

FELSTED

# FOCUS

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2024

ISSUE 23



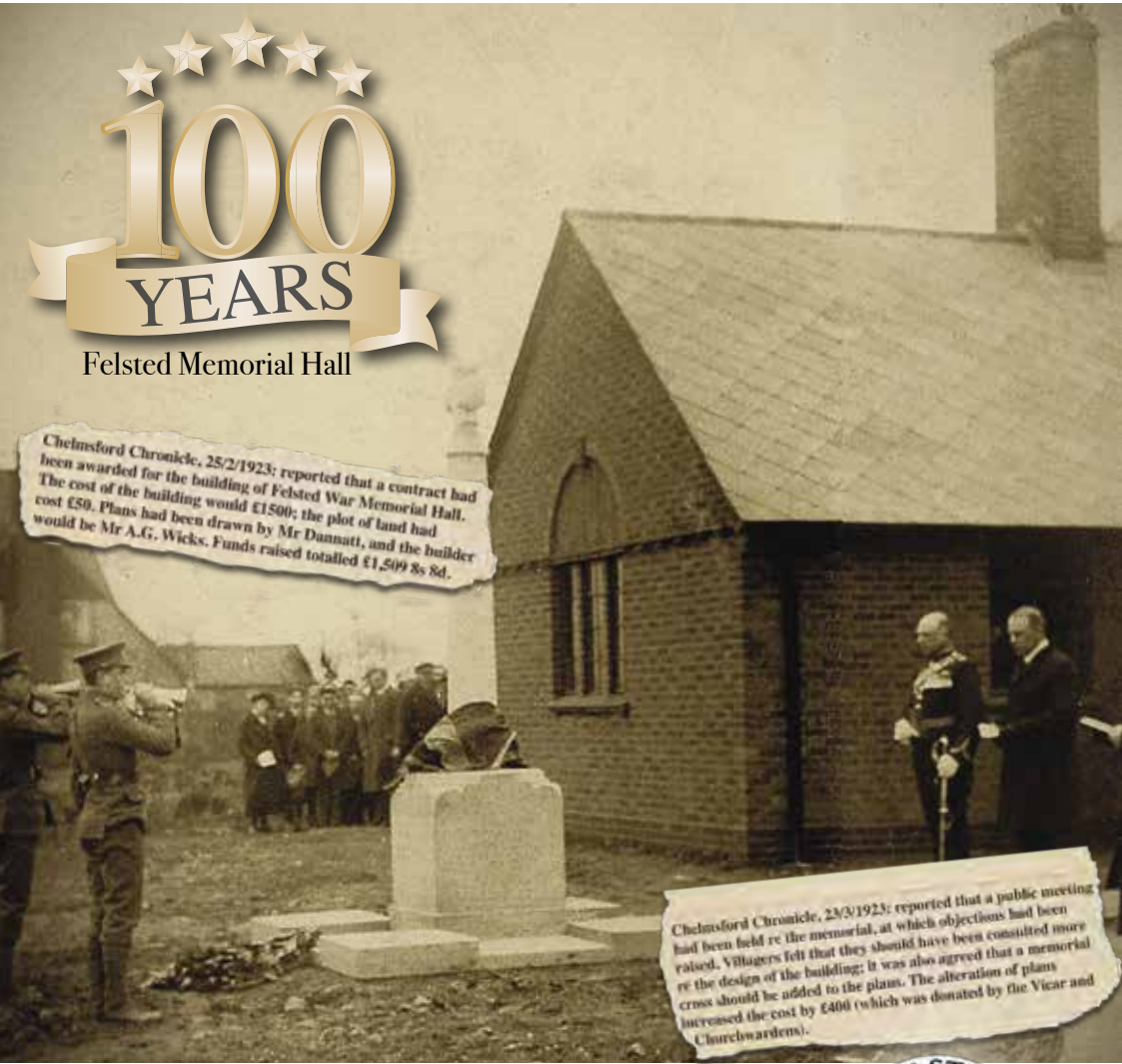
A FREE complimentary magazine for £1 where purchased

QUARTERLY

# 100 YEARS

Felsted Memorial Hall

Chelmsford Chronicle, 25/2/1923; reported that a contract had been awarded for the building of Felsted War Memorial Hall. The cost of the building would be £1500; the plot of land had cost £50. Plans had been drawn by Mr Dannatt, and the builder would be Mr A.G. Wicks. Funds raised totalled £1,509 8s 8d.



Chelmsford Chronicle, 23/3/1923; reported that a public meeting had been held re the memorial, at which objections had been raised. Villagers felt that they should have been consulted more re the design of the building; it was also agreed that a memorial cross should be added to the plans. The alteration of plans increased the cost by £400 (which was donated by the Vicar and Churchwardens).

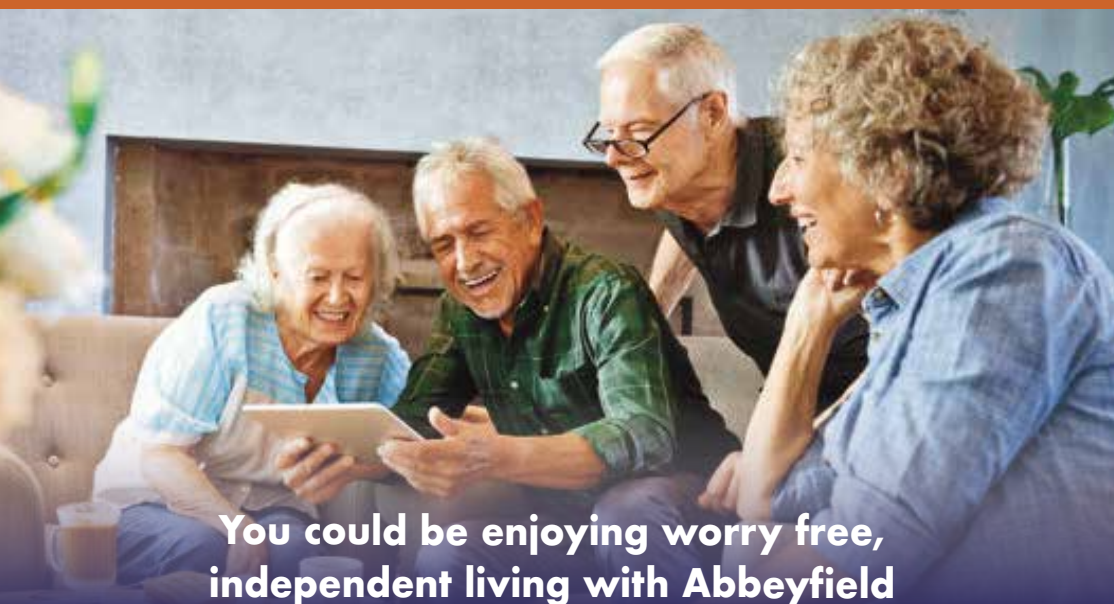
## INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

- BRITISH LEGION
- RECIPE
- RECORD LABEL
- EVENTS



Fed up with housework and cooking?  
Struggling to cope with maintaining your house & garden?

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Just four reasons why you should talk to us and discover how to join our friendly and sociable communities in Braintree & Felsted.

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FELSTED  
**FOCUS**  
COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

### Note from the Editor

Now we've all just about dried out from the wettest Spring on record, it's time to enjoy Summer in Felsted!

In this issue we join with the Memorial Hall and the Royal British Legion in celebrating their 100-year anniversaries and the Friendship Club going Platinum! Three institutions that bring record numbers of Felsted folk together are recognised in this Summer FOCUS.

And speaking of records, who knew that our little parish spawned its very own record label? In 1954, Felsted resident and global media boss, Sir Edward Lewis created Felsted Records. It's an amazing story to which some older Felstonians may be able to add a few notes (sorry!).

And just as we celebrate our history, we also congratulate current achievements with Felsted School's victory at the National Under 18's Rugby tournament and the school winning the educational Oscar by being named top boarding school 2023 in the Times Educational Supplement.

The community is also searching for a new parish councillor whilst Felsted Primary School is seeking to appoint two Co-Opted Governors to its board.

So, whatever the weather, Felsted's outlook looks very bright!

*Janice*

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## Felsted Friendship Club

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In February, our meeting was split two ways. The first speaker was Chris Chippendale from LPA Made Simple whose firm is linked to London Age UK. He came to speak to us on the benefits of having a Lasting Power of Attorney set up before it is too late. The two types are for Health and Welfare and for Property and Financial Affairs. These documents have to be registered before they can be used, when someone becomes mentally incapacitated. Without both documents, one might not receive the care one would like and our monies and assets might not be controlled by the people one would prefer i.e. family and/or trusted friends.

In the second half of the meeting, Tony Cramphorn, Chairman of the local Abbeyfield Society came to talk to us on its history. Begun in 1955 by Richard Carr-Gorm the Society eventually had 400 homes ranging over 7 countries. Some homes provide extra care, others independent living in flats or a sheltered house with a housekeeper providing three meals a day. All give companionship, support and a caring atmosphere. Tony was accompanied by Cass Murray, the Manager of the 14-bed home in Felsted and Diane Fitzgerald who gave us the facts and figures of the Abbeyfields in the area. An Abbeyfield Village has been built in Braintree, called Polly's Field, where one can buy a one- or two- bedroomed flat or part purchase. It offers a range of leisure facilities.

March found us at Felsted School where we had been invited for tea and music. A very special tea and a wonderful piano recital from a student called Kaleigh, who will be off to the Royal Academy of Music later in the year.

At our April meeting, Evelyn Woodley our President said Grace before our fish and chip lunch. Then came our AGM. Barbara Burnham stepped down from the Committee and Alison thanked her for all she had done. The following members were elected to the Committee, Alison Moore (Chairman), Sue King (Vice-Chairman), Carole Smith (Treasurer), Christine Robinson (Membership and Minute Secretary), Joyce White (Programme Secretary), Diane Denney (Catering), Marian Martin and Rita Staines. Alison welcomed Anne Segal onto the Committee. The entertainment afterwards was provided by Siobhan Pierce with more adventures of Dolly Daydream. She gave us some lighthearted as well as some serious moments

## Felsted Friendship Club

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- 21 June – Through the Green Baized Door – Brian Thurlow
- 17 July– Outing to Bury St. Edmunds
- 19 July – Porridge by Lindsay Whitehouse

If you are interested in coming along to one of our meetings, please do contact either Alison Moore 01371 821632 or Sue King 01371 821411.

Largely through a generous contribution from the parish council and by selling advertising space we have just about been able to deliver our magazine to over 1100 homes in the parish four times a year free of charge. We've asked before for a small contribution but only a handful - a baby-sized handful - make regular donations. So far this year, we've received just £35!

You often tell us how much you enjoy the FOCUS and we have some wonderful volunteers who give their time to write, photograph, layout, proof and even deliver for us but, unless we can generate more income, we may not be able to continue.

So, please help us to continue your magazine and contribute what you can, even just £5 per year per household would help to keep us going. Every penny will be spent on printing and delivery.

Please send your contribution to the Parish Clerk, URC Hall, Stebbing Road, Felsted, CM6 3JD or you can make a direct contribution to the Parish's bank account at the address below.

Barclays Bank

Sort code: 20-97-40 · Acc No: 00393274

Please mark your contribution **'FOCUS'**

Cheques made payable to "Felsted Parish Council"



## Felsted WI

At long last we feel that summer is on its way, as the temperatures rise and people's gardens burst with colour. The WI looks forward to a colourful year ahead, with interesting speakers who entertain us with slideshow photos and their clever achievements.

We have recently had an auction of unwanted items from home, sold to members who go back with more than they brought!

There will be a strawberry plant contest to be judged in July, seeing who can grow - and eat - the most. The annual challenge between us and Rayne WI, is coming up with puzzles and games, all hoping to win the coveted 'Frying Pan'.

Our recent outing was a visit to the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance station at Earls Colne. This is where we were able to meet these heroes of the air, who propel injured people to hospitals all over Essex, every day.

Do come and meet us at the village hall on the second Wednesday of the month. Our subs for this year are reduced from the usual £48 down to £35. What a great way to meet and make new friends, have tea/coffee and biscuits in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

For more information about us, please contact Penny Lewis on 07825 312829.



## Neighbourhood Plan Review

The review of the Neighbourhood Plan is progressing well. Thanks to all who attended the drop-in sessions in March and who contributed to the discussions about how we should try to control development in the parish and allocate sites for the 84 new homes that the draft Uttlesford District Council (UDC) Local Plan tells us we must accept between now and 2041. We also asked where, should it become necessary, the shop and post office could be best relocated.

We have got the message! We are concerned about the vibrancy of the village centre. We feel surrounded and exploited. None of us wants any more development but we must accommodate the 84 that the draft UDC Local Plan allocates.

We also know our current Neighbourhood Plan is working. The applications for 50 more homes at Hartford End and a proposed new traveller site in Chelmsford Road have both recently been refused following objections from the parish with both refusals referencing conflict with policies in the current Felsted Neighbourhood Plan. By reviewing and updating our plan, we can try to ensure that any development has the least negative impact and offers something positive to the community. That's why we are conducting a review.

Minutes of our meetings and other important documents, like the result of the Housing Needs Survey, are on the parish website.

*Roy Ramm & Richard Freeman*



### Volunteer opportunity - come and join our team!

**Baby Stuff Braintree is a small charity run by volunteers.**

**We support local families with free pre loved clothing and some essentials.**

**Based at Carousel family hub CM7 3QZ**

We are looking to recruit a small team of volunteers to help check & sort donations and support families when we are open, making up clothing bundles etc.

Able to commit to Tuesday and/or Thursday mornings, term time only. (minimum once a month)

Helping with social media and website a bonus !

There will be lifting of boxes required.

**The applicant will have to have a DBS check which we can facilitate.**

**PLEASE EMAIL [INFO@BABYSTUFFBRAINTREE.CO.UK](mailto:INFO@BABYSTUFFBRAINTREE.CO.UK) IF INTERESTED**

# Felsted Holy Cross Church



SUMMER 2024



FELSTED

## HOLY CROSS SERVICES

"COME TO ME, ALL WHO LABOUR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN,  
AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST."

[WWW.FELSTEDCHURCH.ORG.UK](http://WWW.FELSTEDCHURCH.ORG.UK)

# United Reform Church

Dear Friends,

I don't think Summer is quite here just yet, but the weather forecast looks promising for the next couple of weeks – but as the old saying goes 'don't cast a clout until May is out,' so I wouldn't put your winter woollies away too soon.

Our church continues to flourish, due to the continued help and support of our congregation.

Rev. Ray is now back with us following his sabbatical to lead our services. He is now our local URC leader and has recently been welcomed as a full church member. Myself and the congregation are absolutely delighted and very grateful that Ray has decided to join our church family.

We had a very successful Church Social in March and all monies raised have been added to our church funds. The profits from any future special events we hold this year will be divided equally between Haven's Hospice, and Hope House the homeless charity in Braintree. These donations will be presented in a special service in December.

A very important announcement is needed – just to let you all know that the day and time of the Home Group meetings are changing. We will now hold these meetings on alternate Tuesday mornings at 10.30am starting on 14 May 2024.

Felsted Connections continues to meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 12pm-2pm.

On 16 June we will be having a special service at Crix Green Mission, with Rev. Ray taking the service, therefore our own church will be closed on that day. For any of you who have attended these services previously, you will know that we always receive a very warm welcome from Brenda.

I know this might seem a wee bit premature, but would just also like to mention that our Harvest Festival Service will be held on 8 September this year. This will, as in all previous years, be followed by a lunch at a cost of £10.00 per head.

Any queries please contact:  
Diane 01376 583994.



## Felsted Royal British Legion - A History

Felsted Branch of the Royal British Legion will be 100 years old on 2 December 2024.

On 24 February 1924 Felsted Memorial Hall and war memorial were opened by the High Sheriff of Essex, Major Guy Gilbey Gold. At that time, it was decided that a local branch of the British Legion should be formed and in December 1924, three years after the formation of the British Legion, the branch came into being with the following officers being elected, namely President, Rev Moffatt Chairman, Colonel Phillot, Secretary W Smith, Treasurer A Holmes.

In October 1924 and for the next 10 years the newly formed branch held their meetings in the recently opened Memorial Hall.

In 1933 in the will of Mrs Ada Trow, the land opposite the Parish Church in Bury Chase was offered to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Brentwood with the proviso that if they declined the offer, it was to be left to the British Legion in memory of Mrs Trow's son Capt Francis Ferres-Moorat who died in the First World War.

The Bishop of Brentwood renounced and disclaimed any rights to the land. In 1934, permission was granted to place a hut on the land opposite the Parish Church donated by Mrs Trow.

The British Legion paid to the estate of Mrs Trow's husband the sum of £200 for the land in 1956. It then officially become the property of the British Legion however, Mrs Trow did specifically state that as long as there was a local Branch of the British Legion in Felsted the land and premises could not be sold. Over the years several additions and alterations to the property have been made particularly in the 1970s, when a new bar, kitchen and snooker room were added by the club.

The first annual general meeting of the British Legion was held in January 1926, the total membership at that time was 63, today the membership stands at over 300.

## Felsted Royal British Legion - A history

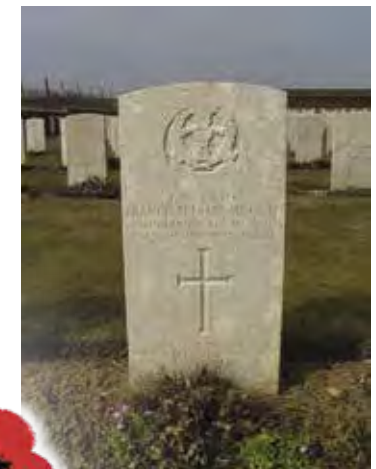
In 1946 the ladies of the village started the women's section, although ladies from the village met during the Second World War years to serve refreshments from the Bury Chase site to soldiers who were billeted in Felsted school. The women's section closed in 2019.

In 1971 the British Legion became the Royal British Legion, their main aim is still to help ex-service members and their families in times of need. If anyone knows of anyone who could benefit from the Legions help then please get in touch with us in Bury Chase.

As stated previously, the land that the British Legion stands on was donated by Mrs Ada Trow in memory of her son Captain Frances Ferrers Moorat.

Captain Ferrers Moorat was educated at Felsted School, although he had been hospitalised with Trench Fever he specially requested that he might be allowed to return to his regiment to lead his men once more. He died of his wounds on the 23 August 1918 after leading his men in a most successful battle. He is buried in the Military Cemetery at Bienviller, France

Barry Atkinson



THE ROYAL  
BRITISH  
LEGION



# Felsted Memorial Hall turns 100

1920s

# Jazz Night

**SATURDAY  
29 JUNE 7:30 PM**

**FELSTED MEMORIAL HALL,  
BRAINTREE ROAD, CM6 3DY**

**BAR AND BUFFET**

Reservations at 07926 377343

**TICKETS  
£20**

## 70 years of Felsted Friendship Club

70 years, yes Felsted Friendship Club is celebrating their platinum anniversary, being formed in October 1954. We are organising an afternoon in October to honour this anniversary.

The club has met in the Memorial Hall from the start and in the present day, usually on the third Friday of the month. At one time, there used to be 100 members, but the numbers are slightly lower now.

The members who have served on the committee throughout the years have always tried to make sure that the meetings and outings were interesting. Boat trips, seaside trips, mystery trips, a trip to Woburn Safari Park, visiting garden centres, taking a boat ride on the Thames and riding the London Eye, are a few examples. These have always been well attended.

At meetings throughout the years, we have had speakers from charities, musicians, singers, a ukulele band, serious talks and humorous talks. We have an annual invitation from Felsted School, where we enjoy a tea and music played by the students.

There have been so many wonderful club members through the many years, some who have been committee members, others helping out at our annual Coffee Morning on the stalls, which is our main fundraising event.

We benefited from two bequests, the interest from which greatly helps the running of the club. The Trust is administered by a separate committee.

During the time of Covid, each member of the committee had a list of members who they kept in touch with and we also delivered some edible gifts.

We always welcome new members and you will find more information in our quarterly insertion in Focus.

Sue King



Felsted Choral Society

Celebrating our  
**50<sup>th</sup>**  
Anniversary

# SUMMER JAMBOREE

*COMPILATION OF BEAUTIFUL AND HUMOROUS MUSIC*  
*FINALE HANDEL'S HALLELUJAH CHORUS*

**29** SATURDAY at 3PM  
**JUNE** Holy Cross Church, Felsted, CM6 3DG  
what3words:///applauded.refers.frail

Musical Director THOMAS DUCHAN  
Conducting Felsted Choral Society  
Accompanist Bohdana Ravliuk

Tickets £20 to include a programme, liquid refreshment, and then Feasting on :

**The Tallest Tower of Strawberries in the World**

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/felstedchoralsociety](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/felstedchoralsociety)

**f** FelstedChoralSociety

Email: [felstedchoralsociety@gmail.com](mailto:felstedchoralsociety@gmail.com)

Further enquiries: Tony Baker 07799 413 191

Registered Charity 297351



STEBBING SUMMER  
FAYRE

Sunday 8th September  
12pm to 5pm

MILL LANE CRICKET FIELD

FUN & GAMES FOR  
ALL THE FAMILY

punch & judy show  
forest school  
shetland pony rides  
bouncy castles  
kids races  
treasure hunt

craft stalls  
artisan food stalls  
fun dog show  
BBQ & pizza  
3 live bands  
and much much more...







Felsted Records was the name of two record labels, the British version beginning in July 1954 as a subsidiary of Decca Records. Leasing music from the jazz and dance band genres - from the French Blue Star, Riviera, and Classique labels - it took its name from our village, where Sir Edward Lewis (head of Decca), lived. The label's release of note was 'Smokie' by Bill Black. Black was connected to rock'n'roll royalty, having been bassist for none other than Elvis Presley!



In 1957, Felsted Records US opened, operating from London Records' office in New York. Marketed as a pop label, it released songs by Jimmy Wisner, as well as The Flares. Their 'Foot Stompin' Part 1' of 1961 reached #20 on the Black Singles chart and #25 on the Billboard Hot 100. Felsted US had some other success with Kathy Linden who had some minor hits.



The Felsted Records label was orange with black printing (pictured). The 'F' in Felsted formed the inside of a musical note, with a black record tonearm under the logo



Sadly, neither label had much commercial success. London Records closed the UK label in 1964 and its roster was transferred. At the end of the sixties, CBS was the top record label, followed by Warner Brothers, RCA Victor and Capitol Records, which were all very popular. By the 70s, there came more modern labels like EMI and Curb Records.

Of the major labels, there are just three still remaining, who now own most subsidiary record labels - those like Felsted Records - Sony, Universal and Warner. Columbia Records - the second 'record label' documented to exist - is still in operation today!



There is a double CD available on Amazon (pic attached) called Blast Off - The Felsted Records Story

Enjoy the best that Felsted Records had to offer from a varied roster of acts featuring Kokomo, The Space-man and The Flares.



Scan the QR code with your mobile, this will take you to: "Smokie - Pt 2" by Bill Black, a song released by Felsted Records (UK) in 1960.

## Recipe: Shortbread

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Shortbread makes a lovely addition to an afternoon tea and can be made a day or two before required. Store it in an airtight container.

Semolina or ground rice is recommended to create a crunchier texture, but can be substituted with more (3oz/75g) plain flour.

### Ingredients

6oz / 175g plain flour  
6oz / 175g butter (at room temperature)  
3oz / 75g caster sugar  
3oz / 75g semolina or ground rice  
Additional sugar for dusting

### Instructions

1. Grease a 8" (20cm) loose bottom tin - a fluted tin gives a pretty edge.
2. Beat the butter to soften it, then add the remaining ingredients. Mix together using a spoon or food mixer. Finish off with your hands creating a ball of dough.
3. Using a rolling pin, roll the dough on a flat surface into a round, then transfer to the tin. Alternatively, you can bake on parchment paper placed on a baking tray
4. Push dough into the edges of the tin and give it a final roll with a glass tumbler.
5. Prick the shortbread all over with a fork.
6. Bake for 35 minutes at 160°C/140°C fan oven/ Gas mark 3.
7. After removing from the oven, dust with additional caster sugar immediately and using a palette knife mark the surface of the shortbread into 12 wedges.
8. Leave to cool in the tin, then remove the rim of the tin and cut the shortbread into wedges.





## FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL

### PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Applications are warmly invited to fill a vacant councillor position that has arisen on the Parish Council.

The role of a Parish Councillor is to represent the interests of the whole community whilst taking an active role in the decision-making process.

The Parish Council needs people of all ages (18+), genders and backgrounds. No special qualifications are needed but a passion and commitment to people and the community are vital.

You are most welcome to call Heather Read, the Parish Clerk on 07719 552174 for an informal chat to find out more about what the role entails.

Applications should be made in writing to the Parish Clerk by email at [clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk) by Friday 28th June 24.

Please provide a short overview in support of your application such as any experience and / or knowledge that you can bring to the role.

Once appointed full training will be provided.

Heather Read

Clerk to Felsted Parish Council

Office: 07719 552174 E mail: [clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk)

### The June Parish Council Meeting

will be held at the Crix Green Mission Hall on Wednesday  
5 June 2024 at 6.30pm Residents are cordially invited.

There will be an opportunity to address the council with any questions / questions during the public forum at the start of the meeting. The agenda will be posted on Notice Boards and the parish Councils web site: [www.felsted-pc.gov.uk](http://www.felsted-pc.gov.uk)



## Felsted Parish Council

### Going Green

The parish council (PC) has received a grant from Uttlesford District Council's Zero Carbon Community Fund which will be used to create three small wildflower meadows on Bannister Green, Watch House Green and Willows Green. The meadows will be sown in the Autumn and it is hoped that they will put on a beautiful display in 2025.

The grant will also fund the purchase and installation of various habitat boxes around the parish. The PC is looking forward to increasing biodiversity in the parish.

### Tree damage

The parish councillors were saddened to learn that the recently planted trees on Bannister Green were vandalised. We all benefit from established trees being in our environment, they purify our air which helps to combat climate change. They provide shade in the summer and help protect us from flooding as their leaves capture the water and their roots absorb it. It is really important that the PC plants as many trees as possible so that future generations can benefit from them and enjoy their beauty.

The PC reported the vandalism to the police and request that anyone with any information share this with the police at <https://www.essex.police.uk/ro/report/> or by phoning 101

### Grow your own

The allotments in Felsted will be having a bit of a tidy-up in the coming weeks. Some of the overgrown areas will be cleared and some plots will be re-established. The allotments are a great way to grow your own vegetables and spend time in the fresh air. There is currently a waiting list for plots, but if you would like to put your name down for one, please contact the clerk.

Phone: 07719 552174 Email: [clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk)

Keep up to date with all the council news – Visit the PC website and enter your email address to receive automatic notification by email of all news articles as they are posted on the website.

# Felsted Primary School



I am sitting here wondering where to start as so many lovely events have taken place recently at Felsted Primary School! Just last week the children in reception had a very exciting day out at Linton Zoo. I was lucky enough to be able to attend this day out. While the weather was very wet and cold the children got to see some amazing animals, including a lion and snow leopards. They also got to touch and find out about a tenrec, giant tortoise and a land snail. A very valuable learning experience for them all which ties in very well with their animals topic.

Our children have been busy fundraising for a new outdoor seating area. All the children took part in a Mini Marathon and were sponsored for this. Our older pupils ran along the Flitch way and the little ones ran laps of our school field. It was wonderful to see the positive attitudes and support the children gave one another. Many thanks to our parents, families and friends as part of this fundraising. So far we have raised over £2,000 and the money is still coming in.

After the Easter break we had our annual OWL (Outdoor Wellbeing and Learning) week. The children took part in lots of outdoor activities and focused on recycling and reusing. At the end of the week the children took part in a fashion show of some of the items they had made by recycling old clothes. We had a fashion designer along to give feedback and she was very impressed with what the children had created.

Another creative event was our Art Exhibition. This was very well attended and parents/visitors were able to talk to children about their work. As usual the children made us very proud with their wonderful manners, clear explanations and enthusiasm.

We still have much to look forward to. We are looking forward to welcoming our new children to some sessions ready for their start with us in September.

We have our annual Sports Week coming up soon, which includes an afternoon of races and activities for parents to come along to.



# Felsted Primary School



We are working hard on a special whole school concert based on the theme of No Outsiders. The children are all working on class and whole school songs and we think this will be a lovely event.

Year 6 will be heading off to Norfolk for their residential and then working on their Production. Sadly, we will also be preparing for our Year 6 to move on to secondary school. We will be celebrating their achievements and helping them to be as ready as they can be for the next phase of their education.

The summer term is a busy one and will be an opportunity for us all to reflect on another successful year at Felsted Primary School.

Bryony Collins



**Felsted Primary School is seeking to appoint two Co-Opted Governors to its Board. If you're passionate about education and eager to make a positive impact on your local community, please get in touch!**

### A Bit About Us

Felsted Primary School is a busy school with a fantastic staff keen to give the pupils many opportunities. The school's last Ofsted Inspection (October 2023) rated the school 'Good' and recognised its many strengths including offering a broad, ambitious curriculum for all pupils. We know that children feel safe and well looked after because we make care and nurturing a priority. Our Governing Board is made up of a cross section of the local community and includes both parents and non-parents. The Co-Opted Governor positions we are looking for should not come from the parent body of the school, to ensure a healthy balance of parents and non-parents on the board.



## What's the role of a School Governor?

As a Co-opted Governor, you'll play a crucial role in shaping the future of our school, ensuring that every child receives the highest quality education in a supportive and inclusive environment. This voluntary position offers a unique opportunity to contribute your skills, expertise, and fresh perspectives to our governing body. The term of a Co-Opted Governor is 4 years. Please visit the National Governance Association for more information on the role of school governors.

Each academic year there are six full Governing Board meetings. Sub-Committees of the Board meet separately to Full Governing Board meetings. You may be asked to join a sub-committee depending on your experience and skillset.

We are looking for Governors with the skills, experience and potential to eventually lead the Governing Board if they wish. This year we have slightly less experience in finance and human resources, so we are seeking someone with these skills and an appreciation of the importance of education in the life of all children.

## What's in it for me?

1. Opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and families in our community.
2. Gain valuable experience and develop leadership skills in a supportive and rewarding environment.
3. Networking opportunities with fellow governors, educators, and community stakeholders.
4. Access to training and professional development opportunities to enhance your skills and knowledge.

## How do I find out more?

Please contact one of our Co-Chairs, Yvonne Crome (ycrome@felsted-pri.essex.sch.uk) or James Ivey (jivey@felsted-pri.essex.sch.uk) for more information.

## Felsted is in the Top 20 UK International Baccalaureate Schools

Exceptional International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma scores achieved by sixth formers at Felsted School in north Essex in 2023 have resulted in the school being named in the top 20 for IB in the country.



Rankings are published by IB-School.eu and Best-Schools.co.uk, which take into account scores achieved by IB Diploma candidates around the world.

There was a 100% IB pass rate at Felsted in 2023, and nearly a third of Felsted's IB candidates achieved a world-class score of 40 points or more out of a possible 45, which is equivalent to four A\*s at A Level. 63% achieved more than 35 points, equivalent to two A\*s and one A at A Level. The scores of all Felsted candidates exceeded the global and UK averages: Felsted candidates averaged 36.2 points, while the global average is 30.2 and the UK average is 34.6.

Scoring a remarkable 43 out of 45 points, Felsted's top two IB achievers in 2023 were Alexandra Carson and Lukas Wacker. Felsted's 2023 IB cohort have secured places at some of the world's top universities, including Durham, St Andrew's, King's College London, Bristol, Warwick, IE Madrid and Boston, read more about individual achievements here [www.felsted.org/ib](http://www.felsted.org/ib)

"This is an extremely impressive set of results by a hardworking group of students," said Felsted's Head, Chris Townsend. "The IB is a broad and very rigorous qualification and is excellent preparation for education at the world's best universities and for our students' future global careers."

Felsted IB candidates benefit from the balance the programme provides, developing their understanding and skills beyond the academic curriculum.

Felsted School won Boarding School of the Year 2023 at the TES Schools Awards in June. Learn more about the International Baccalaureate Diploma at Felsted, visit [www.felsted.org/ib](http://www.felsted.org/ib).



## DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' CORNER

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### Planning ahead

Most residents may not recall that I was appointed a UDC Cabinet Member soon after being first elected as District Councillor in 2019. I was reappointed to Cabinet after re-election in 2023 and my Cabinet responsibilities are Planning Policy which includes the making and bringing into effect of a Local Plan. That is a full-on activity which involves a great deal of materials to review and take into account, as well as attending very frequent meetings within and outside the Council.

UDC's current Local Plan is nearly 19.5 years old – it was made in January 2005, so it is hopelessly out of date and in fact recent National Policies have superseded it extensively. It is because of this that we have an absence of effective planning policies currently and as a result, have experienced on our doorsteps in the parish (but actually also right across the district) ad hoc developments which have been pursued by speculative and opportunistic land owners and promoters acting on their behalf.

A Local Plan sets the long-term policy vision for the development across the district of housing, employment locations and the infrastructure needed as a result over a period of 20 years (to 2041). The process of making a new Local Plan is well on the way now following the last set of consultations (Regulation 18) which so many of you participated in, ending in November 2023. Thanks to those who responded.

Everyone's representations are being taken into account and I hope fellow UDC Councillors will approve a revised version to be brought before them in July. There has been cross-party membership of groups and panels considering the merits and input from them has been provided as we have been going along. If approved, residents will have a second opportunity to comment and make submissions on that draft (Regulation 19), which will then be reviewed in a full blown hearing conducted independently by the Planning Inspectorate at some point in 2025. Those hearings are formal and will be attended by representatives of Town and Parish Councils, residents, plus land owners/promoters and several important third parties like Historic England, Natural England, Essex County Council etc.

Local Plan making is in some ways a thankless task as it will not please nor satisfy the competing interests and concerns of all

## DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' CORNER

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residents let alone the commercial interests of some land owners and developers. However, it is a vital and very responsible exercise and the community continues to have a very important role to play throughout including at the next stage. The entire timetable that we have set ourselves is a challenge - we are working at pace not only for the benefit of the community but also because the Government wants to see a Local Plan made with the least delay, and so we have to keep them abreast of our work progress.

I wanted you to know that your views later this Summer/beginning of the Autumn at the Regulation 19 stage will still be wanted as they shall be of great value since they are sent to, and taken into account by, the Planning Inspectorate. Further, if anyone wanted to speak at the hearings, they would need to make written representations to qualify for the opportunity to do so.

The date of the next round of consultations is unknown since Councillor colleagues will have to decide if they agree with the next draft plan version. If they do, then the consultation will run over 8 weeks from the end of July through into September – we would be allowing more time than is required by the Regulations to take into account intervening summer holidays etc.

I will write again during the Summer bringing you up to date as things move along. One bit of information I would like to anticipate now is that UDC plans to introduce, alongside a new Local Plan, a Community Infrastructure Levy which will impose an improved and more extensive obligation on developers to contribute to the costs and provision of infrastructure. This would lead to a great financial injection into community benefits being superior to the current arrangements of 'section 106' contributions which many residents will have heard of. I believe that this will prove to be a further example of long-term improvements achieved in my area of Cabinet responsibility. Additionally, these benefits can also be applied in the context of Neighbourhood Plans and I commend Felsted Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for the good work that they recently embarked on in this respect.

If any resident has any questions or issues to raise on this piece (or of course any other unrelated subject), I will be very pleased to hear from them.

*John Evans*  
cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk



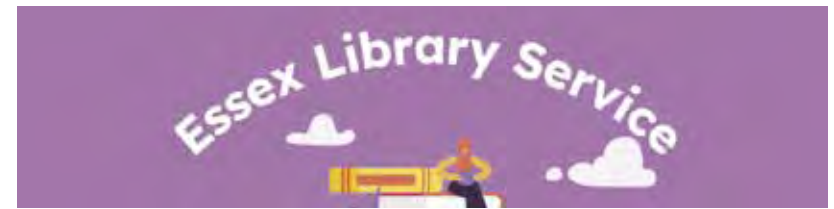
## Dunmow Art Group prepares to launch 2<sup>nd</sup> N W Essex Open Studios Trail

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>, Friday 28<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June, with 21 artists taking part this year at locations across a 13-mile radius from Great Dunmow.

Visitors can expect to see painting, drawing, ceramics, textiles, printmaking, willow work, woodwork, mixed media & encaustic.

Jo Mayo, Open Studios Trail Organiser said: “We are delighted to have doubled the number of artists in our second year. Art lovers have the chance to meet artists in their studios, talk to them about their processes which brings the whole creative process alive & makes for a great day out. It promises to be a fun four days.” Refreshments are available at several studios & the opportunity to sign up to some workshops. For a downloadable brochure available after May 15<sup>th</sup> via @dunmowart group on Facebook & Instagram. There’s more information on each artist taking part & maps detailing the location of each studio at <https://dunmowartgroup.blogspot.com/p/open-studios.html>

All studios welcome families & have parking onsite or nearby. For more information, please contact: Jo Mayo 07522 036747



### BOOK OF THE MONTH

Every month we recommend a book that's a particular favourite. We buy lots of electronic copies so that everyone gets a chance to listen to it on the go, or read it on your device wherever you happen to be.

For June, we have two Books of the Month, both featuring in the Essex Book Festival: The Glutton by A. K. Blakemore, and A Bird in Winter by Louise Doughty. [www.libraries.essex.gov.uk/digital-content/book-of-the-month](http://www.libraries.essex.gov.uk/digital-content/book-of-the-month))

### Have you got your Essex Book Festival tickets yet?



The library service is proud to be hosting seven public events as part of the Essex Book Festival, at Basildon, Chelmsford, Harlow, Maldon, South Woodham Ferrers, Witham and Wivenhoe Libraries. Find out more about the library events and book. [www.libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/get-your-tickets-for-the-essex-book-festival](http://www.libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/get-your-tickets-for-the-essex-book-festival).)

### Ready... Steady... Go To School! Challenge



#### Our fantastic challenge for pre-schoolers is back this summer!

Ready... Steady... Go To School is a fun challenge full of activities which helps children to practice skills that they'll need to feel confident when they start school in September.

They'll complete activities in 7 different development areas, collect stamps in their special booklet, and then receive a certificate when they finish!

Come and take part in any Essex library until 7 September! Find out more about the challenge and explore Big School Meetups. [www.libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/school-readiness](http://www.libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/school-readiness))

## The Gardens of Easton Lodge

After cold weather in April the plants at the gardens were back on a more normal footing at the beginning of May. There was lots for visitors to enjoy through the month: bluebells, followed by cow parsley, foxgloves then wild orchids, as well as the alliums, rock roses (*Helianthemum*) and roses in the flower borders. All this plus the stunning pink hawthorn in the glade, then the Indian horse chestnut's flower spires succeeding the British horse chestnut's.

And there are lots of flowers to look forward to in June, including the waterlilies in the Italian garden, poppies everywhere and, by the end of the month, the first flowers in the dahlia border. The *Robinia pseudoacacia* tree's beautiful delicate pink pea-shaped flowers are my June favourite. The Trust's volunteers will be working hard to keep the gardens tidy and to welcome visitors on Thursdays, with a steady flow of fresh produce for sale.

On 23 June the monthly Sunday Open Day will be a lavish Tudor event – with visitors invited to meet Lord Burleigh, Queen Elizabeth I's Chancellor and sponsor of Henry Maynard, who built Easton Lodge for his home in the 1590s. There will be Tudor activities for all the family, including archery, and Tudor music, played on shawms, trumpets, sackbutts, cornetts, lutes, bagpipes, recorders, gemshorns and fiddles. Fun and educational!



## The Gardens of Easton Lodge

The Gardens are open from 11.00 and our volunteers provide refreshments. Tickets can be bought in advance for Sundays. There is no charge for children under 16 years old. Visitors can bring picnics and dogs on leads are welcome.

For more information about tickets, times, activities and refreshments go to [www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.eastonlodge.co.uk/whats-on)



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## The Hundred Parishes

The Hundred Parishes includes much of the extensive barley-growing area of the Hertfordshire and Essex borders. The malting of barley in preparation for its use in the brewing industry was a significant activity in several of our larger villages and market towns, especially along the River Stort, from the 18th to the 20th centuries.

Evidence is still to be found in the form of place names indicating the location of former maltings, such as Malting(s) Lane in Much Hadham and Chrishall; and in the names of buildings that were once maltings or associated with one nearby. Thus there are a number of Malting(s) Cottage(s), as in Linton, Bartlow, Much Hadham, Aspenden and Ugley; and Old Maltings as at Manuden, Arkesden and Great Chesterford. In Little Hallingbury there is Malting Farm and The Old Brick Malting.

As well as conversion to private houses, surviving maltings have been renovated and converted to a variety of uses. Great Dunmow's is now a museum and community resource. In Wethersfield the maltings is now the village hall and shop, while the station maltings in Newport and those in Central Arcade in Saffron Walden are commercial premises. Multi-storey maltings in Sheering have been converted into apartments and in Stanstead Abbots to a business centre.

The classic form of a malting reflects the various processes which took place within the building. Grain was hauled in through the lucam or hoist housing at one end of the building where it was then steeped in water to start the germination process. The grain was laid out on germination floors before growth was halted at a particular stage by applying heat in the kiln at the other end of the building. The process of initiating and then halting germination is known as malting.

Ken McDonald,  
Secretary

[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk) or share a photo with the  
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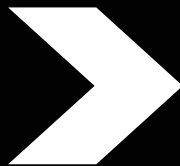


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cllr.martin.foley@essex.gov.uk  
Uttlesford District Council: 01799 510510  
District Councillors: - Richard silcock  
cllrsilcock@uttlesford.gov.uk  
John Evans: cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk

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