

FELSTED

# FOCUS

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

ISSUE 30

SUMMER 2026

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QUARTERLY



## INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

- COUNCILS
- SCHOOLS
- CLUBS
- RECIPE
- EVENTS





# The Fuzzy Mutt

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 The Fuzzy Mutt

Unit 1B, Concord Farm, School Road, Rayne,  
Essex, CM77 9SP



## Note from the Editor

Welcome to the summer edition of Felsted Focus - albeit arriving slightly later than planned!

First of all, apologies for the delay to this issue. Some of you may already have guessed the reason from our front cover...the arrival of a lively litter of puppies at home has somewhat taken over life (and, briefly, my ability to meet deadlines). Between feeding times, tiny paws and discovering that puppies have a particular talent for sitting directly on keyboards, the magazine schedule slipped a little!

By the time this edition lands on your doorstep, the much-talked-about heatwave will already have come and gone, but hopefully there is still plenty of sunshine ahead for everyone to enjoy. As always, this issue is packed with local news, events, community updates, and the wonderful contributions that make Felsted such a vibrant parish.

Thank you, as ever, to everyone who submits articles, photographs, notices and stories.

Wishing you all a happy and relaxing summer!

*Hope Alexander*

felstedmagazine@gmail.com

### Editorial Team:

Hope Alexander  
felstedmagazine@gmail.com  
Sarah Gale  
Janet Johnston  
Richard Freeman  
Roy Ramm

### Graphic design and layout:

David Hardy  
Astragraphic Design  
info@astragraphic.co.uk

### Print:

M&B Print · Dunmow

### Parish Council:

07719 552174  
www.felsted-pc.gov.uk

### Cover Picture:



## Felsted Friendship Club



We have had such fun and interesting meetings.

Let's go back to the beginning of the year, when Alice McLaren gave us a cookery demonstration on 16th January. She made scones, sausage rolls a Greek feta cheese tart and a simnel cake ready for Easter. How did she do that on one table in the hall, talking all the time about what she was doing! It was fascinating watching her and some of the finished items were raffle prizes.

Then, on 20th February, Karen Wheatly gave a demonstration of exercises in your chair. She had us all facing her in our chairs and had us really moving! I think the girls did better than the boys. It showed us that you can keep fit without donning lycra and going to the gym.

On 18th March, we were all invited to afternoon tea at Felsted School. What a wonderful afternoon! We were entertained by the newly formed concert band who played the theme from the Great Escape, "Imagination" from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and a medley of music from Dr Who. What exceptional musicians are in the band! I seem to remember the music teacher saying they were year 9 pupils and upwards. He was a great conductor, he obviously motivates the band. The entertainment was followed by a speech from the outgoing Headmaster who is going to a new post in Cheltenham. He will be sorely missed and we wished him good luck in his job.

We have just had our AGM at which there were a couple of changes to the Committee. Richard Gant was elected as Treasurer, and I (Hazel Fox) was elected as Secretary. Sincere thanks go out to Carole Smith and Sue King for all their hard work. At the AGM we had an interesting talk from Richard Pusey about Victorian health and hygiene. It just shows how spoilt we are with our constant hot water, shampoos and shower gels and medicines. Thank you Richard.

There's lot's going on for the rest of the year. Tell your friends and neighbours about us and invite them along. If you are new to the village and are interested in coming along, please contact Diane Denny on 01376 583994 or Hazel Fox on 01371 820108. We meet every third Friday in the Memorial Hall unless stated otherwise.

Hope to see you there!



## Felsted WI

Here we are again hoping that Spring will lead us into a lovely warm summer. Although at this point in time, it seems like we are having all four seasons in one day!

Felsted WI have been enjoying a few outings and also a superb Easter door wreath-making morning. The pictures below show some of the pretty wreaths made by our members, with a variety of colours to choose from making a very individual decoration for the front doors.

The ladies also gathered one afternoon for tea and cake at Wood Cottage, enjoying some lovely afternoon cakes and lots of friendly chat and laughter.

We have many other enjoyable things in store as the weeks go on, so do please come and join us. You are assured of a very welcome greeting, tea coffee and great biscuits!

Please contact Penny Lewis on 07825 312829 for more information.

Hope to see you soon!



# Felsted Royal British Legion



Felsted Royal British Legion Branch are looking for members to join the branch committee. We are running at a bare minimum and require new members to enable the Felsted British Legion to continue serving the community.

We hold no more than three meetings a year, so the time involved is minimal. The committee is responsible for the Poppy Appeal and Remembrance time, both of these very important in the British Legion calendar. It would be a great shame if these were not supported.

We lay over 30 wreaths on Remembrance Sunday and we distribute and collect a number of poppy tins leading up to Remembrance weekend.

If anyone is interested and is a Legion member, or would be willing to join, please contact me on the details below.

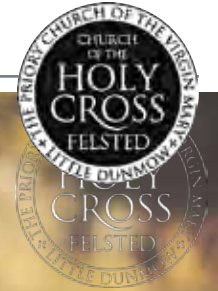
Terry Nunn  
Branch Secretary  
Felsted RBL  
Email [terryn@hopespare.com](mailto:terryn@hopespare.com) Mobile Phone 07769 684839

## Felsted United Charities

Felsted United Charities is a charitable organisation set up many years ago. The charitable objects of the Trust are for 'the benefit of persons resident in the Parish of Felsted and who are over sixty years of age, OR who are suffering from any illness, disability, disablement or otherwise in special need'.

**Should you wish to apply for support from the charity, application forms will be available at Felsted Post Office from Monday 1 December 2025.**

# Felsted Holy Cross Church



*9am: 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays*

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*The 11 a.m. service is suspended until further notice following the vicar's retirement.*

# Felsted Memorial Hall

Hello everyone.

Hope you are all well.

Since my last writing, lots has happened. The pantomime was a great success, loads of positive feedback and people wanting to book for next year and we haven't even written it yet! This year we reduced the number of people each night to 80 instead of 100. It made a lot of difference to people's comfort and ability to move about. The reason for this was feedback from audiences in the past. Though fire regulations say we are able to have 100, comfort was paramount.

The grand total profit from the show is £3,618.13!

We are very pleased with that, and every penny goes back into the hall.

## **Our AGM was early in the spring. The result of elections are as follows:**

Chairman....Hazel Fox

Vice Chair....Shirley Stone

Treasurer.....Nikki Mead

Secretary.....Katie Marshall

Bookings officer.. Sheila Kill.

Thank you to Neil Bromley for auditing our accounts.

So, all stays much the same. The committee have major plans for the hall refurbishment this year and were eagerly planning the next stages. New groups starting this year include children's kickboxing, a new home-schooling group, and a baby group. This is as well as our regulars.

Party bookings have increased too, so if you have a celebration coming up, give Sheila a call.

I'll sign off until the next time.

Stay safe and well,  
Hazel Fox

# United Reformed Church

Dear Friends,

It doesn't seem possible that we are nearly half way through the year again. We at Felsted are going through a very busy period at the moment. We had a Social afternoon in March, where we supplied pancakes, had a raffle and played a few games of beetle drive. We then celebrated Easter, when our friend Rev. Ray Sams returned on Easter Sunday to help us celebrate the Easter story.

As Ray retired last September, we are currently using Lay Preachers every Sunday and this has been working out quite well.

We have Church Anniversary on June 14th, when we will be sharing a meal together after the Service – all are welcome.

We are back running our Women's Guild on a Monday afternoon, where we have speakers, lunches, musical afternoons and afternoon teas, and of course the occasional tea and chat. These afternoons run from 2pm till 4pm and cost £2.00 per person.

If you are interested in either of the above or both, then please contact me on either of the numbers below for more information.

If you are new to the village and are interested in coming to our Church Services, or any other events that we might hold, then again please contact me using the numbers below.

Any queries please contact Diane 01376 583994/07484 769360

## Adult Coaching

Mark Clark  
07713 626239

- Monday 9-10am: Cardio Tennis
- Wednesday 9-10am: Cardio Tennis
- Wednesday 7-9pm: Squad Training
- Thursday 9-11am: Ladies Tennis
- Friday 9-10am: Cardio Tennis
- Private Lessons



**New for 2026!**  
Tennis XPress: 6-week  
new to tennis course  
Weds 10.30-11.30am  
or Friday 7-8pm

## Junior Coaching

Ashleigh Draper  
07966 502834

- Group Sessions for ages 4 to 16 on Tuesdays & Fridays 4-7pm
- Performance Group Weds 6-7pm
- Junior League Matches
- Sunday Tournaments
- Holiday Camps

## Adult Tennis

Thursdays 5.30pm onwards: Club Mix-In  
Sundays 10.30am-1.00pm: Club Mix-In  
League Teams (Essex Small Clubs, Halstead & District & Essex County)  
Friendly Club Tournaments & Championships  
Socials and Fund Raising Events



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## TRAVELLER ACTIVITY IN THE PARISH

The Parish and Uttlesford District Council continue to work together with local people to try to prevent attempts by Travellers to build caravan sites without formal Planning Approval.

### Why what the Travellers are doing is wrong:

Building development is subject to planning law; this includes changing the use of land, even if you own it. Changing farmland into a site for the travelling community requires an application to be made for planning approval to the Local Planning Authority (in this case, Uttlesford District Council), before any works are carried out. The travellers occupying Willows Green haven't followed these rules.

To avoid enforcement action, unapproved works at Willows Green were commenced immediately after the UDC offices closed for the May bank holiday, and carried on into the night and over the weekend.

Enclosing fences, hard standings and sewage processing units were installed along with works to supply water were carried out on the site by teams of workers. Some residential caravans were also quickly moved onto the site. Fortunately, before the site could be occupied, UDC quickly secured an injunction preventing anyone from occupying the caravans on the site or carrying out any further preparations for occupation. At a full hearing at the High Court on 15th June, UDC will attempt to extend the injunction. A retrospective application to UDC for planning consent has now been lodged by an agent acting for the travellers.

### Milch Hill

As a result of information about similar activity at a second site at Milch Hill, UDC obtained a second injunction, this time before any preparatory works had been conducted. At a hearing on 2nd June, this injunction was extended until later in the summer. An agent for the travellers indicated that they would make a formal planning application for a traveller site at Milch Hill.

### What next?

The Parish Council will object to any application for planning consent for the change of use and development of both sites,



including the retrospective application. Both sites are in the countryside and outside of any development envelope. Neither site is supported in the Felsted Neighbourhood Plan Review or in the UDC Local Plan. The PC believes that UDC has met its obligation in respect of the provision of facilities for the traveller community, and will resist further provisions in Felsted.

### Website

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](http://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.

### Facebook

The PC now have a Facebook page. Please follow them at [www.facebook.com/felstedpc](http://www.facebook.com/felstedpc) to see up to date local information

### Clare Schorah

Assistant Clerk to the Parish Council

Phone: 07751 565512 Email: [asstclerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk](mailto:asstclerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk)

### Heather Read

Clerk to the Parish Council

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





### Retirement of Parish Council Chairman

In May this year Graham Harvey stepped down after having served as a Parish Councillor for 40 years. He has been Chairman of the Council for 22 years.

40 years is a long time. It is a ruby anniversary! When Graham joined the Parish Council in 1986, Margaret Thatcher was in Downing Street, a gallon of petrol cost £1.79 and a pint of beer was less than a pound.

Graham outlasted 10 Prime Ministers, 17 captains of England and more than 400 Parish Council meetings.

Over the decades, there have been the highs and the lows. Felsted has had Jubilee celebrations, a Coronation, hosted the Tour d'France (twice!), been voted Best Village in Essex 2015 and as one of the best places to live in England (the Telegraph!). There were of course also the low months of the Covid lockdowns, which needed the PC at the centre of efforts to support the community.

The PC has little power, but it doesn't stop requests from neighbours landing on the doorsteps of Councillors. Graham, as a well-known and respected leader of the council, has fielded more than his share of those over the years, particularly as chairman for the last 22 years.

Felsted is essentially a farming community and as a farmer himself and as senior representative of the farming community, Graham has been uniquely qualified to represent the parish.

It has been said that if you were to cut Graham in half, the word "Felsted" would run right through him!

The Parish Council wish to thank Graham for his dedicated 40 years of service to both the PC and the residents of Felsted and to wish him a happy and well deserved retirement.



# Parish Litter Pick

## Saturday 25 July 26

Between 10am and midday

**Meet in the Playing Field Car Park  
(off Jollyboys Lane North)**

You can choose which area you 'pick' and high viz jackets will be provided along with grabbers and refuse bags.

Please just turn up, all help gratefully received!

Any queries please ring

Heather Read (Clerk to the Parish Council)  
on 07719 552174 or email [clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk)

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## UK Power Networks

Following a disruptive series of short quick frequency power cuts affecting hundreds of properties in Felsted earlier this year the PC has been in dialogue with UK Power Networks.

UK Power Networks have agreed to attend the Parish Council Meeting (*Date to be agreed*) which is due to be held in the URC Hall in Stebbing Road. Felsted has at least a 50 year history of power outages whereas neighbouring parishes do not appear to experience them in the same way. It is anticipated that UK Power Networks will take questions and explain why power outages happen so frequently in Felsted. Residents affected by the power cuts are encouraged to attend the PC meeting.

## Recipe: A Trio Of Ice Cream Sauces

Here are three lovely sauces to add to ice-cream this summer. The 'cracking' chocolate sauce, sets when it contacts the ice-cream, the caramel sauce can be added to bananas to create a banana split or used on a sticky toffee sundae, the raspberry coulis will combine with peaches to make a peach Melba, and would drizzle over a chocolate brownie and enhances an Eton mess.

Make sure you have an array of nuts, sprinkles, meringues and fruit to enhance your ice-cream sundaes.

### Caramel sauce

2tbsp water  
210g Sugar  
201ml Cream  
25g Butter

In a pan heat the sugar and water until the sugar caramelises and begins to boil, stirring constantly, cool slightly add cream and butter and mix thoroughly, allow to cool before use. Drizzle over ice-cream and cakes

### Raspberry coulis

100g raspberries  
1tbs icing sugar  
Splash lemon juice (optional)  
Blitz all the ingredients in a blender, strain through a fine sieve using a spoon to push ingredients through.  
Use as a drizzle

### 'Cracking' chocolate sauce

75g dark chocolate  
50g milk chocolate  
1tsp coconut oil

Break chocolate into a heat proof bowl balanced over gently simmering water (Don't allow the hot water to touch the bowl) When the chocolate is melted add the coconut oil. Allow to cool but not to set before use.

The above recipes make half a jar of caramel and smaller quantities of the other sauces.

Store the sauces in jars the fridge, use the coulis within a few days. Gently heat the caramel or chocolate sauces in the microwave for 10 seconds until loosened, if they have set (or stand jar in a bowl of very warm water).





## PARISH COUNCILLOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Felsted Parish Council are looking to compile a list of residents who may be interested in joining 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.

No special experience or qualifications are required. The Parish Council need people from all backgrounds and experiences who are willing to serve on the PC to put themselves forward. 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.

Expressions of interest should be made in writing to the Parish Clerk by email at [clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk)

Please provide a short overview such as the experience and knowledge that you could bring to the role. Should a vacancy arise you will then be contacted and advised of the next steps.

Heather Read  
Clerk to Felsted Parish Council  
Office: 07719 552174    E mail: [clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk)



# FELSTED ALMHOUSE CHARITY

## Felsted, Essex



### Accommodation

A single storey unfurnished one bedroomed bungalow set in a courtyard with six other properties. Set back from the main road with maintained gardens at the front, within walking distance to the village. Suitable for a single person, with a lounge, bedroom, fitted kitchen and bathroom with overhead shower and toilet. Recently decorated and new carpets throughout.

*\*Please note this is not the actual house that is vacant but does give an example of what it looks like.*

#### Criteria

- Must be over 60 years of age
- Be able to live independently
- Should have some connection with Felsted village itself and have limited financial means.
- No pets are allowed.

**Contact Details:** Tracy Eastop  
Telephone: 01371 822600    Email: [burspa@felsted.org](mailto:burspa@felsted.org)

# Felsted Community Trust

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## **What is the Felsted Community Trust?**

Felsted Community Trust (The Trust) was established as a vehicle for landowners and developers to meet the 2020 Felsted Neighbourhood Plan's objectives of securing community benefits from the housing developments imposed on the parish by central government.

The Trust has wide community focused objectives intended to enhance the life of the people of Felsted Parish by advancing health, cultural and sporting activities, as well as supporting disadvantaged parishioners.

The Trust is now in the process of registering with the Charity Commission. Legal and other professional fees associated with the conveyance of property and establishing the Trust as legal entity mean that only limited funds will be available in 2027, but in the longer term the benefit to Felsted are considerable.

## **Who runs the Trust?**

The Trust is independent of Felsted Parish Council but works closely with it. The Trust's constitution limits parish councillors to a minority; currently, three of the ten trustees are councillors. The board comprises local volunteers, Felsted people with expertise in finance, planning, property, insurance, law, education and medicine. To strengthen this mix, the Trust is seeking an additional trustee with communications and marketing experience. If you are interested, please contact: felstedcommunitytrust@gmail.com.

## **What has the Trust achieved?**

The development at Felsted Gate in Station Road is providing a large modern and accessible health centre with 7 consulting rooms and 30 car park spaces. Following its completion by Mulberry Homes (expected in October 2026) the Trust will take ownership of the building, ensuring long term access to primary health care within the parish.

Over the coming years, the health centre will also generate a steady rental income for the Trust that will be used to fund community projects and build social cohesion.

The Trust has also recently taken ownership of the large new car park for Felsted Primary School at the Sunnybrook Farm site, providing a safer and more convenient entrance for our children and significantly reducing congestion at peak times around Watch House Green.

# Felsted Community Trust

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Seeing the surgery under construction and the car park in use has been a great tonic.

## **What's next?**

Looking ahead, the recently approved development near the Water Tower in Garnetts Lane, which contributes to meeting Felsted's housing allocation made in the now adopted Uttlesford Local Plan, will deliver six fully finished "turnkey" social housing units. Owned by The Trust. these homes will only be made available to people who have a direct connection to Felsted and are "housing register candidates".

These six homes will then be held in perpetuity by The Trust, solely

## **How do I find out what the Trust is doing?**

We are keen to make villagers aware of the uniqueness of the Felsted Community Trust and to communicate our activity. However, until the Trust has the resources to build and manage its own website, we will keep the parish informed by publishing reports of meetings on the parish's website.

As we grow, we hope that a new trustee with communications expertise (see above) will help us develop a recognisable identity and profile.

It is taken a lot longer than we had hoped to reach this point, but thanks are due to the trustees and all those working closely with us. Special thanks go to Roy Ramm and Richard Freeman who have worked so hard (at times seemingly against the odds). We would not have a new surgery/health centre, a car park for the Primary School or a charitable trust for the benefit of Felsted parishioners without their efforts.

## **Philip Hutley**

Chairman

Felsted Community Trust for the benefit of qualifying Felsted parishioners.



# FOCUS FUNDING APPEAL

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 ACCOUNTANT



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or visit:

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## Felsted Primary School



### Felsted Primary School: A Busy and Exciting Start to the Summer Term

The summer term is well underway at Felsted Primary School, and it has been a hive of activity, achievement and community spirit. We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils, who recently completed their SATs. They approached the week with maturity, resilience and a wonderfully positive attitude, and they truly deserve recognition for their efforts.

The school is now looking ahead to a number of much-loved events that bring our community together. One highlight is the upcoming Parent Picnic and Sports Afternoon, where families are invited to join us on the school field for a relaxed picnic followed by a fun-filled afternoon of sporting activities. With a mix of team challenges, races (including parent races!) and a chance to simply enjoy being outdoors together, it promises to be a memorable day for all.

Another key date for the diary is our PTFA Summer Fete, taking place on Friday 26th June from 3.30–6pm. This year's event will include bouncy castles, stalls, games and refreshments, along with plenty of traditional fete fun. The PTFA works tirelessly to organise events like these, and we are always grateful for volunteers and support from the wider community.





We are also delighted that swimming sessions have now begun for our pupils, giving children the opportunity to develop vital water confidence and life skills as part of the curriculum. These sessions are always a highlight of the school week and play an important role in promoting health, wellbeing and safety.

Looking ahead, excitement is building for our whole-school trip to Frinton, which promises to be a very special experience for all our children. A day at the seaside provides not only a wonderful opportunity for fun and fresh air, but also a chance to create lasting memories with friends and staff.

Supporting children's wellbeing remains a key priority for the school. Recent parent sessions have included guidance on online safety and children's mental health, reflecting the importance of working together as a community to support young people both in and out of school.

As the weather improves, it has been wonderful to see children enjoying their learning and play outdoors, making the most of the sunshine and longer days. We now have our wonderful new outdoor classroom and work is also being done to improve and develop our pond and wildlife area.

The new school car park has helped us tremendously – parents are now able to park easily and avoid the stressful start and end to the school day. Our new entrance is a big improvement also.

The car park has also helped local residents as the congestion around the school at key times is now significantly improved.

Felsted Primary School continues to be at the heart of the village, and we are proud of the strong connections we share with families and the wider community. We look forward to welcoming you to our upcoming events and to sharing many more successes in the months ahead.

Mrs Bryony Collins (Headteacher)



## Check your bills - Could you save money?

Many people pay more than they need to for everyday services. A quick review could help you save.

### Ask yourself:

- Do you still use everything you're paying for?
- Are you on the best deal available?
- Could a simpler option work just as well?

### Typical Costs to Keep in Mind

#### □ Broadband (light use – emails, browsing, occasional video calls)

You might expect to pay around £20 – £30 per month. If you're paying much more, it may be worth reviewing your package.

#### □ TV Services

With a TV licence, you can access Freeview at no extra cost. Consider using one streaming service at a time and switching as needed. Bundles can offer value, but only if you'll use everything included.

#### □ Mobile Phones

SIM-only deals can be as low as £5 – £15 per month. Check if you're still paying for a handset you've already paid off.

#### □ Energy Bills

Prices vary, but it's worth checking you're on the best tariff available and not overpaying.

### Small changes can save money each month.

#### Need help?

**Uttlesford Citizens Advice is here if you need free, confidential guidance on money, benefits, housing or work issues**

To speak to one of our friendly advisers

Call: 01799 618840

Email: [help@uttlesfordca.org.uk](mailto:help@uttlesfordca.org.uk). [www.uttlesfordca.org.uk](http://www.uttlesfordca.org.uk)



**Are you new to the Felsted and Dunmow area and want to meet local people? Maybe you are looking for a new hobby. Are you also no longer in full-time employment? If so, now is the time to make the most of life in your 'third age'. Dunmow u3a gives you the chance to develop your interests, make new friends and enjoy yourself.**

On Wednesday 24 June, after our short AGM, Roger Browne will be telling us the tale of "The King's Tiger Rag". The strange story of the role that King George V played in bringing Traditional Jazz to Britain in 1919 with The Original Dixieland Jazz Band who set new trends when they moved from New Orleans to Chicago.



How society in Britain was never to be the same again once Jazz arrived on these shores and the unlikely link with Queen Mary's Needlework Guild. Illustrated with live playing, on piano, of the ODJB's greatest hits, such as Margie, Tiger Rag, Livery Stable Blues.

"The King's Tiger Rag"

Wednesday 24 June - 1.30pm for 2pm start

On Wednesday 29 July, LPA Made Simple will explain what Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs) are, the process by which they are drawn up and the important purpose they serve. They will also clarify the differences between LPAs and EPAs (Enduring Powers of Attorney) and answer any questions you might have about either of them.



Wednesday 29 July - 1.30pm for 2pm start

All our monthly meetings take place at Foakes Hall, Dunmow CM6 1DG and are free to members and potential members.

Our monthly meetings are a great opportunity to meet up with other members, join one of our Interest Groups, book a place on one of our popular Outings, choose a few magazines from our Magazine Swaps table, pick up a copy of our latest newsletter or just enjoy a cup of tea (please remember to bring your own mug) and enjoy the speaker.

To find out more, email:  
membership@dunmowu3a.org.uk  
or visit: www.dunmow.u3asite.uk  
Registered charity number: 1168310



Felsted Choral Society

# Diva's, Dreamers & Daring Deeds!



**Opera & Operetta Favourites including... Puccini, Verdi, Bernstein, Gilbert & Sullivan and many more**

**Saturday, 20 June, 3pm**

**Music Director:** Thomas Duchan Conducting  
Felsted Choral Society

**Accompanist:** Bohdana Ravliuk

**Tickets £20 – includes programme, complimentary drink and feasting on our Luscious Strawberry Tower**

**Under 18s Free**

[ticketsource.co.uk/felstedchoralsociety](http://ticketsource.co.uk/felstedchoralsociety) (No Booking Fee)

**Venue: Holy Cross Church, Station Road, Felsted CM6 3DG**

[What3Words///northward.legend.best](http://What3Words///northward.legend.best)

[Facebook.com/felstedchoralsociety](https://www.facebook.com/felstedchoralsociety)  
[felstedchoralsociety@gmail.com](mailto:felstedchoralsociety@gmail.com)

Publicity: Tony Baker 07799 413191



Registered Charity No. 297351

# Uttlesford Mobile Community Supermarket

Uttlesford Mobile Community Supermarket has now been running successfully for over a year, stopping in 8 rural locations around the district, providing basic ambient groceries and household & hygiene items at cost effective prices. Anyone is very welcome to make use of our service as regularly or sporadically as they wish, as a way of stretching budgets and/or as a more convenient method of accessing essentials close to home. We work in close partnership with Uttlesford Foodbank and currently engage with over 50 regular customers across our locations.

Alongside our supermarket items, we have also been providing fresh fruit and vegetables and bakery items to give to our customers to help to promote healthy eating.

With summer approaching, we would love to hear from anyone local who has a glut of fruit or vegetables that they would like to donate to the supermarket. If this is you, please email [communitysupermarket@theaws.org](mailto:communitysupermarket@theaws.org), or send a text to 07842 422032 to arrange collection.

If you would like further information about the supermarket, or about how you might be able to help support us, please don't hesitate to contact us.

<https://theaws.co.uk/activity-and-support/uttlesford-mobile-community-supermarket>  
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61575075384072>

Could you spare a *little time* ♥  
to help our village?

We're looking to build a list of local volunteers who'd be happy to lend a hand all year round.

♥ We know we'll need help at Christmas time with the Santa Sleigh and putting up the parish Christmas tree.

♥ During bad weather we may need support delivering shopping or essentials to some of our elderly residents.

♥ There may be other opportunities too - big or small, every bit helps!

Many hands make a strong community ♥

→→→ Please email: ←←←  
♥ [felstedvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:felstedvolunteers@gmail.com) ♥

## DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' CORNER

### RECENT NEWS - WHAT'S UP NOW, JOHN?

Dear Residents

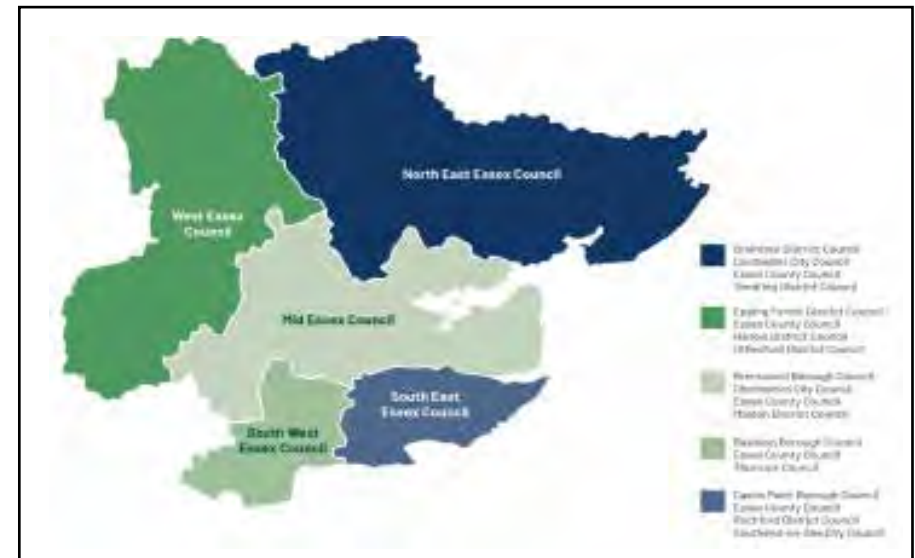
In contemplating what I might write in this Edition to bring you up to date as to what's "gone on" in Uttlesford District Council in the last 3 months, I waited until after the outcome of the Essex County Council Elections held on 7th May was known. That is not because there will be any political observations included by me – deliberately, since none ever are in the articles that I submit to our excellent (I must add!) Parish Magazine nor are any included in the detailed monthly Reports that I submit to the Parish Council. But, as I write this, it might be that further change will come about to Local Government reorganisation in Essex in light of the ECC Election results and change in political compositions.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION – RADICAL CHANGES !

On 25 March, the Government announced their final plans for Local Government Reorganisation in Essex. I described before that they would involve the scrapping of both Essex County Council and the District Councils with their replacement by several unitary Councils (supplying and administering all local government functions and services) councils. The alternatives first proposed involved the creation of either three, four or five unitary bodies but also in each case the election of a Mayor to serve at a County wide strategic level. While such reorganisation was not generally favoured by the Essex District and City Councils, if it was to come about, then most preferred the establishment of more rather than fewer unitary bodies. In the event, the Government did accept the argument in favour of the creation of more ie in the case of Essex, five. This means that Uttlesford upon its disbandment would be joined together with Epping Forest and Harlow Councils (one justification being that they border the M11 economic driver and share the same Health Authority) and thus would create a new unitary called West Essex Council. This depicts the make up of the five new unitaries now agreed by Government.

Preparatory work has been going on for some time among officers and senior leaders of all the Essex Councils concerned to plan for the intended reorganisation which would come live in April 2028. However, at the time of writing, both the newly elected ECC and Harlow Councils (each of different political hues) have declared

## DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' CORNER



their intention to challenge the Government's LGR plans for Essex. They will be seeking maintaining the status quo on the grounds that LGR is unnecessary, will be very costly and unlikely to lead to the costs savings claimed for by Government. Officers in Harlow have now even been instructed to pull stumps and not participate in further cross boundary LGR forward planning work. By the time, readers will be digesting this article, however, things might have changed again or become clearer – in that case, apologies but the position described is accurate when written.

So, subject to possible change/reversal, ECC and UDC will continue "as is" until March 2028 when it is proposed that the new unitaries will come into formal existence. There will be elections for that body to be held in May 2027 which will operate in shadow mode for the following 11 months prior to formal creation. Meanwhile, your existing District Councillors will continue to serve until March 2028.

### NEW LOCAL PLAN – HOORAY!

In previous articles and Parish Council reports, I have described what the Uttlesford Local Plan 2021-2041 was about. As the UDC Cabinet Member responsible for Planning, after it had been examined and approved by the Planning Inspectorate, I presented the final version of the Local Plan to Full Council on 25 March. I am pleased to say that it was adopted on the affirmative vote of

## DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' CORNER

26 Members. There was one vote cast in opposition and six abstentions. None of the members were subject to "whipping" by their political parties and so all members from across the District had a free vote. Having a Local Plan was very long overdue, its predecessor having been put in place in 2005 when planning policy and rules were very different. So, adoption is very much to be welcomed.

Having an up to date Local Plan does not prevent development outright but it does specify where in our District it is to be allocated. Most of the allocations are on the outskirts of larger settlements with facilities ie Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow, Stansted Mountfitchet and Takeley. As has been explained by Felsted Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group in the recent Regulation 14 Consultation undertaken by them, the District's Larger Villages are also required to make housing allocations also (in the case of Felsted 95 dwellings).

You might be interested to read that Uttlesford intends to introduce a Community Infrastructure Levy ("CIL"). This will mean that future development will carry a Levy calculated at the rate of £ 200 per m2 of internal built area. Historically, infrastructure was only funded where it was justified by the development through the section 106 procedure, but it only applied to developments in excess of 10 dwellings. So, to avoid that requirement, it might explain why so often, schemes of 9 dwellings or fewer were proposed by developers.

Importantly, where development occurs in a location which has an up to date Neighbourhood Plan, 25% of the CIL levied in relation to that development is payable to the Parish Council and available to be spent by it on relevant infrastructure within the Parish. So, prospectively when it arises, that will provide some helpful funding capable of being deployed directly on infrastructure requirements within our community.

### WILLOW'S GREEN – PLANNING MATTERS

Many residents will have seen or read about development work which was undertaken without planning permission over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend in a field on Main Road at Willow's Green. This involved the introduction of large quantities of hard core, drainage, septic tanks and the erection of perimeter fencing

## DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' CORNER

with internal sub divisions. Heavy excavators, a water tanker, bull dozer and rollers were deployed by a large number of foremen and labourers who worked throughout the long weekend sometimes in darkness under floodlights. Some static and touring caravans were then placed on site. A Stop Notice was issued and an Emergency Court Injunction was obtained by Uttlesford District Council to restrain further activity. A separate injunction was also applied for and obtained in respect of any unauthorised development in a field lying further north towards Bartholomew Green/Milch Hill. I will not go into further detail here on either matter since court and other planning proceedings are pending but additional information concerning this subject will be kept updated on the Parish Council website.

If any resident has any questions or issues to raise on this article (or of course any other unrelated subject) I will be very pleased to hear from them. I am of course always ready to assist any resident who might have a question or other concern relating to Uttlesford business.

*John Evans*

District Councillor **E: [cilrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cilrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk)**

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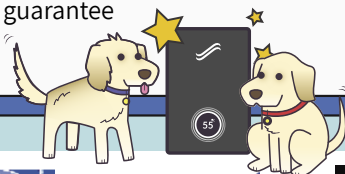


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# How you can help us prevent wildfires this summer

## A message from Group Manager Scott Ford...



A recent wildfire in Friday Woods, Colchester, is a reminder of how quickly fires can spread during warm and dry weather.

Every summer, firefighters are called to grass and countryside fires across Essex, and most of them are preventable. As temperatures rise, we're asking everyone to help reduce the risk and protect the places we all enjoy.



You can help reduce the risk by taking litter home, disposing of cigarettes carefully, and avoiding campfires, disposable barbecues and bonfires during dry conditions. Even a small spark can quickly become a large fire.

We're also encouraging residents to download the what3words app before heading outdoors to help us locate fires and incidents quickly and accurately.

### ■ If you see a fire, call 999 ■

If you spot a fire in the countryside or open grassland, don't assume someone else has already reported it. Calling early can make a huge difference and helps firefighters stop a small fire becoming a large wildfire.

Disposable barbecues, campfires, bonfires, and open flames can easily set dry grass alight during hot weather. Many country parks and open spaces ban barbecues completely, and for good reason. Instead, why not pack a picnic and enjoy the outdoors safely?

Most wildfires are caused accidentally by people, which means together we really can make a difference. A little extra care can help protect wildlife, open spaces, homes, and the countryside we all love to enjoy during the summer months.

**Thank you for helping to keep Essex safe.**

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# The Hundred Parishes



Last year's Royal Horticultural Society's State of Gardening Report revealed that gardens cover three times the size of the UK's National Nature Reserves. They support over 50 million trees and thousands of species, providing habitats for over half of the UK's butterflies, amphibians and reptiles, and more than 40% of birds.

Many of the listed buildings within the Hundred Parishes are surrounded by a private garden which enhances their setting, reinforcing their sense of place. They support a great variety of trees, shrubs and flowers - some native, others introduced - providing havens for assorted wildlife.

Gardens associated with such older properties will have been tended by many generations of residents, evolving over time as owners were influenced by fashionable trends.

Initially, they were stocked with native trees and shrubs, selected for their ability to provide fuel, timber, fence posts or fruits, while vegetables helped feed the family.

From the mid-17th century onwards, non-native tree species began to appear such as Cedars and Horse Chestnuts, these being planted initially within the estates of trend-setting wealthy landowners. By the mid-19th century, gardeners were able to source an increasing number of exotic species as diligent plant hunters discovered them in various parts of the globe and the precious seeds or small saplings were grown on in nurseries and then released for sale.

Engaging with a garden improves mental, physical and social wellbeing, with 77% of gardeners reporting positive impacts on their mental health. Local residents have access to wonderful, extensive gardens such as Easton Lodge, Audley End House or Saffron Walden's Bridge End Gardens, but enjoying a private garden brings a great deal of pleasure too.

Our website [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk) includes an Article on Gardens and the What's On page shows dates of specific local open gardens.

Tricia Moxey,  
Trustee.

[www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)

# The Hundred Parishes



Saffron Walden – Bridge End Gardens.



Saffron Walden – Audley End House garden.



Stansted Mountfitchet – Cedar trees at Hargrave House.



Steeple Bumpstead – Horse Chestnut tree in Moyns Park



Steeple Bumpstead – pond in an open garden



Much Hadham – Cedar at The Old Rectory.





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### **Learn Oil Painting Water in the Landscape with Leon Barnes**

Dunmow Art Group are pleased to welcome back Leon Barnes for four weeks of oil painting at this summer. We will be doing 2 paintings over 4 weeks. They will be landscapes with a water theme – Weeping Willows for 2 weeks and a beach scene for 2 weeks.

Leon is a dedicated oil painter with a work history in sign writing and model making which developed his love for detail. He says, “Detail plays a major role in my painting, drawn to light and shadows and the effect this has on the overall picture”. He is a process driven artist often working Alla Prima creating a fusion of contemporary, yet traditional work. Light and shadows and the effect this has on the overall picture from the dappling of light on the woodland floor or the lifelike texture of an animal’s coat. Leon paints landscapes capturing their beautiful, vibrant colours and textures.

Leon has exhibited and sold many works through various art fairs & exhibitions. Leon says, “I take great pleasure discussing my work and process and take time and care when discussing with clients how to bring their commission visions to life”.

The classes will be held for three hours between 12.30pm and 3.30pm on Monday 22nd, 29th Jun and 6, 13 July 2026 in the Foakes Hall in Great Dunmow. The cost is £1 for members of Dunmow Art Group and £10 for non-members.

Dunmow Art Group has a long history of supporting artists and art lovers in and around Dunmow and has a regular programme of weekly art meetings and monthly visiting artists.

For further information on Dunmow Art Group please contact [info@dunmowartgroup.org](mailto:info@dunmowartgroup.org) or go to [dunmowartgroup.org](http://dunmowartgroup.org)

#### **MEDIA CONTACTS**

For more information, please contact: [info@dunmowartgroup.org](mailto:info@dunmowartgroup.org), Ruth Wilson, 07849 769903 or Audrey McNeill, 07889 274427



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