

FELSTED

FOCUS

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

WINTER 2024

ISSUE 25

A FREE complimentary magazine for £1 where purchased **QUARTERLY**



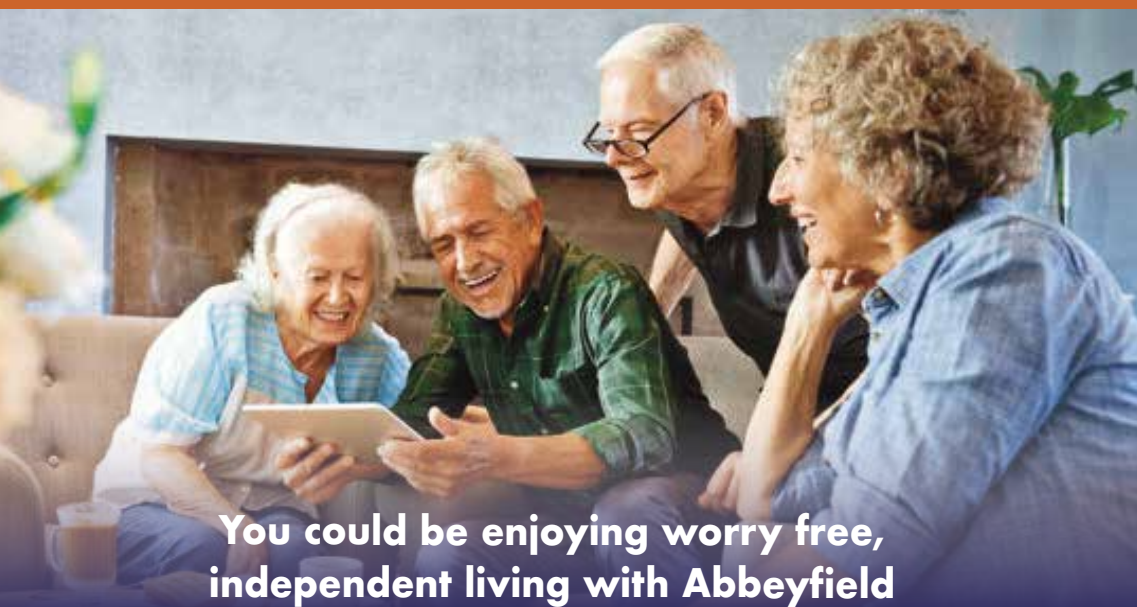
INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

- CHRISTMAS IS COMING TO FELSTED
- CLUBS ■ RECIPE ■ EVENTS



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

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FELSTED
FOCUS
COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

Note from the Editor

25th Jubilee Edition Christmas 2024

It's come round again!

In this edition we have all the usual news and important tinsel-wrapped information about Christmas in Felsted, complete with a seasonal recipe and a centre pull-out to remind you about the tree lighting on Saturday 7 December. It was lovely event last year and this year promises to be even more fun.

Far away from lovely Felsted, across the world, it's been a year of war, change and uncertainty. Though thankfully we have not been touched directly by the awful conflicts in Europe and the Middle East, domestic change and uncertainty in the UK remains inevitable and will not pass us by in Felsted. Our sense of community and engagement has never been more important.

The FOCUS magazine plays an important part in nurturing our community spirit and I'm very proud to say that this is the 25th edition (Oh my goodness, it's a Jubilee!) that I have edited along with the same loyal team. I will edit the first issue in 2025 but after that, although I will continue to be involved with team, I need to stand back a little. So, we need to find a new editor and perhaps others who can continue to help produce and distribute our quarterly publication.

As you clear-up the crackers, regret that last mince pie and decide on your New Year's resolutions, make one of them joining the FOCUS team, it's fun, rewarding and guaranteed low in calories!

A very merry Christmas and a happy new year from the FOCUS team.

Janice

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Felsted Friendship Club

In August, Graham and Mary Brace came to show us their marvellous pictures of British and European wildlife. Members thoroughly enjoyed them. One of Graham's photos, of a badger, is on the shortlist of a national competition. We wish him good luck.

At our September meeting, Debbie Tomson entertained us with singing 27 songs, ranging from Blue Moon, Country Road, Singing the Blues to Oh Carol. Feet were tapping and bodies swaying, and everyone looked very relaxed.

On 18 October we celebrated our 70th Anniversary. The occasion was lead by Alison our Chairman, who welcomed guests and members for the afternoon. The speaker Lucy Lewis gave us an amusing talk on army life. She went through Sandhurst in 1989 and left 10 years later, having had time operating as the first female bomb disposal officer. She is now a Marshall at Cambridge University.

After tea and scones, Alison took us through previous years as a club. Our President Evelyn Woodley cut the lovely cake made by Alice McLaren. Prosecco was poured and Graham Kemp made a toast to the club. He then encouraged the members to talk of the older days and the personalities in the village. He followed this with music and a singsong.



Evelyn Woodley

■ 6 December – Christmas Party with Three's Company entertainers

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

Charity No 270264



Felsted WI

Our autumn season has been busy firstly with the Rayne Challenge with our friends at Rayne WI. Sadly, this year we did not win the coveted frying pan, but...there is always next year! It was a fun evening with lots of laughter and a brilliant quiz. Our visit again from Amanda Sutherland, was a great success showing off her fashion trends over the decades. Hallowe'en then comes with the thoughts of decorating pumpkins and growing them. This was another one of our challenges giving some great results as you can see.

Remembrance time follows for November and all parts of the village community pay their respects at the Village Hall Memorial. The last item on the calendar will be the Christmas festivities and our Christmas meal held at the Prince Louis marking the end of our busy year. Why not come and join us for 2025?

For more details please contact Penny Lewis 07825 312829



Felsted Royal British Legion



FELSTED ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BRANCH 100 YEAR CELEBRATION

As Felsted branch will be 100 years old this December we have been awarded a Pennant for our British Legion standard. This will be presented on Thursday 12 December at 7.30pm in the Felsted club - members are welcome to attend. We are very fortunate to have a club and are the envy of a lot of branches so please give your support and become a member of Felsted Royal British Legion.

Terry Nunn
Felsted Branch Secretary



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"



Dunmow u3a is part of a UK-wide movement of local member-led interest groups that provide a wide range of opportunities to come together to learn for fun.

It is aimed at adults in Dunmow and the surrounding villages who are no longer in full time employment and have an interest in all things new: hobbies, challenges, sports or just making new friends.

Our member-led interest groups include:

- Art
- Book Clubs
- Bridge
- Canasta
- Cribbage
- Cycling
- Family History
- Flower Arranging
- French
- Garden Visits
- General Crafts
- Geology
- Golf
- Grow Your Own
- Italian
- Line Dancing
- Luncheon Clubs
- Mah Jong
- Music Appreciation
- Nature Walks
- Pickleball
- Quilting & Stitching
- Science & Society
- Scrabble
- Sequence (the game)
- Table Tennis
- Walking
- Whist
- Wine Appreciation
- Wool & Waffle

To find out more, explore our website www.dunmow.u3asite.uk
email: membership@dunmowu3a.org.uk or visit our facebook page
(search for "Dunmow u3a") · Registered charity number: 1168310





CHRISTMAS
is coming...

Join us

Lessons & Carols
with Felsted School Choir
Fri 20th Dec @ 7pm

Christmas Eve
4:30pm Join-in-Nativity
6:00pm Join-in-Carols
come early for a seat



See
www.felstedchurch.org.uk
for full Christmas service info

Dear friends

We are coming up to that very special time in our Christian Calendar and we at the URC are holding a number of events in preparation for Christmas.

The date of Crix comes to Felsted has been amended to Wednesday 11 December at 2pm. This takes the form of a Christmas celebration which includes carols, readings and Christmas songs and music. We invite you to come along and join us.

Our gift Sunday will be held on 15 December at 10.30am; this is when we invite representatives from our chosen charities (Havens Hospice and Hope House) to come along and we present them with our donations. We also have gifts under the Christmas tree to give to Braintree Mencap, a charity we have supported for over 50 years.

We will be holding our second church breakfast on 8 December following the success of the first one held in October.

A special service will be held on Christmas Eve at 7pm led by Rev. Ray Sams.

If you would like further details of any of the events mentioned please contact Diane on 01376 583994 or 07484 769360 We would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful 2025.

Many thanks and best regards,
Diane



Felsted Memorial Hall

Hello everyone,
Here we are in the winter edition! How did that happen? The Autumn magazine was packed full of seasonal articles, wasn't it? You could almost smell those juicy autumn fruits. I loved the recipe for pear and celeriac soup; what a lovely combination.

Now, news from the Memorial Hall. We did have a mass clear out day. Andy organised a skip and we filled it with years and years of rubbish. We cleared cupboards, drawers, the loft, and most importantly, under the stage. We were able to offer storage spaces to our regular hirers for their equipment. It was most satisfying, even though it poured with rain all day! We were tired, dirty and very pleased with ourselves.

The work on the stage lighting has been completed by Clarity, a company that specialises in stage lighting and sound systems in village halls and schools. Thanks to Trevor and his son, Taylor, for their research.

Panto rehearsals are well under way now (Oh yes they are!). Our trusty cast members are making it their own by developing their characters. Another event we are planning is a Murder Mystery evening on Friday 13 December, 6.45pm for a 7.30pm start. It's £18 per ticket which includes a fish and chip supper. Tickets are available on: www.ticketsource.co.uk/felsted-memorial-hall - do come along, it will be great fun.

By the time you read this, Christmas will be fast approaching. So I'll take the opportunity on behalf of the committee to wish you all a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year! And we'll chat again in the spring.

Take care of yourselves.

Hazel Fox



Resting in Felsted

The problem with the diminishing capacity of the graveyard at Holy Cross in the village centre was recognised in 2020 in the Felsted Neighbourhood Plan, which established a policy to identify a new burial ground.

When in 2022 the Church announced that it could no longer accommodate further burials, some residents were naturally upset and concerned that their wish for a resting place in the parish might not be achievable.

Felsted Parish Council is very pleased to report that following discussions with the United Reformed Church, the burial ground in Chelmsford Road is available to parishioners of any denomination and has the capacity to meet the needs of our community for many decades.

Going forward, the parish will ultimately accept ownership and day-to-day management of the burial ground. The burial ground enjoys a wonderful rural setting, and the council will do all it can to protect and maintain its peace.

The parish would like to thank the United Reformed Church for its generous community spirit.



Recipe: Snickerdoodles

Traditionally these are cinnamon-coated cookies, but I add ground ginger to the batter at Christmas to give them a festive boost.

Ingredients

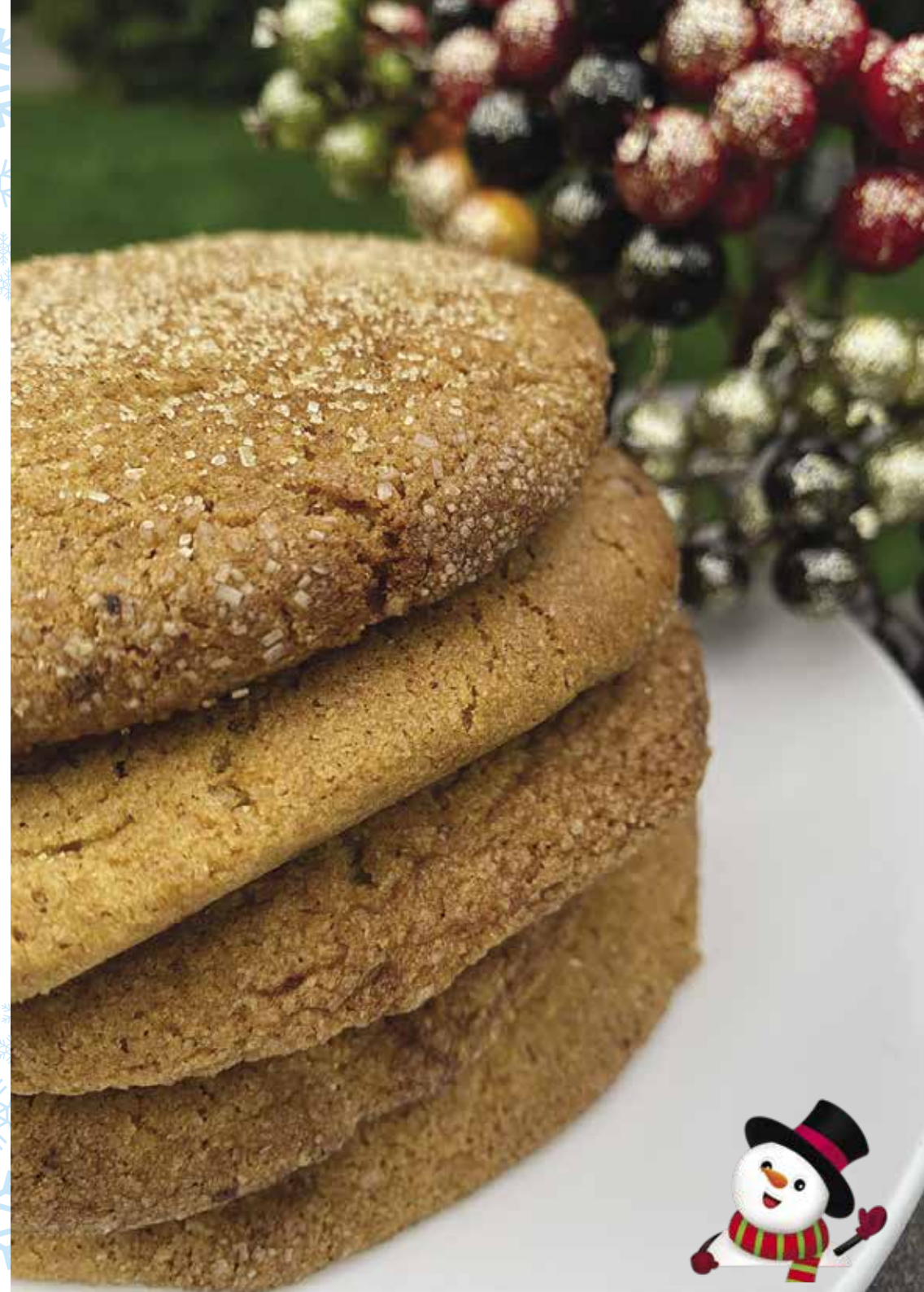
6oz / 175g unsalted butter	1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
8oz / 225g light brown soft sugar	1 tsp ground cinnamon
1 medium egg	½ tsp sea salt
1 tsp vanilla extract	
10½ oz / 300g plain flour	1 tsp ground ginger (optional addition at Christmas)
1½ tsp cream of tartar	

Coating

2oz / 50g granulated sugar
1 tsp ground cinnamon

Method

1. Mix the sugar and cinnamon together in a small bowl, leave to one side. (This is to coat the cookies).
2. Preheat oven to gas mark 6 / 200°F / 180°C fan and line 2-3 trays with greaseproof paper.
3. Mix the butter and sugar together until fluffy. Add the egg and vanilla and mix again until combined.
4. Add the plain flour, cream of tartar, bicarbonate of soda, sea salt and cinnamon to the batter and mix again.
5. Portion the cookies with desert spoon, roll into balls and roll into the sugar cinnamon mix and place on to a lined tray.
6. Bake for 11-13 minutes; allow cool before eating.





Felsted Parish Council

Wildflower meadows have now been sown on Bannister Green, Watch House Green and Willows Green. Spring is eagerly awaited to see the display of native wild flowers

Felsted School wishes to thank all residents for their continued support (and patience) around the school whilst the road closure on Station Road was in effect.

Dogs on leads - dog walkers are requested to keep dogs on leads when using the public footpaths that run through Felsted School. The school would also like to remind residents that the school fields are not available for dog-walking by the general public.

Policing in the Parish - At their October meeting the PC were pleased to welcome PCSOs Natalie Smith and Mike O'Donnell-Smith who provided an update on local policing in the parish. It was noted that issues of concern are often discussed on social media yet fail to be officially reported to the police. The PCSOs stressed the need to report any issues of concern via 101 as only data gathered from official police reports can trigger their deployment.

Property Marking Kits - Essex Police are supporting farmers across the Uttlesford district by providing them with unique forensic property marking kits. The kits are free of charge with no ongoing costs and are delivered and demonstrated by the local community policing team. The kit can mark up to 50 items so once obtained users can mark items with the kit that is unique to them. Residents interested in obtaining a kit or more information should email Uttlesford.cpt@essex.police.uk

Nature Area Parking - The PC wish to express their thanks to Fritch Green Parish Council who have given their permission for Felsted residents looking to access the Nature Area off of Station Road to use their car park in Tanton Road (off of Hallett Road).

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 Parish Council

Highways Matters

Residents may like to be aware of the following useful links to Essex County Council's (ECC) website:

<https://www.essexhighways.org/interactive-maps-and-live-travel-information/future-roadworks-map>

This leads to an interactive map which can be searched to provide up to date information on both current and planned road closures.

<https://www.essexhighways.org/roads-and-pavements/winter-travel>

This provides information on ECC's winter service. In addition to providing tips on clearing ice and snow and winter driving, the website allows residents to track the gritting lorries in real time. There are 55 gritting lorries many of which have wonderful names including Grit Expectations, Gritty Gritty Bang Bang, The Grit Gatsby and Spreddie Mercury to name just a few. Tracking these vehicles as they travel along Essex's 49 salting routes could be a fun way to spend a winter evening!

News Updates

Residents are encouraged to sign up to receive up to date Parish Council news by registering for updates on the PC website www.felsted-pc.gov.uk. Enter your email address to receive automatic notifications by email of all news articles as they are posted on the website.

Heather Read Clerk to the Parish Council
Phone: 07719 552174 Email: 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 – Conservation by Numbers

Uttlesford District Council area spreads across 64,118 hectares of Eastern England, or for those of you who prefer older measurements, a little over 158,000 acres or 10,000 football pitches!

The council's area is comprised of 60 parishes of which Felsted, with almost 6,000 acres, is one of the largest and oldest. (By contrast, our next-door neighbour, Flitch Green Parish, is the smallest and youngest parish in Uttlesford and is also the most densely populated in the district.)

Comprising just a little over 1% of the total area of the parish, the Conservation Area of circa 72 acres in the centre of the village represents the focus of our local heritage. However, it's not geographically in the centre of the 15 individual Greens and hamlets that comprise Felsted Parish.

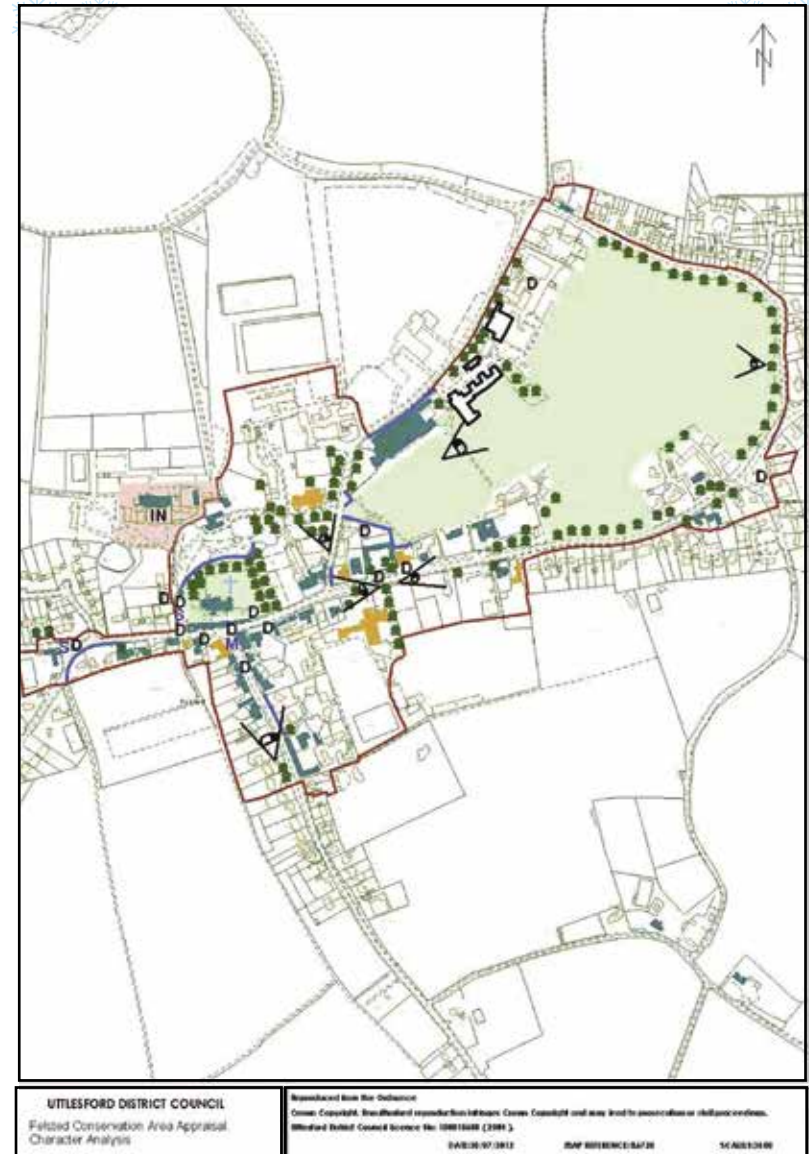
The map opposite shows, in red, the boundaries of the Conservation Area which was first designated in 1977.

Within the Conservation Area there are 50 historic Listed Buildings grouped around the church and along Station Road, Chelmsford Road and Braintree Road. Of the 50 Listed Buildings/groups of buildings identified on the English Heritage list in the Conservation Area, 18% date from the 15th century or earlier; 20% from the 16th century; 30% from the 17th century; 12% from the 18th century and some 20% from the 19th and 20th centuries.

Two buildings are listed Grade I, the Church and the Old School Room and Lynch Gate. Five buildings are listed Grade II*: Boote House; property adjoining Boote House; The Pavilion; Ingram's Close and the Old School Masters House (Felsted Bookshop). Bury Farm Barn adjacent to the Conservation Area is also Grade II*. Elsewhere, the school and associated buildings of varying ages and architectural styles dominate the village.

It's not just the old, listed buildings that are important. Modern buildings of high quality, like Felsted School's Stewart House is recognised as a contemporary building of high-quality design that contributes to the area. Trees, hedgerows and open space are also very important and make a significant contribution to the general visual quality and importance of the Conservation Area.

Felsted – Conservation by Numbers



If you'd like to know more about our Conservation Area and the additional planning controls applied to it, go to:
https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/media/1919/Felsted-Conservation-Area-Appraisal/pdf/Felsted_CAA_14_Dec_12_Low_res_WEB.pdf?m=1682413320590

Sunday School fire

On Saturday 24 November 1923 a fire broke out in the Congregational Church Sunday School building in Stebbing Road, and it was completely destroyed. There were a few minor injuries but thankfully no-one was killed.

The hall was being used for a production of 'Peggy O'Neil' by the May Hutchinson touring company. More than 200 people were in the hall at about 9pm when one of three oil lamps being used as footlights fell and the spilled oil caught fire. Mr Harry Cloughton, a local farmer, threw his coat over the lamp, appealing to everyone to stay calm. He said later that had they listened to him there would have been no danger.

But the audience were 'greatly affrighted' and started to move towards the main door. In the confusion the other two lamps fell, and streams of oil burst into flame, igniting the stage and scenery immediately and filling the room with black smoke.

This caused people to rush forward and the crowd became wedged tight at the door - some being trampled on before they were pulled clear. It took Mrs Smith the caretaker a few minutes to reach and unlock a second door. Some people smashed windows at the other end of the hall and jumped to safety.

In an attempt to give some sense of calm Miss Ella Field, 'a bright little lady of 28', continued playing the piano until the auditorium was empty. By this time the flames had reached the piano.

Several people sustained burns, cuts and abrasions but miraculously the most severe injury seems to have been to a Mrs Hammond of Ford End who needed 5 stitches in a head wound.

The Felsted School fire brigade, aided by several hundred boys, their masters and the headmaster, fought the fire and prevented the flames reaching the Manse, the Congregational Church and the Almshouses. Mr Cloughton at considerable personal risk, broke down the door of a shed and rolled a 15-gallon drum of paraffin out of harm's way. Mr Overall had telephoned the Braintree fire brigade to assist. They set out but one of the shafts on their horse-drawn engine broke and they had to turn back.

The lath and plaster building, match-boarded inside, burnt very fiercely. It was about 50 years old and had just been renovated.



Sunday School fire

By 11 o'clock the building was down and everything inside it was lost, although a 'quarter of a peck' of copper coins was scraped up from the charred remains.

The damage was estimated at £400 which was covered by insurance, but the contents were not, and the loss to the theatrical company for scenery and clothing was £1,000.

The story was front page news in the national press and a number of regional newspapers from all over Britain and Ireland, with some very lurid headlines.

It emerged that the hall was unlicensed for stage plays, and the two managers of the Felsted Congregational School were summonsed to Braintree Petty Sessions. The court heard that the doors opened inwards, lamps were not fixed, chairs not battened together and there were no buckets of sand or water. The hall's capacity was 180 but over 220 were there. The defendants said the school had been licenced previously and they thought the licence was permanent. Felsted's Constable Carpenter had been to the school before the performance and was told they had a licence, but he had moved chairs that were blocking the doors. Both defendants were fined £5, the maximum penalty.

A week after the fire the Treasurer of the Congregational Church wrote to the Chelmsford Chronicle appealing for donations to build a new hall:

To the Editor

Sir, On behalf of the Trustees of Felsted Congregational Church, I beg to draw your readers' attention to the calamity that has befallen our Church Hall, which was totally destroyed by fire on Saturday evening last. We were in the habit of letting the hall for entertainments, this being the only available place in the village. The building had just been renovated, and the insurance is quite inadequate to build a new hall; therefore, we appeal to the generosity of the public for subscriptions ...



What could have been a disaster had a happy ending. In November 1924 a handsome new brick building, now the United Reformed Church, opened on the same site. It cost £1,110. Full insurance had been paid and many generous gifts received.

As I write this, we are nearing the end of an incredibly busy and long half term! As always the Autumn term gives everyone a fresh start and children and staff have all settled back in with determination and enthusiasm.

We have welcomed our new Reception children and sent positive thoughts to last year's y6 as they head off to their secondary schools.

We have worked on our values/rules and simplified these to:

◆ Be Respectful ◆ Be Kind ◆ Be Safe

We are very proud of these and the children understand and do their very best to follow them.

At our Harvest Celebration the children sang some lovely songs and some of our older children gave a presentation about Braintree Food Bank. We had lots of generous donations from our families to the food bank as part of our Harvest day.



As ever our children have strong feelings about helping our planet! As part of this they have set up an eco-refill shop which is running every week. They are running this with a little help from staff and it's great to see their commitment and drive.

In Sports Week, the whole school celebrated sport by engaging in a variety of activities including class challenges, events run by our Year 6 Sports Ambassadors and, on the Thursday, a golf day! It was a lovely way to end the half term.

We have another full half term still to come. Our Fireworks Display raises much-needed money for our school and our PTFA work very hard to make this is a fantastic event. We will be starting our nativity rehearsals after the break and have already planned our



carol concert in the church. We also have the excitement of the whole school trip to the panto to look forward to. All these lovely events really get us into the Christmas spirit and give our children those wonderful, traditional experiences that very much feed into our values.

Bryony Collins

CHRISTMAS is coming to Felsted...



PARISH COUNCIL

guarantees a **White Christmas**

WHATEVER THE WEATHER, ON **SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER** SPONSORED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL FELSTED CHILDREN WILL BE ABLE TO ENJOY A SNOWY EXPERIENCE INSIDE OUR GIANT INFLATABLE SNOW GLOBE WHILE THEY WAIT FOR SANTA TO ARRIVE.

OPEN FROM 5 TILL 7PM AT THE LIGHT-UP FELSTED FESTIVAL IN THE CAR PARK IN THE CENTRE OF THE VILLAGE.

IT'S LOTS BIGGER THAN THIS!!!



The Royal British Legion's Warm-up Act

NO MATTER HOW COLD IT IS, FELSTED'S WONDERFUL ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WILL BE ON HAND SERVING MULLED WINE AND WARM MINCE PIES!

WHILE THE KIDS GO CRAZY IN THE SNOW GLOBE, THE ADULTS CAN SLIDE TO THE BACK & WARM THE COCKLES, WITH THE RBL'S PROPER GROWN-UP INTERPRETATION OF THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!

SUPPORT THE RBL & COME DOWN TO ENJOY CHRISTMAS IN FELSTED!



Grab a Bite!

HOT DRINKS AND BURGERS WILL BE ON SALE FROM A TRUSTED LOCAL TEAM, AVAILABLE FROM 5PM.

GRAB A BITE AND BUILD UP YOUR STAMINA FOR SOME SERIOUS CAROL SINGING!

Carols from Felsted Choral Society

ON THE HEELS OF A WONDERFULLY SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF CLASSICAL PERFORMANCES, MEMBERS OF THE FELSTED CHORAL SOCIETY WILL LEAD JOYOUS COMMUNITY CAROLS.

COME ALONG AND JOIN IN WITH THE CAROLS WE ALL KNOW AND LOVE!



Felsted School Steel Band



IT'S NEARLY CHRISTMAS AND IT'S BOUND TO BE, WELL, CHILLY? PERHAPS FREEZING, MAYBE ICY, A LITTLE SLEET PERHAPS AND THEN, IN THE COLD NIGHT AIR YOU HEAR THE UNMISTAKABLE SOUND OF STEEL DRUMS BRINGING CARIBBEAN STYLE WARMTH TO OUR EVENING'S CELEBRATION.

IT'S ONLY THE FELSTED STEEL BAND! BRILLIANT AND UNMISSABLE!



...and one last thing...

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR LETTERS TO SANTA! WE'LL HAVE A MAGICAL POST-BOX THERE, TO ENSURE THOSE PRECIOUS LISTS GET TO THE NORTH POLE! IF YOU'D LIKE SANTA TO REPLY, PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S NAME & ADDRESS IS CLEARLY SHOWN ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE.

WE DO HOPE TO HAVE SOMEONE TO HELP LITTLE ONES WRITE ON THE NIGHT - BUT ELVES ARE THIN ON THE GROUND.





Event Programme

SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER

5.00PM	FELSTED STEEL BAND
5:45PM	FELSTED CHORAL SOCIETY
6:15PM	SANTA'S ARRIVAL
6:30PM	LIGHT SWITCH-ON
7:00PM	SANTA DEPARTS

PLEASE NOTE THAT IN LIGHT OF THIS PROGRAMMED EVENT WOODLEY'S CAR PARK WILL NOT BE ACCESSIBLE ON SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER FROM 7AM - 9PM

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING LOTS OF YOU THERE!



FREE EVENTS SPONSORED BY
FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL

Protecting green spaces

As part of the current Felsted Neighbourhood Plan review the Review Group is seeking one or two volunteers who would be prepared to join a small working group to identify areas of green space around the parish. The idea is that could be included in a list of 'designated green spaces' in the reviewed Felsted Neighbourhood Plan which would then be afforded an increased level of protection.

Green spaces can help to achieve social, economic and environmental benefits in the parish. They can be part of the public realm where informal social interaction takes place, provide pitches and facilities for sports supporting physical activity and recreation. They also form part of a network of paths and spaces, provide habitats for wildlife and natural corridors and spaces that form part of the character or setting of historic areas. Altogether these provide an attractive setting and outlook.

There are some fairly obvious areas that would qualify, such as the 33 acre nature area on Station Road, the allotments, the play area behind the Memorial Hall, Bannister Green etc. However there are undoubtedly many other areas around the Parish that could be formally assessed and potentially 'designated'.

Very specific issues need to be considered before an area can be 'designated', such as community amenity value, the contribution to local character and beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity, wildlife and other factors.

Ultimately, in order to qualify for 'designation' any identified area will need to meet certain criteria which are consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework.

If you are prepared to join a working group to identify potential green spaces, please contact the Parish Clerk at:
clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk or: URC Hall, Stebbing Road, Felsted, Essex, CM6 3JD (Office Hours: Monday 10.00am-12.30pm)
Phone 07719 552174

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' CORNER

Local Plan - the latest:

Consultations on the draft Local Plan for 2021-2041 have progressed to the final stage. Uttlesford District Council (UDC) is assembling the final set of representations and supporting reports to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, hopefully by the end of December 2024. 'Examination in Public' will then take place during 2025 according to a timetable set by the inspectorate. UDC website is a handy place to bookmark for reference: <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/local-plan-timetable>

Winter Fuel Payment:

Many members of our community will have been very disappointed to learn of the Government's recent withdrawal of this payment for those over 66 years of age. The allowance is now only being offered to pensioners who receive means-tested benefit such as pension credit.

At their last meeting in October, UDC – across all party lines – considered that this was a matter of considerable regret and resolved to write to the Government, calling for the policy on linking Winter Fuel Payments to the receipt of Pension Credit to be suspended and for a new higher threshold determining eligibility to be set. We consider that the eligibility criteria is currently set far too low. Only those receiving a pension of less than £218.15 a week (£332.95 a week for couples) are eligible, lower than the living wage.

Currently there are 2,015 claims from pensioners living in the district who are in receipt of Housing Benefit and/or Local Council Tax Support and who previously would have qualified for a Winter Fuel Payment. Under the new rules the number automatically qualifying may drop to around 1,287. UDC considers it essential to raise awareness locally among potentially eligible residents concerning the 'triggering benefits' of Pension Credit to ensure people receive the support they are entitled to.

UDC is supportive of the work by Citizens Advice and Age UK to promote the Pension Credit scheme. Residents are encouraged to help others who might be likely to benefit but have difficulty in establishing contact directly with CA. Here is a link to the topic of winter heating and support provided by CA: <https://www.uttlesfordca.org.uk/get-advice/utility-bills-warm-homes/>

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' CORNER

The Government's announcement caused me to look into the heating statistics for Uttlesford further and in particular those for Felsted and Stebbing. I was concerned as to the potentially harsh consequence for residents who heat their homes 'off grid', ie by bulk oil or tank gas. Payment for these might be required in lump sums on delivery, rather than in instalments as for piped gas. In fact: 1% of households have no central heating; 54.6% are on mains gas; 23.6% are on oil only; 2.7% are on tank or bottled gas only; 0.3% use wood only and 1.3% use renewable energy only.

UDC was successful earlier this Summer in securing £3.8m from the Government to make council-owned properties more energy efficient. It will enable 276 homes across the district to be retrofitted with additional insulation, solar panels and air source heat pumps. Help generally concerning heating, insulation and grant availability/funding is also described here: Make your home more energy efficient - Uttlesford District Council. <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/5764/Make-your-home-more-energy-efficient>

Finally, I encourage all of us to look out for and give any practical support that some residents living in older and less well insulated houses might require, particularly to those in receipt of lump sum bills who heat their homes 'off grid' and to all those in need of assistance in way of benefit application form filling.

Detailed Reports:

As always, if any resident has any request for help, questions or issues to raise, I will be very pleased to hear from them. I would also like to remind the community of a monthly report which I have written every month since first elected in 2019. This is delivered to the Parish Council at their monthly meeting and then included in their Minutes as a link and contains a lot of information. If anyone would like their own personal copy, please shout and I will be happy to include you on the circulation list!

John Evans

District Councillor
E: cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk

The Hundred Parishes

Until the 19th century, education in England was mostly linked to religious institutions or funded by wealthy donors. The Education Act of 1870 made a commitment to the provision of education to all on a national scale.

The Hundred Parishes has some fine examples of schools that were founded prior to this time and continue to educate young people today.

Felsted School was founded in 1564 by Richard Rich, the first Baron Rich. Under Henry VIII, he accumulated immense wealth whilst overseeing the dissolution of the monasteries, and he was later appointed Lord Chancellor of England under King Edward VI.

Dame Joyce Frankland, 1531-1588, lived at Rye House in Stanstead Abbots, the wife of the lord of the manor. Her son was killed by a fall from his horse. In her will, Dame Joyce remembered him by providing funds for the education of boys at many locations including the "ffree grammar schole" in Newport, now The Joyce Frankland Academy.

St, Edmunds College in Standon parish is the oldest Catholic college in England. The main building dates from 1769. The school chapel is Grade I listed, built in the mid-19th century and designed by A.W.N. Pugin whose best-known work is the Elizabeth Tower, the clock tower of the Houses of Parliament.

Some schools built after 1870 have adopted the names of notable locals. For example Leventhorpe Academy in Sawbridgeworth was established in 1965 and named after the Leventhorpe family. Sir John Leventhorpe died in 1625 and has one of the finest memorials in Sawbridgeworth parish church.

Ralph Sadleir School in Standon was founded in 1971 and named after Sir Ralph who was born in 1507 and knighted in 1543 by Henry VIII. When Queen Mary I came to the throne, Sir Ralph retired to live quietly in Standon.

Ken McDonald,
Secretary

The Hundred Parishes



Felsted School – part of the original 16th-century building



Memorial to Richard Rich, founder of Felsted School



Gatehouse to Rye House, Stanstead Abbots, the home of Joyce Frankland



St Edmund's College Chapel, Standon



Memorial to Sir John and Lady Leventhorpe in Sawbridgeworth parish church



Memorial to Sir Ralph Sadleir in Standon parish church

Managed Migration is the process by which people are being moved from legacy benefits across to Universal Credit. From the beginning of November, people who are currently claiming Employment Support Allowance (ESA) will start to receive migration notices, all of which are expected to be sent by the end of December 2025.

You may be entitled to less money on Universal Credit than you are used to getting from legacy benefits. If this is the case, there'll be transitional protection so you are not financially worse off. In order to receive this protection, it is vital that you wait until you receive a migration notice and claim by the deadline date on your letter. If you are worried about what the change might mean for you, please get in touch or contact the Citizens Advice Help to Claim service on 0800 144 8 444 <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/universal-credit/before-you-apply/moving-to-universal-credit-from-other-benefits/>

Switching is Back! Over 80% of households are now on standard energy tariffs, with prices dictated by the energy price cap. After a 10% rise on 1 October, the cap is predicted to rise substantially again this winter and then stay around that level in January, when the next quarterly change takes place.

With competition slowly returning, and fixes and other energy deals available to those willing to switch, it's possible to forestall upcoming increases by shopping around now for the best deals, so don't miss out! Emily, Sarah and Hayley, our energy specialists, can offer help and advice on switching and a whole range of other issues including benefits advice, including checking eligibility for Pension Credit and Winter Fuel Payments, fuel vouchers, debt advice, home improvement grants and energy efficient behaviours.

Share the Warmth 2024 - More than 4,000 people in Uttlesford are already living in fuel poverty and there has been a rapid rise in the number of people coming to us for help and advice relating to utility bills over the last few years. With recent changes to eligibility for Winter Fuel Payment and rise in the Energy Price Cap, we are concerned that even more people will struggle to heat their homes this winter, so we have re-launched our Crowdfunder Campaign, 'Share the Warmth Fund for 2024'.

Money donated to this fund will be ring-fenced and used to provide emergency support for local people who cannot afford to top up their meters, pay their utility bills or fill their oil tank, so they aren't forced to make the impossible choice between heating and eating. Our previous campaign raised over £5,200 and supported 109 people over 10 months. With an even more challenging situation this year we would love to smash our previous total! So please give what you can. Every little helps, as they say! <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/uttlesford-citizens-advice-bureau-1078222>

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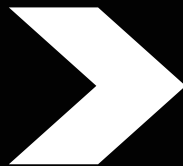


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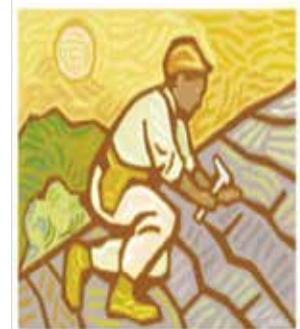
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