

FELSTED

JULY 2020

FOCUS


COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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Note from the Editor

It is great that we are still helping each other in these difficult and changing times. A mail was sent to the volunteer group to help with a newspaper delivery for someone in the Parish. Within three minutes three people offered help! A big thanks to everybody who has volunteered over the past few months even if you haven't been called upon yet.

Last month we started working with a delivery company to deliver the magazine. It was the first time that we have used the company and we understood that, with the Parish being so large, some of you may be inadvertently missed. Please, if any of you can offer to deliver near you, let me know. To those who have already offered to help, thank you. We will continue to put copies in Linsells, and in other local businesses as they open up. Don't forget that there is a PDF version on the Parish Council's website alongside other local information.

A reminder of the painting and photography competition. The deadline is fast approaching for you to send in your entries!

Keep sending your articles and pictures as they are informative, interesting and useful. I will admit, the Hag of Felsted was a new one to me.

Janice

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The front cover picture showing the stile was taken on footpath 94 near "Fishponds" within Pond Park (toward Leez Priory). This footpath forms part of what is called "The Saffron Trail", a 71 mile path going from Southend-on-Sea to Saffron Walden and passing through Felsted Parish on its way. Richard Freeman.

Felsted WI

Felsted WI is looking forward to meetings starting again (the date is still to be confirmed) and we would love to welcome new members. There is a varied programme being planned including talks on a Wildlife Safari in India, Highs and Lows of a Stuntwoman, and Mindfulness. We will also be planning more outings as soon as we are able, such as the wonderful trip to Ingatestone Hall for a very delicious afternoon tea back in 2018 to celebrate our 100th Anniversary. With the gradual lifting of lockdown measures, it may be possible to consider re-starting some of our off-shoot activities such as Keep Fit and Book Club. Fingers crossed. In the meantime, we are keeping our members up to date with regular newsletters. Member Christine Middleton has compiled two fantastic quizzes and Secretary Margaret Smith has been delighting us all with reports and photos of the family of Great Tits nesting in her bird box!



Meetings are the second Wednesday of every month (except August) at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall. For more information contact Penny Lewis on 07825 312829 / penny717@btinternet.com or Margaret Smith on 01371 822092.

Felsted Friendship Club

Self-isolating means that the Felsted Friendship Club is not currently meeting, however the committee is keeping in telephone contact with our members but it will be several months yet before we can meet again in the Memorial Hall. During May committee members delivered some of Alice's delicious 'cream tea in a bag' to club members living in Felsted and Flich Green to cheer everyone up – this was much appreciated by members. Outings planned for June and September have been cancelled but the November outing is still in the calendar though this is likely to come with coronavirus restrictions. We all wish Florence Manly a very happy 104th birthday. Friendship Club details available from Alison Moore 01371 821632 or Sue King 01371 821411.



Felsted and its Hamlets

The historic village of Felsted with its beautiful rural setting is at the heart of 15 Greens.

People living in these hamlets have told us that from time time they feel that they live in the 'outback'. We are very keen that the voice of Felsted's 15 Greens is fully heard in this new community magazine.

If you live in one of these lovely places, please think about what you could contribute to this magazine!

Last time we had an article about Crix Green and its Mission. So please everyone let us have some more news from the Greens. We would like to cover a Green a month starting next month - August.

We are very happy to write or edit from the information you send us. Photographs contemporary or old are very welcome.

Your editorial team have lots of ideas but we would much prefer that they come from you.

Margaret

Felsted Holy Cross Church



OPENING

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

You will have heard recently that church buildings can be opened for 'supervised individual prayer' from June 15. We are still awaiting detailed government guidelines following the announcement. We will keep this under review for our churches but realistically any opening is likely to be restricted and measured.

'Open as usual' is still a long way off as are services in church. As well as the practicalities to consider we will also want to think about the substance of what we are doing so that we are using our resources to best build each other up in Christ and to serve our community.

We continue to meet and thrive online as a congregation.
Do join us! Drop Colin a line ctaylor585@gmail.com



UPDATE



The United Reformed Church

The United Reformed Church and all related events are currently postponed because of the Coronavirus, unfortunately, and will remain so until a directive from the government enables us to re-open. Under normal circumstances we hold a service every Sunday morning at 10.30am with a family service and holy communion once a month.

We also have lunches on special Sundays as well as social evenings. A luncheon club (Felsted Connections) is held on the first Thursday of each month at 12 until 2pm, which is open to all.

A number of our ladies run the Women's Guild which meets every Monday afternoon at 2.30pm. The sessions run from January to June and then again from September to December. We have a variety of speakers, D.I.Y. afternoons, entertainment, afternoon tea and an annual lunch.

During these difficult times we are keeping in touch with our church family and friends via social media, letters and weekly phone calls.

The two church halls are available for hire for meetings etc. We pray that with God's help we will all keep safe and well. If anyone needs help during the current circumstances please call Diane Denny, 01376 583994. God bless. Diane

Advertising in the

FELSTED
FOCUS
COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

The Felsted Focus is delivered to approximately 1100 properties in the parish of Felsted and available on the parish council's website.

It is published by Felsted Parish Council every month and they are pleased to support local businesses by offering advertising space in this magazine.

Advertising rates, apart from the trade directory, are on a monthly or discounted yearly basis and are all in full colour.

TRADE DIRECTORY

£60 per year for a simple black and white text entry. Space is on a first come first served basis.

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We understand that times have been difficult for many businesses in the last few months and we will happily speak with you about payment schedules. Please contact us at felstededitor@gmail.com.

Felsted Memorial Hall



Hello everyone.

What a fabulous edition last month with pictures of the VE “celebrations”. We all entered into the spirit of the day, even though we couldn’t have the planned festivities.

I loved the article about the Crix Green mission. I pass it every day on the way to my Mum’s, and didn’t know anything about it. What a turbulent history. The Almshouses too, I’ve always thought how pretty they are and how well cared for, but knew very little about them. I feel I’ve gained some local knowledge!

The work in the Memorial Hall is progressing nicely. The committee had a meeting in the car park, all 2 metres from each other, to discuss the porch and how it should be updated. It was a cold, blowy evening, needless to say, decisions were made very quickly! All good decisions though, the porch will be more user friendly without losing the charm of the building.

We also discussed how we manage with bookings when we are given the green light to re-open. Rather than have back to back bookings, we would need some time between each booking to sanitise chairs, tables, door handles etc. Angela has made a sterling job of deep cleaning the whole hall ready for use in the near future.

There has been a burst of ideas and activity from the Panto group. We are having regular Zoom meetings to decide on the plot and start writing. There’s no stopping them! If you would like to be part of the group please get in touch. You need not be on stage but there are lots of things to do backstage. We particularly need musicians.

Can you play the keyboard, drums, guitar or anything at all, come and have some fun! Call me on 01371 820108.

Well, I’m going to go off and cut Alec’s hair (he does look a bit like a convict when I’ve finished!) I had a snip at mine the other week and have ended up with a permanent pastry brush which will not stay down! I showed my daughters on a group chat... they could not stop laughing.

Take care of yourselves, ‘til next month. *Hazel Fox*

Chairman’s Chat

The village of Felsted has facilities that I believe some are not aware of. The playing field behind the memorial hall is for use by all in the surrounding area and the football pitches are used on a regular basis by Felsted Rovers and a junior team from Rayne. We keep the pitches maintained to a high standard and are drained so can be used through the winter months.



The Multi Use Games Area has just been upgraded and is available for all to use, for further details please contact the clerk for further details clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk or read about it in the Parish Council’s report in this magazine. The area has flood lighting and so that it can be used all year round.

There is also a play equipment area for younger children with zip wire, monkey bars, swings and a roundabout. In addition to this area there are further play areas at Bannister Green and Willows Green and a general play area at the rear of Ravens Crescent.

Allotments are also available and are situated behind the behind the Swan Inn in the centre of the village. Once again full details are available from the Clerk of the PC.

Graham

Graham Harvey
Chairman Felsted Parish Council

Hay there!

At least our fields can get a haircut!

Across the parish hay is amongst the first crops to be harvested. Hay is grass that has been cut and dried to be stored for use as animal fodder, particularly for large grazing animals like cattle, horses, goats, and sheep.

The big black plastic wrapped bales, like those in the photo, weigh in at around half a tonne (500Kg) a piece. Much smaller bales are commonly used in stables and many of us buy small bags from pet shops for domestic animals, like rabbits and hamsters.

A traditional meadow produces about one tonne (1000Kg) of fodder in the form of hay per acre, while an intensively managed pasture has an output of 15 tonnes of silage fodder per acre. Hay meadows need good timing and reliable weather to cut and bale, silage pasture less so.

Each large hay bale is worth around £50, but the cost of the machinery to cut, bale and wrap the hay is eye-watering, with balers costing up to £100K and wrapping machines up to another £20K.

Quality is all important and hay for animal feed must be clear of ragwort which is toxic to livestock. Disappointingly for our farmers, local yield is somewhat down on last year.

Roy



The Hag of Felsted



We are all familiar with The Boote House in the centre of the Village with its inscription “George Boote made this house:1596” but who was the Hag of Felsted?

There are few other adornments attached to the building except for an unusual carving of a lady who is naked, save for a chastity belt or girdle that surrounds her. Even odder is that this lady has cloven feet. The carving bears much resemblance to the type of figurehead found on the prows of ships which were thought to ward off evil spirits and avert disasters.

Over time there has been much speculation about what prompted George Boote to embellish his building in this way. Could she have been Felsted’s only convicted witch, Alice Alberte, tried and found guilty, only three years earlier? Essex is well known for its Witch Trials, the first of which took place in Chelmsford in 1566. Maybe George Boote was warning witches to keep away from his house.

We will never know. What is clear from history is that many innocent women were branded as witches and sentenced to death.

Margaret, with thanks for the help of the Felsted History Recorder.

Felsted's Spectacular Trees

Distinct from the Service Tree (*Sorbus domestica*), the Wild Service Tree, also known as the “Chequer” or “Chequerberry” Tree, is now one of our rarest native trees. The pictures show that is found surviving in the hedgerow that was formerly the edge of Mole Hill Green. At a distance Wild Service Trees can be mistaken for ornamental Acers in the autumn when their leaves turn bright red and copper. It's stunning, and flowers beautifully too, in late spring.



Photo: Brenda Watkin

Felsted's Spectacular Trees

The Wild Service Tree suckers freely, which is just as well as its crop of fruit, or “chequers”, is almost entirely predated by birds and insects. The fruit is edible for us once frosted and softened; it was a Neolithic staple and remained popular into the 19th century. Inevitably folk also made wine out of it, served at Chequers Inns - possibly also at the Prime Minister's Chequers country residence or our own Chequers pub!

Look out for it when you are out walking around the parish.



Photo: Brenda Watkin



Felsted Parish Council

Project MUGA (Multi Use Games Area)

During the past 12 months the PC have undertaken "Project MUGA"! The MUGA, sited next to the main village playing field had been installed in 2009 with the help of a lottery grant. The facilities included two mobile 5 aside goals and two fixed basketball hoops. Games lines supported 5 aside football, netball and basketball.

In the intervening years the condition of the MUGA deteriorated. The goals were broken, bent and became rusty whilst the basketball nets had rotted away as had the hoop back boards. The surface of the MUGA had a great many splits in it, the sporting lines had faded and it was generally looking very sad and tired.



The PC felt that it was extremely important to bring this much loved and valuable village asset back up to specification and various options were considered.

The decision was taken to install two brand new sets of recessed/integral 5 aside goals with new basketball hoops fixed permanently at either end of the MUGA. The surface would be professionally repaired and the games lines resprayed.

The project took several months to complete.



The PC are delighted with the result and encourage residents to make use of this facility.

Social distancing rules must be followed at all times when using the MUGA.



War Reminiscences

In the last issue I enjoyed Fred and Wyn Perry's memories of WW2, all the more because, at that time, I was stuck in India. We are old friends dating back to when Fred ran the garden club shop from Felsted Place in Chelmsford Road, so successfully that I, as treasurer, was unable to pay for his enormous restocking order!

Wyn's comment that she worried little about her older brother being sent to Italy and Africa interested me together with her comment that soldiers living in Felsted School were a novelty.

It made me remember my artist aunt Elinor who had paintings displayed in The Tate Gallery. She used to stay with my aunt Joan in Felsted. During one of these visits, when Felsted School had moved to Herefordshire and the army took over their buildings in Felsted, Elinor painted this picture of a lovely young woman I always wanted to meet even though I was no soldier.



Could this be Wyn Perry some 75 years ago contemplating VE day?

George Bellingham-Smith



Photo: David Norton

The Goldcrest

This bird, along with its relative the Firecrest, is the smallest bird in Europe. It is even smaller than the more familiar Wren. Although it is resident in the UK, it is not easily seen as it usually spends its time higher up in conifers and is constantly on the move, seeking its prey of insects and spiders. These photographs were taken in my garden earlier this year so watch out for them around Felsted.

The Goldcrest has a very high-pitched song and it is said that it is the first birdsong that older birdwatchers fail to hear!

The adult bird is about 9cm long and weighs 5-6 grams. Somehow the female manages to produce up to 12 eggs which, collectively, may weigh one and a half times her body weight. The nest is beautifully made of moss, spiders web and feathers and is usually suspended from a branch of a conifer tree.

John Norton.



Photo: David Norton

IS THERE A BUDDING ARTIST OR PHOTOGRAPHER IN YOUR HOME?



Categories are:

- Children aged up to 10 years
- Children aged 10 - 16 years
- Adults

Closing date is
July 10th 2020.

Winners will be
announced in August's
Felsted Focus and on
the Felsted Parish
Council
website.

In recent years, the Parish Council has been pleased to sponsor an art competition for the children of our village Primary School. However, with the school currently affected by lockdown and with so many people working from home we are making changes for 2020. The art competition and new photography competition, are open to everyone living in the Parish, including adults.

Entries should be a painting (in any medium) or a photograph of anywhere within the Parish. It can be a scenic view, a building of architectural merit, a wildlife subject or anything unusual or interesting.

The winning children's entry for each competition in each category will receive a £40 gift card for Hobbycraft, be featured in Felsted Focus and on the Parish Council website. Winning adult entries will feature in Felsted Focus and on the Parish Council website. Layout can be either landscape or portrait (portrait is more suited to a 'whole page' feature in Focus but landscape is acceptable).

Any child or adult can enter both the painting and photographic competition but only one submission is allowed per individual in each category.

Please include with your submission, your name, age (children only) and the location within the Parish of the subject matter.

For ease of submission at this unusual time, a digital photograph of your painting should be submitted.

Please send your entries to... felstededitor@gmail.com

Note: By submitting an entry, the contributor is agreeing that his/her picture can be used in future Felsted Focus publications.

For the Love of Scrubs - Felsted Hub

A MASSIVE THANK YOU to everyone that contributed to our recent group effort, sewing for the NHS.

Thank you, for your fabric and thread donations and especially to the crafters who invested so much time to create laundry bags, Ear protectors, Scrub Hats and Scrubs.

People from Felsted, Rayne, Flitch Green, Little Dunmow, Gt Notley, Dunmow and Ford End have been united in a cause. Communicating through social media, never meeting and avoiding actual contact. Our totals are: 498 laundry bags, 367 ear protectors, 94 scrub hats and 43 sets of scrubs.

We have provided our wonderful sewing to Broomfield Hospital, local GP surgeries, a Chelmsford surgery, East of England Ambulance Service and our final drop was made to a London Hub to serve London Ambulance Service and Brompton Hospital.

UK Factories making scrubs are now back to work and so the need to for us to provide the extra is not required.

I am glad to have played a small part and I hope you are very proud of yourselves for your participation. It was nice to have made so many new 'Facebook friends', who I won't recognise in the street... What a strange new world.

Janet Johnstone



Felsted People

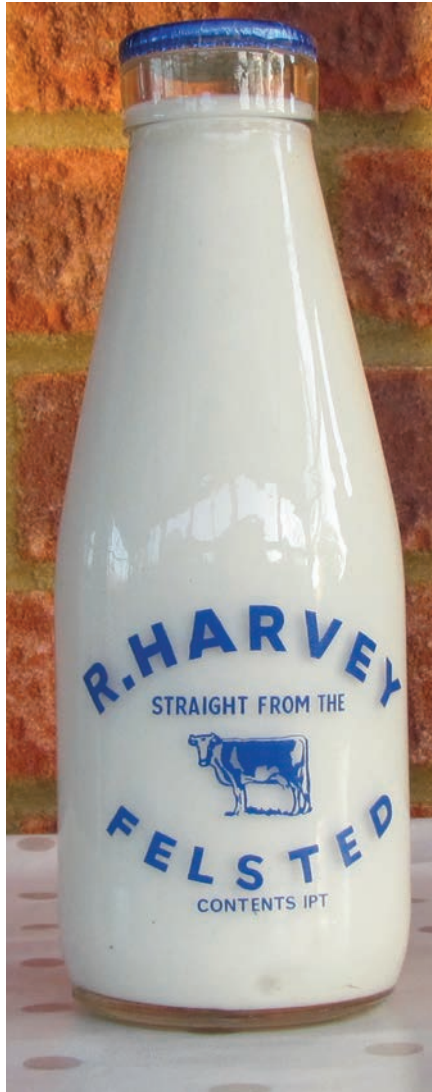
In the years following World War 1, up to the end of the 1970's, a few names stood out in the village and surrounding hamlets of Felsted - Lazell, Mixture, Swallow, Laudrum, Green and Harvey.

We will no doubt hear further of some of the above names in future issues but this month we focus on the Harveys.

Some will remember Ernie Harvey, the landlord of Pyes Bridge Tavern, Des with his grocery round, milk being delivered by Joe up to the late 60's, and Ron and his family carrying on delivering the daily pint until 1999.

Harveys have farmed at Molehill Green for many years, the deeds of Peartree Farm going back to the mid-1600's. Until 1973 mixed farming was undertaken with a milking herd, pigs and chickens; after this it became arable, growing wheat, barley and oats. The same year Graham started working with his father Ron and still looks after the farm with great passion, alongside his business as the local Agent for the NFU Mutual.

Apart from a few months in 1999 a member of the Harvey family has been a Parish Councillor since its first meeting, incidentally chaired by a Mr G Harvey, 111 years ago. Graham has served as a Parish Councillor since 1990, for the last 14 years as Chairman. Many of the above local names have completely disappeared, perhaps never to return.



Felsted People

Graham & his wife Kim, who is Matron at Stock's House, Felsted school, are now the only ones bearing the Harvey name living in the village, their son and daughter finding the cost of housing uneconomic. A sister Shirley, and cousins Jill and Jennifer are the only other Harvey descendants still residing in Felsted.



Graham Harvey



Ron Harvey

Felsted Primary School



This has been a challenging and difficult time for all schools. Here at Felsted Primary School we have been open throughout lockdown. Staff have been in school looking after our key worker children. Some of our Year 6 and Reception children are now back in school in small groups and we are looking forward to our Year 1 children returning next week. It has been wonderful having more children in school and we all loved seeing the big smiles when they returned.

With the timing of lockdown, our new build had stopped but it is now finished and we have been able to start using our new rooms. The build consist of a new Reception classroom, Year 1 classroom, Year 2 classroom and a practical room which can be used for cooking/science work. The block also has a separate section for Little Acorns the preschool to use, which has amazing facilities. We are very pleased with the building and look forward to having a proper opening ceremony once the restrictions are lifted.



Felsted Primary School



We are very proud of the way staff and parents have adapted to the online learning in place. We have set up lots of things to help the children to stay motivated, like our Jim Bear Awards and Reading Champions. We have also considered ways to keep the children interested and have set up some special weeks to engage them. Last week was sports week with a daily challenge. Parents uploaded lots of videos and photos of the children having fun completing these! We are planning for a nature week and a baking week before the end of term. Everyone is having to adapt and the children, parents and staff at Felsted Primary School have shown how fantastic they are at working together to make the best of a very difficult situation.



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DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' CORNER

Last May we were elected to listen and to change how your district council operates to make sure that you are always the priority. We now have a Residents Charter that can be seen at: www.residents4u.org/charter. This is a "first" for our district and shows how we hope it might be reshaped for the better and for the benefit of our Communities.

There are 4 themes:

1. Putting residents first
2. Being an active place-maker (community-builder) for our towns and villages
3. Being a progressive custodian of our rural environment
4. Championing our district with other authorities

The charter advises and supports the annual Delivery plans. These contain the work to be carried out, the priorities to be applied and the constraints applicable, namely as you would surmise the economic effects of the last few months. Therefore, it may need to be appreciated that some timeframes for actions may alter due to the calls on the UDC purse by Covid-19.

We are very pleased to say that on Thursday June 18th Andrewsfield runway was granted an ACV (asset of community value) by UDC. Excellent news for those that use it either to fly recreationally or to socialise at the Clubhouse / Millibar.

Do get in touch, we are always available to residents to help with any problems or to answer any questions.

cllrmerifield@uttlesford.gov.uk and cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk

Sandi Merifield and John Evans



John Evans



Sandi Merifield

PUZZLE PAGE

Word Search

Garden Birds

T	T	I	T	D	E	L	I	A	T	G	N	O	L
L	N	L	H	S	T	F	D	U	N	N	O	C	K
P	N	O	C	C	E	F	W	W	O	G	E	D	A
I	R	E	N	L	I	R	O	S	O	L	D	R	G
I	G	C	I	L	E	I	C	L	R	W	D	I	N
K	R	R	F	N	F	C	D	D	O	I	I	B	I
B	E	O	F	S	E	F	U	O	L	I	A	K	L
L	A	W	A	B	I	T	D	B	G	O	T	C	R
U	T	A	H	N	R	P	I	E	J	N	G	A	A
E	T	D	C	N	I	O	I	T	E	A	I	L	T
T	I	H	I	G	O	P	I	L	L	L	Y	B	S
I	T	B	E	W	G	N	F	H	C	A	I	A	T
T	O	O	P	A	L	I	I	G	T	E	O	R	L
R	N	B	M	G	R	E	E	N	F	I	N	C	H

GOLDCREST	MAGPIE
ROBIN	GOLDFINCH
COAL TIT	CROW
BLUE TIT	JAY
GREENFINCH	DUNNOCK
LONG TAILED TIT	WREN
WOOD PIGEON	STARLING
GREAT TIT	CHAFFINCH
BLACKBIRD	

Where is it?

Each month there will be a close up photograph of somewhere in Felsted. See if you can find it before the next edition where we will publish the answer!



Gardening Tips



The joy of a modest sized kitchen garden came to fruition as we enjoyed the delicious taste of new potatoes just these last few days. We continue to harvest lettuce and chard and wait for our late sown courgettes to grow on, watering through dry spells.

The dry Spring has been a challenge to keep the lawn green, we have kept the cut high and mown every fortnight. It has been fine without any watering.

Throughout the months of July and August the hedges may need trimming and any pruning of trees and shrubs should be done with caution. This is about managing the size of plants much of which will happen naturally, whilst encouraging flowering and fruiting. You should try to remove around one third of the side shoots in two or three goes over the Summer months to maintain the size and shape.

In this dry season do consider a visit to Hyde Hall or Beth Chatto's dry gardens for inspiration. Both these gardens are now open to visitors.

Here is a list of tips for July/August

- Dead head flowering plants regularly roses for instance.
- Pick courgettes before they become marrows.
- Hoe off the weeds during dry weather.
- Remove the main shoot on tomato plants once the fourth truss has formed.
- Avoid using lawn weed killers in late Summer. They will be more effective in the cooler damper autumn weather.
- Plant leeks and brassicas for a winter supply.

Enjoy your garden through the Summer.

Judy Mackay



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cllrmerifield@uttlesford.gov.uk
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Felsted Parish Council

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Clerk: Diane Smith
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Office hours: Mondays: 10:00 - 12:30
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