Stebbing Scene

Your Village - Your Magazine



Edition No: 175 Autumn 2025

www.stebbingscene.uk





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Dates For Your Diary: Autumn 2025



Scarecrow Displays Launch	At home	n/a	Sunday 7 th September
History Society Talk	Priors Hall Barn	8.00pm	Monday 8 th September
Stebbing Summer Fayre	Mill Lane Cricket Field	1pm-6pm	Sunday 14 th September
Dunmow Carnival	Dunmow Recreation Ground	12pm- 10pm	Saturday 20 th September
Garden Club Talk	Village Hall	8.00pm	Monday 22 nd September
Ladies Group Talk	Village Hall	8.00pm	Wednesday 24 th September
Stebbing Community Market McMillan Fund Raiser	Village Hall	10.00am – 11.30am	Friday 26 th September
Dorcas Society Harvest Lunch	Village Hall	12.30pm	Friday 3 rd October
Porters Hall Open Day	Porters Hall	See p65	Saturday 4 th October
Stebbing Race for Kids	White Hart Pub	11am start	Saturday 11 th October
Garden Club Talk	Village Hall	8.00pm	Monday 27 th October
History Society Talk	Village Hall	8.00pm	Monday 10 th November
Garden Club Talk	Village Hall	8.00pm	Monday 24 th November



Put lunches and talks in your calendar, friend
Or you'll miss the big walk and turn up at the end
The Fayre will be fun, but you'll only take part
If the date's in your diary (and not just in your heart)
So jot it all down, every meeting and do –
Or else you'll be clapping an empty venue!



District Councillor's Corner: Refuse & Its Recycling – Let's Think About The <u>R's</u> and Do It!

This is a subject that I have not written about before but will, I think, be of interest to residents of all generations. Some of us (of a certain age!) will have first heard about the value of recycling decades ago while watching the TV programme Blue Peter. Our young people today also first learn about good recycling practices during their lessons at Stebbing Primary School. So I hope that this piece will be a bit of a refresher for all!



Together with my Uttlesford District Councillor colleagues, in July, I was given such a refresher by members of the UDC and Essex County Council environmental services teams who are responsible for implementing refuse and recycling policies and providing the relevant services across

the District and County.

The obligation of householders to manage their "rubbish" by keeping the frontage of their households free of it was first introduced in 1297 but detailed arrangements for the management of waste remained largely unregulated until the 19^{Th} Century when legislation was first introduced nationally. The collection and management of refuse is a statutory duty imposed upon UDC as our District Council. Recycling standards are also set to become higher under the "Simpler Recycling" legislation introduced in 2024. The challenge for the management and recycling of refuse in Essex is substantial, since some 660,000 tonnes pa of material is generated, which costs about £130m pa to collect, process and recycle, equivalent to about 440kg and £84 per person respectively. For Uttlesford alone, about 35,000 tonnes pa of refuse is generated, costing about £3.2m pa to manage and recycle, equivalent per household to £77 pa (whose cost is of course recovered and included in council tax). We recycle about 15,500 tonnes pa, made up of some 9,100 tonnes of dry material (including paper, glass and steel) and 6,400 tonnes of "green" material (including food and compostables) achieving an overall recycling rate of some 49%.

How do we stand in the rankings for our efficiency of recycling? The answer is "so and so" which may surprise many of us who might think that we already do pretty well in the handling and recycling of our own household waste. The national and local statistics are interesting for comparison purposes as they do not tell a tale of greater or lesser efficiency which is reflective of residents' relative affluence or different socio-economic conditions. Interestingly, the "best" Council is St Alban's with a recycling rate of 64%, while the "worst" councils' experience rates lie in the mid 20% range, which incidentally include both the London Boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Kensington & Chelsea. Even within our own County, there is rate disparity with the best being Rochford, Maldon and Colchester who achieve recycling rates of 58/57% while Thurrock's return lies at 28%. In fact, out of the nearly 340 English authorities, Uttlesford, achieving a rate of 49%, comes in at position 82, to which one might say "Pretty Good"!.

But, there is plenty of scope to improve our recycling rates in respect particularly of "green" items ie including food waste. This is important since this class of material is very efficiently recycled into bio-gas and then used to generate electricity and heat as well as fertiliser. We learned at the recent presentation that there was a great deal of food waste which was disposed of while still wrapped in its paper/plastic packaging and so, placed by residents in the black bins. This meant that the material overall was contaminated while if it was placed in the caddy free of packaging, it would be recycled easily. So, we were asked to encourage members of our communities to have an eye open for this and be more conscious of the importance of removing wrappers from food waste which was "date expired", enabling it to be placed in the food caddies provided by UDC (whose contents are of course collected weekly).

A Waste Strategy has been developed for Essex and Uttlesford was the first District to adopt it. It contains ambitious plans on how to Reduce waste and Reuse and Recycle more (the three "R's") over the period 2024-2054. It is part of a vision towards a circular economy which is designed, in accordance with the Carbon Budgets, to go towards a reduction of our greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to achieving net zero by 2050. There may be nay-sayers who do not subscribe to the theory and practice involved in this policy but, while respecting their views, I think they might be challenged to explain away the increases in global temperatures which we have experienced in recent years as being mere natural phenomena, wholly unrelated to greenhouse gas emissions.

Implementation of the *Waste Strategy* would mean that 65% of waste would be reused, recycled or composted by 2035 meaning also that landfill would not be used post 2030. To achieve these aims will require greater awareness by all of us in the ways that we can individually contribute to "better" ie more efficient recycling and so, programmes of engagement with the community will be established, including working further with schools and young people to inspire life-long waste reduction behaviours.

This source <u>www.loveessex.org</u> contains information prepared by all the Essex councils which describes the different processes involved in waste management and recycling which many readers will find informative as well as containing a link to the full Waste Strategy, a copy of which may be opened here:

If any resident has any questions or issues to raise on this piece (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 concern relating to Council business.

District Councillor John Evans E: <u>cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk</u>















Do you want to make a difference?







Then join others in Stebbing by signing up for the 'Race for Kids'.

Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity is inviting families across the UK to take part in the much loved 5KM or 2KM event on Saturday 11th October - whether walking, jogging, wheeling or scooting.

All funds raised will go towards GOSH charity's 'Build it. Beat it.' appeal to help build a world leading new children's cancer centre which will transform their care. Cancer is the biggest killer of children aged 1-14yrs in the UK with 5 being diagnosed every day.

Currently fighting cancer myself I encourage you to sign up using the link below.

https://race.gosh.org/

There will be a group of us in Stebbing completing the walk starting and finishing at the White Hart Pub garden, with the opportunity to purchase refreshments afterwards.

You are more than welcome to join us at 11am on Saturday 11th October.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Michelle Keeling

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Stebbing Ladies Group News

Our meeting in June, saw us hosted by Stebbing Bowls Club for a very enjoyable evening of lighthearted bowls and BBQ to follow. The Bowls Club provided coaching and encouragement accompanied by the sizzling of sausages and burgers which went down very nicely at the conclusion of play. A big thank you to our hosts for all of their hard work to provide us with a thoroughly entertaining meeting.



July's meeting took the form of our Annual Summer Social, which after a last minute change of plans, became a Fish & Chip Supper held at Stebbing Cricket Pavilion.

Tables were boldly set up outside on what had been a mixed day of weather and on the dot of 7pm, Tony of Edwards Fish & Chips arrived and gallantly served us all at the table with our boxed meals which didn't disappoint. Finished off with bowls of strawberries and cream, it was an evening of good food and good company, and the sun even came out for us.

Thanks must go to Ben for facilitating the pavilion and Tony of Edwards for the delivery of a delicious supper.

Stebbing Ladies Group welcomes new members. If you would like to come along and see what we are all about, we meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month (no meetings in August or December).

Our next meeting on the 24th September, we will be joined by Steve Lester with The Story of the Titanic. We open at 7.30pm to start at 8.00pm.

ALSO ...come and say "hello" at the Stebbing Summer Fayre on the 14th September, where we will be running 'Hook the Duck' and 'Name the Dog' on our stall.

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The Pilgrim Parishes: Wild About Rewilding

"Keine Wölfe hier, bitte." Even with my inadequate grasp of German the message was clear: 'No Wolves here, please'. It was posted on the fence of a small farm in a remote part of the Black Forest, which we discovered while walking along some tracks across the beautiful pastureland between areas of shady woodland. It was couched in the remarkably polite way of the rural folk of southern Germany but carried a strong message to those who are keen to rewild parts of the huge Black Forest.

The goal of rewilding is to achieve a form of ecological restoration by increasing biodiversity so that nature can recover and become self-sustaining. A key part of the strategy is to reintroduce species that were once an integral part of the ecosystem, and, for parts of the UK this has meant the reintroduction of quite endearing creatures such as beavers and bison.

For the Black Forest, it means wolves! Understandably, this raises wider concerns and it's hard to shake off the reputation they've gained through the many fairy tales that originate from this part of the world. The wolf is often portrayed as a cunning villain: Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood (with the wolf dressed up in Grand Mama's clothes – 'O what big teeth you've got!') and even Prokofiev's 'Peter and the Wolf'. However, removing them from their natural habitat has caused something more to be lost than simply their presence.

Although their presence might now seem alien, disruptive or even rather frightening, these species interact with the landscape in unique ways, changing it so that old habitats re-emerge that support a huge variety of other species that had largely disappeared. The mix of plants, insects and even the soil begins to change – enabling flowers, bird and small mammal populations to dramatically increase. The rewilding experience has shown that animals that didn't fit when humans took control of the landscape were integral to the sustainability of the entire ecosystem – and returning them has restored the natural balance and has done so surprisingly quickly.

So, it looks like reintroducing lost species is good news for many parts of the natural world, which causes me to wonder if we might have anything else to learn from it. Are any of our human 'ecosystems' in need of rewilding by reintroducing 'species' that have been pushed out due to their intrinsic, and probably unconscious, organisational bias? For example, a greater representation of women on the boards of companies has helped some become more relational and encouraging a more diverse ethnic mix has benefitted some public service organisations. One wonders whether reintroducing a few people with less mono-cultural attitudes might have called out the institutional self-righteousness of the Post Office before it became such a national disgrace; although they could probably only achieve that if they had sufficiently fierce teeth!

It's all very well talking about the more obvious absent groups, but what about missing types of people, where their personality doesn't fit? Sadly, there is evidence that certain personality types are almost entirely absent from most Anglican and other churches.

These are the creative, entrepreneurial types that dare to think differently, that will ask questions, explore the boundaries and help us discover God in new ways. Jesus modelled something very much like rewilding for his church. His Kingdom, he said, is like a huge tree with lots of branches where all kinds of different creatures would find a home. It is a place where everyone is welcome, where God-given gifts flourish and every person is valued. He compared this with the human body, saying that it is no good if the whole body was an eye or a foot – we need all the different parts (including the bits we don't often talk about in polite society), all valuing each other, if we are to function well and flourish.

So is there hope for all those that, like me, don't fit the mould? Rather surprisingly it looks like the answer might be coming from new people coming to find God for themselves. Recent surveys have shown a significant rise in church attendance and indicates that younger people are coming along without the baggage of a religious mindset. This is joyful news, as it will introduce some 'species' of humans so that the natural ecosystem that Jesus envisioned can recover. So, if you don't think you fit then you maybe just the person to whom Jesus will say, "welcome my friend, we need you!"

Paul Green

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Stebbing Local History Society: Major Image Find

The following article (revised) was first published in our Spring 2017 Journal. By 2016 the Local History Society had been collecting images of Stebbing's past for 21 years and had amassed over 1500 photos and so were not expecting to find any new large collections. But to our surprise whilst visiting the Essex Record Office (E.R.O) in 2016 I found not one but three collections of which we were unaware. The largest contained some 200 photos that were the copyright of Essex County Council and it took time to obtain permission to make copies, which is why it was February of 2017 before John Cant (then our image archivist) and myself spent nearly two days at the E.R.O photographing photos. There were two collections of photos and one of water colour paintings, that will be the subject of a separate article.

Hallyar Collection E.R.O ref. I/Ha 189

The oldest of the three collections, containing 24 photos, is still something of a mystery as to its origins and dates. So far the Essex Record Office have been unable to provide any background information on who Hallyar was and when and why the photos were taken. The few clues the pictures offer suggest a date in the late 1930's. The photo of Priors Hall, then known as Parsonage Farm, was taken before the timbers were exposed and the upper story converted. It looks less cared for than today. The other photo below of Tan Office, in Mill Lane suggests that the building was in multiple occupation, three front doors are visible.



Priors Hall

Tan Office Mill Lane

Listed Building Photographic Survey circa 1984-1986 E.R.O ref. D/DU 1443/130-140

This photographic survey appears to cover all listed buildings in Essex.
Recorded on film with a high quality camera it must have been expensive in time and materials. The survey for Stebbing unsurprisingly was not without its mistakes, it omitted 'The Chantry' and misidentified some buildings, but nevertheless its wide scope gives us a very complete picture of our historic



Bakery House, High Street, then a sub-post office/confectioner

buildings at that moment in time. Many of the photos show only minor changes since the mid 1980's but some are more noticeable.

Stebbing Cricket Club News

I can hardly believe we are nearing the end of the 2025 cricket season and that soon it will be time to put the square to bed. As a club we have much to celebrate across the season. An initial winning streak did falter at times but as one team member said "we won some, cricket was the winner in all the others." I'm particularly proud of the Stebbing team spirit and camaraderie with over 40 players representing us over the season including our most distant club member Michael J Wilson. Our annual Church v SCC match was undoubtedly a highlight of the midseason and is reported in detail elsewhere in Stebbing Scene.

As mentioned in a previous article the club aims to create opportunities for participation in cricket for both new and experienced players in a way that enhances village life and builds communities in Stebbing and the surrounding area. Recruiting new players remains a challenge and few villages have the resources to offer junior coaching and training programmes. The partnership with Dunmow Cricket Club has generated significant player recruitment, in particular younger players.

Stebbing has also hosted a number of West Essex junior matches. West Essex cricket aims to promote and grow youth cricket via competitions in various age groups which focus on player development and enjoyment and ultimately create a player pathway from grass roots to professional cricket. Fixtures at Mill Lane have included under 11 and under 13 age groups. Most recently Stebbing hosted the Alastair Cooke U14 T20 Cup quarter final. Three Stebbing lads - Joseph Coleman, Will Foxton and Freddie Munson were in the Dunmow U14 team, beaten by a very strong opposition side, nevertheless the best cup run by the team to date. Freddie and Henry Munson have been nominated for West Essex trials, Freddie having won Dunmow CC batter of the year at under 14 and Henry best all-rounder at under 11. Freddie and Will now also regularly play for Stebbing CC. Well done Stebbing lads.

The club aims to create opportunities for participation in village cricket for both new and experienced players and we would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in playing, any age ability or gender, just contact the club.

All of this cricket activity would not be possible without the support of club volunteers, club committee, vice presidents and sponsors so a massive vote of thanks for their continued support.

We look forward to seeing you at our remaining matches and of course at our burger stall at the Stebbing Summer Fayre.

Ben Riley

















A Red-Letter Day & A Pair Of 'Yellow' Magpies

Monday 12 May turned out to be a day to remember.

Jane had her usual exercise class in the afternoon, and so rather than sit reading I decided to go for a walk over the fields to Bran End and see what birds I could find.

The walk started well with pairs of both Buzzard and Red Kite displaying high over fields below the church. The meadows leading to Bran End were alive with singing Warblers, Whitethroat and Lesser Whitethroat, Chiffchaff, and Blackcap and a brief song of what could have been a Garden Warbler. The pond at Bran End produced the regular Little Egret, now in breeding plumage, and the surrounding trees a pair of Great Spotted Woodpeckers.



As I headed back through the village I stopped to scan the lake below Marshalls Piece, as it sometimes produced something interesting. The first birds on view were a female Mallard with nine very small ducklings. As I scanned the rest of the lake I saw what I initially thought to be two more female Mallards, but hold on though, didn't they appear rather small, slender and too grey?

Frustratingly both birds swam behind the island and stayed hidden for ten minutes. However both birds then swam into open water, and there they were - a very handsome pair of Gadwell. At last, my one hundredth bird species for the

village, after a long wait of nearly two years. The Gadwell were still present the following day but disappeared after that. During their stay they were very wary, initially swimming behind the island as soon as they saw people.

On 17 June I was contacted by my next-door neighbours Chris and Cathy Beavan who told me that they had seen a pair of yellow and black Magpies by the toilet block on Frinton seafront. Now far be it from me to cast doubts on my neighbour's observations, however knowing that Chris, like me, does like a glass or two of red wine, I did wonder about the accuracy of the record. Anyway, next morning there I was walking around the vicinity of the said toilet block using my



binoculars to check out all the birds and getting some VERY strange looks from dog walkers and holidaymakers. Despite my doubts there they were - a pair of Magpies showing distinct yellow plumage, where there should have been white.

On investigation I found reference to and photos of a pair of Magpies, showing identical plumage in Norway in 2014. When some of these birds' feathers were analysed, they showed amazingly high levels of iron present, it was presumed that they had been bathing in rusty water.

So abject apologies to my neighbours for ever doubting their observations.

Howard Jolliffe 15

Mad Medic

Hello everyone, I hope that you are well and happy. Welcome neighbours new to our village.



Despite being unwell due to the nasty unrelenting things attacking my body, I am actually on an absolute high.

My wonderful friend Bev moved to Dorset 11 years ago and I miss her so much. We met at work, and it was the start of a true friendship. Many years ago, Bev went to Mumbai with me, and I always hoped that one day she would go again - but life got in the way.

On a whim I messaged her at the weekend and said I wished with all of my heart that we could go together again. I am so happy; our flights and hotel are booked for the Autumn, and we are beside ourselves. The beautiful friends I have in Mumbai have become my family and they all remember and love Bev. So, she will have a fabulous welcome.

Because of my illness I can't physically rescue children in bonded labour now, but I can co-ordinate everything and make it happen; my contacts all trust me and will be prepared. Wheels are already in motion for helping the children under the umbrella of my care and Bev is on the same page in everything I do. I'm stocking up on medical supplies for my pop-up clinics in the railway and street slum hutments and loving the buzz I get from nurturing those precious little souls.

Dear Mrs Blunderful, how I love this lady who is one of the reasons I love what I do. A few weeks ago, Mrs B had a hospital appointment and as her daughter was due for a scan, they went together. Mrs B was seated in outpatients while her daughter went to her own appointment. She was ushered into a room by one of my favourite consultants who was accompanied by a rather scruffy man, quietly standing in the background. The consultant asked if it was okay to examine her and said was she happy with the man being with her. She said 'of course Doctor'. Just then a slight tap on the door and Mrs Bs daughter arrived and asked who the scruffy chap was. 'Oh! I thought he was with your mother' said the consultant highly embarrassed. Mrs. B.said 'I thought he was a student with the doctor'. When she told me, although it was a serious matter and security was called, I had to laugh. It was the 'Valerie, to think I nearly showed that scruffpot my nether regions' that set me off. Her daughter was furious, but Mrs B was just relieved that the undies she had briefly flashed were pretty and fresh. She's my patient/client but she is the best tonic. Everyone should have a Mrs B in their life.

Take care everyone, keep safe and well in the sunshine. Thank you for reading this, my children deserve to be thought of with love \heartsuit .

Lots of love Valerie xxx

The Annual St Mary's Church vs Stebbing Cricket Match Friday 27th June

The annual humiliation of the the church (having only won two in the last twenty plus matches!!) took place at 6pm on a gloriously sunny evening. The church were eager to try and restore some semblance of balance to their past efforts. Both teams were well supported with about 80 spectators ready to witness this mighty contest.

As usual the church fielded first and started to make in roads into the village batting order. This was led by some excellent bowling from Archie Shooter. However, young Freddie Munson and Kevin Meakin put up a great innings and we quickly realised that history was about to repeat itself and the village score was 109 after 20 overs.



Also our secret weapon of Crispin Homer started to put on a respectable score. However, as usual, the youth stole the bowling show with Freddie Munson – who took one of the most remarkable catches that we have seen at this event, and Maisie Meakin kept us pinned down. The church scored 103 which it meant that we only lost by 6 runs – which is our best defeat – always look on the bright side of life – as the song goes!!

A huge thank you to the cricket club who as usual helped immensely - Ben Riley, Paul Hazle and Wally Crow who prepared the wicket and pavilion to a very high standard. Also to Steve Sparrow for his umpiring expertise.

The BBQ was expertly manned by Jon Clark, Hamish Calder and James Crick. The drinks were kept flowing by our very own bartenders – Sharron Sparrow, Bob Gardner, Bonita Farr, Sue Crick and Cathy Beaven. A huge thank you to each and everyone of you.

As ever, it was such a lovely, friendly occasion and the stars were the youth on each team – which is very encouraging for the life of the Cricket Club – and for the great support from friends and families and the village.

Stebbing is a truly lovely village and I know that the Cricket Club would really appreciate any support and encouragement to keep it running well into the future.

Here's to next year!

Mark Patch

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St Clare Hospice Appeals For More Compassionate Neighbours To Help Tackle Loneliness In Uttlesford's Towns & Villages

St Clare Hospice is calling for more people to become Compassionate Neighbours to help tackle loneliness among some of Uttlesford's most vulnerable residents. The charity's Compassionate Neighbours initiative is a vital community-led project that brings meaningful human connection back into the lives of people who are lonely due to serious illness or old age.

Visits often involve nothing more than a friendly chat over a cup of tea, but for people like Margaret they bring comfort, companionship and support.



A widow in her 80s with no close family living nearby, Margaret knows first-hand how life-changing having a Compassionate Neighbour come to visit once a week can be, having been matched with Carrie at the end of 2024.

"The match is excellent," said Maragaret. "It has made a real difference in my life and I always look forward to our Sunday catch ups. Without Carrie, life would be slightly empty. I no longer feel like it's a long time in between my weekly arrangements because she breaks up the loneliness at the weekend."

As well as emotional connection, Carrie has offered practical support during Margaret's house move – helping with charity donations and even setting up her stereo. "Carrie has helped me so much in a lot of ways," she said. "From setting up my stereo so I can enjoy music again, to helping me with dump runs and donations to St Clare when I moved house."

The bond they've formed goes far beyond volunteering, and they even came along to St Clare's annual pamper day together. "We've formed a friendship and I feel like if I needed help with anything I would be able to reach out to Carrie," Margaret added. "It makes me feel like someone is concerned about me by taking the time to visit for a cup of tea. After Carrie's been to see me, I always feel much calmer and happier."

St Clare urgently needs more volunteers like Carrie, particularly in and around the Dunmow area, where people can often go days without seeing or speaking to another person.

To become a Compassionate Neighbour and help tackle loneliness in your community, visit stclarehospice.org.uk/compassionate-neighbours or call the St Clare Community Engagement Team on 01279 594471.



Stebbing Village Stores: Meet One Of Our Volunteers

Owned and run by our village community

Hello, my name is Paul Hooper and I volunteer in the Village Store. How did that happen?.... Let me explain.

I moved to Stebbing in May 1991 with my wife and three young daughters when the pharmaceutical company I worked for moved from Eastbourne to Dagenham. I was keen to get involved in village life and joined AFSS and later became a parent governor at Stebbing Primary School.



Then in the late 90's my company decided to move again but I didn't want to relocate and move my family as we were so happy in Stebbing. I found a new job in another pharma company, however that was in Milton Keynes and long commutes meant I had less time to be involved in the village. For the last ten years of my career, I worked in the NHS managing local services. I saw the value that volunteers bring to helping patients and how fulfilled our volunteers felt, giving their time to support our services. From this experience I knew I wanted to do some volunteering work when I retired.

Grandparent duties initially consumed much of my time once retired, but at the start of this year the grandchildren were at school, so I looked at volunteering roles. I considered going back to support the NHS and thought about volunteering at The National Trust.

Then one day when I was in the Village Store, the volunteers were discussing the need for more volunteers, and I thought that's what I should do. Helping our local community and getting to know more people in the village that I had lived in for over 30 years.

The Village Store's Manager, Julie Gray, was in the shop that day, so I spoke to her and started the process of becoming a volunteer. I had several training sessions with experienced volunteers to learn the ropes: how the store operates, when the deliveries come in, the importance of keeping the shelves full and mastering the computer-based till.

I was impressed by the welcome and help I received from Julie and all the volunteers I've met. I now regularly volunteer on the Friday afternoon shift from 1pm to 4pm and enjoy meeting and getting to know fellow villagers. The Village Store offers a wide range of goods, plus local meats, takeaway food, and hot drinks, although at present the ice cream sales are outstripping coffee sales!

It's an important service to the community that I'm proud to be part of.

If you would like to help and join us, pop in the shop for a chat or contact Julie Gray, our manager: svsmanager1@qmail.com

Stebbing Primary School News



As we reflect on the past year at Stebbing Primary, I think, as a team, we can do so with such enthusiasm and pride on what has been achieved this year.

As I am sure many of you are aware, the financial constraints placed on schools continues to rumble on, meaning we need to be as resourceful as possible whilst continuing to provide an excellent education for the children enrolled in our school.

We are blessed to have such a determined and driven staff who want to provide these excellent opportunities as well as very supportive parents who help us to achieve our aims.



This year our children have had plenty of opportunities and experiences both in and out of the classroom.



Classes have made excellent use of the local environment - from painting daffodils in springtime; to visiting the stream as part of fieldwork, to being involved with the Way Forward project...each experience broadens our children's understanding of the local area they live in.







I would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Bucknell who has been working with the school over the past few years to enable our pupils to have a broader experience of drama and singing. Mrs Bucknell leaves a massive hole in the Stebbing family and we really hope to welcome her back one day in the not too distant future!



I now move onto something very special indeed. Next term we are celebrating two members of staff who have been part of the Stebbing team for 25 years. A very special thank you to Mrs Kim Radford (Higher Level Teaching Assistant) and Mrs Kate James (Office Manager) for your unwavering support and dedication to Stebbing Primary. They are our longest serving members of staff and have seen so many changes and development over the years. We will be sure to celebrate with you!

Renovation Progress at St Mary's



After 13 weeks, the scaffolding inside St Mary's finally came down and what a difference it has made! The interior now looks much brighter, thanks to several coats of limewash applied to the columns and walls. Although a few final touches remain in areas previously hidden by the scaffold boards, most of the painting is now complete. New lighting has been installed throughout, cracks have been carefully repaired (including some on the stone rood screen), and the windows have been cleaned, with damaged glass quarries replaced.

























Outside in the churchyard, archaeologists toiled in the heat, excavating the area designated for the new LPG tank. Nineteen skeletons were discovered, carefully exhumed, and will be reinterred in the churchyard during a special service later this year, a respectful and dignified act that honours their place in our church's long history.

The removal of the scaffolding also meant we could finally hold another *Take A Look* tour, this time in the nave, accessed via the tower door. The church was thoroughly swept and cleared of building dust the day before (on what turned out to be the hottest day of the year!). Our latest tour was extremely popular, with all places booked within 24 hours. Visitors were able to walk across the newly levelled floor, which is now awaiting its final layer of bricks, and explore the nave more freely. Displays featured photographs from the restoration process, and there was a chance to see the community contributions for our time capsule, due to be buried this Autumn.

During the tour, **Ben from the Colchester Archaeological Trust** gave an engaging talk about the recent finds from inside and outside the church, including old coffin handles and fragments of medieval stained glass. Photos of these discoveries gave us all a glimpse into the lives of those who came before us. Adrian, from our principal contractors Bakers of Danbury, was also on hand to explain the more technical aspects of the work, from specialist repairs to the rood screen, to why a breathable limewash is essential for historic masonry. He also shared how their team is repurposing features like pew ends into new furniture, a beautiful way of honouring and preserving our heritage.

Although the major restoration works are expected to finish by November, further tasks remain as part of the church's reordering. We're aiming to return to the building in the first quarter of 2026, with details about our special reopening service to follow in due course.

You can keep up to date with the project via our website and social media pages:

- www.wavforwardstebbing.org
- www.facebook.com/wavforwardstebbing/
- www.instagram.com/thewayforwardproject2427/

We truly appreciate your ongoing support as we bring this much-loved building back to life for future generations.

Sarah Maddox Project Administrator sarah.smvtwf@gmail.com

Stebbing Garden Club News

Since our last news bulletin back in May there has been plenty of Garden Club activity to report on. At our May meeting we were treated to the last of our speakers before the Summer break. Richard Gustar gave us an enthusiastic and comprehensive introduction to the world of Bonsai which has been a passion of his since his teenage years.



The first of our Summer outings was an inspiring and informative visit to Jilly McNaughton's garden in Clavering. Jilly works for the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group work restoring ponds. Her work recovering and creating ponds and other habitats for insects and wildlife was featured on Gardener's world last year.

Pictured is one of two ancient farm ponds at the property which had been cleared. Soil from the pond has been banked close by to allow germination of seeds buried in the sediment and found to be viable for at least 150 years.

A Satzuki Azalea



These bug/bee hotels complete with slate/lead flashing to keep the rain off also double up as hibernacula.





The very next day members of the committee with the help of some invaluable volunteers set up stall at the Stebbing Friday Morning Market with plants grown and donated by club members. £150 was raised after the usual percentage donation to local charities. Proceeds help to meet the costs of the Club's speaker programme throughout the year.

Our second Summer outing, on another cloudless and baking hot afternoon, was to Blunts Hall in Witham which opens to groups for charity as part of the National Garden Scheme. The original structure of this Grade 2 listed property dates to 1230 with 17th,18th and 19th century additions. The three acres of managed garden has its own water source and was an oasis of green. The spring fed pond is surrounded by a woodland walk along which provided plenty of shade. Specimen trees planted around the garden in 1900 are all under a Tree preservation order.



Our hosts, Alan and Lesley Gamblin have been working on the garden for the past five years restoring it to its Victorian roots although not confining their planting to Victorian fashions. Once our tour was complete we enjoyed a delicious cream tea on the shady terrace.



The next event for the club will be setting up stall at the Stebbing Summer Fayre on Sunday 14th September. This year in addition to plants provided by members we hope to be able to once again provide an abundance of produce with the help of some of our members and friends who are keen vegetable growers. Work has already begun on the homemade preserves! We are looking forward to a fun and hopefully sunny day.



Monday 22nd September, 8pm, Village Hall

Speaker: Caroline Holmes

Garden historian, international lecturer, author, consultant designer and broadcaster. Caroline researches ancient, modern and contemporary gardens to unearth how they interrelate with landscape and architecture, as well as artists, sculptors and craftsmen. Informative and entertaining, her conversations explore people, plants and places, delving into how they have shaped their surroundings.

Topic: 'Permission to Poison' – the poison garden at Alnwick

Doors open from 7.30 and the hour-long talk will be followed by tea and coffee, our usual raffle and plenty of opportunity to chat! Non members are very welcome with a charge of £3 on the door.



Stebbing Garden Club Calendar

Monday 27th October Monday 24th November

Carol Winser Zoe Rutterford

Monday 22nd September Caroline Holmes Permission to Poison The work of Essex Garden Trust Returning from 'Flowers from the Farm' on a Christmas theme.

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The Way Forward Project: History, People & Progress



The Way Forward project at St Mary's isn't just about the exciting building work — it's also about uncovering the church's rich history and celebrating its connections with the local community. So, what does that mean in practice?



History

Over the past few months, the project's historian, Caroline Wren, and I have been exploring the church's past. The Stebbing Local History Society has been a huge help in making sense of it all. We're also preparing historical material to be shared when the church reopens in 2026. Along the way, I've learned some fascinating things — did you know many medieval churches have a small alcove where the priest used to sit?

It's called a *sedilia*, which means "stone seat" in Latin. I didn't know that either! And there's still so much more to discover.

People

Equally important to the project are the people of Stebbing. It's been a real joy to take breaks from research and meet people!

One highlight was working with Stebbing Primary School for their Community Month in March. Some of the children joined us for a photo walk along the High Street, taking pictures of things that caught their eye — either because of the history we shared, or just because they liked them. They then created a thoughtful display, with their own captions.

One of the downsides of the church still being a



The school's history walk display

building site is that we can't display things yet! But thanks to support from various village groups, the display has been exhibited around Stebbing — first at the History Society's June meeting, then the Village Hall, and now the Friends Meeting House for the Summer. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make that happen!

Next Steps

Looking ahead, there's more research to come, and we're hoping to bury a Time Capsule in the new academic year.

It's been a pleasure working with everyone so far and looking forwards to continuing to do so. Wishing you all a wonderful Summer!

Esther Skidmore
Heritage Engagement Officer (esther.smvtwf@gmail.com)



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Stebbing Primary School Bids Farewell To The Class of 2025

- Off To New Adventures

And just like that, it's time to say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 – the Class of 2025 – as they leave Stebbing Primary School and take their next big step into the world of secondary school.

It's hard to put into words just how much this group of children has brought to our school and village over the years. From their first days in Reception, with bags nearly bigger than them, to now, they've grown into kind, confident, funny and thoughtful young members of the community who we are incredibly proud of.

They've been a big part of our Stebbing family. Whether it's supporting younger pupils, helping out at events, joining in community projects, or simply bringing their energy and smiles to school each day, they've truly made their mark. They've left behind not just memories, but a legacy of kindness, curiosity and resilience.

This year especially, they've shown what they're made of - working hard, supporting each other, and showing real maturity as they've prepared to move on. We've seen them grow not just in their learning, but in their friendships, confidence and independence. They've laughed, they've overcome challenges, and they've achieved so much.

We'll miss them - their jokes, their ideas, their voices, their dancing - but we know they're ready for this next exciting chapter. Whether they're off to a large school or a

small one, following creative dreams or sporting passions, making new friends or discovering new subjects, we know they'll do brilliantly.







To the Class of 2025, thank you. You've made us proud, you've made a difference, and you've been a joy to teach and know. Wherever life takes you next, know you'll always be part of Stebbing's story. Good luck, have fun, and remember: once a Stebbing pupil, always a Stebbing pupil. Go shine your light, the world's waiting!



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A lively dog show

Our ever-popular Fun Dog Show is back, open to four-legged friends of all shapes and sizes. Pick up your entry form from Stebbing Village Store – or register on the day

Stalls from local community groups

Each raising funds to support their own endeavours, we welcome back volunteer run stalls from the Garden Club, Book Club, History Society, Evening Bowls Club, Ladies Group, St Mary's Way Forward Project and our Stebbing Primary School. Plus of course, the everpopular bar, run by the Bowls Club. And, for the first time, the Stebbing Cricket Club will be running the traditional hotdog and burger-based BBQ stall.

Delicious food from a variety of vendors

Alongside the traditional BBQ, we will once again be joined by a Pizza Van, Bagel Van and our own Stebbing-based South African BBQ stall and Gin Van. Plus, of course, Sheila and her team will be serving fresh tea, coffee and home-made cakes from the Cricket pavilion. [If you'd like to support Sheila by making a cake, please get in touch on sheilab16@hotmail.co.uk]

An afternoon of live music

This year we are delighted to welcome Miss Jones, a professional Jazz singer who will be performing at intervals throughout the afternoon.

Plenty of activities and entertainment for children

As always, the Stebbing Summer Fayre has lots to entertain our little ones. We have Shetland pony rides, a Punch & Judy show (very popular last year), Face Painting and a Forest School. Plus, new for 2025, enjoy the antics of a Circus Entertainer.

A vibrant Craft Fayre

With a year spent trawling local craft-based events, we have selected the very best artisan craft stalls to join us this year. With over 20 stalls, there should be something to tempt everyone.

Games for all ages to enjoy

This wouldn't be a Summer Fayre without traditional favourites including the Human Fruit Machine, Smack the Rat, the Coconut Shy and Crockery Smashing. And don't miss out on our Raffle! We once more have a whole host of exciting prizes to be won.

Scarecrow competition

Back by popular demand is the Scarecrow Competition. This year's scarecrows will be on display at the Stebbing Summer Fayre and paraded around the arena for judging.

Adult Coaching Mark Clark 07713 626239

- Monday 9-10am: Cardio Tennis
- Wednesday 9-10am: Cardio Tennis
- · Wednesday 7-9pm: Squad Training (summer only)
- · Thursday 9-11am: Ladies Tennis
- Friday 9-10am: Cardio Tennis
- Private Lessons



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- Junior League Matches
- **Sunday Tournaments**
- Holiday Camps

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Count On Nature Botanical Hunt

The heat at the end of June meant that it was the hardiest of enthusiasts that joined us at St Mary's church for our Count on Nature botanical hunt. Thankfully the avenue of Lime trees gave us some lovely dappled shade to act as base camp. Armed with sticky cards to collect samples, about twenty five of us roamed the churchyard in search of plant species to add to our existing list.









Richard Wren, Ecologist in Residence, St Mary's Church

And the results were very impressive. By the end of the afternoon we had a total of sixty two species recorded – including the old Holm Oak, symbol of everlasting life, to a number of plants with strong historical links and uses. Ladies Bedstraw, for example was once dried and added to the bedding to keep fleas away. (I hope no-one has that problem these days!). Ground Ivy – not related to regular Ivy - was used as a decongestant. Take a handful of leaves, squeeze then smell and you will find out why. It smells like a natural vapo-rub.

Other notable finds included two species of Buttercups, Violets, Garlic Mustard (very tasty in a sauce when served with lamb as the Elizabethans did) and the Churchyard's impressive Hungarian Oak. The results will all be sent onto the iNaturalist website alongside those of dozens of other churches involved with the project. It's a simple but effective way to build up a picture of wildlife across the country.

As for our contribution, the afternoon was finished with appropriate refreshments - home-made Elderflower and Dandelion and Burdock cordials, paired with Rose and Lavender biscuits. A fitting botanical banquet to finish the afternoon.







Little Easton Manor This Autumn

September

7th - Classic & Interesting Car Show

13th- Last Night At The Proms with Bella Canto

20th- Farmer & Craft Market

28th- Porsches By the Lake



Scan to Book!

October

 $5^{\rm th}$ - Classic & Interesting Car Show

11th - Stargazing

18th - Craft & Farmers Market 29th - Halloween Afternoon

Tea

30th - Halloween Afternoon Tea

31st - Murder Mystery Meal



November

2nd - Classic & Interesting Car Show

2nd- Fireworks Spectacular 13th - Grevilles Theatre

14th - Grevilles Theatre

15th - Grevilles Dinner Theatre

16th - Grevilles Dinner Theatre

23rd - Christmas Wreath Making Workshops

29th - Gatsby Glitz & Glamour Christmas Party

> 30th - Father Christmas Afternoon Tea

Stebbing Vintage & Classic Tractor Run 11th May 2025

So, our 12th year of putting on this event is now over. 'A Grand Day Out' as Wallace would say to Grommit was had by all being blessed with perfect weather. The route was again different from previous years arriving at Stebbing in the early afternoon.



88 of us set off from Brazenhead Farm, Oxen End sharp at 10am having been treated to a flyover by the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance helicopter. We have for many years now raised money for them through sponsorship for which they are very appreciative.





Dick Hughes on behalf of the organisers.

We travelled through Bustard Green. Thaxted, Little Sampford, Finchingfield, Deersbrook Farm & Shop Shalford where we had a comfort break. Then on to Bardfield Saling & Stebbing where the temporary traffic lights at Bran End were permanently stuck on red! This proved to be of no hindrance to our convoy who just carried on regardless.

Starting at Thaxted & thanks to social media we were greeted by throngs of spectators everywhere we went which all adds to the pleasure for all concerned. It's too early to say how much we have raised for E&HAA & donations can still be made by following this link.

www.iustaivina.com/page/tractor-run25



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Kingdom Woodland Walk Summer Spruce Up

The annual spruce up at the Kingdom Woodland Walk was arranged by Stebbing Parish Council (SPC) and very well attended. Thank you very much to all who volunteered. In total we had 13 adults and two children volunteers, see the photo below.





Having generated this peaceful and pleasant walk in the centre of the village, which is well used, it needs some annual TLC. In particular, the stinging nettles appear to be growing faster and more plentiful with the weather we've recently experienced.

Our plan was to clear the path of nettles and cut back a couple of metres from it so that we would still attract the butterflies and bees. Another initiative was to use some of the cut down nettles as composting, therefore reducing the amount of waste and creating other forms of habitat for insects.

Other tasks we took on board were to re-log the footpath to encourage and protect the planting that was done by volunteers last year. A number of these logs were retrieved from the ponds! The footpath was also topped up from our stockpile of woodchip after the weeding left gaps. In the roundabout area the stools were repositioned and overall some litter was found and bagged.

The honeysuckles we planted are doing very well and the plan is to keep them netted until there is more substantial growth as they are a tasty morsel for the deer! Other plants are beginning to appear slowly, but there is no sign of any nesting as yet.

Overall, the spruce up was a well attended event and it took just over an hour to complete. We generated seven bags of rubbish that were taken by Uttlesford waste management the following week. The result was a well maintained walk for all to enjoy.

Thank you again to all the volunteers.

Stebbing Parish Council A Greener Stebbing Committee

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Celebrating New Stebbing Businesses:

Sarah Jordan Hypnotherapy

Thank you so much for the opportunity to introduce myself in the village magazine. I'd love to share a little about me and my new venture here in Stebbing.

I recently moved to Stebbing from Hertfordshire to be nearer to my children, and my partner and I have absolutely

fallen in love with the village. He's originally from Royal Tunbridge Wells, so this is a fresh start for both of us and we're really looking forward to becoming more involved in village

life together.





We live here with his children (though they're often off travelling!) and felt at home almost immediately. There's such a lovely atmosphere in the village, and with so much going on, it's easy to feel part of things.

I've already joined the tennis club, which has been great fun and a brilliant way to meet people. Everyone has made me feel so welcome. This is a new chapter in every sense - I'm getting married in September, and I've also launched a new business as a Solution Focused Hypnotherapist and Psychotherapist.

I've always had an interest in hypnotherapy and the mind, but it became truly meaningful to me when I went through a particularly difficult period in my own life. Experiencing the benefits of hypnotherapy firsthand made a huge difference; it helped me feel more in control, more optimistic, and ultimately inspired me to train and qualify so I could help others in the same way. I realised just how powerful it can be, and that planted the seed for a new direction.

After many years working full time as a sales surveyor, I was ready for a better work life balance, more freedom, and something more personally rewarding and this felt like the perfect step forward.

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Parish Planning Matters

As many of you will know there is a current application live with Uttlesford District Council Planning Department for 60 dwellings. This application is officially known as Land East of Brick Kiln Lane North of Pound Gate Stebbing Essex UTT/25/1478/FUL



Curtis Walsh @rarebreedphotography

This application was submitted at the beginning of June and like many applications it can take time to come to UDC's Planning Committee as it waits for consultees comments, requests for more information or, as we have seen, the applicant themselves submitted revised information in plans on site plans and plots and elevations of the proposed dwellings. You may have also seen that ECC Highways asked for more information before they complete and send their statutory consultee comments in.

You will remember, this is the second application that has been submitted for this site. The previous one being refused just before the referendum for our Neighbourhood Plan, which as you know was voted for and made on July 22nd, 2022. This application site is not an allocated site within the SNP therefore the Parish Council does not support this application in any way. We are very grateful to all who have sent in their comments of which there are many and in objection to this application. To see all comments, you will need to login to the UDC planning portal and put in the reference number.

https://publicaccess.uttlesford.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application

As a Parish Council we will always be consulted on every application that is in Stebbing Parish but, we do not know what the outcome will be, nor can we ever stop development by just saying no, we object. We must always have planning reasons along with the appropriate Stebbing Neighbourhood Plan policies. These will be seen by the Planning Officer who oversees this application and along with all the other comments from statutory consultees e.g. Essex Highways and resident comments from 'Representation Letters' will be summarised in a report recommending approval or refusal to the Planning Committee. This was the case previously when the Planning Committee refused the previous application against the planning officer's advice.

When eventually this application does come to the Planning Committee the Parish Council will be informed just over a week before. There will be an opportunity for those who wish to speak in person at the Committee: residents for three minutes and the PC has five minutes but you must contact committee@uttlesford.gov.uk to request a slot. Therefore, do watch out for the notification of this application's committee date.

Should you have any questions send them to <u>clerk@stebbing-pc.gov.uk</u> and we will endeavour to answer them.



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Tickets from: Ann Pattenden 856476 or Rosemary Pitkethly 856155

The Dunmow U3a News



On Wednesday 24th September, Dunmow u3a will be **celebrating its 10th anniversary**. There will be bunting, cakes and displays along with Dunmow's Town Crier.

We will also be welcoming Andrew Baker who will be talking to us through "70 Remarkable Years: A Portrait of and Retrospect on Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II". He will be looking at her youthful accession; her steadfast character; her family and homes across her Kingdom. And how she managed to remain a symbol of national unity across seven turbulent decades while retaining the affections of her subjects.

her subjects. "70 Remarkable Years: A Portrait of and Retrospect on Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II" Wednesday 24 September - 1.30pm for 2pm start





On Wednesday 22nd October, Joanne Larner will be teaching us "How to Draw People and Animals". Do you think you can't draw? Would you like to give it another try? Joanne is an accomplished artist and she promises to show examples and comparisons and answer any questions we might have so that we will end up being more able to create a likeness of people and animals in your life. She will also encourage us to try out some of her tips and techniques and produce a step-by-step, detailed drawing of an eye.

"How to Draw People and Animals"
Wednesday 22 October - 1.30pm for 2pm start

At our last monthly meeting of the year, on Wednesday 26 November, Karen Lawrie will be warning us "If you don't use it, you lose it!". A great believer in the physical and mental benefits of keeping active, in this light-hearted interactive talk, Karen will focus on having fun and a laugh while getting the message across.



"If you don't use it, you lose it!" Wednesday 26 November - 1.30pm for 2pm start

Our monthly meetings take place at Foakes Hall, Dunmow CM6 1DG. Are you looking for a new hobby? Maybe you are new to the Dunmow and Stebbing area and want to meet local people. If you are also no longer in full-time employment then Dunmow u3a could be for you. We are part of the UK-wide u3a movement and offer opportunities for members in their 'Third Age' to learn a new skill, expand existing interests and share knowledge with other members in a friendly and informal environment. Dunmow u3a has over 40 member-led interest groups from arts to exercise and languages to sports, with indoor games, discussion groups and outdoor activities in between. To find out more, email membership@dunmowu3a.org.uk or visit the Du3a's website https://dunmow.u3asite.uk





Stebbing Bowling Club News A. A.



Welcome from the Stebbing Bowls Club. A lot has happened this season on and off the green.

I closed my report in the last Stebbing Scene offering dates for your diary. They were the Stebbing Ladies evening and the Race Night. The Ladies attended with their usual enthusiasm for a good night's sporting activity which we all agreed went well.



The Race Night was, yet again, a great fund raiser for the club and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the very slick and professional presentation from the guys at Rivenhall. I would also like to thank the many non club members from the village who turned out to support the bowls club.



We also had the pleasure of entertaining year six from Stebbing Primary School again for three sessions during July. Details of which are covered on p49.

Now to events involving the club, from competing in the first division of the North West Essex League, our progress in the inter Essex club tournaments, to the friendlies played throughout the season. These friendlies range from visits to Elsenham at one end to Castle Hedingham at the other.

In the league we played well with the opportunity to introduce several new members, and some close matches but it was not enough to keep us there so will return to the second division next year.

There were 12 friendlies organised but only eight were played - winning three and losing five. Four were cancelled with one being rained off. Yes! thunderstorms were forecast so it was decided not to go ahead for safety reasons.

As well as the above there are individual competitions which more of our members took part in this year with Mark Dovaston reaching the area final of the County unbadged singles and he represented Group 2 in the inter county friendly at Frinton. Other successes was a first win against Radwinter in the Memorial Shield and Tiptree in the Widdop Cup, progressing in both competitions for the first time in ten years. Another North West Essex first was reaching the semi finals of the Monk Trophy mixed foursomes beating Silver End to reach the guarter final.

We are now concentrating on internal competitions in preparation for our Finals Day. After some years of maintaining membership with people leaving and one or two joining I'm delighted to say that we welcomed four new members, all eager to play and compete, and four new social members, which all helps to make the club more competitive. So everything is looking up for next season!

45 Ray Sutton



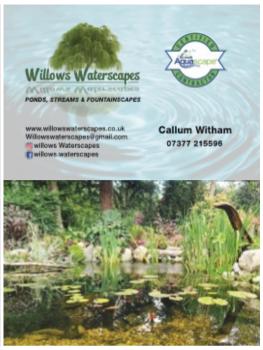
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Stebbing Village - Clean & See Your Road Signs

Stebbing Parish Council (SPC) has been advised that a number of highway services have been suspended by Essex County Council (ECC) Highways Department and our requests for junction/speed awareness and repairs have been postponed. These include requests for: comprehensive signage at Porter's Hall crossroads (accident blackspot); repairs to damaged signs (after verge cutting); weight restriction signs and 20mph outside the school. As this will not be resolved in the near future, SPC has decided to clean up our existing signage and remove vegetation to improve awareness. It also makes the village look smarter!



A volunteering event was planned for the weekend of the $19^{th}/20^{th}$ July. There was very little response to this (the bad weather also being a contributing factor), but to those who did go out, a big thank you.



Subsequently, members of the Greener Stebbing Committee have been out to complete the job as we really do believe it will make a difference. Many of the signs are in a bad state of repair, mainly leaning after being knocked by the ECC verge trimming contractors. We have not attempted to repair or rectify any of the signs but simply clean them with water and cut the obscuring vegetation around them. Examples of what we have done are shown adjacent.



The cleaning/clearing operation happened on two separate occasions and took about four hours in total. Our first concentration was at Porter's Hall junction which is a notorious accident blackspot, followed by the areas of Stebbing Green, New Pasture Lane, Porter's Hall Road, Warehouse Road and Collops Road. The second occasion included the Crooked Mile, High Street, The Downs, Brick Kiln Lane to Bran End and Watch House Road. In total we cleaned/cleared circa 100 signs and hopefully you will notice the difference!



The vegetation growth and the dirt on the signs will return and SPC is asking for everyone who lives in the parish to keep an eye on any deterioration and clean/remove vegetation from road signs that are local to you. A big safety issue is be careful how you do this and don't do it if you are concerned. The fingerposts, pumps and telephone box around the village have been repaired/painted and our next plan is to restore (following discussions with the "owners") the multiple benches and if anyone has the skills to do this, please let *Greg King*, *Parish Clerk at clerk@stebbing-pc.gov.uk* know. We want our village to look vibrant, well cared for and a good place to live. Help us achieve this please.





Owls Class Enjoy A Fantastic Community Experience At Stebbing Bowls Club

As part of our community work before heading off to secondary school, Owls Class recently had a fantastic experience at Stebbing Bowls Club — and we loved every minute of it!

From the very first session, the club's amazing volunteers made us feel so welcome. They were friendly, patient, and full of knowledge, helping everyone get to grips with the game, whether we were complete beginners or had played before. Thanks to their support, every pupil had the chance to get involved, learn new skills, and most importantly, have fun!

The final session was extra special, with families invited to join in too. It was lovely seeing pupils, parents, carers, and volunteers all enjoying the game together. And of course, the biscuits and squash went down a treat in the scorching Summer heat!

A huge thank you to all the brilliant volunteers at Stebbing Bowls Club. We're so grateful for your time, kindness, and enthusiasm.











Dear Stebbing Bowls Club,

Our class truly appreciated the sessions playing bowls. Thank you for taking the time to teach us and introduce us to such a fun new sport! I really enjoyed learning the ins and outs of bowls. We were taught about skips, how to identify the bias side of the bowl, how to hold it properly, and the importance of rolling rather than throwing. It was exciting to try something new, and it wouldn't have been possible without the patience and support of the volunteers. Our class feels very lucky to have had these enjoyable sessions! Thank you again for everything, we really appreciate your time and help. We hope to visit and play again soon!

Best wishes, Owls Class

Stebbing Scarecrow Competition: Construction Underway!



After a few years' break, the popular Stebbing Scarecrow Competition is back! It's time to get creative, dust off those old straw hats, and bring a bit of character to our gardens and lanes.

We asked one of our villagers, Kulli Saran-Chandler to inspire us, by telling us a little bit all about the scarecrow her own family are building.

Your scarecrow looks like Mary Poppins. How did you decide upon that theme?

The theme of Mary Poppins was a simple project as we had the costume already from World Book Day. My daughter, Wren was thinking of 'Mail from Descendents' and I wanted an Indian theme, or an elaborate animal theme! But being a busy family we'd have to save that theme for next year and put some thought into it ahead of time. We finally compromised on something we think everyone in the village would recognise in the end! Young and the not so young ;0).

Who in your family is physically making it? And what are you making it from?

Wren and Rocco, my son, made the scarecrow with my direction when solutions were required. Wren collected a bag of leftover straw from the paths around the fields where the combines had finished their jobs and newspaper was taken from a stockpile in the garage that we use for lighting the fire during Winter. We also used small bin bags and filled them up with the materials in order to shape and create the body and head. Wren particularly loved the activity as it brought up some solution finding tactics like...how are we going to fit the head on? What can we fill it with other than straw? How do we attach the legs to the

body? How are we going to hang the scarecrow up? (The answer being a coat hanger by the way)



Do you have any tips for other people?

Keep it simple and just enjoy the activity! Look at what you have lying around in dressing up boxes or old clothes. A scarecrow can in fact just be a scarecrow after all! Wizard of Oz vibes!

You built a scarecrow for the competition a few years ago. Why did you want to get involved again this year? It's an interesting activity to do together and nurtured a bit of quality time together with zero expense. It didn't take long either and was a great opportunity for the kids to get creative with their hands other than using consoles.



Where you will be displaying your scarecrow?

Good question! We live in the High Street and our driveway is so narrow, so we're thinking of hanging it on the gate when we're not driving in an out - so that coat hanger will come in very handy!

Do you think you might win?

Ha ha not at all, but it doesn't matter as it's the taking part that counts right?!;0)

Karen Clark, talking to Kulli Saran-Chandler

Want to join in and build your own Scarecrow? Here are the Competition Details:

Display Week: Once your scarecrow is complete, proudly display it outside your home for everyone to enjoy from Sunday 7th September to Sunday 14th September.

Judging Day: Bring your masterpiece to the Stebbing Summer Fayre to be part of a special scarecrow display and final judging.

Whether you go for the traditional farmhand, a beloved character, or something truly outlandish, we can't wait to see your creations pop up around Stebbing once again.

Ready, set, stuff!



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Restaurant Review: The Little Seafood Bar

If, like me, you are a fish lover, particularly when graced with a touch of Asian and/or Mediterranean influence, it has often irked me that such is not available to us locals (or so I thought), without an hour and a half slog through the windy roads of rural Essex to and from West Mersea, or perhaps Leigh on Sea or whatever! Well, NOT ANY MORE!





When about six years ago I first visited the 'bar' it was little more than a timber shed with a small wet and shell fish counter, but definitely NOT a restaurant – if only I had known what was to follow...!

The 'shed' as it then was is now a full blown, fully licenced fish restaurant with shaded outside seating for those who prefer. It has retained its undoubtedly rustic charm and now boasts lunch and separate evening menus from 11am-4pm Wednesday to Sunday with the evening menu available 5.30-10pm (11pm Friday/Saturday).



Our lunch began with starters of Thai Style Scallops with spring onions, red pepper and sesame seeds (£11.50), King Prawns (shell on or off) in white wine, garlic, chilli and parsley butter served with granary for mopping (£14) – preceded by Panko Coated Calamari (£10) with Moules Mariniere (£13) - all sublime and perfect for sharing along with the obligatory bottle of Picpoul to wash it down!

Mains followed with options too many to recite, but our choices were the Hot Seafood Sizzler (£24) – Madagascan king prawns, scallops, mussels, clams and prawns, cooked in garlic butter and chilli with chorizo plus fries and garnish, Cajan Prawn Tacos (£24) – king prawns, picked red cabbage, salsa with cajun remoulade

plus yummy fries, together with Hot Battered Platter (£20) with all of the above but including salt and pepper squid, lemon sole goujons with homemade dips, then 12 fresh oysters to more than fill the four previously hungry mouths to the point of greed, and all great as 'picky bits'.

Owner and one of two chefs, Leanne Shand, insists on serving only the freshest produce with both restaurant and wet fish counter being supplied by daily deliveries from Billingsgate – hence she is closed on Monday and Tuesday.

Kevin Farr





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Young Hands, Big Heart:

Thank You To Our Village Store's Young Volunteers

Owned and run by our village community

Our village store was made brighter during at Stebbing Primary School's Community Month, thanks to the energy of our youngest helpers. From restocking shelves to greeting customers, tidying displays to helping on the till, they brought smiles and real community spirit.

We want to say a big THANKYOU to every learner who supported the shop during **Community Month**. These young volunteers didn't just help us volunteers—they learned valuable skills in customer service, money handling, organisation and teamwork.

Here are some of the things they said:

- 'I loved working on the till'
- 'My favourite bit was going downstairs to the cellar and getting crisps and drinks';
- 'I learned to look properly at customers when I was talking to them'

Stebbing Village Stores
Granies - Wasse & Spilits - Newspapers
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Our young helpers are more than volunteers - they're the shopkeepers, organisers, and community leaders of the future. And a special thankyou goes to **Haydn**, whose weekly commitment has been really special.

To Haydn and all his Year 6 classmates, we wish you all the best as you head off to your secondary schools. Do come and volunteer in your shop in the future!

Stephanie Taylor

Have you thought about volunteering at the village shop but not taken the leap yet?

Make new friends amongst your fellow volunteers, and chat with villagers popping in for their shopping.

- There's no need to make a commitment to regular hours (but it would be great if you can!)
- And no need to work alone; you can work with a 'buddy'
- You'll get all the training you need

So, take the plunge and find out more. Chat to a volunteer in store, contact shop manager Julie on 07427 159799 or via svsmanager1@gmail.com

Stebbing Tennis Club News

Hello from Stebbing Tennis, your friendly village tennis club!



We have had a wonderful Summer of tennis, with members playing in the glorious, and at times, very hot sunshine! Court 3 has had a makeover, with a fresh repaint, along with a smart viewing platform and new seating.

Membership has been really buoyant, with a number of new members following our Open Day in May. We have over 20 members playing regularly at our club mix-in sessions on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings. Our cardio, squad and ladies coaching groups have proved very popular with Mark Clark, our Head Coach, and members have secured some great victories and placings in our league matches, both in the Essex Small Clubs League, Halstead & District League, and the Essex LTA Seniors.





Our junior membership is growing well, with many attending weekly after-school sessions and club tournaments, overseen by Ashleigh Draper, our Club Coach. Our Summer camps were enjoyed by many youngsters (members and non-members) during the school holidays, with many new skills developed and friendships made. If you are interested in upcoming holiday camps, please get in touch with Ashleigh Draper via the contact details opposite.

Our annual charity mixed doubles Gnome Tournament, held in June, raised £545 for The Brain Tumour charity, in support of the Skilton family. Vicky Skilton, a past Chair of the Tennis Club, sadly passed away recently. A big thank you to members and their guests for their support. The tournament was won by Andy Bott and Maz Dowding, with Keith Chapman and Liz Davies coming runners-up in a closely fought tie-break final.





Our Mixed Doubles Tournament held at the end of July saw 15 pairs battle it out for cash prizes! We managed to dodge the rain with each pair playing eight matches of five games. It was a close contest, narrowly won by Ryan Bott and Maria Glen-Doepel, with Alex Martin and Alex Oakley as runners-up! They won £50 and £25 each, respectively. In the secret sweep, David Walker won £50 for picking Maria as the winner, with Liz Moody winning £50 for picking Ryan!

Our ladies also enjoyed a fun evening of social tennis at the end of July. It was a lovely evening of laughter and getting to know each other better, both on the court and over a glass of prosecco! Look out for our upcoming Quiz night in November, always a fun and popular evening, as we raise funds for a new clubhouse – all are welcome!

Tennis continues through the Autumn and Winter seasons, with timings updated on our website. Do follow us on Facebook and Instagram to keep up-to-date with news and events. If you are interested in joining our friendly club, please do contact Sara via the details below.

Upcoming events:

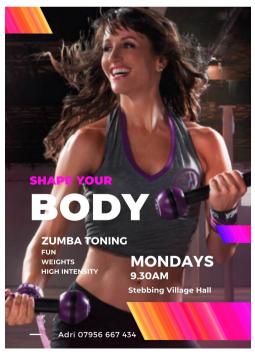
14th September: Club Championships

November (date tbc): Quiz night (open to all)

Useful Contacts

Chairman: Ian Ford-Roberston – <u>chair@stebbingtennisclub.co.uk</u> Membership: Sara Hill – membership@stebbingtennisclub.co.uk Adult coaching: Mark Clark – 07713 626239, mtclarkandco@aol.com

Junior coaching: Ashleigh Draper – 07966 502834, ashleighdraper@aol.com





Obituary: Victoria Jayne Skilton (Vicky) 9th February 1952 – 12th April 2025

Chris Skilton; Husband:

The first time I met Vicky was at her parents' house. 'The White House', Aythorpe Roding. I had visited her mother to service a tropical fish aquarium and after five years of looking after this aquarium, I saw Vicky had grown from a schoolgirl



to a confident young lady. I was a very keen follower of point-to-point racing and invited Vicky to a meeting, knowing she was dedicated to two mischievous ponies with her friend; Shirley. I drove the long way home and ended up in King's Road, at a Spanish restaurant. The hors d'oeuvre was memorable; gambas; until Vicky ate a chilli! I later found out, she seldom ate anything with relish, except Marmite!

Vicky had many party going friends; Stansted Young Farmers. She became their Social Secretary. Vicky went to school in Berbice House, Dunmow. Ironically, the school closed the day she left! From there, she studied secretarial skills at Chelmsford College and her first job was as secretary to Chelmsford Hospital Development Officer. She then became au pair to a couple in Berlin, Germany – totally boring. Soon she was off to Australia. Her mother paid for the boat trip to visit her Aunt. She managed to find a job with the Government Law Courts as a shorthand recorder. This meant erratic hours with lots of time off, allowing Vicky to fly all over Australia. She made lasting friends who later visited us in England.

Vicky returned home in just over one year, as her father became ill and sadly died. Her mother returned to Wanstead, London and Vicky became secretary to a Surgeon at Mile End Hospital, London. My business took off in London and we had great times.

After a day at Stratford on Avon races, we stayed in Upper Slaughter where Vicky & I celebrated our day with a grand supper, after which we walked in the hotel grounds. It was dark and the ground lit up, very romantic, it seemed magic – glow worms. I asked Vicky if she would marry me. 'Yes' We were so happy.

We searched everywhere for a house we could afford, eventually finding 'Willow Thatch' Stebbing Green. Our wedding was in Little Easton Church. Our honeymoon was spent on the unspoilt island of Nevis in the Caribbean.

Once we had settled in our cottage, Vicky put her energy into reviving the Tennis Club. It was transformed from a neglected field to a grass court and shed, to ultimately becoming today's floodlight courts for all ages. Vicky was made 'Life Member'

Our neighbours across the Green, Adrian Hibbert & his wife, had a very game horse which Vicky exercised and later purchased; 'Flicker'. So, we saved, built stables, enlarged the garden and made a paddock. This became a field for our cousins' Point to Point racers' Summer holidays. Vicky was now competing in all forms of equestrian sports. When in 'Ozzie', she became a 'jiggeroo' (rounding up cattle on horseback). Flicker and she excelled, our cousin's horses were winning races and their daughter was a top pony jockey. Success!

Then I purchased a narrow boat. It was a perfect, peaceful way to have adventurous holidays. It even acted as a hotel in London and Vicky became an invaluable crew member. Life was a great adventure with someone loved.

We were invited to meet the King and on another occasion, to dine with the Queen Mother. We passed our diving certificate in a very cold quarry in Leicestershire with a sunken helicopter & some beautiful perch.

Then the children came along. First, Richard who was super active and nicknamed 'Duracell' by our friends. He travelled the entire East & South of England in a Moses basket. Then there was Four - Robert. The house was too small. New house? – No luck! So, enlarged house using old materials and it has remained so.

Oh, and by the way, Vicky also drove a Great Weston train engine – Clun Castle.

Kevin Farr; Brother:

Dear Sister, So many childhood memories......

Do you remember our excitement at the onset of children's black & white TV at 5.00pm on Saturdays featuring Dr Who and the dreaded Daleks? Do you remember the long Summer holidays at Frinton-on-Sea, with a daily highlight being the endless shrimping when the tide was out, cooking and then eating our meagre catches?

That was of course until you were paddling with Dad when the net you were helping him push, hit a rock......only to find that this 'rock' was in fact a huge plaice! You immediately displayed the skills that were to become your trademark by imploring Mum that she should do the sensible thing and allow you to take it back to our holiday home and adopt it as your new pet..... it managed to live in the kitchen sink for three whole days, with the hapless thing flapping around in the tap water you insisted on giving it, until the fourth day, when Dad got fed up with a lack of cooked food and, after you had gone to bed, ate it for supper. You took two whole days to stop crying....

But that was then and this is now and as we gather to celebrate your life, I find myself reflecting, not with sentimentality, but with a deep sense of practicality about the person you were and the legacy you leave behind.

You lived your life with purpose, determination and an undeniable ability to get things done. Your straightforward approach to life was a hallmark of who you were. You didn't mince words and you didn't waste time on frivolities; if something needed doing, it would be done now, not later – a trait that was a shining example to us all. You had a knack of cutting through the noise and focusing on what truly mattered whether in relationships, work, or life's challenges.

Your contributions to both our family and village community came not from grand gestures, but through consistent, solid actions. You exemplified this by your dependability, always showing up when needed and following through to complete your objective. Thank you for being the person you were; sister, friend, and unwavering force of clarity in a world that often feels chaotic.

Obituary: Paulette Arlette

30th August 1941 – 20th March 2025

A tribute by David Arlette (her husband)

Little did I know that the stunning young lady in the bright red coat, whom I chanced to meet one evening, playing darts at Gilbeys Social Club in 1972, would become my soulmate and companion for the next 53 years!



Paulette was a war-baby, born in Haselmere with a childhood in South London and, in her teens, moving to Harlow. On leaving school at 16yrs, she became an apprentice hairdresser at Raymond's Salon, The Stow where she became most proficient at cutting.

Her only son, Darren was born in 1964. He was an unusual child who, we now realise, was quite severely autistic. This was not widely recognised as being on the UK Medical Spectrum until the 1980 – 90's and so, in spite of some rudimentary psychiatric help, he went undiagnosed and therefore misunderstood throughout his life and tragically died at the young age of forty. If only we had known!

On a whim, in 1974 Paulette & I visited Spain to view potential building plots. It was Paulette's first trip abroad and she immediately fell in love with the way of life and of course, the climate. We purchased a small house in what was then, the tiny fishing village of Moraira and for the next 24 years we enjoyed frequent visits to our little Spanish Casa.

In 1976, we moved to Park Road Cottage, Little Easton. Renovation took much of our time but was worth it. Paulette loved living there. She worked at 'Tangles' Hairdressers and became a firm favourite with residents of the local Care home. Ten years later, we moved to a lovely old cottage at Broad Green, Chrishall. We were to spend the next 25 years there and Paulette enjoyed initial employment at Haygate's egg farm. After this she spent several years at Wood Green Animal Shelter, which she loved and latterly joined Simon & Ollie at the 'Pheasant', where she became as much a friend as employee.

In all this time, we had never actually married, so upon my taking the knee and her acceptance, we were married in 1987 at Saffron Walden Registry Office.

Having sold our Spanish house in 2000, we downsized to a house in Mundesley, Norfolk but Paulette's health deteriorated. She was troubled with Rheumatoid Arthritis and then developed Breast Cancer. Following treatment but with more health problems, we decided to return to our roots and moved to Ruffel's Place, growing to love our house and garden in Stebbing. In spite of her increasing immobility, Paulette seemed more serene here. She felt comfortable in having, what she referred to as 'lovely neighbours'.

Forever young at heart, Paulette would never have grown 'old' no matter what age she lived to. She was a 'one off'. Much loved, much admired, forever desperately missed, Paulette had that rare quality of being 'happy in her own skin'.

Obituary: Robin Ian Lane

24th February 1940 – 19th March 20.

As told by Brenda; his wife

Before I met Robin, he was a parachutist in the Territorial Army. He also loved motorbikes and had a passion for scuba diving, swimming and diving. We spent many weekends in Dorset, with the Scuba Diving Club.

Rob was born in Thanet, Kent but we met at a dance hall in Ilford and were married in 1966 at St John's Church, Loughton.



After spending ten years at Night School, Robin became a Fellow of the Chartered Institution of Building Service Engineers and worked in London as a heating and ventilation engineer.

At home, it wasn't unusual to have parts of a car engine on the work top in the kitchen. I couldn't complain though, because it was usually my old mini that needed repairing.

Rob's great passion was skiing, and we went twice a year whenever possible, taking our three sons; Paul, Tony and Richard. Sadly, knee replacements put an end to skiing, so he took up clay pigeon shooting and then carpet bowls for many years.

After retirement, Rob took up watercolour painting and sold quite a few pictures at the Countess of Warwick Show, Little Easton.

Robin did a great deal of work on the cottage owned by Stebbing Village Hall and was also Treasurer of the Village Hall for a number of years.

In latter life, he enjoyed fishing, cooking and cleaning his car. Rob was a lovely husband, so patient. He adored his sons, daughters in law and grandchildren.

I feel I am very lucky to have had him in my life for over 59 years.



Porters Hall Update

We are really pleased to say that Porters Hall is now finished and is available to hire as a luxury holiday let, on an exclusive use basis! It is also available for corporate events, photo and film shoots.

It's been five years since we submitted our first planning application and we've had a long and windy journey, with plenty of sweat and tears - but based on the fantastic feedback we have had from everyone who has looked round to date, we think the results are worth it!

A lot of the focus this year has been on external landscaping and we were thrilled to see Anthony Purdey's designs start to come to life. Over 50 trees have been planted, 500m of estate fencing erected, 200m of paths laid and the final piece of the jigsaw, a new (pedestrian) bridge across the moat has been installed. We definitely under-estimated how long the external works would take and the weather hasn't helped at times – being very wet at the start of the year and then as soon as the grass seed was sown we had a heat wave!







All the family have mucked in – our parents (the owners), husbands, children, children's partners – it's definitely been a family affair from clearing the property at the start, to assembling and moving furniture, hanging mirrors, watering plants, organising suppliers, choosing soft furnishings and of course at times arguing!

We now have almost 250 followers on social media, with over 5,000 views every month and have got 16 bookings already! We are listed on Cottages.com (property UK49432) as well as on the Visit Essex accommodation website and are planning to set up our website in the future. If you haven't looked at our Facebook and Instagram pages yet, please do, as they show just what a journey Porters Hall has had.

Below are some photos showing the property as it is today:













The property can accommodate up to 22 overnight guests - we are dog friendly, welcoming up to 4 well behaved dogs – we even have a doggy shower! Whilst we've sympathetically restored the property, exposing beams and inglenook fireplaces long since covered up, we have also added some modern features such as a bar with a worktop made from coins, Everhot electric aga, Quooker instant boiling water tap and four electric car chargers.

We've also ensured that Porters Hall is accessible, with two ground floor wheelchair accessible bedrooms and ensuites – including electric adjustable beds, grab rails, shower seat, portable wheelchair ramp (although most entrances are level thresholds) and emergency assistance alarms. Due to unforeseen additional costs, the renovation of the outbuilding and provision of these accessible overnight facilities wouldn't have been possible without a grant from the UK government, through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund – and we have a plaque proudly displayed on the building to recognise this important contribution.

More recently we have had to turn our attention to the business side of things – including health and safety matters like fire and legionella risk assessments, creating the guest information folder, recruiting a part-time gardener. At times it has felt like things never end – especially since myself and my two sisters, who will be running the business, all have day jobs – there have been some late nights and busy weekends!

We really want Porters Hall to provide guests with some unforgettable memories, so we've also started reaching out to local businesses to develop collaborations, including award winning private chef Mick Binnington. We're still looking for more local companies and services we can recommend to guests – for example a mobile beautician, archery or yoga on the lawn – so please get in touch if you are interested (admin@portershall.co.uk)

From being a derelict property, about to go on the heritage asset at risk register, we have now given Porters Hall a sustainable future and hope that it will be a real asset for the parish. In order to say thank you for the support and interest we have received from local residents we are holding an open day – see details below. We hope to see some of you soon!

Fran Morgan

Porters Hall Open Day

Saturday 4th October 2025

Tickets: £1 per person
All proceeds go to Pancreatic Cancer UK

Please pre-book your ticket by emailing: admin@portershall.co.uk

To safely manage visitor numbers and especially parking, only people with 'pre-booked tickets' will be allowed entry. Numbers will be limited and are on a first come, first served basis, with visitors given two-hour time slots.

Cost Of Living Help Is Here

With prices rising faster than many incomes, households across Uttlesford are feeling the pressure.

Nearly 1 in 4 UK households are cutting back on essentials like food and heating. Energy bills remain over £1,600 a year, and food prices are still up to 25% higher than two years ago.

If you're struggling to keep up, Uttlesford Citizens Advice is here to help, offering free, confidential advice. We can help with:

- Managing energy bills & applying for energy grants
- Benefits & Universal Credit check
- Debt and budgeting advice
- Housing, rent, and landlord issues
- Employment rights

No judgment. No pressure. Just someone on your side.

You can find more information online at www.uttlesfordca.org.uk.

If you need extra help or can't easily get online, just give us a call, send an email, or visit us at Dunmow, Stansted, Thaxted Libraries or the Old Schoolhouse in Takeley. If an adviser isn't there in person, you can still speak to someone face-to-face using our easy one-touch video link. All advice is free and confidential.



Are you interested in volunteering in a lovely village Primary?

If so, we need you at STEBBING PRIMARY!

We are looking for fun, friendly and enthusiastic volunteers to listen to readers, help with our gardening or be part of our forest school sessions.

For further details please contact the school office to find out more on 01371 856260

We look forward to hearing from you.

All volunteers are subject to safer recruitment requirements to ensure the safeguarding of children and young people. All positions will involve appropriate checks and clearances.

Doug Sanders Decorator

citizens advice

Looking for an experienced local decorator? Give me a call.

I do all forms of decorating, both interior and exterior and specialise in hanging quality wallpapers.

All estimates are free. I have public liability insurance and do not use sub-contractors

Contact me: 07811 692 431 g.d.sanders@btinternet.com

Stebbing Parish Council Vacancy

Stebbing Parish Council has a vacancy for a Parish Councillor and are looking to co-opt an individual.

Is it for me? If you have an interest in the village in which you live and would like to contribute to maintaining the environment and many services in the village as well as helping to shape it's future this is the role for you.

Will it take a lot of my time? Stebbing Parish Council meets each month on the second Thursday evening with a break in August when there is no meeting. The meeting lasts on average 2 hours. Outside of the meeting your time commitment is variable depending if you become involved as a member of a committee or give time to a particular project. This could then be anything from 1 to 4hrs a week.

Am I qualified? As a councillor you need the enthusiasm to contribute to Stebbing Village life and be able to give your time voluntarily. You must also be over 18yrs and be an elector in Stebbing, work in the Parish or own property / land in the Parish.

Interested? Contact Clerk to Stebbing Parish Council: Email: clerk@stebbing-pc.gov.uk Tel: 01371 855805



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Tools With A Mission

"TWAM"

We are a Christian charity that collects unwanted usable tools, refurbishes them, sorts them into trade tool kits and sends them to the developing world for livelihood creation.

Through our work in the UK we:

* prevent nearly 400 tonnes of tools from crowding our landfills annually * offer volunteering opportunities that foster social connections.

The impact of our work resonates globally, as we:

- * supply refurbished tools to over 500 organisations in Sub-Saharan Africa.
 - * equip individuals with the skills needed to transform their lives.

By refurbishing and recycling these tools, we:

* help to create a world where everyone has the chance to survive and thrive.

However the distribution, by shipping container, is not free! "Cash" contributions are also welcome.

To donate, see the TWAM website, or contact Edward on econder@btinternet.com

Community Agents part of the Essex Wellbeing Service



Essex Wellbeing Service

Community Agents part of the Essex Wellbeing Service

Community Agents is a free to access home visiting service, helping people to live independently in their own home. We can help anybody over the age of 18 that is in particular need of a home visit in order to source the support needed. We are not carers, but Community Agents can assist with:

Equipment

Assess and arrange installation for grab rails, bed rails, steps, toilet aids, bathing/showering aids, furniture raisers.

Blue Badges & Bus Passes

Complete applications and renewals.

Benefits

Assist with benefit form completion or signpost to the relevant, local service.

Social Opportunities

Community Agents know many local clubs and activities and have details of what's on in your local area.

Transport

Advise on community and hospital transport links.

Meals & Shopping

If preparing meals or shopping is becoming difficult we have details of options that may be suitable.

Carers Support

Provide support to unpaid carers including sourcing respite options and carers support groups.

Please call EWS direct 0300 303 9988 to refer yourself, family member, friend or neighbour to Community Agents. Please note you must have the referrer's permission. Lines open Monday to Friday 8am-7pm and Saturday 9am-12pm.





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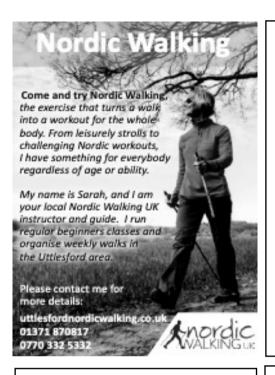
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We offer matinee and evening performances. Prices usually range from £70-£100 per person and all trips include tickets, return coach travel from Dunmow and refreshments enroute. Don's Coaches provide a unique door to door service.

I have availability for trips to: Joseph & the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat on 21st June, Sissinghurst Castle Garden on 30th August, Hercules on 30th September, The Producers on 21st October, Bicester Shopping Village on 31st October, Come Alive on 12th November, Ely Christmas Market on 22nd November and Carols at the Royal Albert Hall on 14th December,

There are of course many other trips during the course of the year which are sold out, Evita, Anton & Giovanni and Kinky Boots, to name but a few. Please contact me for details in case I have cancellations, and I can add you to my mailing list for up-to-date information. I will be adding other trips as we go along.

Please contact us for further details: judith@jlpresents.co.uk: Mob No: 07989 490828. www.jlpresents.co.uk

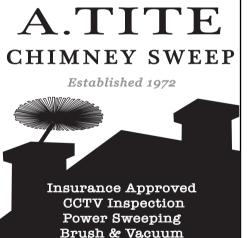


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Puzzle Corner:

Our annual Summer Fayre is just around the corner, and we're celebrating with a fun word search! Hidden in the grid are words linked to all the sights, sounds, and tasty treats you'll find at the event. Grab a pen, circle them all, and get into the Fayre spirit!

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WINE
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Stebbing Directory

AFSS/Stebbing School

Badminton Beavers Bell Ringing Bowls Club

Carpet Bowls (Afternoon)
Carpet Bowls (Evening)
Church (Administrator)
Church (Priest in Charge)

Church Flowers Cricket Club

Cubs

Dorcas Society

Fete

Footpath Rep

Friday Morning Market Friends Meeting House

Garden Club

History Society/Archive Judo Club

Ladies Group Meals on Wheels

Over 60s Parish Clerk

Parish Paths Partnership

Primary School Rainbows TOTs & Co Scouts

Stebbing Scene Tennis Club Village Hall Village Stores White Hart Office

Mark Hayden Nieky van Veggel

Neil Bromley

Neil Bromley John Pitkethly Pat Hopwood Roger Butson

Emma Nicholls

Sue Hurley Hazel Kerr

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Rosie Pitkethly Karen Clark

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Michael J Walsh Funeral Directors is a local family run business that have been providing a professional and caring service to the Great Dunmow area for over 100 years.

As well as providing traditional burial and cremation packages, in June 2022 we completed the building of Dunmow Crematorium, which we run alongside our established Funeral services.

Michael J Walsh, with our dignified and caring approach, offers the expertise and experience necessary to ensure you give your loved one the perfect send off.

No Hearse Full Service £2,870*

FUNERAL INCLUDES:

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- A standard oak veneered coffin
- Transport of deceased to Crematorium
- Full service at Dunmow Crematorium with 2 hours between services
- Officiant fees
- 50 copies of the order of Service
- A single image on screens and music throughout the service
- 25 photo music tribute
- Collection of cremated remains

*We know seeing a hearse at a funeral can be upsetting, therefore with this service the coffin will be placed in the crematorium before the congregation arrives. A full service will then take place with no hearse or bearers required.







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- Crematorium fees
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Please see our website walshfunerals.com for more details or phone us on 01371
856274 or email info@walshfunerals.com

Stebbing Scene Is Your Magazine

Thanks to our advertisers, we are able to produce a professionally printed magazine, which is delivered free to every household in Stebbing.

Our first priority is to entertain and inform village residents, but we hope that in doing so we can ensure that advertising with us is worthwhile. For most people in the village, when seeking a local tradesmen or services, the natural first source of information is the *Scene*. If you have a local service or product that you'd like everyone to hear about, why not place an advert?



We can only produce a magazine that meets the needs and satisfies the interests of Stebbing residents if we have plenty of contributions. We rely on you to send us articles and reports of events and social activities in the village. We welcome photos, reports, and announcements, that cover all aspects of life in Stebbing. Let us have your views on the magazine and on how we can improve and develop. If you have an opinion, a moan, or a suggestion, then please contact one of the team.

Please send contributions to:

Karen Clark (articles, letters & advertising)
Jon Clark (queries about delivery)
Jackie Kingdom (obituaries)

karen@howetraining.com jon@adaptainer.co.uk jackiekingdom@btinternet.com

Copy date for next issue is 21st November 2025

All contributions are welcome. Email is preferred where possible, but even handwritten contributions are welcome (if we can read them)

Did you know that this issue, and back copies are available to download at www.stebbingscene.uk

Disclaimer

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