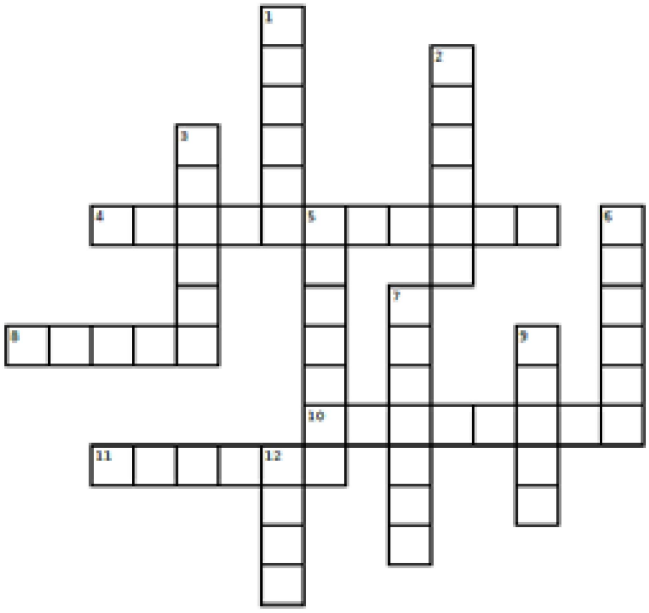
Method

1. Preheat the oven to gas 4, 180°C, fan 160°C. Line 2 baking sheets with baking paper and set aside.
2. Add the flour, orange zest, mixed spice, sugar and butter to a large bowl. Rub together with your fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add the beaten egg and mix to a stiff dough. Bring together with your hands into a disc, wrap in clingfilm and chill for at least 20 mins.
3. Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface to 5mm thick. Cut out a mixture of shapes with cutters. Bring any leftover dough together again, roll out and cut out further shapes. Transfer to the prepared baking sheets and chill for 10 mins until firm.
4. Bake for 10-12 mins (check after 8 mins if your shapes are small) or until pale golden. Transfer the biscuits to a wire rack to cool completely. (The biscuits can be eaten plain or decorated).
5. For the icing, place half the icing sugar in a bowl, add 3 tbsp water and mix until it forms a thick paste. Place the remaining icing sugar in another bowl, add 3 tbsp water and the red gel food colouring and mix together to make a bold red colour.
6. Put the red icing in a piping bag with a small plain nozzle (or spoon into a sandwich bag and snip the corner off to make a small hole). Pipe lines around some of the cooled biscuits to make borders or patterns. Leave to set briefly. To flood the middles, add a spoonful of the white icing inside the borders and allow the icing to spread to the edges. Decorate with silver and gold balls and stars, as you like.
7. Roll out some green and red fondant icing on a surface lightly dusted with icing sugar to 5mm thickness. Cut out shapes and use to decorate the remaining biscuits. Secure the fondant icing with a little runny white icing. Leave to set completely before serving.

The finished biscuits will keep for up to a week in an airtight container.

Christmas Crossword

Answers on page 55



Down:

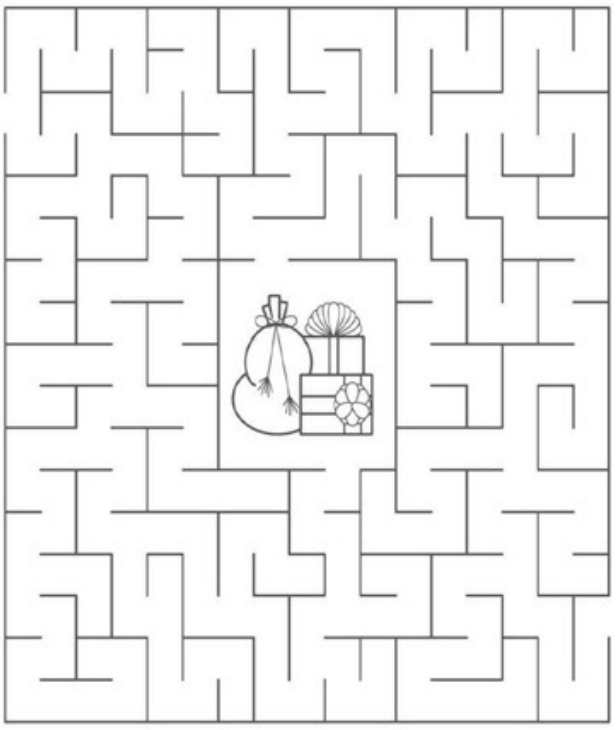
1. Hang on the tree
2. Bird often roasted for Christmas dinner
3. Carried Mary to Bethlehem
5. Reindeer with red nose
6. Songs sung at Christmas
7. There were three of them
9. Has a beard and drives the sleigh
12. You might get a lump if you are naughty

Across:

4. Build a house with this
8. Green spiky tree
10. Find these under the tree
11. He tries to steal Christmas

Christmas Maze







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Through The Garden Gate

Summer 2025 has come to an end, and we have now passed into autumn. It's a wild, wet, and windy evening as I write. I can hear the acorns bouncing down onto a canopy; it always sounds so much louder after dark when all else is silent.

We have great colouring on the thorn tree again. A sister plant of the hedgerow hawthorn. Ours has orange and scarlet colouring in autumn with masses of large berries. It's one of the many related trees/shrubs in the Crataegus family. It has viscous thorns about 2 inches in length. Earlier on we had to lop lower the lower branches for fear of our then young grandchildren becoming impaled. Ours is C. Prunifolia, and a similar variety, also scarlet in autumn is the Cockspur Thorn - a little shorter, but also a brilliant autumn colourer. These two trees are often confused.

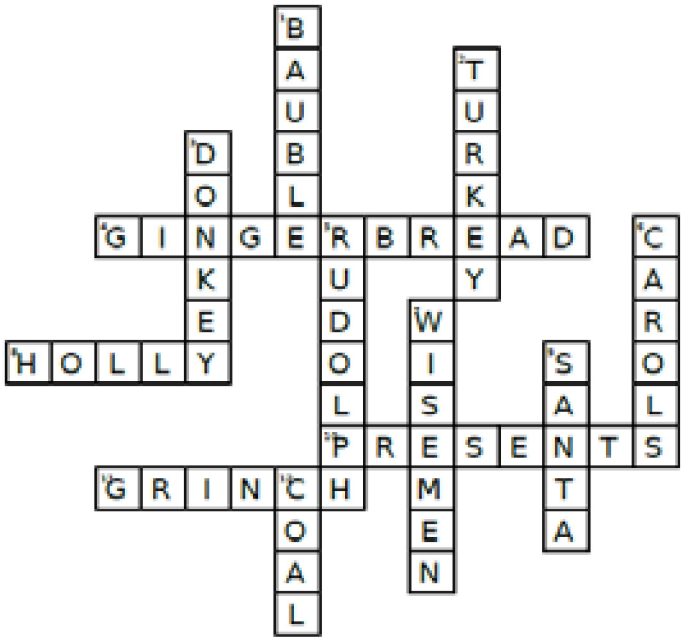
I still have several interesting old plant catalogues on trees and shrubs. With hundreds listed including descriptions. All is on your phones now of course, but the phone still wouldn't show such extensive lists. Some plants rarely seen now except perhaps in big estate gardens. To refer back to summer 2025; I have found again, keeping plants in containers a bit of a struggle. A couple of Sedums which, although lovers of the sun, and forming lots of flower buds, refused to flower in July and August. While visiting Holkham Hall walled gardens - again in August, I noticed the same problem there. As the weather cooled during September the flowers opened, but disappointingly, too late for the little Orange Tip butterflies which always visit these plants in summer, perching on the large flat flower heads of the Sedums. It does appear to be the norm now to get these periods of very hot weather during summer. The long periods of dry weather without rainfall are also causing problems. I've noticed the several hollies bushes I have, have all dropped their berries prematurely. Unusual!

It's time to be off to our local plant nurseries, with spring flowering bulbs in mind. Will any of last year's bulbs flower again I wonder, but I will be tempted to buy more.

Stay safe everyone, through any tricky winter weather which might be around the corner for us all.

Jill Plane

Answers from page 53



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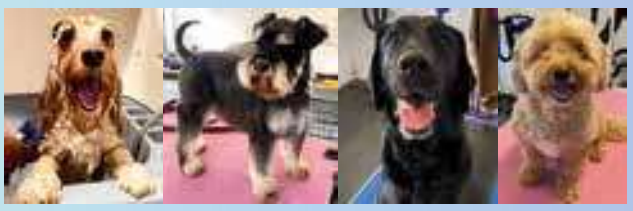
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Here are some do's and dont's:

DO NOT PARK....

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

ALL OF THE ABOVE IS HAPPENING IN OUR VILLAGE!

PARKING ON THE PAVEMENT HINDERS:

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

DO PARK....

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

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

BOXTED METHODIST SILVER BAND

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

Boxted Methodist Silver Band has been in existence for over 125 years and plays in and around the Colchester area at concerts, fetes, shows and church services. It was originally formed as a wind band at the Methodist Chapel to play 'To the glory of God' and to that extent we still do as we have a commitment to play for special services at other churches by request even though Boxted Chapel is closed.
We enjoyed an open-air Band service at St Peters, Boxted on 6th September and then an all-day rehearsal/social at Nayland Village Hall to prepare for the coming months including a Celebration concert at Holland-on-Sea Methodist Church and a service in Wivenhoe to celebrate the life of a band member who passed away last year in October. Remembrance Service at Boxted St Peter's Church and concert at St Botolph's Church, Colchester will follow in November. We already have many Christmas services and events booked including a Christmas concert at Nayland Village Hall on 13th December at 6pm and Advent Carols in Boxted Village Hall (part of the tree lighting at 3pm 6th December). We have carol services at Boxted, Polstead and Wimpole Road Methodist Churches, as well as playing for "Carols on the Quay" in Rowhedge. All different in style but all celebrating Christmas. We also continue the Band's tradition of playing in the streets of Boxted and will publish the locations nearer the time for people to come and listen. We will also be playing for "Carols around the Tree" in Nayland on 17th December and Stoke by Nayland on 21st December. A very busy time for all band members but if you enjoy singing carols do join us!

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, c**ontact Liz Petter for details (07803935688) or view more details on our website.** We have had several new players join us recently, but there is always room for more, especially Bb bass player, so if you used to play and have been thinking about taking it up again come and see us.

Are you keen to get involved with the Great Horkesley Village News?
Would you consider submitting an article to be published?

I am looking for articles about:

The villagers' perspective of Great Horkesley
History of the village
Book reviews
Recipes
Pets
Local walks

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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:
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Great Horkesley Carpet Bowls Club



Eleven players have entered the club singles competition. Each will play the others once, making a total of 55 matches with two points for a win and one point for a draw. With 17 matches left to play there are still four players who would win the trophy!
We hope to enter a team in the church quiz being held on 11th October.

Several Bowls Club stayed open for an extra week, which meant carpet bowls at Boxted started back a week later on 26th September.
Eight players who started Severals club during the outdoor season came to play at Boxted. They all seemed to enjoy themselves and hopefully they will be joining for the winter months (September 2025 to April 2026).

It has been noted that information on various websites and social media is out of date, we hope to have this updated in the near future.

Interested in trying carpet bowls?
We meet every Thursday evening from 7pm at Great Horkesley Old Village Hall, CO6 4BH (on the A134 between The Yew Tree and the Post Office).
Please contact our chairperson Dott Simkin on tel 01206 271249 or text 07508731251 for further information.

Mike Hubbard, Great Horkesley Club Secretary



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CO6 4JH

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Great Horkesley Table Tennis Club



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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:

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Dispensary Announcement from Dr Gunasekera: I would like to inform you of our new prescription protocol from 1st October 2025. We implement these changes to ensure high levels of safety when issuing your medications. Our Dispensary staff work very hard to ensure each prescription is ready to collect on time however due to an increase in demand for prescriptions and supplier issues our Dispensary team requires at least 5 working days to process a prescription request. Please ensure you remember when your request was submitted and note the collection date will fall 5 working days later. This includes online requests.Please note: According to NHS prescribing guidelines we can only issue 28 days' worth of medication at one time. We have zero-tolerance policy against rude and argumentative behaviour towards our Dispensary and prescription staff.

New Appointment System: Reminder to our patients that to book an appointment with a GP, please use the new appointment system. You can contact us via the NHS App, Creffield Medical Group website or if you are unable to complete the form in either of these ways you can telephone us and one of our receptionists will fill in the application form for you or support you to complete it yourself. The request is then triaged by one of our Lead GP's and the most appropriate appointment will then be offered to you.

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.

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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.

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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:
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Great Horkesley & Boxted Community Group

Join our online community

- Latest village news
- Local events
- Ask questions

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Great Horkesley Old Village Hall CO6 4BH



Current Bookings:

Monday: Rainbows, Brownies, Lecture Group & Table Tennis

Tuesday: Dance Rehearsal & Table Tennis

Wednesday: Girlguiding

Thursday: Carpet Bowls Group

Friday: Table Tennis

Call Dott 01206 271279 / 07508731251

UPCOMING EVENTS

05/11/2025	Bonfire Night (p19)
11/11/2025	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm (p64)
11/11/2025	WI Meeting, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-9pm (p32/33)
14/11/2025	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm (p17)
18/11/2025	Great Horkesley Parish Council meeting 7.30pm
25/11/2025	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm (p64)
29/11/2025	BWW Christmas Fayre 11.30am - 2pm (p73)
29/11/2025	Christmas Carols & Lights 5-7pm (p36)
04/12/2025	Mobile Library, Keelers Way 11:45am-12:15pm (p17)
06/12/2025	Trees For Advent 11am-4pm (p34)
07/12/2025	Trees For Advent 11am-4pm (p34)
09/12/2025	Horkesley Craft Group, GH Village Hall 2-4pm (p64)
09/12/2025	WI Meeting, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-9pm (p32/33)
17/12/2025	Royal Mail Last Posting Date (2nd Class)
20/12/2025	Royal Mail Last Posting Date (1st Class)
23/12/2025	WI Meeting, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-9pm (p32/33)
25/12/2025	Christmas Day (Bank Holiday)
28/12/2025	Substitute Boxing Day Bank Holiday
01/01/2026	New Year's Day (Bank Holiday)
05/01/2026	Last date for submissions for next GH Village News
09/01/2026	WI Meeting, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-9pm (p32/33)
13/01/2026	WI Meeting, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-9pm (p32/33)
27/01/2026	WI Meeting, Great Horkesley Village Hall 7-9pm (p32/33)
20/01/2026	Great Horkesley Parish Council meeting 7.30pm

For details of:
Food Pantry, BWW School 3.30pm see page 17
Church Services see pages 27 & 28

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

Useful Contacts

Councils

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

Village Groups

Great Horkesley Community Events .....ghcommunityevents@gmail.com
Gt. & Lt. Horkesley WI President..... Marilyn Hurst 07763488774
Rainbow Leader ..... Liz Petter 01206 271511
Guide Leader..... Ann Dyer.....01206 273071
Brownie Leader ..... Liz Petter 01206 271511
Scout Co-Group Lead Volunteer ..... Will Lodge.....07729803515
Youth Club ..... Karen Carr 07505132664
Horkesley Care Network..... Lesley Richardson.....01206 271576
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
The Half Butt Inn..... 01206 370369
The Yew Tree..... 01206 273450
Bishop William Ward School 01206 271336

National Numbers

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

Useful Links

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



Available outside Great Horkesley New Village Hall, CO6 4EA



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