FELSTED FOCUS

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

AUTUMN
2026
ISSUE 31
FREE



Good things happen here

MEET THE PEOPLE MAKING FELSTED SPECIAL

AUTUMN ADVENTURES

Local happenings and seasonal colour

WHAT'S ON

Your guide to events from October to January

YOUR PARISH - STRONGER TOGETHER

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FROM THE EDITOR

Hello, Felsted.



Welcome to the autumn edition of Felsted Focus - it's looking a little different this time!

While the magazine has a new look, its purpose remains very much the same: to celebrate our parish, share what's happening locally and help the people of Felsted feel connected to the community around them.

One thing you'll find throughout this issue is just how much of village life relies on people giving a little of their time. Our clubs, groups, events and community organisations simply couldn't happen without volunteers, and several are currently looking for some extra pairs of hands. You'll find more information inside about the different ways you can get involved - whether you have hours to spare or just a little time now and then.

The parish magazine is a work perpetually in progress. This is your community magazine, so I'd love you to help shape what it becomes. What would you like to see more of? Is there something happening in Felsted that we should be talking about? A person we should meet, a story we should tell or something completely new you'd like us to try?

Please do get in touch! Suggestions, ideas and constructive feedback are always welcome.

I hope you enjoy the new direction of this issue, and most importantly, that you'll help us make it feel like yours.

Happy reading!

Hope

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Felsted Focus

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Unit 1B, Concord Farm, School Road, Rayne, Essex, CM77 6SP





Felsted Parish Council

SERVING OUR VILLAGE COMMUNITY

FELSTED VILLAGE SHOW

CELEBRATING VILLAGE LIFE, COMMUNITY & RURAL TRADITIONS

Volunteers Needed!

Help us create a traditional rural fayre that promotes village life, fosters a great sense of community, keeps our cultural traditions alive and raises funds for the **Felsted Community Trust** and other local charities.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

JOIN THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE
Help plan and make the day a success

HELP WITH SET UP ON THE DAY
Lend a hand to get everything ready

CONTRIBUTE IDEAS & SUGGESTIONS
Share your ideas to help shape the event

LOCAL GROUPS GET INVOLVED
Showcase what you do and be part of the day

LOCAL BUSINESSES PARTNER & SPONSOR
Support the show and promote your business

INTERESTED?
Please email us at
clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk

EVERY BIT OF HELP MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE!

A FELSTED PARISH COUNCIL INITIATIVE

Friendship Club









Whew! What a summer!

I hope you got through it okay, without feeling too uncomfortable. I used to be a hot house flower, but not so much now. I found myself wandering indoors and passing by the fan.

We have had an interesting few months at the Felsted Friendship Club. In May, we had a lovely talk from members of the Guide Dogs for the Blind. Of course, the dogs melted everyone's hearts. Merchandise was available to buy with proceeds going toward the charity.

Then, in June, Tammy Blest, the North Essex Fraud Officer for Essex Police, gave us an enlightening talk on scams. It can happen to anyone and she gave us many useful tips to avoid being caught in their trap. One of them I remember, if you are not expecting a call or you don't recognise the number, just don't say anything, put the phone down.

Stephanie Callister-Jarold came to the July meeting and spoke about her work rescuing injured birds of prey. She has been on National TV and showed us clips of her being interviewed. She made us all aware how many different birds of prey there are in our surrounding area. She is very devoted to her charity and had merchandise to sell for the organisation.

As an extra treat, we went to the Hunters Meet for lunch and an afternoon of entertainment from a Neil Diamond tribute act. There we were, boogying away on one of the hottest days of the year! We certainly put the air conditioning to the test, but what fun it was.

We were treated to a wonderful afternoon of songs in August. Martyn Harrison paid us a visit and sang songs from West End musicals and our favourite musical films. He called his presentation 'One Enchanted Evening'...it was certainly one enchanted afternoon for us - what a beautiful voice!

Well, I have galloped through the summer haven't I? There's more to come in the next few months. Don't forget, if you would like to join us, contact Diane Denny **01376 583994** or Hazel Fox **01371 820108**.

We meet **every third Friday** in the Memorial Hall unless stated otherwise.

Take care of yourselves.
Hazel Fox

Felsted Friendship Club

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Royal British Legion

Bury Chase, Felsted
CM6 3DQ
01371 820847
(during opening hours)
rblfelstedcommittee@gmail.com

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

REMEMBRANCE DAY

at the War Memorial

- Assemble at 10am at the **Memorial Hall**
- Arrival of Felsted School cadets 10.10am
- Short Service - Laying of wreaths and reading the names of the fallen
- Last Post and 2-minute silence
- Dispersal approx. 10.40am

The Royal British Legion will be open from 10am for tea and coffee.

New members are always welcome - just call in and request a membership application form.



What's On

OCTOBER

9 **URC Social & Auction** 2pm *(p14)*

15 **Felsted Talks** 10am *(p19)*

18 **Autumn Open Day & Rock Choir** 11am *(p22)*

29 **Felsted Talks** 10am *(p19)*

Police Beat Surgery 11am *(p12)*

NOVEMBER

4 **Parish Council Meeing** 6.30pm *(p12)*

5 **Felsted Talks** 10am *(p19)*

8 **Remembrance Day Service** 10am *(p6)*

12 **Felsted Talks** 10am *(p19)*

19 **Felsted Talks** 10am *(p19)*

21 **Xmas Craft Day** 10am *(p8)*

26 **Felsted Talks** 10am *(p19)*

Police Beat Surgery 11am *(p12)*

29 **Xmas Light Switch-On** 5pm *(p8)*

DECEMBER

3 **Felsted Talks** 10am *(p19)*

Police Beat Surgery 11am *(p12)*

8 **Christmas Music & Prose** 2pm *(p14)*

17 **Santa Sleigh** *Time TBC (p8)*

18 **Santa Sleigh** *Time TBC (p8)*

SAVE THE DATE...ELF-HELP!

This year we continue to offer a number of free festive celebrations for the community, but we need your help! These events require lots of helping hands in order to make the magic happen. If you have time to give on any of the dates marked above with an elf (or time to help, in general!) we'd love to hear from you.

Please email **felstedvolunteers@gmail.com**

CHRISTMAS IN FELSTED

FREE FESTIVE PARISH EVENTS FOR ALL

The switching on of the Christmas tree lights will take place once again this year, with Father Christmas attending to assist with the festivities.

In addition, on the evenings below, the Felsted Sleigh will be out and about in the village and surrounding hamlets.

We will be asking for donations to support this, with proceeds split equally between the event running costs, and local charities.

LIGHTS SWITCH-ON
Sunday 29th November *from* 5PM

Thursday 17th December

Station Road, Chelmsford Road, Causeway End, Cock Green and parts of Bannister Green

Friday 18th December

Bannister Green, Watchhouse Green, Garnett's Lane, Felsted School & Village Centre

We look forward to visiting you and thank you for your support!



CHRISTMAS CRAFT DAY

SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

10am-2pm
ALL AGES WELCOME

Come & make your mark on the parish tree!

at **FELSTED URC**
STEBBING ROAD CM63JD

The Women's Institute





Here we are again, coming into Autumn, perhaps a little earlier this year, after our very hot summer. Heatwave after heatwave, to burn our grass to the colour of corn. The wheatfields collected; their corn it seemed earlier for the added worry of fires from the raging sunshine.

But, as ever the flower tubs that fill the village have as always been watered and maintained by the kind village volunteers and WI ladies, who have worked hard to maintain the colours around our, what was once, green grass.

The WI have been busy through this period with many outings and activities, plus our annual Garden Party which was a great success with lovely foods provided by the members and a raffle with friendly chats and a quiz for fun.

Come and join us at the village hall on the **second Wednesday of the month**, where you are assured a warm and friendly welcome, with tea, coffee and great biscuits.

We are always here to welcome you and give friendship, so do come and say *'Hello!'*

Contact:
Diane Denny **01376 583994**
Hazel Fox **01371 820108**

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Holy Cross Church

HELLO FROM HOLY CROSS CHURCH

Holy Cross Church has stood at the heart of our community since the 12th century. The walls of our parish church are soaked in the prayers of generations before us, holding the memories of thousands of moments of celebration and sorrow.

Today, Holy Cross remains your parish church. Whether or not you identify as Christian or worship with us regularly, the building and its grounds belong to the whole community. It is a quiet place where you can find a few moments of peace, remember loved ones, or take time to pray - whatever that looks like for you - especially when life feels overwhelming or confusing.

I am delighted to share that after many years of being mostly closed during the week, Holy Cross is now open 7 days a week. This is how it always should have been, and my sincere thanks go to the wonderful team at Linsell's, who kindly open the doors each morning for everyone's benefit.

As you may know, the former main congregation at Holy Cross left the Church of England earlier this year following the retirement of Revd Colin Taylor. We wish them every blessing.

Meanwhile, our 9am Sunday service has grown considerably over the past few months, and we remain fully committed to ensuring Holy Cross is always a place where everyone is welcomed. In the months ahead, we will begin the process of appointing a new Vicar as we look forward to the future.

In the meantime, you are always welcome to pop in for a quiet moment, or to join us for our 9am Sunday service (which alternates weekly with Little Dunmow Church).

www.felstedchurch.org.uk
www.littledunmowchurch.org.uk

With all good wishes
Rev Tom Warmington,
Area Dean



Parish Council News









NEW COUNCILLORS

The Parish Council are delighted to announce that during their meeting on 2nd September 2026, Felsted residents Matthew Clarke, Ken Jadeja and Andrew Madders were voted onto the Parish Council. Between them they bring a wealth of experience and skills to the council. They were warmly congratulated by Chairman Roy Ramm before taking their seats. All councillors and PC staff look forward to working with them.

VILLAGE SHOW

Felsted Parish Council is putting together a volunteer organising group to help make a village show "happen" in Summer 2027. The PC would like to hear from any residents who would be happy to get involved in planning the show and helping to create a brilliant community event for all ages. No previous event experience is necessary, the PC are simply looking for people with ideas, enthusiasm and a little time to help. If you are interested in joining the organising group please email clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk to register your interest.

COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

This was held on Saturday 25th July 2026. It was attended by approximately a dozen residents who collected numerous bags of litter from around the parish over a two hour period. The PC are very grateful to everyone who helped on the day. If anyone would like to litter pick their local area the PC have litter picking equipment that is available to borrow. Please contact the Clerk to arrange.

UK POWER NETWORKS

Residents are advised that at the time this article goes to print it is hoped that the Network Area Manager from UK Power Networks will be attending the Parish Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday 4th November 2026. This is being held in the URC Hall in Stebbing Road and commences at 6.30pm. Residents affected by the frequent power cuts experienced in Felsted are encouraged to attend.









BEAT SURGERIES

PCSO Natalie Smith will be hosting beat surgeries at The Wood Cottage Tea Rooms on the following Thursdays: 29th October, 26th November and 3rd December 2026. These are held from 11am to midday. These drop in sessions are an opportunity for residents to speak with the local community policing team about any concerns that they may have, obtain crime prevention advice or simply stop by for a chat.

METAL DETECTING

A local metal detectorist is looking for land (harvested/ploughed fields or empty grass lands and woodlands) on which to detect. Any horse shoes, keys etc that he finds are returned to the landowner and any valuable treasure is split with them 50:50. He is a member of the National Council for Metal Detectors and finds of value or those that are particularly old are disclosed to a Finds Liaison Officer. Any local landowners who may be interested in permitting metal detecting on their land are asked to contact Reece Gammons on 07947 703435 or to email him at reecegammons@hotmail.com

PARISH FLORAL DISPLAYS

The PC once again wish to express their thanks to all of the volunteers who look after the parish flower tubs. Despite the exceptionally hot and dry weather this year they have continued to look wonderful all summer. The effort that this must have taken has been noted and is greatly appreciated.

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**
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** to see up to date local information.

Clare Schorah
Assistant Clerk to the Parish Council
07751 565512 asstclerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk

Heather Read
Clerk to the Parish Council
07719 552174 clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk

Felsted Primary School



At Felsted Primary School, we have been delighted to welcome the children back to school for the new year. We have been joined by our lovely, new reception class, who have settled in beautifully and look so grown-up in their new school uniforms.

Friday 11th September was an exciting day for our new reception, as they were joined by their parents for a phonics session followed by lunch at school. Great fun was had by all.

We have an exciting Autumn term planned with lots of special events. To kick off the year, all the pupils will be taking part in anti-bullying workshops – a key focus for us this year as we continually strive to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for our young people.



Later in the term, we are looking forward to Sport's Week, where our newly appointed Sports Ambassadors will be leading the school in a range of sporting activities. We are also looking forward to welcoming some of our talented parents into school, who will be delivering a range of sporting workshops. The week will be capped off with a basketball day, where all our pupils will be developing and refining their basketball skills. We are always keen to hear from any members of our community who could further help support us with delivering sport across the school. October will see all the classes working hard to be ready for our Harvest Festival performance, where we give thanks for the produce from the land. This year we will, once again, be supporting Braintree Foodbank. We will be collecting food donations the week beginning 5th October. If any Felsted residents would like to contribute, please bring your donations to the school office.



As the weather changes and the nights draw in, our focus will of course turn to the time of year that is extra special in primary schools - Christmas. Our youngest children will be busy singing, dancing and acting in preparation for our eagerly awaited Nativity performance. Whilst our older children will be showcasing their singing at our Carol Concert, where we will be following tradition, and once again performing at Holy Cross Church.

A key focus for us at Felsted is to raise awareness of how we can care for our environment and we have a successful recycling programme in place. We are collecting batteries, used printer cartridges and clothes / shoes / bags. If you have any of these items you are looking to recycle, please bring to the school office between 8.30am – 3.45pm Monday to Friday.

As a school we really value our wider community and we have been very fortunate in recent years, as we have a fantastic team of volunteer readers in school. We would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in coming into school for an hour or two a week to listen to our children read, which greatly supports the development of their reading.

We are all looking forward to this exciting term ahead!

United Reformed Church

Hope everyone is well, and not too affected by the very hot weather that we have been experiencing recently. We must just hope that we don't have a severe winter making it difficult for us to get out and about.

We have just celebrated our Harvest, where we had a Bring and Share Lunch, followed by an auction of the gifts received. The proceeds of which will be added to our donations that we are making to our two chosen charities this year.

As in past years we have helped the Dunmow Blind and Housebound Club celebrate their Harvest, by organising a short service for them with members of our congregation taking part.

On 9th October at 2pm, we will be holding a Social Afternoon, with an auction of donated gifts. Please come along and join us, meeting with friends old and new.

On 8th December we will be holding an afternoon of Christmas Music and Prose starting at 2pm. Again, all are welcome to join us.

On 13th December at 10.30am we will be holding our annual Gift Service where we will be handing over cheques to our two chosen charities: Haven's Hospice, a charity we have supported over a number of years, and the Myeloma Charity, in memory of our dear friend Vera Butcher, who was a faithful member of our congregation.

If you would like to come along to any of these events, or one of our Sunday morning services which start at 10.30am then you would be most welcome. (You might even get a cuppa.)

The United Reformed Church

Any queries, please contact Diane on
01376 583994 or **07484 769360**

District Councillor's Corner

DEAR RESIDENTS

"Have you had a quiet time this summer, John?"

This question was put to me recently by a couple of residents thinking perhaps that I would say *"Yes – it's been the summer and the Council is in recess"*. The answer is actually very different and so, I thought I would provide readers with a short summary of my recent activity.

WHAT DO I DO?

Uttlesford District Council (UDC) members typically meet about six times a year when all 39 Councillors attend in person in the Chamber at Saffron Walden. It is there that Cabinet Members present written reports upon the council policies and activities for which they are responsible and answer questions put to them by other Members and, on occasion, members of the public. I am one of six members of the Uttlesford Cabinet. It is this body that provides the policy steer required in the administration of Uttlesford and whose function is to agree and implement council policy across the entire range of its activities. We hold monthly cabinet meetings (which are held in public, broadcast live and recorded) in anticipation of which fortnightly informal briefings are held by us with relevant senior officers.

Cabinet may be held to account not only by council but also by the Scrutiny Committee, which meets in public on about five occasions a year with its business also broadcast and recorded. My Cabinet Portfolio covers the District's three Planning functions (Policy, Development Management and Building Control) and also Stansted Airport related matters. The Strategic Director for all these planning functions is one of four members of the UDC Senior Officer Executive Team and he reports to the Chief Executive.

WILLOWS GREEN – UNAUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT

The major planning challenge for our parish this summer has been the wholly unauthorised development that took place on agricultural land at Main Road, Willows Green and which was undertaken wholly in the absence of any planning permission. The land does not have planning permission for development nor residential occupation. Understandably, it has caused very considerable upset and concern for residents living in that area. While UDC's offices were closed over the first Bank Holiday in May, travellers obtained access to a field that they owned by cutting through a long standing hedgerow and, by use of heavy machinery and tipper lorries, deposited extensive hardstanding and installed fencing, drainage and other infrastructure to be used as 12 traveller pitches. They then brought on site a variety of mobile homes, touring caravans and other vehicles and took up residence.

They did all this without applying for planning permission but have recently applied for "retrospective permission". This breach of planning rules has led to enforcement action and the securing of a High Court Injunction by UDC against the travellers. I have attended court on three occasions in connection with the steps taken by UDC's enforcement and legal officers at this location and also Milch Hill.

Residents have expressed themselves very dissatisfied in the press and at recent UDC meetings at what they perceive to be slow action by UDC to stop and prevent this activity. Answering and solving this issue is very complex since it involves not only consideration of national and local planning policy, civil law and potential criminal sanctions arising under it in the High Court proceedings. The Parish Council and residents have been advised of these complexities, and this will continue to be the case. FAQs with current status reports are also included on the UDC website.

I cannot emphasise enough however, that I wholly condemn the actions of the travellers in their efforts to develop this site and have objected to their planning application in the strongest terms. Such cynical, flagrant and deliberate flouting of the planning rules by them should not in my opinion be permitted to succeed. However, due process, like it or not, has to be gone through and UDC itself must "follow the rules" even if others do not.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR)

Compared with the significance of the planning issues described above, residents may think why does LGR merit any attention in this article.

Well, it is very important in its impact since it affects all residents living in Essex as it relates to all its councils, including the County Council and the City and District Councils. It will be remembered that the current Government decided shortly after it was elected, that LGR would take place and unitary councils created in places where a "two tier" way of local authority government existed, including in Essex. After a huge amount of preparatory work and very substantial expense in readiness was incurred by these bodies, the government approved an arrangement for Essex whereby five unitary councils would be created county wide and come into operation from 2028. Uttlesford would under this scheme become one together with Epping Forest and Harlow Councils.

On 7th September, the Government had a complete change of policy and scrapped this plan (also that for Suffolk, Norfolk and Hants) so for the moment at least, it is "business as usual" and Uttlesford will continue and its functions and services will continue as before. The government has also confirmed that local elections in May 2027 will take place as usual. The government remains committed however to devolution and stated that it intends to review its recent decision, so it's anyone's guess as to what will come about in place of the scrapped LGR plan.

Uttlesford had not chosen to reorganise but were directed to do so by the Government and regrettably now considers that all of the LGR work undertaken in the past two years was a complete waste of time and money.

Finally, if readers want to be kept up to date in detail concerning UDC business and national policies as they evolve, including especially in the planning field and LGR, then I recommend a read of the monthly District Councillors' Report. This covers all these subjects and much more and a copy is to be found on the Felsted PC webpage. They go back every month as far as 2019 and it might be thought they are a real treasure trove to dip into to see how things move along!

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.

District Councillor John Evans
cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk

Memorial Hall

Hello everyone!

It seems ages since we last chatted, doesn't it? I hope you've enjoyed the long, hot summer. I know some of us can't tolerate the heat. As I'm writing this, it's pouring with rain!

Now firstly, I have to give big apologies to three of our committee who I didn't mention in my last article. Andy, Trevor and Lucy. So sorry, you three. Andy and Trevor are our "fabric" boys, and Lucy is our brilliant "ideas" girl.

The summer has been busy in the hall. The regular bookers have continued to attend and there have been lots of parties and celebrations, including a lovely wedding reception. Thanks to Sheila, our booking clerk, for overseeing and organising the bookings so efficiently. In the meantime, Andy and Nikki have been doing some work in the props store. Our panto props are now neatly stored in smart new wardrobes and Nikki knows the whereabouts of every costume! Woe betide if we move them!

Andy has also been refurbishing the bar area. We have new worktops, sinks and a new water heater. All well overdue. There is still a bit of work to be done, but the bar is now more pleasant to use, and reaches hygiene standards. The Fern room (at the back) is about to get new curtains. Shirley has been beavering away researching fire proof sprays, hooks, tapes - you name it, she's on to it! Thank you Shirley, can't wait to see them up.

So, our lovely hall continues to tick along nicely. There are major servicing schedules due, the boiler being the main one and Taylor's electrical safety checks. Then of course Panto rehearsals start in September. It's taken most of the summer to write it, (with the help of creative wine!) The writing group are happy with the script, which is due to be revealed to the cast, who, of course, make it their own.

Lastly, I must mention our lovely Becky who keeps our hall spotless. She also waters our flower troughs outside which look beautiful. Thank you Becky.

Well, time I signed off. Take care of yourselves and stay safe.
'Til next time.

Hazel Fox



Willow's Green Protest

On 17th September, scores of residents protested outside Uttlesford District Council Offices calling for action to end the unapproved incursion by travellers at Willows Green.

Locals packed the public gallery at an extraordinary meeting of the council to hear the Chair of Felsted Parish Council, Cllr Roy Ramm, and six local residents tell the council about the serious harm caused to the community and demand action by UDC.

Residents angered by constant noise, pollution and intimidation complained that the Council's out of hours emergency response was ineffective and had allowed the travellers' unapproved development to be built. Speakers called for answers to why UDC had failed to stop the travellers and for urgent action to restore the site to a meadow.











Felsted Talks

Felsted Talks is a friendly group meeting at the United Reform Church Hall in Stebbing Road. Talks are on Thursday from 10am - 12pm and cost £10.

All talks are informal, and we cover a wide range of topics, and include free refreshments!

Our programme through the Autumn of 2026 includes:

Tony Tuckwell's course "LONDON" - running through to the second week of October.

Andy Beharrell's talk *Platforms, Pirates and Pornography* is on **Thursday 15th October**. He poses the question: *"What connects Screaming Lord Sutch, Gianni Versace, the actor Ralf Little (Death in Paradise) and Doctor Who?"* While this sounds like a question from Only Connect, the answer actually lies in local east coast waters - the Maunsell Forts.

Alison Baker will present a series of talks *Mirror Image: Elisabeth Vigée-Le Brun in Paint & Prose*. These will run for five consecutive Thursdays from **October 29th** through to **November 26th**. Elizabeth Vigée Le Brun was an 18th century artist, painting the aristocracy of France during the Revolution, and in the shadow of the guillotine. She created portraits for the nobility of Europe, and travelled to England. She also painted over 25 self-portraits, and wrote her memoirs.

All sessions are independent.



On **December 3rd**, Richard Bale will talk to us about *Emperor Hadrian & Hadrian's Wall.* Emperor Hadrian is famous for building Hadrian's Wall across Britain, rebuilding the Pantheon in Rome, and consolidating the borders of the Roman Empire instead of expanding them.

Further details of our group are on our website *www.felsted-talks.org.uk*

If you have a query about our talks, please email *felstedtalks@icloud.com*

mind in West Essex

Befriending Support

Feeling lonely or isolated? Mind in West Essex offers a free Befriending Support Service for adults living in Uttlesford. We connect people with trained local volunteers for friendly chats and regular contact - by phone, online or in person.

We're also looking for new volunteer befrienders.

If you can spare an hour or two a week, befriending is enjoyable, rewarding and a great way to support someone who may be feeling alone - as well as a lovely way to meet new people and make friends.





Find out more or get involved...

volunteering@mindinwestessex.org.uk
www.mindinwestessex.org.uk/befriending-support

0800 755 5173

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 ♥

THE GARDENS OF
EASTON LODGE

NEWS FROM THE GARDEN

The rains we finally received at the end of August and the promise of more in September have refreshed the gardens a bit in time for a tranquil close to the season at the end of October. Often full autumn colours don't arrive until November, but they are already starting, as many trees are preserving their strength by becoming dormant earlier than usual. So, in October we will have the joys of kicking up golden brown leaves in the Lime Wood at the same time as enjoying the last flowers of the season: the dahlias, the hylotelephium (ice plant) and the michaelmas daisies. And of course the roses still, which have flowered continuously, keeping our spirits up through this year's hopelessly dry summer.

At our 18th October Autumn & Halloween Open Day, visitors will be encouraged to really look at the huge variety of trees in the Gardens and appreciate the stories of who planted them, when, while also enjoying the Gardens at their spooky best. In the walled kitchen garden, the pumpkins have enjoyed the heat of the summer and already in August turned a vibrant orange. They aren't huge - so visitors will need to be very precise to win the guess the weight competition! More squashes were still growing in September, so hopefully there will be lots to make soup for visitors, to use for craft activities for children and to sell.

Volunteers have worked hard to jam the fruits from the garden, so there will be a jam and jelly tombola, as well as other local produce and craft stalls. Children will love discovering the Halloween decorations around the Gardens, and the trail and family games. The Rock Choir will sing lots of our favourite songs from 12pm.

The Gardens are also open on Thursdays to the end of October, from 11.00 am to 3pm, last entry 2pm.

For further details, please look at our website **www.eastonlodge.co.uk**

Advance tickets for the Sunday Open Day can be bought (at a discount) through trybooking.com

Jill Goldsmith
September 2026



100 Parishes Society









At the beginning of September, The Hundred Parishes Society held its twelfth Annual General Meeting. Each year we have chosen a different venue so that we can introduce members to another location they may not have visited before. Last year, for example, we went to the museum in Saffron Walden where we were given an informative guided tour.

In 2026, it was the turn of Great Waltham, one of our largest parishes and in the far south-east corner of The Hundred Parishes. Before the meeting, I took some of our members on a short walk around the centre of Great Waltham village, pointing out a few of its many ancient buildings.

We passed the fascinating 16th-century private house called Badynghams, with four spectacular original chimney stacks, and then the war memorial where the 36 men from the parish who died in the first world war and nine in WWII are remembered.

We moved on for a brief excursion into the Langleys estate, enjoying a view from the footpath of its magnificent Grade I listed Georgian mansion, built in 1719 by the Tufnell family who still own it today.

We then made our way to the parish's Norman church, dedicated to St. Mary and St. Lawrence. Church warden David Williams introduced the group to some fascinating features, especially the splendid Everard memorial which is 400 years old.

Church historian Peter Wells was unable to join us but several members purchased copies of his excellent book about Great Waltham and its church, published within the last year.

Just a short walk took us back to the village hall for refreshments and the formal part of the AGM where I and our chairman Douglas Kent were re-appointed.

Where do you think we should go next year?
Ken McDonald, Secretary

www.hundredparishes.org.uk






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Stebbing Tennis Club





Hello from Stebbing Tennis, your friendly local tennis club, located just a ten minute drive from Felsted. We have three courts (two with floodlights), with two coaches and lots of sessions for adults and children alike!

This summer has seen our courts busier than ever as members of all ages have enjoyed a packed programme of tennis, coaching, competitions and social events.

One of this year's biggest success stories has been introducing our regular pickleball sessions. Led by Head Coach Mark Clark, the sessions have quickly become a favourite with both members and newcomers, offering a fun, sociable and easy-to-learn sport that has attracted players of all ages.

Our coaching programme continues to go from strength to strength. Weekly adult coaching, Tennis Xpress courses, Cardio Tennis, ladies' mornings and social mix-ins have all enjoyed excellent attendance, while junior coaching and summer camps have continued to introduce more local children to the game in a fun and supportive environment.

We are especially proud to celebrate the achievements of one of our youngest members. Maddie has recently been awarded the LTA Ratings Tournaments Silver Award after competing in an incredible 286 competitive matches. She has also secured a place on the prestigious Billericay Lawn Tennis Club National Pathway Programme. It is a wonderful achievement and reflects the dedication, enthusiasm and hard work she has shown both on and off the court.

Head Coach

Mark Clark

07713 626239

- Monday 9-10am: Cardio Tennis
- Monday 1-3pm: Pickleball
- Wednesday 9-10am: Cardio Tennis
- Wednesday 1-3pm: Pickleball
- Thursday 9-11am: Ladies Tennis
- Friday 9-10am: Cardio Tennis
- Friday 1-3pm: Pickleball
- Private Lessons

Club Coach

Ashleigh Draper

07966 502834

- Tuesday 4-7pm: Junior Sessions
- Wednesday 6-7pm: Junior Performance
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Ladies in the Blues



At the top end of the Essex Police hierarchy, is our new Chief Constable, Rachel Nolan.

Appointed to her post in July, Mrs Nolan has served Essex Police for more than 27 years and will become the 14th Chief Constable of Essex Police - also, the first woman to hold the rank in the Essex Force. Of the 43 police forces in England and Wales, only around 10 are led by female Chiefs, but the number is increasing.

In the summer, I met our dedicated PCSO, Natalie Smith. She is part of the Neighbourhood Policing team for our area, led by Chief Inspector Martin Richards. Some people think that PCSOs are volunteers; they're not. PCSOs are paid members of the policing team, more akin to teaching assistants in schools or support workers in the NHS. Employed by Essex Police, they wear a distinct uniform and sit outside the sworn constable rank structure - they don't hold the office of constable.

Their role is essentially visible, community-facing reassurance policing and low-level problem-solving, freeing up warranted officers for more complex and enforcement-heavy work. PCSOs, of which there are fewer than 90 in the whole of Essex, have no power of arrest in the general sense and no power to use force to detain. They can't interview suspects under caution or enter premises without a warrant.

PCSOs are subject to the same professional standards and complaints framework as officers and are subject to sanction by the Independent Office for Polce Conduct (ICPO) jurisdiction applies. PCSOs generally aren't trained or authorised for control-and-restraint at the same level as constables.



Natalie shares her time between Felsted and several other parishes, including Stebbing, Takeley, Flitch Green and Great Dunmow. While you won't see her routinely walking the beat in Felsted, she is always ready to help where she can, and she holds occasional surgeries in Woodley's Tea Room.

The Parish Council has a good relationship with Natalie and we regularly pass on your concerns, mostly about the occasional instances of anti -social behaviour. You can contact the Neighbourhood Policing Team directly through the Essex Police website and of course use 999 in an emergency and on 101 for non-urgent matters.

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District Councillors:
Richard Silcock cllrsilcock@uttlesford.gov.uk
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Clerk: Heather Read
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email: clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk
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Essex County Council Libraries







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Did you know Essex Library Service offers a range of membership options to suit different needs? Alongside standard adult, child and young adult memberships, there are specialist cards for home educators, tutors, care homes, book groups, people with memory or print access needs, and those new to the UK. Membership is free, with access to books, e-books, e-audio, magazines, computers and more.

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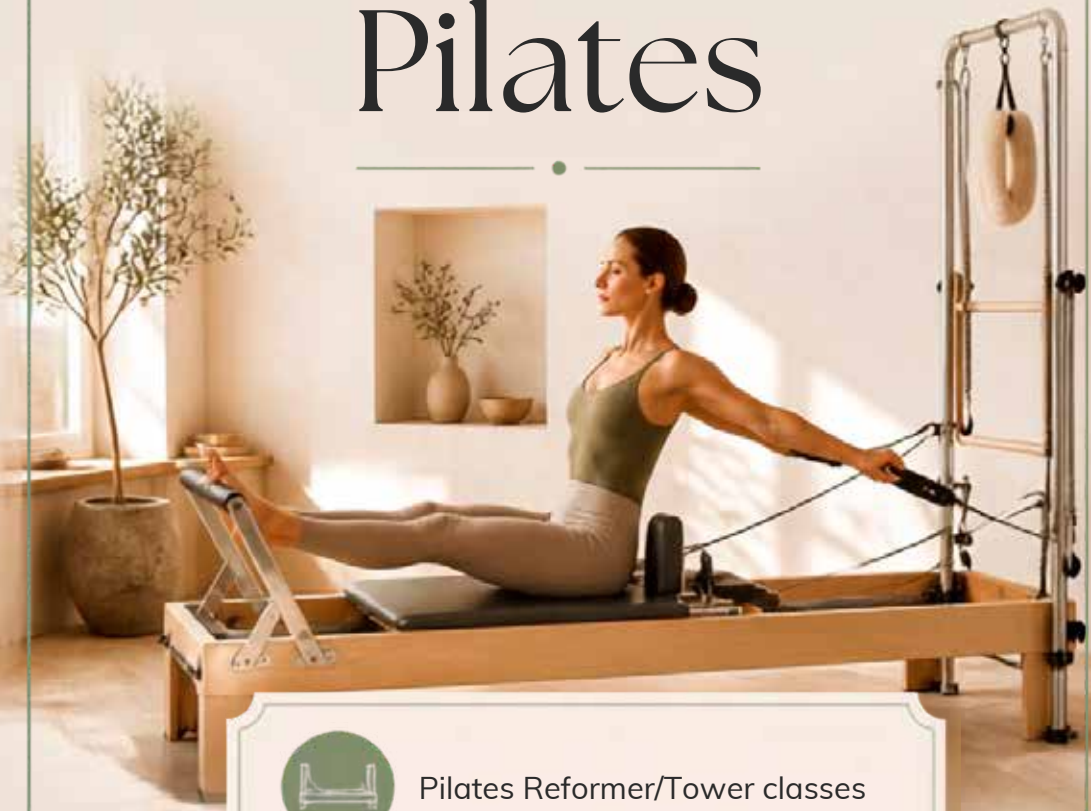
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