

FELSTED

NOVEMBER 2020

# FOCUS

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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## Note from the Editor

Winter and the darker evenings are with us. To lighten the mood and to give us all a reason to get into the festive spirit, Hope, the newest member of our team has helped to put together an eight-page Christmas craft pull-out with projects that both children and adults can enjoy. Thanks to Hope for a marvellous magazine debut! So, get crafting! Send us photos of your creative efforts before the 18th November and we will publish the best (and worst!) in our December edition. Enjoy!

The magazine has been a great success in 2020, with many of you telling us how much you value the local stories, the features and that you recognise its relevance to our community. It costs 80p per copy to print and deliver the Felsted Focus to every one of the over 1100 properties in our parish. We hoped that, with the ongoing support of the Parish Council and revenue from advertisers, we would be able to continue to fund the delivery of a monthly edition through 2021.

Unsurprisingly, during these unprecedented times, as businesses struggle, advertising revenue has not met our expectations and though we are trying our best to find other sources of funding, we want to tell you that we may have to cut back to 6 or even 4 delivered copies a year from the end of this year.

The team firmly believes that the magazine benefits our community and hopes that we can find a solution, whatever it may be, to enable us to continue to produce a monthly edition.

On a cheerier note: I absolutely love the 'Residents of Causeway End' piece in this issue! John Norton has kindly promised a selection of his son's wonderful wildlife photographs to look forward to in the next edition.

Finally, an apology. I would like to say sorry to those of you living outside of the village centre. The hedgerow article in the last edition was rewritten to the magazines style and the word 'parish' accidentally substituted by the word 'village'. Where we live matters.

*Janice*

Would you contribute £10 per year to continue to receive a monthly copy, delivered to your home? If you would or you have other ideas to help fund the mag. or you would simply like to advertise, please drop me an email. We'd really like to hear your views. ([felstededitor@gmail.com](mailto:felstededitor@gmail.com))

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## Felsted WI

As summer has moved firmly into Autumn, our monthly meetings are still on hold due to Government restrictions but we are keeping in touch with members via newsletter and phone calls. Time for another trip down Memory Lane? How about this photo of St Trinians (aka Felsted WI) at the Village Fete in June 1981! Apparently they took the winning prize in the 'decorated bed race' and won two bottles of champagne. It's clearly not just Jam and Jerusalem!



For more information on Felsted WI, please contact Penny Lewis on 07825 312829 / penny717@btinternet.com or Margaret Smith on 01371 822092.

## Wool and Waffle

Subject to government restrictions our next meeting is in the Memorial Hall on Monday November 1st at the new time of 10.30am. Please park in playground and enter the Heather Room from there. Bring your own drink and wear a mask.

Please let Kitty know if you are coming or not so that we can set up the room.

We have given various items we have knitted so far to the Neo-Natal Department at Broomfield Hospital and also to Felsted Aid and Dunmow U3A. Other hospitals are not receiving any items at the moment because of Covid restrictions.

Incubator blankets 12" x 18" are still required. Please use 8mm needles and any colours except dark ones or lacy patterns. Small baby hats, larger children's hats and jumpers or whatever you wish knit are very welcome..

Kitty Drury 01371 820444

## Felsted Friendship Club

Felsted Friendship Club met at Felsted Memorial Hall in August and September but meetings planned for October and November have been cancelled, reluctantly, due to the increase in Covid-19 virus cases in the area. The Friendship Club was started in 1954 when many were employed in the local sugar beet factory (now Flitch Green), trains ran through Felsted (to Bishops Stortford) and farmers drove their cattle through the streets of the village. Club meetings have been held in the Memorial Hall every month until the virus caused a shut down in 2020. We all look forward to resumption of normality some time in 2021.



Evelyn Woodley, our president, designs our Christmas cards and produces birthday cards, get well cards etc. for all our members – she does a great job. Friendship photo of Evelyn from our archives.

Friendship Club details available from: Alison Moore 01371 821632 or Sue King 01371 821411

## Felsted Royal British Legion Club



### NOVEMBER 2020

- 7th A SOCIAL EVENING – 7.00pm.  
Looking forward to seeing existing members and new, come and join this friendly little club
- 14th A GAME OF BINGO – 7.30pm.
- 21st LIVE MUSIC EVENT with PETE GEORGE – 7.30pm.
- 26th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – all members invited to attend – 7.30pm.
- 28th A GAME OF HOY – 7.30pm.

All events in November are subject to government instruction, keep an eye on the notice board for up to date details.

British Legion Members' support at this difficult time would be very much appreciated.



## Felsted Memorial Hall

Hello everyone,

What a colourful edition the October magazine was. The centre page spread is so eye catching... well done photographers. The hedgerow jelly recipe looks delicious; I think I'll give that a try. I have made a small display of pumpkins and gourds outside my front door. Some I bought and some I grew. They look very seasonal.

On Memorial Hall matters, the refurbishments are still not finished. This is quite frustrating as it is having an impact on our hirers who cannot use the facilities they pay for. We have spoken to the builder who is doing the best he can to finish soon.

I have also contacted Mr Townsend, the Headmaster of Felsted School, asking if the night security staff could possibly patrol the Memorial Hall as we still have some 'undesirables' hanging around at night under the security light, drinking, dealing drugs and generally displaying anti-social behaviour. This has caused concern among immediate neighbours. The barriers have had an effect preventing cars entering the car park at night, but these people are on foot.



It looks like the Panto will not be going ahead in January 2021. The Covid restrictions are quite rigid as far as public performances are concerned. We are so disappointed as I'm sure you all are. But... the script is written and ready to rehearse the following year. Just to whet your appetite, I've attached a photo of a recent scene taken by Dicky Howett. There is nothing like a Dame!

Take care and keep warm.

Hazel Fox

## Felsted Holy Cross Church



on Zoom ID: 7260746820 Password: 081907

### Remembrance Sunday Online

8 November 2020 at 11am

Service will include a recording of the  
Felsted Memorial Hall wreath laying

Details on  
[www.felstedchurch.org.uk](http://www.felstedchurch.org.uk)  
or Colin ☎ 01371 820242





## The United Reformed Church

We can confirm that improvements required to enable us to re-open the hall for hirers and general use continues. The documentation and risk assessments are being drawn up and the new flooring has been ordered, together with a new handrail for the front of the stage. All being well, and trusting that there are no further COVID restrictions, we envisage to have the hall re-opened by mid-November.

We hope that everyone in the local community is keeping safe and well. Should anyone find themselves in need of any help or assistance, then please do not hesitate to contact us on the number below.

Diane  
01376 583994

## Felsted Parish Council

### Chairman's Chat

As I write this article the HR committee has just finished the interview process for employing a new Assistant Clerk, we have reached a decision and will be offering the successful candidate the role. I will give a further update on this next month.

Our current Assistant Clerk, Heather, will take over the role of Clerk when Diane retires in the new year.

A resident sent me a letter; part of their concern was there was no local presence in the village. Once again no one from the village applied for the role of Assistant Clerk, however there are 11 Parish Councillors living in the village, plenty of local contact I think!

The PC are still looking to fill a vacancy on the Council; if you are interested please give either myself or the Clerk a call for more information.

*Graham*

Graham Harvey  
Chairman Felsted Parish Council



## Felsted Parish Council

### Resignation of Cllr Joyce Stoddart

Members accepted the resignation of Joyce Stoddart, as she is moving away from the village. They wished to thank her for her contribution to Council business over the last year. The Council are awaiting confirmation from UDC that the vacancy could be filled by co-option.

### Tree works at the Churchyard (Copper Beech) and on Bannister Green (Oak)

The original contractor had experienced a series of operational problems which had significantly delayed these works. He had recently informed the Council that he was no longer in a position to undertake the works. Members therefore accepted a revised quote from an alternative contractor on the basis that the works would now be undertaken as soon as possible.

### Causeway End flooding problems

Severe winter flooding has occurred in Causeway End Road for the last 2 years and both householders and the PC had requested that ECC Highways undertake urgent investigations/works to prevent a recurrence. Response from ECC had been limited so the PC has asked our MP Kemi Badenoch to intervene in the hope that action would be expedited.

### Parking on pavements

The Council receive frequent complaints regarding vehicles parked on pavements around the village. These cause problems for pedestrians, especially those using mobility scooters or with children's pushchairs, as they often need to walk into the road to get around the parked cars and vans. Please think of others and park on the side of the road rather than on the pavement, even if it is only for a short time. The Government is currently undertaking a consultation to review the law relating to parking on the pavement as this is a national problem.

### Change to PC meeting time

It was agreed that in future the full PC meeting would commence at 6.30pm instead of 6pm. Meetings are currently being held via Zoom and members of the public are welcome to 'attend' by requesting a link from Heather Read at [asstclerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk](mailto:asstclerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk)

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

## Pill Box Protection

As the country prepares to strengthen its defences against the invisible enemy of Covid-19, in June 1940 the enemy was all too visible: it was Nazi Germany.

Strategic analysts of the day concluded that, if an enemy invasion on the east coast could not be prevented, Essex would provide a relatively easy route for a fast-moving, German armoured force that might be hard, if not impossible, to contain. The capital would be vulnerable, and Britain might fall.

Defences were hurriedly constructed in 'Stop Lines' running parallel to the coast. Based on the line of rivers, marshes and woods, any natural terrain that would make progress difficult for an invading force was made harder still by widening the rivers and by digging deep anti-tank ditches. Protection for The Stop Lines was provided every 150 yards by concrete pillboxes, anti-tank blocks and a variety of gun emplacements. The slit windows of the pill boxes providing cover for rifle and machine gun fire.

Strongest of all the lines, the General Headquarters (GHQ) line, which followed the Cam and the Chelmer from Cambridge to Canvey Island, still remains locally identifiable by the enduring presence of the pill boxes and mortar emplacements.



## Pill Box Protection

If you'd like to see how Churchill's government was preparing to defend the country in 1940, Hertford End is a great place to start a WW2 walk. Two mortar emplacements and six of the 60 local pill boxes are accessible from public footpaths. The bridge over the Chelmer at Hertford End was also mined and rigged to explode!

Mortar positions would have been manned by the Home Guard, no doubt with a number of Felsted residents, under instruction not to fire until the enemy was 'within 100 – 150 yards'. That, Captain Mainwaring, is about half the distance from the Swan to the Chequers!

All the sites are now clear, safe and present no risk to a quiet post-walk socially distanced pint and a huffer in the Compasses. Let's hope another kind of 'pill box' can soon be found to defend us against Covid 19.



*Located at  
Hartford End*

*Photos by:  
Roy Ramm*





## Felsted Allotments

During this very strange year many people across the country have turned to gardening and to allotments. Here in Felsted we are lucky to have 57 allotments in the centre of the village opposite the Bury Chase (Woodleys) car park, with the space to create more. There is currently a waiting list for these plots.

The land for the allotments was given to the village by Riddleys Brewery with the proviso that no sheds or greenhouses should be built on the site. Apart from this there are few rules: no trees other than fruit trees and a broad requirement to cultivate at least 25% of the plot.

Veronica Smith is the Chair of the Allotment Society supported by Becky, the Vice Chair, and by Chris who manages the bonfires.

The cost to allotment holders is £27 per annum, together with a joining fee of £30. This small investment is easily recouped from growing vegetables not to mention the mental health benefits and companionship experienced by holders.

Several of the allotments are rented by women - this is not a male dominated place.

Many of the plots are in pristine condition showing that people spend much time on them. Many have been cultivated by the same person for years. During the pandemic many holders have had more time, although as people have gone back to work this has reduced.



Photo: Clear Sight Drones

# Essex Newsman

Saturday 06 November 1909

# MOTOR MISHAP AT FELSTED

On Tuesday evening an extraordinary accident happened to the 14-h.p. Gladiator motor car, belonging to the Rev. F. Stephenson, head master of Felsted School, and the occupants the car had wonderful escapes from serious injury. At about seven p.m. the chauffeur, Bryan, was driving home from Dunmow, with Mrs. Stephenson, wife the head master, Miss Gepp, sister of the Vicar of High Easter, and Mrs. Morat, a Felsted lady.



As they descended the steep incline towards Stebbing Ford, on the main Braintree road, a pair of bullocks rushed out from the side of the road in front of the car. The night was dark and foggy, and the chauffeur clapped his brakes on and endeavoured to avoid the bullocks, but one of the animals struck the front of the car, which skidded to the side of the road and turned over upon its side.

The occupants were pitched out, and the chauffeur was pinned beneath the car for a time, although he eventually liberated himself, and fortunately found he had no more

than a damaged knee and a few scratches. The ladies, great providence, were unhurt except that Mrs. Stephenson was scratched on the face. The ladies and the chauffeur did their utmost to pull the car back upon its wheels, but the weight was too great for them, and there was no help on the lonely road.

After the car had lain on its side for some minutes it burst into flame, through the petrol escaping from the tank and becoming somehow ignited. The flames shot high into the air, the fire raging for nearly an hour, by which time everything of the car that would burn was destroyed, and the motor was completely wrecked. Mr. Percy Holt,

of Porter's Farm, kindly took the ladies onto Felsted School in his motor and helpers were brought to the scene, but the destruction was so complete that the car was allowed to remain at the roadside all night, and next morning what remained of the motor was loaded onto a cart and taken to Felsted School.

The bullocks, after the car crashed over, bounded up the hill at a furious rate. One dashed into a mill yard, and a workman there, surprised at the animal's agility, promptly closed it in, thinking he had caught a stag.

Regrettably, the Rev. Stephenson had not insured his car.



## Janet's Recipes

### INDIVIDUAL STICKY TOFFEE PUDDINGS

#### INGREDIENTS

6oz (175g) stoned chopped dates  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
2 teaspoons strong cold coffee  
or coffee essence  
¾ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda  
3oz (75g) butter/margarine  
5oz (150g) caster sugar  
2 large beaten eggs  
6oz (175g) self raising flour

#### SAUCE

6oz (175g) soft brown sugar  
4oz (110g) butter/margarine  
6 tablespoons double cream  
1oz (25g) chopped and toasted  
pecan nuts for serving

• Serves 8 (makes 16)

#### METHOD

1. Pre-heat the oven to gas mark 4, 350°F (180°C).
2. Put the chopped dates in a bowl and pour 6 fl oz (175 ml) boiling water over them, add the vanilla extract, coffee and bicarbonate of soda and leave on one side.
3. In a large mixing bowl, cream the butter and sugar together, until the mixture is pale and fluffy.
4. Gradually add the beaten eggs, a little at a time, beating well after each addition.
5. Fold in the flour and then the date mixture to form a loose batter.
6. Line a muffin tin with paper cases and divide the mixture equally among the muffin cases and bake in the centre of the oven for 12-15 minutes. Can also be cooked in 8 pre-greased ramekin dishes for 20- 25mins.
7. At this point the cakes can be frozen and defrosted before proceeding if required.
8. Make sure you have removed any paper cases and place the puddings on a shallow baking dish.
9. Make the sauce by combining all the ingredients (except nuts) in a saucepan and heating very gently until the sugar has melted and all the crystals have dissolved.

#### TO SERVE

Pre-heat the grill to its highest setting and pour the sauce evenly over the puddings. Place the baking dish under the grill, so the tops of the puddings are about 5 inches (13 cm) from the heat. Let them heat through for about 8 minutes. The tops will become brown and slightly crunchy and the sauce will be hot and bubbling. Sprinkle the chopped nuts on top.

Serve 2 muffin sized puddings each, being careful to allow the sauce to cool slightly, with custard, thick cream, or ice-cream.





## Fireworks Frighten Animals

Bonfire night is upon us, but large organised events are unlikely to go ahead this year because of the current Covid crisis. So as not to deny dads the chance to be 'rocket man' for the night and not to disappoint the children, many families may instead celebrate with domestic displays.

Over the years, the fireworks we can buy from local and on-line retailers have become bigger, more spectacular and with sky high prices to match! As exciting as they may be, they are also a lot noisier and can be very distressing for animals, particularly so for dogs and horses. Animals can suffer serious harm from fireworks.



### Dogs and Cats

The RSPCA estimate that as many as 45% of dogs show real signs of fear when they hear fireworks.

- Walk your dog during daylight hours to avoid times when fireworks are likely to be set off.
- Close windows and curtains to muffle the sound of fireworks.
- Put on some music or TV to mask the firework sounds.
- Create a quiet space where your dog can feel in control.
- Create some hiding places around your home.
- Keep your cat home and provide a quiet hidey-hole.

### Horses

The British Horse Society offers horse owners excellent advice about how to protect their animals from harm. There is too much to reprint here but a key message is awareness.

Speak with neighbours to ensure you know if they intend to set off fireworks and then check with the BHS on recommend measures to protect your horses.

FELSTED  
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COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

*Christmas*  
-CRAFTS-

Four fun crafting projects for the whole family to enjoy, in this special pull-out booklet!

## CHOCOLATE ADVENT TREE



### What you'll need:

- Green and gold card
- Green tissue/crêpe paper
- PVA/paper glue
- Wrapped sweets
- Old cardboard box
- Small flower pot
- Pencil and paper

**1** Roll a piece of green card into a cone shape big enough to stick 24 sweets on. Glue along one edge of the card and hold the cone in place until the glue has dried.

**2** Tear up plenty of crêpe paper and scrunch it up. Apply glue to each piece and stick them all over the cone. Allow the glue to dry.

**3** Glue 24 of your favourite foil-wrapped sweets on to the tree. Hold them in place until the glue is dry. Number each sweet from 1 to 24 with paint, glue, glitter or whatever you like!



**4** Draw a star on your paper and cut it out to make a template, and draw around that onto gold card. Cut it out with scissors. Make a second star in the same way.

**5** Cut out a strip of card and place it between the stars. Glue the stars together.

**6** Cut a rectangle from your cardboard box. Roll it carefully to make a tube and glue the edge where the card overlaps. Allow to dry completely before you proceed to the next step.

**7** Place the tree trunk in a small flower pot and balance the tree on top of it. Glue the star on top of the tree. Paint or decorate the flower pot however you like! Then, enjoy your countdown to Christmas day!





## D.I.Y. SNOW GLOBE



### What you'll need:

- Figurine or centrepiece
- Glass jar with lid
- PVA/paper glue
- Glitter
- Bottled water
- Glycerin (Optional)

### TIPS: Before you start...

If you don't have a Christmas figurine, try a pine cone!  
For a personalised snow globe, you could also use a laminated photo.  
Make sure whatever you choose fits on the jar lid and inside the jar.  
Check it's waterproof: Place it in a bowl of water for a while and see what happens.  
Test the jar's seal. Fill it with water, close it and turn it over - then check for leaks!

**1** Wash your jar with hot, soapy water. Remove labels and remaining glue, and make sure it's totally dry before the next step.



**2** Turn your jar lid upside down, and try placing your figurine in different positions on it. Once you've found an arrangement you like, glue it to the inside of the lid. Allow it to dry somewhere it won't be disturbed - it could take a while!



**3**



Fill the jar with bottled water. Leave some room at the top for glycerin, glitter and your centrepiece.

**4**

Add a few drops of glycerin or up to a teaspoon for larger jars. This will make your 'snow' fall more slowly.

**5**

Pour 1-2 teaspoons of glitter into the water and put the lid on your jar. Some water may spill if it's a bit too full. If there's any extra space, add more water. Make sure the lid is on tightly. You can glue your jar shut permanently with strong glue if you happen to have some!



**6**

Shake it, and enjoy your new snow globe! Display it proudly on a shelf to show it off!



# Christmas Crafts - Paper Decorations

## SCANDI STAR DECORATIONS



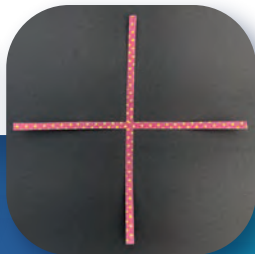
### What you'll need:

- Paper or thin card
- PVA / paper glue
- Paper clips
- Scissors

**1** Cut your paper into strips of equal size. You'll need 12 per star. You can use most types of paper or card, but patterned or coloured paper works particularly well! **Tip:** The thinner your strips, the more delicate your star will be. If you have a shredder, use that to save time!



**2** Fold 2 strips in half to find their centre, and glue them at right angles to each other. Next, add a strip either side of both in your 'cross', weaving over and under. Glue where they overlap as you go.



Repeat in the other direction, as pictured.

**3** Take two 'corner' pieces and twist them, so the tips meet and overlap. Glue all 4 corners in the same way.

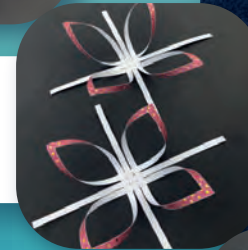


# Christmas Crafts - Paper Decorations

**4** Repeat this in all four corners.



**5** Repeat steps 1 to 4, and you will end up with two 'halves' of your first star!



**6** Place the two halves together as pictured, with same sides facing, one rotated 45 degrees.



**7** Weave the tips that are not yet joined behind the points you've already glued together, and stick them in place. Secure with a paper clip if needed, until the glue is dry. Cut the 'extra' from the ends, if you prefer.

Create a hanger from string, ribbon or a strip of paper - ribbon is traditional. Trim untidy joins if you prefer, and fasten a hanger to the star. Decorate with glitter, paint, or however you like!





# Christmas Crafts - Gift Tags

## PERSONALISED GIFT TAGS



### What you'll need:

- Luggage tags or coloured card (cut into rectangles)
- Pritt stick / PVA glue
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Christmas fabric
- Buttons

....and any other craft bits and pieces you can find!

To make these, you can use luggage tags or cut your own shapes (rectangles of 5x9cm work well) of coloured card. Trim two corners diagonally to make the tag shape, then make a hole with your punch and thread it with ribbon (twine, raffia, or string will work). Then comes the fun part...the decorating!

### YOU COULD TRY....

Punch circles out of glitter card with a hole punch and glue them into a Christmas shape.

Cut out shapes from old sheet music and glue them on your tags - plus a button on top for the sewing lovers in your life!

Cut a tree shape from some Christmas fabric and glue it on your tag, or cover with fabric and paint it!

Christmas Crafts designed by: Hope Alexander

## DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' CORNER: NOVEMBER 2020

Government suggestions in a recent White Paper will affect all of us in the ward and district.

You may have noticed that the Planning system and its reform by the government has been in the news recently. The government has put out two consultations, the first 'Changes to the Planning System' identifies a draft housing need for Uttlesford of some 500 more homes per year than is currently identified. Using their standard methodology (algorithm!) the annual figure to be built would rise from 706 to 1,231. The response which objects may be found here: <https://uttlesford.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=413>

The revolutionary' reforms to the Planning System by the 6 August White Paper are also to be the subject of detailed commentary by UDC and submitted to the ministry by the end of October. <https://uttlesford.moderngov.co.uk/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx?bcr=1&DM=0&DS=2&K=0&DR=&V=0>

### Stansted Airport Appeal

The inquiry formally begins on 12th January 2021, to be conducted before three inspectors. The Planning Inspectorate currently proposes to conduct the inquiry partly in person, with live witness evidence, and partly virtually under new procedures brought about post COVID-19.

### Corona virus Test & Trace Payments

If you have started to self-isolate anytime from 28th September you can apply for help now.

There is now a test and trace support payment scheme of £500 (GOV.UK) to support eligible low paid workers whose earnings are affected by staying at home and isolating for 14 days. More information can be found on the UDC website at: [https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/test-and-trace-payments?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery#discretionary-payments](https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/test-and-trace-payments?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery#discretionary-payments)

If there is anything in this article that you would like to discuss with us or anything that you feel we could help with, please do get in touch.



John Evans



Sandi Merifield

[cllmerifield@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllmerifield@uttlesford.gov.uk) and [cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk)

Our very best wishes *Sandi Merifield and John Evans*

## Residents of Causeway End

If you go to his gate **Mr. TUMNUS**, the alpaca, is likely to come over to see what you want as he is full of curiosity. Once there, he will stand imperiously erect and fix you with an interrogative stare. But oh... those eyelashes!

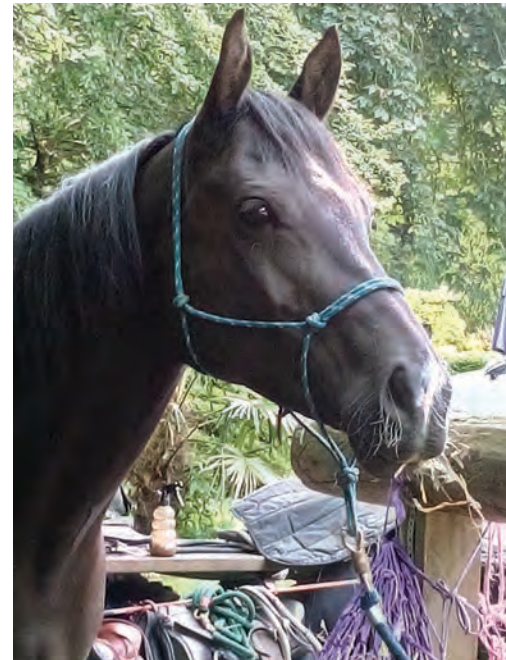


**BEAR** is a magnificent white German shepherd dog and can often be seen early in the morning taking his owners for a walk. He shares his home territory, rather warily, with three alpacas.

**PIPSQUEAK** is a small yorkie/biewer terrier cross with a very big personality. He shares his space with three other canine friends but clearly shows that he is the boss! In spite of his size he believes that Causeway End is his territory and expects other dogs to understand this.

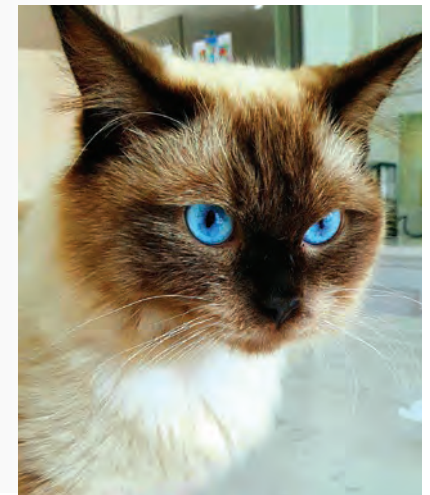


## Residents of Causeway End



**COCO** is a quarter horse which was originally an American breed used for sprint racing when, allegedly, they could reach speeds of up to 50mph in a quarter mile race. Coco is not into this! She is content to munch grass, take her owners for an occasional ride and participate in natural horsemanship training.

**MILO** is very inquisitive and he explores minutely over a very large area, including your house, given half a chance! He is a beautiful colour point ragdoll cat and he will look at you intently with his bright blue eyes as if he expects you to understand all his meows!



Photos: John Norton



## Felsted Primary School



The children at Felsted Primary School have made a positive start to the year. We are thrilled to have them back after such a long break and they have adjusted quickly to the changes we had to make. Our classes are organised into 'bubbles' and have different starting and finishing times as well as staggered breaks and lunches. Staff are working really hard to ensure the children are kept safe while also keeping them focussed on learning. Our new reception children are now in school full time and have settled in really well. They are enjoying our lovely new building and facilities.

Staff have also thought about using the outdoor spaces as much as possible, as you can see in the photos. Some fantastic learning is taking place enhanced by this, such as creating a spitfire model and flying it as part of the WW2 topic.

Assemblies and whole school events are being organised carefully. On a Friday we have a whole school live video assembly where the children's achievements are celebrated. It is lovely to see all the classes together on the screen and the children seem to really enjoy this! Other assemblies are pre-recorded videos shared in classes, which seem to be working well, too.



## Felsted Primary School



Here are some comments from some of our Year 5 pupils about how it feels to be back:

"Being back at school is fun because I hated lockdown. I really missed my friends and I am excited that we can play with each other. School used to be really fun and it's even more fun now. I'm so glad I'm back at school." Chloe Y5.

"Going back to school has been a great way to socialise and finally see my friends in person. It felt a little strange at first but I was excited to be in a new year and see all of the teachers after 6 months of being cooped up in my house and garden." Tino Y5.

Our next challenge is Harvest festival. Singing in large groups is not possible so each class will record a video of a poem or a harvest song. We are raising money for the Braintree Food Bank this year but parents will donate money online.

It has been a challenging start to the year with lots of changes to take on board. We are very proud of how well the children have adapted to this. Staff and parents have made exceptional efforts to make things work. It is wonderful to have the children back in school and we will continue to build on this positive start.



Bryony Collins  
Co-Headteacher

## Illegal Hare Coursing

### Would you know what to do if you saw Hare Coursers?



Gangs of men with lurcher dogs and 4x4 vehicles appear on the fields around our village after harvest, when the land is easy to move across. In the daytime you may see these coursers walking the fields, ready for a hare to bolt. Their cars will be close for a quick getaway or parked up near our homes and footpaths. When a hare makes a move to escape they release a lurcher to pursue it. Someone from the group will film the chase, and live-stream footage to gamblers who have bet money on the result. Which dog will kill the most hares? Prized dogs are bought and sold on the dark web for up to £20,000.

Illegal but common in our area, hare coursing is punishable by imprisonment and fines of up to £5,000. The crime is hard to prevent because of the type of people who do it; often arriving in convoy with 'minders' to the front and rear. In cars with false number plates, uninsured and untaxed. Individuals have tried to confront coursers and been abused; farmers received death threats and have seen their barns and cars burnt down.

## Illegal Hare Coursing

These violent groups have known links to illegal gambling, firearms and drugs. Their crimes in our area involve poaching and trespassing, road traffic offences, damage to crops, and property. They prey where local farmers feel isolated and inflict huge suffering on hare and deer populations. It's best to avoid engaging with coursers.

**WHAT SHOULD YOU DO** if you witness this kind of activity?

PC Matt Harkness, from the Rural Engagement Team, advises: "If you see coursing in progress, dogs chasing hares, or people breaking into land to course, then please call 999 immediately," Give the exact location, with descriptions and numbers of vehicles, people and dogs. It is also useful to mention you are aware of police Operation Galileo.

The most helpful location code comes from smart phone app What3Words. Download the app in advance and use it to generate the unique code for your precise location. Pinpointing a remote field is a struggle without that vital detail! If the report is second hand, or suspected, or a few hours old then, please still report online at [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk) or by calling 101 or anonymously to CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111.

Small pieces of information build an intelligence picture of what's happening, who is involved and where the police are needed most. Left unreported then Essex Police can't get a clear idea of crime levels around our village or police it effectively.

PC Harkness said: *"We're working closely with the local rural and farming communities as well as partner agencies to combat this issue. The information we receive really has helped the team. I ask you to please continue to assist us and combat this illegal activity."*







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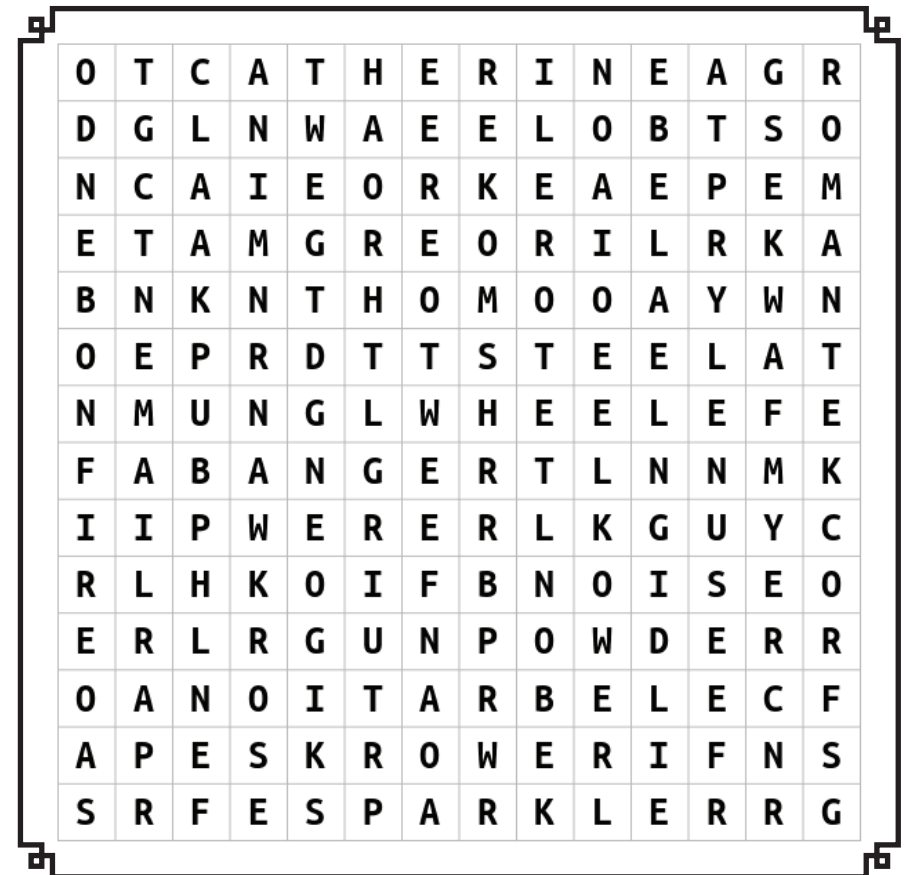
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## PUZZLE PAGE

### Word Search - Bonfire night



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SMOKE  
ROMAN  
BANGER  
GUNPOWDER  
GUY

PLOT  
WHEEL  
CELEBRATION  
CATHERINE  
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**Further details in the December edition of Felsted FOCUS**  
**01371 704796 felsted.branch@wea.ac.uk**  
**The WEA is a charity registered in England & Wales; number 1112775**

## 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!



Last issue – Answer: Cottswold (Chelmsford Road).

## Halloween Quiz Answers

- |   |  |                     |
|---|--|---------------------|
| 1. October 31st   | 9. A familiar  | 11. All Souls Day   |
| 2. All Hallows Eve  | 10. Fillet of a fenny snake,<br>In the cauldron boil<br>and bake; Eye of newt<br>and toe of frog, Wool<br>of bat and tongue of<br>dog, Adder's fork and<br>blind-worm's sting,<br>Lizard's leg and owl's<br>wing, For a charm of<br>powerful trouble,<br>Like a hell-broth boil<br>and bubble. | 12. Salt            |
| 3. A Coven  |  | 13. Ancient Rome    |
| 4. Apples   |  | 14. Central Romania |
| 5. Turnips  |  |                     |
| 6. North and South America  |  |                     |
| 7. Druids   |  |                     |
| 8. So that when evil spirits<br>see you they think<br>you're one of their<br>own and leave you<br>alone |  |                     |



## Gardening Tips



### ...FOR NOVEMBER

Here are a few tips to, encourage wildlife into your garden for the winter and into the summer.

1. Instead of pruning your herbaceous beds this autumn leave the seed heads on the plants for the birds. This also creates great winter interest especially after a hard frost.
2. Plant crocuses now to encourage bumble bees in the spring.
3. Stack up woody cuttings and logs in an undisturbed area of your garden to provide shelter for insects and mammals. If you are lucky a hedgehog might set up home and they will feed on all your slugs and snails - what a bonus! Hedgehogs have now been officially classified as vulnerable to extinction and are on the Red List for British Mammals.
4. Create a compost heap, great to get rid of all the kitchen scraps, and it provides an excellent winter resort for frogs and toads.

No shade, no shine, no butterflies,  
no bees, no fruit, no flowers,  
no leaves, no birds.

November!

Thomas Hood



Judy Mackay

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16 Stephenson: 01376 503050  
other transport enquiries:  
Traveline: 0871 200 22 33 or  
www.travelinesoutheast.org.uk

### CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Braintree: 01376 324129  
Great Dunmow: 01799 618840

### COUNCILS

**Essex County Councillor:**  
Simon Walsh: 01371 810451  
**Uttlesford District Council:** 01799 510510  
**District Councillors:** - Sandi Merifield  
cllrmerifield@uttlesford.gov.uk  
John Evans: clloreans@uttlesford.gov.uk

### Felsted Parish Council

Chairman: Graham Harvey  
Clerk: Diane Smith  
**Parish Office:** United Reformed Church Hall,  
Stebbing Road, CM6 3JD  
Office Tel: 01371 823071  
Office hours: Mondays: 10:00 - 12:30  
and Wednesdays: 16:00 - 18:30  
email: clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk  
www.felsted-pc.gov.uk

### DOCTORS

Drs Pitt, Tee & Stevens  
The Surgery, Braintree Rd.  
Tel: 01371 820410  
Out of hours: 01371 872121

### ELECTRICITY

and network emergencies:  
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and 08701963090 (daytime)

### GAS

National Grid & Emergencies  
Tel: 0800 111999

### HOSPITALS

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### MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Kemi Badenoch  
kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

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felstedmemhall@gmail.com

### POLICE for our parishes

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