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Your Village – Your Magazine





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Paddy McKeown



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Dates For Your Diary: Spring 2026

Over 60s Talk	Old Friends Meeting House	2.00pm	Wednesday 18 th March
Dorcas Society Annual Spring Soup Lunch	Village Hall	12.30pm	Friday 20 th March
Bowls Club Race Night	Village Hall	7.00pm	Saturday 21 st March
Garden Club AGM & Quiz	Village Hall	8.00pm	Monday 23 rd March
Ladies Group Talk: Lady Masons	Village Hall	8.00pm	Wednesday 25 th March
Stebbing Village Spring Market	Village Hall	10.00am	Friday 27 th March
Palm Sunday St Mary's Church Opening Celebration	St Mary's Church	4.00pm	Sunday 29 th March
Easter Family Fun Day	St Mary's Church	10.00am – 4.00pm	Saturday 4 th April
Local History Society Talk: Digging Into The Past	St Mary's Church	8.00pm	Monday 13 th April
History Games Night	St Mary's Church	7.30pm	Tuesday 21 st April
Ladies Group Talk: My Creative Journey	Village Hall	8.00pm	Wednesday 22 nd April
Take Note Concert	St Mary's Church	7.30pm	Saturday 25 th April
Garden Club Talk: Auriculas	Village Hall	8.00pm	Monday 27 th April
Springtime Spectacular	St Mary's Church	11.00am – 4.00pm	Saturday 2 nd May
13 th Stebbing Tractor Run	Driving through Village	TBC	Sunday 10 th May
Garden Club Talk: Lessons From Great Dixter	Village Hall	8.00pm	Monday 18 th May
Ladies Group Talk: The Magic Reveal	Village Hall	8.00pm	Wednesday 27 th May
Stebbing Summer Fayre	Mill Lane Cricket Field	1.00pm – 6.00pm	Sunday 7 th June
Local History Society Talk	Village Hall	8.00pm	Monday 8 th June
Stebbing Village Garden Club Market	Village Hall	10.00am	Friday 19 th June
Garden Club Visit	Downing Club Cambridge	Tbc	Thursday 25 th June

District Councillor's Corner: A New Uttlesford Local Plan

So What, Is It Important?

Dear Residents

You will perhaps have read my previous news of progress being made about updating Uttlesford's Local Plan. My monthly reports to Stebbing Parish Council (available to view on its web site) have also contained in more detail how steps were being taken to replace the current, very outdated, Local Plan made in 2005. It might be remembered that three earlier attempts made by previous Council Administrations to bring in a replacement Plan were unsuccessful, including the last one in 2018-2020 which provided for development of a "West of Braintree Garden Community" at Andrewsfield/Boxted Wood/Great Saling. No such scheme is put forward in this Local Plan nor that presently being consulted on by Braintree District Council.



So, what is a Local Plan? It is required to be made by each Local Planning Authority (District and Borough Councils) to set out its vision, strategy and future planning policies at a high level and is to provide for future development in that area over a medium/long term period. It outlines where large scale new housing and employment sites are to be located as well as associated infrastructure such as schools and roads. A draft Plan is prepared by the Council, supported and justified by technical reports in very many specialist fields, including on transport, education, landscape, heritage and environmental aspects and is then presented for "examination" by the Planning Inspectorate (an agency of Central Government) to verify that it is justified and properly evidenced.

Uttlesford has secured that approval which is the last external stage in January 2026 and so, the Uttlesford Local Plan 2021-2041 is now ready to be presented on 25 March 2026 to Full Council by me, being the Cabinet Member responsible for Planning policy. The District Councillors will then be invited to approve the Plan and, hoping that the vote will be positive, the new Local Plan will be adopted and come into force immediately.

Regrettably, the new Plan will not please everyone. Understandably, some residents will not be supportive of yet more development coming into our rural and historic towns, villages and landscapes. Others though may be more willing to accept the need for it so as to provide additional housing opportunities for many and be supportive of local employment provision too. The reality is that the District is very accessible because of its proximity to M11, M25 and in the case of its southern part to A120 also. These features and the existence of Stansted Airport provide much of the demand for both housing and employment needs.

The District's natural qualities also go far to explain its popularity in attracting residents to choose to live here as is reflected in Uttlesford's population growth which increased by over 15% in the decade to 2021 (by comparison, the increase in Braintree and East Herts Districts was 6% and 9% respectively). There is likely more to come since I noted recently that the Office of National Statistics predicts further 14% growth for Uttlesford in the decade to follow.

In practical terms, the new Local Plan has to and will meet the Government's required (meaning no wriggle room on Uttlesford's part) housing target which is to provide during the period 2021-2041, a total of 15,211 new dwellings across the District. Of this gross figure, up to March 2024, 2,452 dwellings have been built and a further 6,795 have already been permitted but are yet to be built. This leaves about 6,000 homes which have to be planned for and they will be provided principally at three strategic sites which are "allocated" in areas lying East of Saffron Walden, north of Prior's Green Takeley/south of A120 and North East of Dunmow (off The Causeway leading to Church End/St Edmund's Lane). The Larger Villages (of which Stebbing is one) are also, on a much smaller scale, each required through their Neighbourhood Plans to allocate land in their Parishes and Stebbing's "share" is 98 dwellings. Stebbing Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group have previously written about their work to anticipate how and when this will be accomplished, and they also explain about it further in this Edition.

As seen from the statistics above, there has been in recent years a huge volume of development built or secured in our District. We have seen it happen to the west of Great Dunmow as well as off Station Road, Felsted/Little Dunmow in particular. This might be called speculative or opportunistic development and often has come about because Government Policy states that there is to be a presumption in favour of such development where there is no up to date Local Plan in place whereby planning permissions are granted in consequence. The absence of a fully effective Local Plan has also meant that far less district wide coordinated infrastructure provision has resulted. The presumption is inapplicable where there is an up to date Local Plan and housing supply in existence as will be the case subsequent to adoption. Other planning policies which support potential development will still have to be demonstrated and satisfied of course.

With an up to date Local Plan in place however, it will be easier to secure future infrastructure delivery, whose present deficit value is estimated to be in the region of £200m. Supported by the introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy ("CIL") for all new development which will not be restricted, as at present, to schemes greater in number than 10 dwellings (which I shall be bringing for approval to Cabinet later this Spring), it will be possible to address this deficit gap. Importantly, which will be of future interest to Stebbing, development in Parishes which have an up to date Neighbourhood Plan in place will benefit from 25% of CIL revenues arising and will be made available for investment by that Parish Council upon its infrastructure priorities/improvements.

The new Uttlesford Local Plan will however not only be about the extent of and where development is provided for. It also contains ground breaking and forward looking policies going beyond and higher than national standards and which will serve to mitigate and adapt for climate change. For example, a higher (20%) than nationally required biodiversity net gain is imposed and there are strong provisions incorporated towards Net Zero in the construction and operation of new buildings as well as for the generation of renewable energy.

There are five Core Policies in the Local Plan dealing with these important themes as may be seen referenced in this short summary which are I believe strong examples of positive consideration being given at local level for the here and now and for the benefit of future generations to come.



HOW THE LOCAL PLAN TACKLES CLIMATE CHANGE

The new Uttlesford Local Plan 2021-2041, due for adoption in Spring 2026, is a climate-led plan, requiring low-carbon, climate-resilient development that reduces emissions at source and improving residents' wellbeing and quality of life. New development will be ultra-low-energy with fossil-fuel-free buildings powered by renewable energy, and walkable, well-connected communities reducing car dependency, and strengthening green infrastructure, biodiversity and resource efficiency. Developed in collaboration with Essex County Council's Climate and Planning Unit, and consultants, Bioregional, the plan ensures climate ambitions are translated into practical, enforceable policies.

Core Policy 2 requires development to mitigate and adapt to climate change by reducing emissions, promoting sustainable transport, energy efficiency, low-carbon materials, climate-resilient design, efficient use of resources, and enhanced green infrastructure. It requires most new development to submit a Climate Change and Sustainability Statement demonstrating how these measures are addressed, and an Energy Statement for larger schemes.

Core Policy 25 encourages the generation of renewable energy including the creation of community networks, taking into consideration environmental and amenity impacts.

The Local Plan's spatial strategy focuses development in sustainable locations with the most potential for sustainable transport. Other policies require electric vehicle charging infrastructure, a network of active travel routes and connections to adjoining sites, sustainable transport infrastructure, a green infrastructure-led approach and biodiversity net gain above the statutory 10% wherever viable.

Core Policy 22 requires new buildings, and where possible extensions and conversions, to be net-zero carbon in operation by delivering ultra-low energy, fossil-fuel-free development with on-site renewable energy generation that matches or exceeds annual energy use. It sets strict space-heating and Energy Use Intensity targets with post-construction monitoring, or Passivhaus as an alternative compliance route.

Core Policy 23 requires all development to demonstrate integration of the cooling hierarchy, with major schemes to assess overheating risk.

Core Policy 24 requires development to minimise embodied carbon, justify demolition, and demonstrate reduction through design and materials. Major schemes must submit a Whole Life Carbon Assessment and meet specified embodied carbon targets for residential and non-residential development.



There is a very comprehensive dedicated page that I commend to any reader wanting to reference the additional material concerning the Local Plan and it is to be found on UDC's web site at:

<https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/article/8360/The-new-local-plan>.

By the time of publication of the next edition of Stebbing Scene, I hope that it will be possible to report that both the Local Plan 2021-2041 and CiL will have been adopted.

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

District Councillor John Evans
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The Pilgrim Parishes: Heroes



Who were your heroes when you were young? In earlier years they could have been Knights of the Round Table or Victorian explorers or maybe a soldier in WW1 or a pilot in WW2 and later on people who went to the Moon or perhaps a footballer or a Pop or film star. We also had and have heroes who have stood up for justice like the suffragettes and Martin Luther King. It could even be a character like Superman! It could be a scientist who has won the Nobel Prize or a doctor who has developed a cancer treatment.

I think that we need heroes to inspire us to go beyond our usual selves and say 'yes, I CAN do it whatever it costs'

The heroes of the church are of course the Saints. These people stood up for their faith and the stories of their lives, their words and quite often their deaths as martyrs have given inspiration to Christians across the centuries. Most churches are dedicated to a saint so I thought we might look at those with whom the churches in the Pilgrim Parishes are associated. Over the centuries the dedications have been lost or changed: A saint mentioned in the 1400s may not now be the saint of that church and Little Easton has no saint now. It is just Little Easton Church.

Broxton, Chickney, Tilty, Stebbing and Lindsell are all dedicated to **St Mary the Virgin**. The first people called saints were those who had actually associated with Jesus when he was on earth so no wonder his mother came into this category. People would be inspired by her obedience, her humility and her faithfulness as she stood by her Son's cross as he died.

Little Bardfield is dedicated to **St Peter and St Paul**. St Peter was one of Jesus inner circle of disciples. He is mentioned all through the gospels and was impetuous yet ultimately faithful and chosen by Jesus to found the Church. He led the early church and is honoured as the first Bishop of Rome and died a martyr. He is a saint we can identify with because he gets it wrong, is forgiven and carries on. **St Paul** started by hating those who followed Jesus Christ and then became a follower himself, spreading the Christian faith all over the Eastern Mediterranean. As a saint Paul had determination and courage, was a good thinker and writer and suffered prison and death for his belief.

Great Easton is dedicated to **St Giles** the only saint here not closely associated with Jesus as he lived in the 6th or 8th century. He was a hermit so lived alone spending his time praying to God. He was wounded by the local king as he shot a deer. The king recognised a holy man and built a monastery where St Giles became the Abbot. He was a prayerful man and became the patron saint of cripples because he had been injured.

This is just a taste of the 'Heroes of the Church' in our own benefice. You will see many more if you visit churches and find out the stories which have inspired Christians down the years to live following the examples of the saints who followed Jesus Christ. They all have different personalities yet have had the same determination to be faithful, to remain true and to be part of transforming the world.

Quite a good plan for any Hero really, even if they are not a saint!

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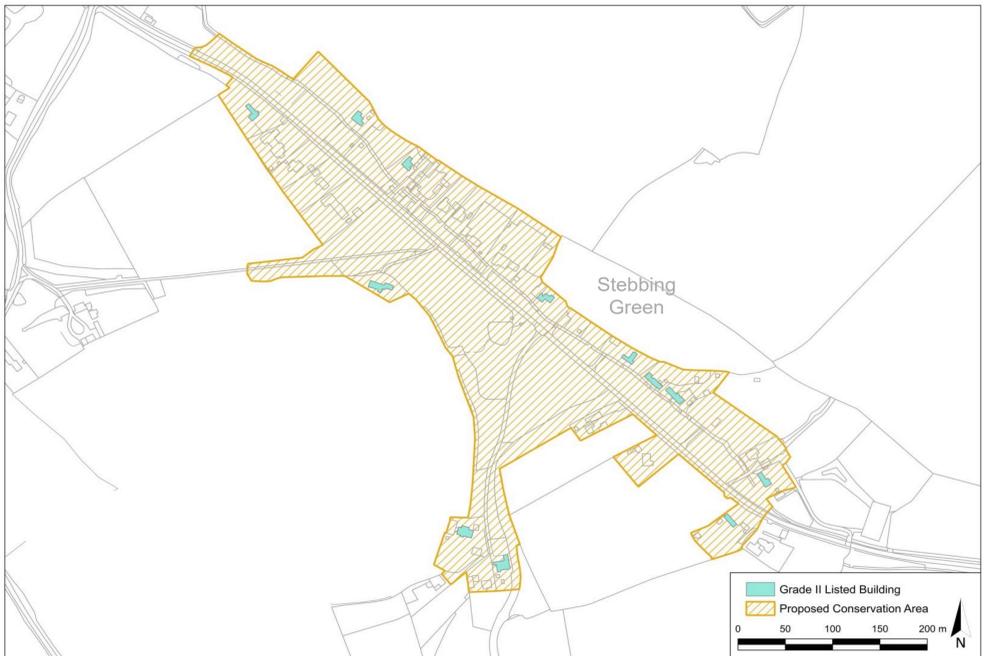
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A Conservation Area For Stebbing Green: A Consultation



Residents living on and near to Stebbing Green recently received notice from Uttlesford District Council of the Consultation now underway concerning proposals to designate the majority of Stebbing Green (as shown here) as a Conservation Area ("CA").



Many readers will be familiar with the concept and function of CAs perhaps because they already live in the Stebbing Conservation Area which covers the historic core of Stebbing (Church End, the High Street, Mill Lane and Stebbing Park) and which was first designated as such in 1977. Some of us might be less familiar with the purposes for which CAs are introduced and a bit of background might be useful.

A CA is defined as a Heritage Asset for the purposes of planning law and policy and once designated, all planning applications which might affect its setting are required to take it into account, respect its special character and sensitivities, including its landscape qualities and historic features. An example of the great relevance and value of Stebbing's CA was clearly given in the Decisions of the Planning Inspectorate when in 2025 they refused the two development applications submitted for the two fields opposite the Village School and on The Downs.

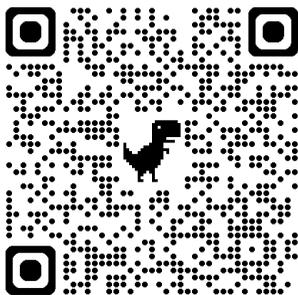
The consideration that it might be appropriate to consider designation of Stebbing Green as a CA first emerged from the Heritage Evidence commissioned for the Stebbing Neighbourhood Plan 2022 and the idea was then forward by Stebbing Parish Council ("SPC"). Members of SPC's Planning and Green Sub-Committees pro-actively undertook the research and field work involved for a detailed appraisal of the significance of Stebbing Green. Place Services, the specialist heritage arm of Essex County Council, were then commissioned by SPC to assess the qualities of Stebbing Green and they prepared a Character Appraisal and Management Plan ("CAAMP") for it, a copy of which may be read through this link on Uttlesford's website:

https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/media/14079/Stebbing-Green-Conservation-Area-Character-Appraisal-and-Management-Plan/pdf/Stebbing_Green_CAAMP.pdf?m=1769448727117

The CAAMP explains the basis and justification for the prospective designation by Uttlesford of Stebbing Green as a CA. The community and all other interested parties are now invited to comment on the proposal, a six week consultation period has been set and included an Engagement Event in the Village Hall on 25 February when senior representatives from Place Services and Uttlesford were in attendance to answer questions from the public.

SPC is entirely supportive of the proposed designation and management of Stebbing Green as a CA, not only in their capacity as Parish Council but also as its owner. Perhaps many will not appreciate that the PC became owners of the entirety of Stebbing Green in 1951 when ownership was transferred to it for the princely sum of £ 1 (often referred to by Conveyancers as a "peppercorn"!) by the then Owner of the "Manorial Waste", the Earl of Essex. Thereafter, SPC registered it as a Village Green under the provisions of the Commons Act, although it is not subject to any registered rights of common.

Stebbing Green is, I think it safe to say, treasured not only by those who live upon it but also by all Stebbing residents who appreciate it as an important recreational open green space. We are surely grateful that for the past decades it has been the subject of great care and ecological management, all carried out and paid for by SPC, under the careful stewardship of its Greens Sub-Committee.

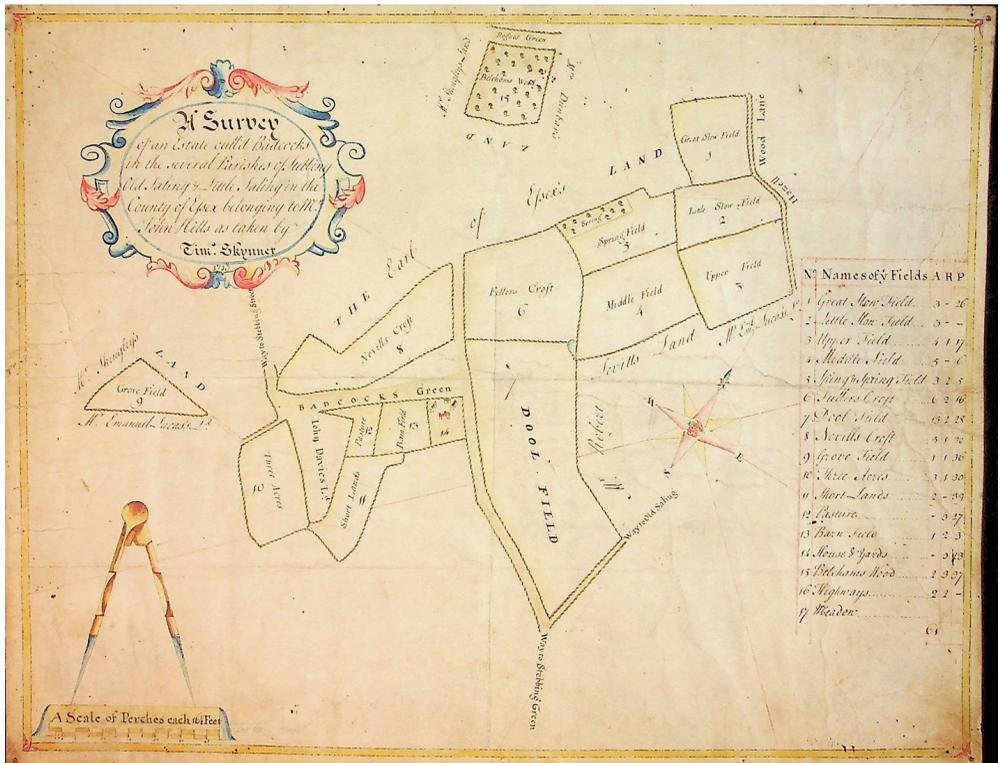


Even if you do not live on or near Stebbing Green, you are certainly welcome to submit your own views on the proposal to designate the CA and submit them to Uttlesford in the Consultation which runs until **23 March 2026**. I encourage all who are interested in providing support for the stronger protection of our Parish's important historic landscape and heritage assets to do so. Responses can be provided to Uttlesford on line via this QR Code or in writing in the usual way.

District Councillor John Evans

Stebbing Local History Society: Badcocks Farm 1713 - 1977

The following article was first published in the SLHS November Journal of 2007.



Badcocks Farm 1713

Courtesy of the Essex Record Office ref. D/Dht P39)

Note: For greater visibility, this map is best viewed online; go to <https://stebbingscene.uk>

Badcocks Farm is one of the earliest farms in Stebbing about which we have reliable information. The Essex Record Office hold a coloured map, see above, dated 1713 that was prepared for the then owner. The heading in the top left hand corner tells us that it is;

A survey of an estate called Badcocks in the several parishes of Stebbing, Old Saling, Little Saling in the county of Essex belonging to Mr. John Hills as taken by Tim Skynner 1713.

Whether John Hills was going to sell the land or whether he had just bought it, we do not know but he must have had good reason to pay the surveyor Tim Skynner to draw the plan of his estate. The Farm was situated on the corner of two roads, on what was then called Badcocks Green. Badcocks can still be found on the present O.S map just north of the Western end of the Andrewsfield runway.

Both roads are now classified as bridleways, one running from Badcocks to Gatehouse Farm in Whitehouse Road, the other north-west, bounding Mouslin Wood to the north, and joining Whitehouse Road, just above Whitehouse Farm.

In 1777 Chapman & Andre published a map of the whole county, still clearly showing Badcocks. Sixty years later the Stebbing Tithe Map confirms the farm's continued existence and records it's owner as Henry Dixon and the occupier as William Clark. The Dixons were a milling family, Robert Dixon owned the Mill at Felsted and Joseph, Town Mill, Stebbing. The 1841 census does not list Henry as living in Stebbing and neither is the occupier, William Clark. However, there is a William Clark, a farmer from Wethersfield who may have rented the fields from the Dixon family, probably with a requirement that the corn should be processed at one of their mills.

The 1713 map shows the farmhouse and three farm buildings. The farmhouse is depicted as having one bay whereas a 20th century survey of the building proposes it was originally a medieval two bay hall house, built 200 years before this map was made. So it implies that already parts of the original house had fallen into disrepair. Whilst this map covers only a tiny fraction of the parish, it does provide a wealth of information. The owners of adjoining properties are named, it also lists the names and acreage of each field making up the Farm, providing the opportunity to make comparisons with the Tithe Map compiled in 1839. The comparison shows that some field names survived, and some appeared to have changed. For instance, Field No. 8 on the 1713 map, Novills Croft, has become Mouseland Field. The field boundary can still be seen clearly below what is now Mouslin Wood on the modern O.S map. Fullers Croft, No. 6 on the 1713 map is also listed on the Tithe map. A Fuller was a trade in the cloth industry and so it suggests that a 'Fullers' cottage stood in that field some years before. Dool Field is also recorded on both maps and is a field name that occurs several times across Stebbing. It generally refers to strip of wasteland beside a road.



Chapman & Andre 1777

There is wood shown at the top of the 1713 map called Belchams Wood, this may be the present day wood called Whitehouse Spring, if so, it has changed it's name completely. The 1861 census shows the occupier of Badcocks as James Clouton and family, a labourer. The word dilapidated occurs above the entry. As James is listed simply as a labourer it is unlikely he was responsible for the farmland. So it is possible it was being sub-let. In 1861 and again in 1901 the census lists the occupiers, respectively James Masons and Thomas Rawlinson as farm bailiffs. This seems to imply they are simply looking after the land, rather than actively growing crops or looking after stock.



Badcocks Farmhouse 1977

In 1929, Kelly's Directory records Ernest Wright, farmer, in occupation, although whether he was the owner, or a tenant is unknown. The evidence does seem to point to a period of long decline, as the farm by 1977 had been abandoned and was almost derelict as this photograph shows.

The 1977 survey records that the occupant of a modern cottage on the site lived in the farm building until 1964, when the then owner started to convert it. But it is understood the owner died before the conversion could be completed.

Derek Towler



Stebbing Local History Society Speaker/Event Programme 2026

Monday 13th April

To be held at St.Mary's Church, Stebbing.

The works and finds of the recent restoration of St.Mary's Church, presented by Colchester Archaeology/Anthea Hawdon
Medieval Graffiti at St.Mary's Church Stebbing.

Monday 8th June

Maria Medlycott
Recent archaeological discoveries in Essex.

Summer Outing t.b.a

Monday 14th September

Martin Bridge
Buildings and other structural dating using dendrochronology.

Monday 9th November

Company of Merrie Folke: Historical food (with real food).

Over Sixties Club News

In January we had a visit from Stebbing Primary School Choir. They had just been to London to take part in a school choir event. They entertained us with some of the songs performed there.

Future dates

March 18th: The Way Forward Project - a chance to hear about the Church refurbishment

April 18th: A.G.M and Quiz

May 20th: Outing TBA

June 17th: Strawberry Tea

For more details of our meetings please contact Edwina 856520 or Doreen 856408

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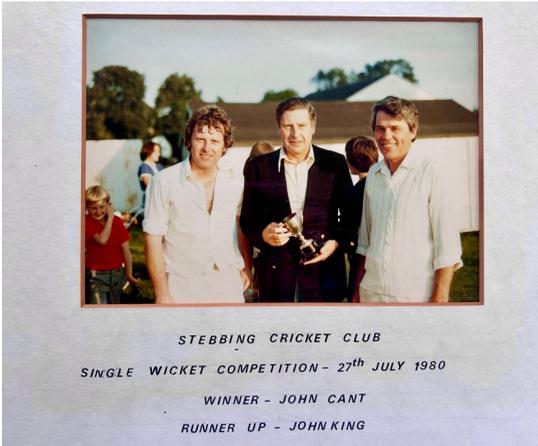
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Stebbing Cricket Club News



Mill Lane cricket square was covered in frost as I wrote the final SCC article for 2025. As a very wet February draws to a close and the square sits waterlogged our focus turns to the new season commencing in May.

As always, we are seeking new players. We play non-league friendlies against local villages and visiting opposition. Anyone interested in playing for the season or on an occasional basis just contact the club and we'll add you to the team sheet. All abilities and gender welcome.



In the absence of any current cricket to talk about I've dipped into our club archive to match score books from around 1970.

John Cant who died on 13th January this year was a regular club player in the 1970's and 80's. John, a teacher at Helena Romanes School, responded to the need to fill team places back then by recruiting from among his pupils. Maintaining a full village team has clearly never been easy. July 1980 saw him win the single wicket competition, one of the pictures in the pavilion records the event.

Keith Fletcher, first class cricketer, captained Essex and England playing in 59 Test matches scoring 3,272 runs. Keith has a long association with Stebbing Cricket Club and sometime after retiring from test and county cricket brought along a team to play a friendly against SCC. The match record shows he was bowled by none other than John Cant. The old hut which can be seen in the picture was later replaced and Keith opened our new pavilion in July 2003.

Back to 2026 the first senior fixture at Mil Lane will be Sunday 10th May.

Full details for both Saturday and Sunday fixtures for the full season should be published in the near future.

All we need now is some sunshine and warmer days to start rolling the pitch!

Ben Riley
Club president.



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The Mobile Library Service in Stebbing

The Essex Mobile Library plays a vital role in ensuring that communities like Stebbing, across the county have access to books, information, and essential library services.

Running on a three-weekly schedule, the mobile library visits villages and rural areas that, just like Stebbing, may not have a permanent library facility, bringing reading materials, digital resources, and a friendly library team directly to residents.



The mobile library is especially valuable for people who may have difficulties travelling to larger library branches. This service extends library access to groups who benefit from additional support, including retirement communities and schools. This flexible model helps ensure that everyone, regardless of their circumstances, can enjoy library services and stay connected to educational and cultural opportunities across Essex.



Visitors to the mobile library can sign up for a FREE Essex Libraries membership at any mobile library stop. Membership allows borrowing of physical books as well as access to e-books, e-audiobooks, e-magazines and subscription services through the online library catalogue. This helps broaden participation, especially for those exploring digital reading options.

The Essex Mobile Library continues to be an invaluable resource, fostering literacy, reducing social isolation, and making sure that the joy of reading and learning reaches every corner of the county.

The Mobile Library stops at Stebbing Primary School On a Friday from 10.35am to 11.05am, every three weeks.

Dates for 2026 are: 6th March, 27th March, 17th April, 8th May, 29th May, 19th June, 10th July, 31st July, 21st August, 11th September, 2nd October, 23rd October, 13th November and 4th December



Visit libraries.essex.gov.uk for further information including other mobile stops.

Mad Medic

Hello everyone,

Seeing Spring bulbs coming to life shouts of new beginnings, so I hope that you are well and ready for yours. My thoughts go to the lovely people who trust me to help them, because they are treasured and valued. I'm privy to undeniable courage, survival and resilience.



Of course I have my adorable client/patient AKA Mrs Blunderful, who fuels my strength through laughter. She is the healing balm that soothes the sadness of inevitable challenges, given the nature of what I do.

Last week she told me about an old school friend taken ill on holiday. "Valerie, I just didn't know what to do when I heard Marilyn was so poorly they had to put her in the 'criminal care unit'. Thankfully, Mrs B informed me since, that her friend (innocent I presume) is now out of 'critical' care and recovering in a side ward.

A lot of things are happening around my base area in Mumbai that can potentially disrupt my railway slum families. When I was there before Christmas a lot of boarding had been erected along the back road to the station. It had pushed the slum hutments further along to a less safe part. Doing my clinic sessions I felt worried and sad for them. Naturally so, after being there for them for over 27 years, but progress is inevitable.

Speaking of progress, on previous trips the majority of auto drivers were not always educated in a conventional way and seemed more reliant on learned observational skills. However, on our recent trip my friend Bev and I were gobsmacked. Many of them now have smart phones with sat nav etc and are really adept. Seeing them tapping and texting was hilarious. It was fascinating to see their world opening and hopefully improving. Because India is full of high-tech innovation maybe technology can one day help my slum children too.

Take care everyone. Lots of love, Valerie xxxx Happy Spring.

P.s. This made me smile.

A patient when filling admission forms in - next question was 'nearest relative', she wrote 'walking distance'.

Breaking News: Andrewsfield Closed

As Stebbing Scene goes to print we are hearing the sad news that from 1st March Andrewsfield have ceased flight operations and the office, clubhouse and café are all shut until further notice. There are no more details at this time.

More to come in the next issue, I'm sure.

Stebbing Primary School News: Small Village, Big Dreams - Enhancing Play At Stebbing Primary



At Stebbing Primary School, we believe that learning doesn't stop when the bell rings for break time. Our mission has always been to provide our pupils with amazing opportunities - the kind that spark curiosity, build resilience and, most importantly, create joyful childhood memories.

Whether it's through our immersive Forest School sessions or our vibrant Positive Playtimes, we are committed to making our outdoor environment a place where every child can flourish. However, to keep these opportunities growing, we need a little help from our wonderful community.

Why the Outdoors Matters

Our outdoor provision is more than just "play." When children engage with nature and physical equipment, they are developing critical life skills. Figuring out how to route water or build structures for example helps them with engineering and problem solving.

Our Wish List

To continue enhancing our Forest School and positive playtimes, we are looking for donations of items that might be gathering dust in your garage or shed. We are particularly on the hunt for:

- Guttering & watering cans: Perfect for experimental water play and physics in action.
- Scooters & balance bikes: To keep our younger learners moving and developing coordination.
- Water drums, crates & pallets: To add to our ever-growing loose parts play zone.
- Decking & pond liners: to enable us to reopen our pond zone.
- Sand pit toys: to keep our incredibly popular sand pit well resourced.



Tom Le Masurier, Assistant Headteacher

How to Donate

If you have any items to spare, please ensure they are in a safe, usable condition. You can drop them off at the school office or contact me directly to arrange a collection/drop off.

Your generosity directly impacts all of the children at Stebbing Primary School. Thank you for being a part of the Stebbing Primary community and helping us continue to develop and enhance our outdoor learning opportunities.

The Final Push

With the renovation work on St Mary's church almost complete, we are getting ready to move back into the building!

The transformation inside is remarkable. The interior looks wonderful; the new glass doors and step-free porch are a real highlight. The lighting now casts a soft yet bright glow throughout the space and, for the first time ever, the chancel is fully lit - a simple change that makes a huge difference. Even better, with the heating now on, the building is gradually warming up and beginning to feel welcoming again.

As with all major projects, there is still snagging to complete, paintwork to touch up where scaffolding once stood, the WC to finish, kitchen plumbing to connect, and the new bench seating at the back to upholster. We are also sourcing information screens, putting back the final two memorial stones that were previously inaccessible while the LPG tank was installed, and applying for permission for external drainage, to name a few.

Alongside this final push on the building works, we enjoyed a wonderful few weeks in the run-up to Christmas, filled with a wide variety of activities. Our final Take A Look tour welcomed visitors who were able to browse information displays and explore the newly renovated interior of the church. That same afternoon, following a few blustery showers, members of the community came together to plant saplings and shrubs in the church car park — some in memory of friends and loved ones, and others simply for the joy of watching them grow in the years ahead. We also hosted several volunteer social evenings, which were greatly enjoyed by everyone who attended. These relaxed gatherings offered the chance to chat over a glass of wine, enjoy some snacks, and help with craft preparations for those who wished.



Take A Look Tour November 2025





The grand finale was our Victorian Christmas Experience. The team embraced the occasion by dressing in period costume, hosting a range of Victorian-themed crafts, and offering traditional-style snacks. It was lovely to see so many people chatting, creating, and enjoying time together.



If you haven't already seen it, do take a look at our *2025 Round-Up* video on YouTube, which captures everything that was achieved last year, alongside highlights from the many community activities that took place:

www.youtube.com/@TheWayForwardProjectStebbingCh/videos

The project team are now preparing to move back in all the items that have been in storage for the past 17 months. There will be plenty of unpacking, careful decision-making about what to keep, and some final clearing and deep cleaning to ensure the building remains as uncluttered and flexible as possible.



We can't wait to welcome everyone back inside. Over the coming year, a wide range of activities will take place, all of which will be listed on our website and shared via social media, so do keep an eye on our "What's On" pages and pop dates in your diary:

www.wayforwardstebbing.org

Our opening celebration service is planned for **Palm Sunday, 29 March at 4pm**, followed by a complimentary hog roast. Everyone is very welcome, whether you come regularly, occasionally or whether you are just curious. Easter Saturday, 4th April, will see a variety of activities on offer at the church; full details to be announced shortly.

Our first major event will be a concert by local band **Take Note** on **Saturday 25 April at 7.30pm**. Performing their programme *Adventure*, the band will play well-known and much-loved music from film and theatre. It promises to be a lively and engaging evening, and particularly inspiring if you have a child who learning an instrument; do bring them along as it's fascinating for them to see musicians up close and experience the thrill of live music. Tickets will be available via our website, with students admitted free of charge.

To keep up with the latest project news, visit:

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

The finishing touches are underway, and it won't be long before St Mary's is once again filled with people, activity and celebration!

Sarah Maddox
Project Administrator
sarah.smvtf@gmail.com

1st Stebbing Rainbow Group

When I was a girl only Brownies and guides existed, and I was a proud member of both.

The Girl Guides association introduced Rainbows in 1987 for girls aged 5-7 years. I remember first seeing them in a St. Georges Day parade in Eastbourne.

When we moved to Stebbing all three of my daughter's attended Stebbing School and it was here that a parent said to me "you're a teacher.. there's nothing in Stebbing for little girls maybe you could start a Rainbow unit?" I thought that was a very good idea and I asked two friends if they would be interested in helping me and they both agreed to join me.

I started the Rainbow unit in 1992 and initially we met in the Scout hut. But later we moved to the Friends Meeting House also in the High Street which was more suited to little girls. The uniform at that time consisted of a red tabard and a green baseball cap and the girls could wear anything they liked under their uniform. The tabard served as an apron which helped keep the Rainbows clean when we were doing messy activities.

The current uniform, since 2004, consists of a blue and red polo shirt with the Rainbow logo on it, a red hooded jacket and a choice of either tracksuit bottoms, leggings or cycling shorts, which the girls are encouraged to pick themselves. All items come in the Rainbow colours of light blue and red. There is also an optional baseball hat which matches the other items.

The unit has now been running for thirty-four years and I have been involved all that time.

We take our Rainbows from age five, although the Girl Guides Association say that Rainbows can start aged four. We don't take Rainbow that young because the girls come from such a wide geographical area that we would never get all the girls that apply into the unit.

Currently, we do have spaces for girls aged 5-6 to start straight away.

Rainbows enjoy making things, cooking and playing games. We have stories and themed weeks and generally enjoy socialising.



Rainbow Activities Over The Years

This term we've had a pink evening when they girls brought pink things to show and some of them wore pink things. We played Kim's game with pink items on a tray, and the girls had to guess which items were missing. We made pink peppermint creams which we put in bags tied with a pink ribbon which they all took home at the end of the meeting. The week before half term we are having a pyjama evening when everyone will come in their pyjamas. The girls are also bringing their favourite cuddly toys and will bring a torch and their favourite story.

In the Summer term we go to the recreation ground for a Scavenger hunt, and we also enjoy a picnic on the last meeting of the Summer term. At the end of the Christmas term, we have a Christmas party with food provided by parents and all the usual party games.

We meet on Thursday evenings during term time. The boy equivalent for Rainbows are Beavers and there are also Cubs and Scouts in Stebbing.

Sadly, we don't have Brownies or Guides in the village anymore. So, when our girls reach seven they either go to Barnston, Felsted, or Dunmow Brownie units.

We are always grateful for new volunteer helpers, and we also take Duke of Edinburgh volunteers for their community service section.

*Liz Hooper (Sunshine)
Unit Leader 1st Stebbing Rainbows*

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Parish Paths Partnership (P3) News

By the time you read this, weather permitting, the annual survey of our footpaths will be completed and our results submitted to Essex Highways with our Work Proposal Form for this year.

Last year, apart from continually cutting the grass, we replaced two bridges and so far this year, we do know of four bridges that need repair/replacement already. Each one of them has their own problem.

The bridge towards Tooley's Farm was found to have some rot on the main bearers. Essex want to replace the whole bridge but are unable to deliver the materials until after the harvest so we have made temporary repairs which will keep it safe until then. The bridge above Brick Kiln Farm needs replacing and in conjunction with Essex and the landowner we have a plan to do the work when the weather improves in the Spring. The bridge near Yew Tree Farm is broken but that path doesn't go anywhere really and I don't think that anyone uses it. The finger post has also 'fallen' over but that happens every time that verge or hedge is cut. The earth bridge on FP7, from Church End, is still dangerously narrow so a bit of care is needed in crossing it, especially in wet or slippery conditions. Again, we hope that something can be done about it after the harvest.

So, plenty to keep us out of mischief and once the weather dries up a bit, we will be cutting the grass and trying to keep the footpaths clear.

Recently I have received two positive reports on the quality of our footpaths from visitors to Stebbing which is encouraging and a credit to the hard work of our team. These are your footpaths to enjoy.

In addition to the Parish Footpath map we also have the 'Walks Around Stebbing' brochure with 12 guided routes around the village and beyond. Both are available free in the village shop.

All I ask is that you keep to the footpaths, don't drop litter, dispose of your dog poo properly and if you do find a problem, please let me know.

Brian Martin 07929 476361



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Community Month

Once again, the shop is supporting Stebbing Primary School's Community Month. This year we are delighted to welcome Year 4 pupils to the shop. These young volunteers will be coming in in small groups over the next weeks to serve the community and learn new skills.

Volunteers

We would also like to thank and welcome three new volunteers to the team; Jane, Jonathan and Ian who started their training in December and January and are now covering solo shifts in the shop.

Meet two of them on the right!

Ian is also volunteering in the kitchen.

As you all know, it has been challenging to recruit new volunteers in the shop and it's great to have more members in the team.

If you're inspired by the above but unsure you are ready to commit as a volunteer, we invite you to try a 'taster' session in the shop as part of Community Month.

Why not give it a go?

If you're interested in experiencing what's involved in being a volunteer at Stebbing Stores, contact Julie to arrange a time. (svsmanager1@gmail.com)



Current priority needs:

Shop:	Saturdays	all shifts between 10am-4pm
	Sundays	between 9am-12pm
	No experience needed & full training provided.	
Kitchen:	More team members for weekday shifts (Mon-Friday) 8am-11am	

We are back in St Mary's Church!

Palm Sunday · 29 March 2026 · 4.00pm

Join us for a joyful
Thanksgiving Service
to celebrate the recent renovations,
followed by a free hog roast,
and time to enjoy the beautifully renewed building.

A once-in-a-generation moment for our village.

Everyone is welcome!



Please RSVP by 11 March for catering purposes.

Scan the QR code to sign up or email sarah.smvtwf@gmail.com



Upcoming Events

Scan for more information



Saturday 4 April, 10am-4pm

Easter Family Fun Day: pop up cafe, exhibition, miniature spring garden workshop, children's crafts, egg hunt and more.

Monday 13 April, 8pm

Digging into the Past: A Stebbing Local History Society event featuring a talk on the archaeological excavation finds and the historic graffiti in the church.

Tuesday 21 April, 7.30pm

History Games Night: have a go at historic games from different eras and enjoy snacks and drinks from our pop up cafe.

Saturday 25 April, 7.30pm

A Musical Adventure: a themed concert by local band, Take Note, featuring well known and uplifting scores.

Saturday 2 May, 11am-4pm

Springtime Spectacular: a full day of activities including archery, stream dipping, children's crafts, bake off, bell ringing, scavenger hunt and lots more!



Join us on Sundays
Services every Sunday at 11am from 5th April



Stebbing Garden Club News

Despite the cold and rainy weather, the village hall was a hive of activity on the last Monday evening of January as Stebbing Garden Club set up for the first of eight meetings in 2026. Our membership is growing and was well represented. As always, we were also very happy to welcome several visitors on the night.

Our speaker secretary has compiled an excellent programme of events for the year and for our first meeting we were thrilled to have booked Dr Chris Gibson to give his talk 'Wildlife in the Garden'. Dr Gibson is currently Wildlife and Sustainability Advisor to the Beth Chatto management team, advocating for the wildlife of that garden and the important part it plays in the Essex bioscape. He has written and published work on this subject among many other related topics and recently appeared on an episode of BBC Gardeners World in which he discusses the innovative planting at Chattowood Estate, a new housing estate near to the Beth Chatto garden.

Dr Gibson's talk was full of practical suggestions for planting and helping our gardens attract and sustain a diverse and extraordinary amount of wildlife. The talk was illustrated by his stunning photography and delivered with passion and his belief that we are all capable of making some changes to our planting and gardening habits to create a healthy bioscape in our own gardens.

More information can be found on Dr Gibson's website: chrisgibsonwildlife.co.uk



Stebbing Garden Club Calendar

Monday 23 rd March	AGM & Quiz
Monday 27 th April	Lucie Greenway Auriculas
Monday 18 th May	Ed Flint Lessons from Great Dixter
Thursday 25 th June	Garden Visit to Downing College, Cambridge
Wednesday 15 th July	Garden Visit to Beeleigh Abbey
Monday 28 th September	Subject to be confirmed
Monday 26 th October	Keith of Aqualife Garden ponds & bog plants
Monday 23 rd November	Jane Steward Meddling with Medlars

If you are interested in joining Stebbing Garden Club, annual membership is £15 per person. Visitors are welcome - £3 on the door. Meetings are held at The Village Hall, Mill Lane, Stebbing. Doors open at 7.30 for a talk beginning at 8pm.

Contact stebbinggardenclub@hotmail.com if you require further information.

Denise Puttnam, Secretary

Adult Coaching

Mark Clark
07713 626239

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



Junior Coaching

Ashleigh Draper
07966 502834

- Group Sessions for ages 4 to 16 on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 4-7pm
- Performance Groups Mon & Weds **NEW!**
- Junior League Matches
- Sunday Tournaments
- Holiday Camps

Join Us!

Adult Tennis

Thursdays 5.30pm onwards: Club Mix-In

Sundays 10.30am-1.00pm: Club Mix-In

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Stebbing Stars Shine Bright At London's O2 Arena

The village might have been a little quieter than usual on Monday 19th January, but that's only because our very own Stebbing Primary School choir was busy raising the roof of the O2 Arena.

Joining thousands of children from across the country, our local pupils took part in Young Voices, the largest school choir concert series in the world. It was a night of high energy, massive scale, and - most importantly - incredible music.



From the Classroom to the Spotlight

The journey to the O2 didn't happen overnight. For months, the corridors of Stebbing Primary have been echoing with the sounds of this year's repertoire. Under the dedicated guidance of Mrs Clark, Mrs Gray and Mrs Wigmore, the children mastered a diverse setlist ranging from pop medleys and folk songs to brand new Young Voices tracks.

A Star-Studded Stage

While the children were the real stars, they were joined by some seriously impressive talent. This year, the choir was wowed by special guest Ruti, the soulful winner of *The Voice UK*. Watching a professional of her caliber perform live and getting to provide the backing vocals for her - was a special moment that our students won't soon forget.



Spotting a Friendly Face

Despite the O2 holding twenty thousand people, the Stebbing contingent had their eyes peeled for their own home crowd. One of the most heart-warming moments of the night was the frantic waving and cheering as the children finally spotted their parents and family members in the stands.



Amidst the sea of 8,000 tiny torches, the connection between the performers on stage and the families in the audience turned the massive arena into a close-knit community event. The pride on the parents' faces was matched only by the beaming smiles of the children.



Beyond the glitz of the London stage, the Young Voices experience is a cornerstone of the school's commitment to the arts. It provides our local children with:

Teamwork: Synchronizing voices and choreography with thousands of other students.

Confidence: Overcoming the nerves of performing in a world-famous venue.

Inspiration: Seeing artists like Ruti prove that a love of music can lead to incredible places.



We would like to extend a huge 'Well Done' to all the singers who represented our school community so brilliantly. Stebbing Primary, you sounded amazing - we can't wait to hear what you sing next!

To relive the magic, please scan the QR code below to see a highlight reel of our incredible trip to the O2.



Tom Le Masurier
Assistant Headteacher

Ready, Steady, Grow

I enjoy a Winter walk through the frost as much as anyone but there comes a time when I want to be able to leave the house without feeling that the weather is out to get me. And in the wild, many species are just as eager to start the Spring - each with their own special tricks to help them get off the starting blocks quickly.

Any shaded areas around Stebbing like Kingdom walk, hedgerows or the churchyard are havens for Spring flowers. Aconites, Celandines as well as the bizarre and fascinating Wild Arum flower are all quick to open once temperatures start to warm. And it's no co-incidence that all of these early flowerers are woodland species. If you live in a wood, it's critical that you grow, flower and set seed before the trees come into leaf and shade you out.

But how can they manage to get through their whole life cycle to produce seeds in just a few cool months? In reality, they don't. Most of our Spring flowers are perennial or at least biennial, taking several years to build up their reserves before flowering.

A flowering plant living in woodland also has to deal with other problems. In dim light, how can it make its flowers bright enough to attract insects for pollination? Some, like the Arum go for scent (like rotting fruit!) to bring in fly pollinators, but Celandines have a different solution. Their pretty yellow flowers have particularly shiny petals that reflect as much light as possible, making the flowers more visible to insects. It's like having a neon sign to advertise their wares.

With all of these early flowers, it's just ready, steady, grow!

Richard Wren
St Mary's Church Ecologist in Residence



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My Year 6

By Remi Roberts, Age 10

Being in year 6 certainly has its perks, but it also does mean I will be leaving Stebbing Primary school in July.

Stebbing Primary offers so many opportunities, but one of the most fabulous is the year 6 trip to Norfolk Lakes. At Manor Adventure, you dive straight into lots of memory-making activities like High Ropes and Stand-up Paddleboarding.



I have enjoyed participating in many Stebbing Primary Christmas productions over the years, but I was so grateful when I landed the role of Princess Jasmine in our year 6 performance of Aladdin. The day of my first show was so nerve-wracking but I knew my friends would be there to guide me all the way through. At each rehearsal, everyone improved and increased in confidence. It was an unforgettable experience that has inspired me to audition for more stage shows.



Sport has been a big part of my time at Stebbing Primary. I have loved playing my part in representing the school. Together we won a County tennis tournament and our year 5/6 team came first by one race in the recent middle-sized schools Swimming Gala. I will soon be running in the cross-country in which my best ever finish was 2nd. None of this would be possible without the encouragement of Mr L.

It has been amazing to be part of such a special team. I am going to miss all my friends and teachers who have supported me since I was only 5. I can't wait to meet new people at my secondary school but I will never forget the ones who have been there from the beginning at the start of my journey.

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Moving Back Home

Wednesday 18th February marked a major step in The Way Forward project as volunteers braved a bitterly cold, though thankfully dry (!) February day to bring the contents of St Mary's back home. Wrapped up against the chill and easily spotted in their distinctive purple volunteer t-shirts, our team arrived armed with determination, good humour, and their reusable The Way Forward coffee cups to keep spirits high.



Across the day, four full truckloads were transported from the storage unit back to the church, alongside the complete retrieval of items from Priors Hall Barn. It was a significant logistical effort, but thanks to the energy and teamwork of our volunteers and the project team, everything made it safely back to St Mary's. One of the real joys of the day was seeing a lovely mix of familiar faces and new ones joining in. A reminder of how this project continues to draw our community together in fresh and unexpected ways.





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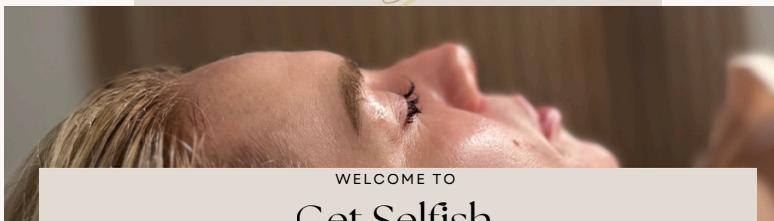
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Despite frozen fingers and toes, the atmosphere remained upbeat and collaborative. Volunteers chatted, laughed, and worked side by side, united by a shared sense of purpose and the excitement of seeing the church gradually return to life. The camaraderie was unmistakable, and the sight of everyone pitching in, whether unloading, lifting, directing, or simply offering encouragement, made the day feel like a celebration as much as it did hard work.

This move marks the beginning of the final phase of the building work. With the official handover for internal completion taking place shortly, we are now preparing for the next stage; unpacking, sorting, and restoring the church's belongings to their rightful places. Over the coming weeks, volunteers will be invited to help open boxes, organise materials, and set up the spaces ready for our reopening.



All of this activity is building toward a very special moment: the opening service on 29th March, when St Mary's will once again welcome the community through its doors. It promises to be a joyful celebration of resilience, teamwork, and the shared belief that our village church is not just a building, but a living, breathing centre of community life.

If you haven't yet been involved with The Way Forward project but feel inspired to lend a hand, we would be delighted to welcome you. Whether you can spare an hour or a day, every contribution makes a meaningful difference as we prepare St Mary's for its next chapter.

Helen Murphy
Volunteer & Training Coordinator
helen.smvtwf@gmail.com



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Stebbing Bowling Club News



The weather in January has broken many records - many days of rain have taken its toll on the Bowls Club this time. Our hedge on the Mill Lane side has basically slipped down on to the lane and remedial work has been necessary with immediate effect. As usual club members rallied round and we are in the process of replacing part of the hedge with new saplings.



I mentioned in the last Stebbing Scene we were to hold another Race Night in the Village Hall, I can now confirm the date Saturday 21st. March 2026 Last year was a resounding success so we will apply the same criteria again £10 per person with doors opening at 7pm for a prompt start at 7.30, bring your own food and there will be a licenced bar also with the first drink FREE!

Please come and support us again, it's open to all the village and we do look forward to welcoming you on the night.

We've also agreed with the Ladies Group to host a fun evening of bowls and BBQ on 19th June.

We will have several new members for the coming season as interest in the bowls club stems from the various functions held throughout the year. A reminder that we have our club night every Thursday during the season when anyone can come along for a taster session when you can try it out for free.

Ray Sutton

Stebbing Bowling Club Race Night is Back



**Stebbing Village Hall
Saturday 21st March 2026
Tickets: £10.00
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More Than Just Lunch, It's Time To Talk

Over the last few months, the Dunmow and District Probus Club has seen an increase in membership but still has room for additional members. The club was originally formed in 1989 with fifteen members and membership has grown over the years and now totals over 60 members. As the club has grown it has moved its monthly lunch venue a number of times, with each move being to larger and larger venues. The club now meets monthly at the Barn Theatre at Little Easton Manor which serves an excellent two course meal accompanied by a drink from the well-stocked bar and followed by coffee or tea. Lunch is followed by a talk from a visiting speaker on a wide variety of topics.



It is so important that after, what has often been a busy career, one continues to interact with others, to develop new interests or revitalise old hobbies and interests. It is therefore central to the ethos of the club that the lunches give members the time, both prior to and during lunch, to discuss their interests and hobbies as well as discovering new opportunities.



Membership of the Dunmow based club is open to retired or retiring men from a professional or business background in Dunmow and the surrounding area. While the Dunmow club is exclusively for men, there is a similar club in Braintree exclusively for women. The professions of members include accountancy, engineering, medicine, software, surveying, education, agriculture, local government, banking, armed forces, clergy, journalism and many other occupations. With members coming from places as far apart as Bishop's Stortford, Thaxted, Henham, Elsenham, Linton and Braintree, we are truly an eclectic mix!



In addition to the monthly lunch meetings the club also arranges a number of trips each year to places of interest for members and their partner or friend. This

year the trips have included Belvoir Castle and the Watercress heritage railway line. Other social activities are now being planned for the forthcoming year, including events such as afternoon teas.

Retired men with a professional or business background wishing to join the Dunmow Probus club should contact the secretary Roy Farris via the email secretary@dunmowprobus.org.uk or phone **07932 407027**

The Daphne Rogowski Meadow & Orchard



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Restoration Of The Daphne Rogowski Meadow & Orchard



Stebbing Parish Council (SPC) has successfully received a grant of £4,000 from Uttlesford District Council (UDC) to restore and improve a meadow/orchard in Stebbing Green. This meadow was bequeathed to the Trustees of Stebbing Village Hall in 2007 by Daphne Rogowski, a resident of Stebbing.

This parcel of land, which is managed by the Trustees, is approx. two acres and laid to meadow. In 2012 and 2014 a section was assigned as a small orchard, where 13 trees were planted, including 11 apple trees. Since then, the meadow has been left as a sanctuary for wildlife, insects and wildflowers, cared for by a local volunteer. The site was classified a *Local Green Space* in 2022 in the Stebbing Neighbourhood Plan due to its environmental value, but it attracts very few visitors. The Parish Council see an opportunity to make this a restoration community project, involving various groups within the village.

Inspired by the UDC Zero Carbon Communities Grant (ZCCG), Stebbing Parish Council/Village Hall Trustees would like to resurrect the original vision for the land, plant approximately 30-40 new fruit trees in addition to the existing trees, creating a fruit orchard alongside the existing meadow. We propose planting mainly apple trees, but also pear, plum, and possibly cherry. This will take up around a third of the meadow. The rest will remain a natural wildflower meadow.

Once we establish the orchard & meadow activities will include:

- Volunteer activities – to maintain the orchard, including watering and pruning.
- Further tree planting – giving locals the opportunity to pay for a tree to be planted as a memorial to a lost one.
- Apple days – for villagers to learn about the trees, pick fruit for juice/cider/jams. A portable press will be installed to allow visitors to press apples both from the orchard and also from their own gardens. An expert will be invited to identify apple varieties.
- Educational days – hosting forest schools from the local primary school.
- Selling produce – produce from the orchard will be used to produce juice, cider, jams to be sold in the local shop, farmers markets, craft fairs, and possibly in the local pub. Income from sales will used to care for the orchard and meadow.
- Supporting the Stebbing Village Stores – this is a community supported service that relies on volunteers and tries where possible to sell local produce. Selling produce from the community orchard in the shop will be mutually beneficial to both.

The meadow and orchard is located in Stebbing Green, adjacent to the Parish Council owned Stebbing Green (a designated Local/County Wildlife Site).

Let the parish clerk know if you are interested in volunteering.

Amy's details are: Amy Ferraro, Parish Clerk at clerk@stebbing-pc.gov.uk

Stebbing Parish Council
A Greener Stebbing Committee

Salings Plant Sale!

Monday 4th May 2026
10am to 2pm

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- Come and enjoy a morning out at our annual Plant Sale!
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- Plus trees, shrubs and plants from North End Nurseries & Plants Great Bardfield (at the Blue Egg)
- Stalls inside with local produce and arts and crafts - and a raffle
- Breakfast buns with bacon and a cuppa...plus lots of cakes for those not watching their weight
- All profits to the upkeep of our two historic churches - St James Great Saling, St Peter & St Paul Bardfield Saling



JOIN US FOR THE **13TH STEBBING TRACTOR RUN** SUNDAY 10TH MAY 2026



Growing The Future

If you get a chance to walk along the field next to the St Mary's Church car park, you might notice something new. Back in November (unfazed by the grey sky and threat of rain) a group of villagers met, with spades at the ready, to plant a small copse of trees. The purpose is to add a bit more interest both for wildlife and for passers by.

Like any tree planting, this is a long term project and the young saplings will need some TLC along the way. We planted a nice mix of native species including Oak, Guelder Rose, Dogwood and Holly, staked upright and protected by a degradable, rabbit-proof spiral to get them started. Each tree also had a small aluminium label with a personal message from the planter.

In the end, the weather was good to us and an enjoyable little event resulted in some messages planted for posterity plus the potential for new growth in the future.

*Richard Wren
St Mary's Church Ecologist In Residence*





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- St Patricks Day & Six Nations Viewing Saturday 14th
- Mothers Day Roasts & Afternoon Tea Sunday 15th
- Medieval Murder Mystery Dinner Saturday 21st

APRIL

- Trip to Neverland Easter Adventure - Good Friday Friday 3rd
- Trip to Neverland Easter Adventure - Saturday Saturday 4th
- Easter Roast Dinners with Live Saxophonist Sunday 5th
- Peter Pan Themed Afternoon Tea Monday 6th

MAY

- Classic & Interesting Car Show Sunday 3rd
- Town Crier Competition, Craft Market & Dog Show Monday 4th
- Bank Holiday Birds Of Prey Experience Monday 25th
- Alpaca Afternoon Tea Thursday 28th

Family Stargazing Experience Saturday 28th

Classic & Interesting April Car Show Sunday 29th

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Restaurant Review: The George Inn, Shalford

It was a rainy day in August last year when, having heard surprisingly good things about this previously unloved and historically failed pub, that I turned up to see what all the fuss was all about.

We all love a good news story and rumours of a pub resurrecting itself from the depths of failure was too good to miss.



Paul Pilgrim (now a year or so into his ownership) was BUSY - LOTS of customers to serve, beautiful decor and clean as a whistle, I admired the roaring Inglenook fire and five of the six King George's professionally painted portraits that adorned the inner walls of the Pub (the sixth being painted on the front of the building post redecoration!).



In between him running from one end of the bar to the other Paul told me he was leaving the following morning for the first break he had had since taking over the pub and so agreed to meet the following Monday upon his return.

Tragically that failed to materialise as during the night of 13th of August Paul went to bed but failed to wake.

Paul died in testate, and in such circumstances where no spouse or partner exists to continue the business, closure would have been the inevitable consequence.



Enter Stebbing resident and pub regular Chris Foile who, together with Paul's mortified staff, local residents and Chris's finance set about ensuring that the value of Paul's legacy was to be preserved with the George to remain open 7 days a week 12-11pm (12am Fri/Sat) as before.

Some changes for the better:

- Gone is the smoky fire replaced with three brand new wood burners - beautiful!
- Paul's passion was for home smoked meats but to my wife's relief now off the menu.
- New Rib and Live Folk Music night Thursdays
- All-in Sunday lunch £21.95 12-4.30pm.
- 6-piece Jazz band 1st Sunday each month 3-6pm.
- General pub food menu all freshly cooked with daily specials 12-9pm.

With an excellent range of beers and wines this pub has everything to like!!
RIP Paul Pilgrim. Booking 01371 850207

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New Pop Up Café At St Mary's

As we look ahead to Spring, we are delighted to share that preparations are well underway for the opening of our new pop-up café at St Mary's. It's shaping up to be a space centred on warmth, conversation, and connection, a place where anyone can drop in for a friendly chat, a quiet moment, or simply a good cup of coffee.



In the run-up to Christmas, our volunteer socials brought such a sense of joy and togetherness. From laughter over mince pies to the buzz of shared creativity as we prepared for the Victorian Christmas community event, it was wonderful to see how much everyone enjoyed being part of something collective and uplifting. Those evenings reminded us just how special our volunteer community is, and how much we all value time spent together. Once the church reopens in the Spring, these socials will return offering more chances to meet, reconnect, and welcome new faces.

Before the doors officially open, we're gathering a small team of volunteers to begin training. There will be plenty of ways to get involved going forward, whether that's serving drinks or offering a welcoming smile, however, if you are interested in the initial prep, please get in touch. No previous experience is needed; just a willingness to be part of something that brings people together.

Over the coming weeks, we'll share more details about opening dates and what to expect. For now, consider this your early invitation to join us whether as a visitor, a volunteer, or someone cheering us on as we create a new space for Stebbing to gather and grow. In the meantime, if you are interested in finding out more, please contact me for details on how to get involved.

Helen Murphy
Volunteer & Training Coordinator
helen.smvtwf@gmail.com

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Stebbing Tennis Club News



There is a real sense of momentum at Stebbing Tennis Club as players of all ages take to the courts for the new season.

Membership remains strong, with encouraging growth in our junior section. Under the guidance of Junior Coach Ashleigh Draper, young players continue to thrive through lively after-school sessions for children aged 4 to 16, who can join at any point during the term. Our Easter holiday camp will also be open for booking very soon!

This season brings exciting opportunities for juniors, including LTA Rating tournaments and the entry of our Under 9 and Under 10 teams into the Halstead and District League. If you know a young player keen to build confidence and develop their skills in a supportive environment, get in touch!



Maddie Greenman

Congratulations to Maddie Greenman on achieving her LTA Bronze Award. Just a year ago, aged seven, Maddie was competing in 8U red ball matches. She has since progressed into 9U orange ball events and, despite still being under nine, is now competing successfully in 10U green ball matches. Her achievement reflects her dedication and enthusiasm for the sport.

For adults, our six-week Tennis Xpress course has proved popular with both new and returning players. A weekly ladies squad session now offers focused match play development in a friendly setting.

Thursday evening and Sunday morning mix-ins continue to attract strong turnouts, while Cardio Tennis and ladies mornings remain firm favourites thanks to Head Coach Mark Clark.

Our competitive teams have also enjoyed an impressive run of league results.

We are delighted to announce that pickleball is coming to Stebbing. Adult sessions, led by Mark, will run four times a week from 30 March to 25 September. No experience is required, and all equipment is provided.



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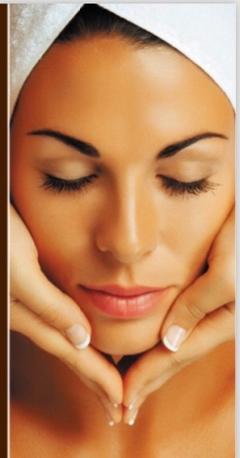
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We are also pleased to welcome two new Assistant Coaches, Heather Leathes-Wilson and Sophy Walker, who completed their LTA Level 1 over the Winter and will support coaching sessions and tournaments.

Off court, our community spirit remains strong, with an enjoyable Christmas gathering at The White Hart and some lively festive tennis sessions to burn off those extra calories!

Looking ahead, our AGM will take place on Friday, 27 February at the United Reform Church in Felsted. Members are encouraged to attend for updates on our new clubhouse and to celebrate club award winners. Complimentary drinks will be available.

A Family Bingo Night will be held on Saturday, 14 March at Stebbing Village Hall, raising funds for the new clubhouse.

If you would like to join our friendly and growing club, please contact Sara using the details below. Further information can be found on our website, and you can keep up to date with news, events and results via our Facebook and Instagram pages.

With affordable membership rates, quality coaching and a welcoming, inclusive atmosphere, Stebbing Tennis Club offers exceptional value for all ages and abilities.

Sophy Walker

Useful Contacts

Chairman: Ian Ford-Roberston – chair@stebbingtennisclub.co.uk

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

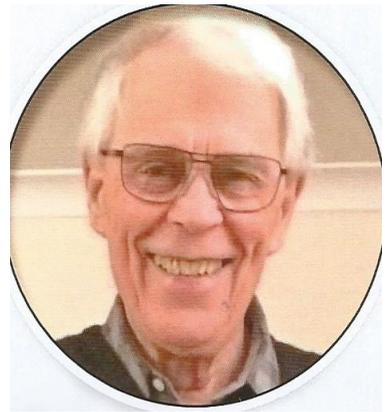


Obituary: John William Cant

10th October 1937 – 13th January 2026

Many people opening this magazine, at this page, will recognise the photograph of their maths teacher and possibly their parent's maths teacher too. For John Cant devoted 25 years to the Helena Romanes School until 1995, when on medical advice he made the decision to retire early.

John was born on 10 October 1937 in Lexden, Colchester, an only child, he was nevertheless surrounded by an extended and close-knit family.



As a boy, John enjoyed cycling and later as a young man did time trials - often cycling 50 miles in the evenings. This in turn, sparked a life-long interest in history, architecture and an appreciation of the character and landscape of the Essex and Suffolk countryside - an interest that would stay with him for the rest of his life.

John attended Colchester Grammar School, where he loved sports, particularly rugby and cricket. His passion for football was sparked in childhood when his father took him to Layer Road to watch Colchester United play and he remained a loyal *Colu* supporter throughout his life.

John studied Mechanical Engineering at Leeds University and whilst there, he continued playing rugby, football, and cricket. Often when he should have been studying, he could be found at the cinema, watching movies.

He graduated in 1959 and moved to Wolverhampton to begin a graduate apprenticeship at Villiers Engineering. After a year however, he realised that engineering might not be for him.

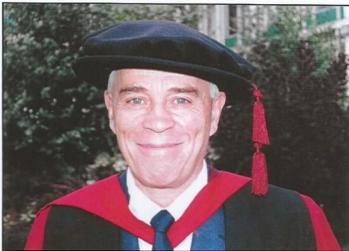
Through friendships he made in Wolverhampton, John was encouraged to explore a career in teaching, and he began teaching mathematics at St Peter's Church Secondary School. As part of his role, he coached the school football team, which played at the time on the Wolverhampton race course!

During this time, John met Chris. They married a year later and the couple found their first home together in Wolverhampton. In 1964, they moved to Welwyn Garden City, where John accepted the position of Mathematics teacher at the Grammar School. He taught there for seven and a half years, and lifetime friendships were made.

Whilst living in Welwyn Garden City, John and Chris's daughters Alison and Gillian were born. John was a loving and supportive dad, who encouraged his daughters to pursue their interests, and was incredibly proud of Gillian's career as a teacher, and Alison's artistic pursuits.

The family relocated to Stebbing in 1970 where they would make their lifetime home. John took up a position as Head of Upper School at Helena Romanes School, at the time when the school became a comprehensive. He taught A-Level Mathematics and played a pivotal role in establishing the school's Sixth Form.

Johns' affiliation with Stebbing Cricket Club actually began before the family moved to Stebbing. One of the owners of their potential new home was playing cricket and John & Chris went to the ground at half time to discuss the move. When the game restarted, John appeared in a white coat and umpired the rest of the match. He played cricket for Stebbing for many years. He was also treasurer for a time and helped to prepare pitches and maintain the ground. He captained the Sunday team, encouraging promising young cricketers to join the team and get involved in sport. On one occasion, Keith Fletcher brought a team to play against Stebbing. Keith came on to bat. The captain brought John on to bowl, no doubt hoping to see Keith shine, unfortunately he was bowled out in the first over. The crowd was not happy!



In 1995, on medical advice John made the decision to retire early but he soon returned to education as a student, achieving a first in English and History, a Master's degree at Essex University and in 2002, a PhD, becoming Dr John Cant. Whilst completing his PhD John began lecturing in American Literature and Film at Essex University, a role he continued with passion and dedication until his "official" retirement at the age of 78. John established a weekly film club at the university and worked on his book about Cormac MCarthy's novels, which was published in 2008.

In retirement, John continued his interest in history, joining the Stebbing Local History Society, and working to digitise their photographic archive — a project that took years of careful work. He continued this until his health no longer allowed. John enjoyed gardening and loved growing vegetables. His other passion was reading and his study was overflowing with books and literature from around the world.

John always looked forward to joining friends for tea, where the world was regularly put to rights with tea and cake. During the last year of his life, much to his delight, John & Chris adopted a cat called Neville and Nev soon became a much-loved member of the family.

In October 2024, he was diagnosed with cancer. Choosing not to know the prognosis and instead deciding to live each day as fully as possible. On 13 January, aged 88, John died peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, as he had wished.

A long life, well lived.

Chris, Alison and Gillian.

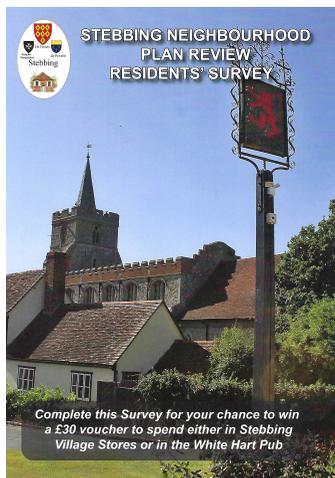


Stebbing Neighbourhood Plan: A Review & Survey

The review - why is the Neighbourhood Plan being updated?

You may have seen from the last edition of Stebbing Scene or the Parish Council website that the Stebbing Neighbourhood Plan, made in 2022, is to be reviewed and updated. The Neighbourhood Plan is a community-led document that guides future development in Stebbing Parish by outlining our visions for housing as well as green spaces and local facilities. It is very important because it is taken into account in planning decisions made by Uttlesford District Council and the Planning Inspectorate, as and when there are any Planning Appeals.

The update of our Neighbourhood Plan is necessary because Uttlesford District Council is in the process of finalising its new District-wide Local Plan for the period until 2041. The Uttlesford Local Plan allocates housing requirements to towns and villages across the district based on numbers required by the Government. Stebbing as a larger village has been allocated a requirement of 98 additional houses. As a community we need to identify where we would want the new housing to be placed and what type of housing we believe we need, and to provide for this in our updated Neighbourhood Plan.



Why is the Survey being conducted?

By the time residents receive this edition of Stebbing Scene, it is intended that they will have received their personal copy of the Survey which is being conducted in order to assist the Stebbing Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, who will be preparing the Neighbourhood Plan update on behalf of the Parish Council. While we do not have a choice of the housing numbers that Stebbing must plan for, we as residents through our Plan can influence the type of housing, their design and location in the Parish.

Therefore, the Survey aims to collect residents' views to understand the types of housing likely to meet the needs of both current and future residents of the Parish. We also want to hear from residents about issues that are of concern to you.

We aim, as far as possible, to collect feedback from all Stebbing Parish residents over the age of 15 years. We recognise that even within the same family/household individuals may have different opinions, so it is important for us to know them all. Please remember there are no right or wrong answers, everyone's opinion matters.

What do I have to do?

We would be grateful if each person over the age of 15 years in your family or household would agree to complete the Survey (i.e. one per person). Your answers will remain anonymous and your help in answering as many questions as you can will really be of value in this important work.

The Survey has two parts:

“Part A - About your Household” is to be completed by only **ONE** member of your family or household. Please agree who this will be before anyone completes their survey. Part A collects information about the number of people living in your household and some details about your home.

“Part B - Your Views About Stebbing Parish” is to be completed, if possible, by **EVERYONE** in your family or household over the age of 15 years. This part will ask your opinions on various topics including the types of housing the Parish may need, what aspects of living or working in Stebbing Parish are important to you and other concerns you may have.



We recommend that everyone reads the “Introduction and Guide to the Survey” first to understand why they are being asked to fill in the Survey. The Survey itself should only take between 10-20 minutes to complete.

How do I complete the Survey and return it?

You can complete the Survey either as a paper copy or on-line via a laptop, tablet or smart phone. Paper copies will be delivered to each household and will include details for the on-line Survey.

The completed paper Survey will be collected from you or alternatively, if preferred, it can be left in a sealed box at Stebbing Village Stores. If you would like additional copies of the Survey, you can obtain them from one of the contacts distributing the Survey, alternatively additional copies can be collected from the Village Stores. We ask that the paper or on-line Survey is completed as soon as you can, **but no later than 12-April-2026.**

Will I get to hear about what residents said in the Survey?

Yes, the Stebbing Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will provide a summary of the responses and make this available to residents. We also plan to hold at least one meeting to update residents of the Survey findings and how the Neighbourhood Plan is being updated.

THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR HELP – IT IS REALLY APPRECIATED !

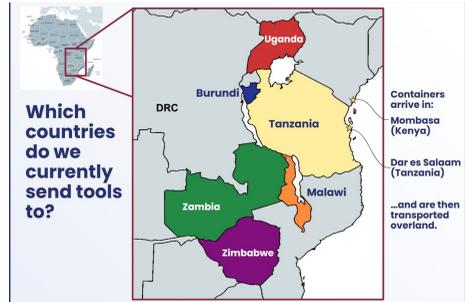
Stebbing Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Tools With A Mission

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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 this young people are given new hope and a viable future, free of crime and self-harm and the attractions of gang culture



In the receiving countries, local charities will have trained young people. The charities contact TWAM to ask for specific trade-oriented toolsets which are thus assembled to fulfill an expressed in-country need.

If you have tools that you no longer need please contact me on econder@btinternet.com,

to start them on their journey into the hands of the needy in the heart of Africa

The Dorcas Society: An Invitation



We would like to invite you to our

ANNUAL SPRING SOUP LUNCH

on Friday 20th March 2026

At the Village Hall – 12.30pm
Tickets £7 per person

**EVERYONE WELCOME –
PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT US**

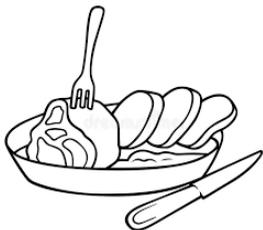
Cheques payable to: New Dorcas Society 2006.

Tickets available from: Ann Pattenden 856476 or Rosemary Pitkethly 856155

Stebbing Meals on Wheels

One of our cooks suggested that perhaps it would be a good idea to write an article about what we actually do!

As a long term resident of the village it is easy to think that life is much as it always was and that everyone in the village knows everyone but the fact is we have grown, people are busier and new arrivals may be totally unaware of our existence. So here goes.



First a bit of history - back over 40 years ago the WRVS provided a very valuable service of some meals every week to the elderly in Stebbing who were unable to get out or cook for themselves. For whatever reason the WRVS decided that they could no longer continue this and Judy Nicholas, a leading light in the WRVS and Stebbing resident decided this was not good enough for Stebbing.

She assembled a band of willing or not cooks and drivers or even bike riders to set up a twice-weekly delivery of a hot meal to those in need. Over time new recruits were gathered, as those preparing and delivering became recipients.

I have been involved for nearly 30 years having been recruited when I became a home worker rather than a commuter. In the past anyone who might benefit from this help was identified and added to the rota.

As a much bigger village this is not always the case now – but we would not like to think that there was anyone elderly or disabled who did not know we are here to help.

My number is in the directory on page 78 of this magazine (and below), so if you think this might be something that would assist you, an elderly relative or even someone temporarily disabled just give me a call.

We provide a meal on Tuesdays and Thursdays delivered in the village for £3.50 to cover costs, although a price increase is coming in May to £4.00.

As always, I will also add my regular appeal for more volunteers especially cooks - lets make sure we keep this neighbourly help going. Thank you

Sue Riley
01371 856548

Stebbing Ladies Group News

Hopefully by the time you are reading this our village will be a little less soggy and the sun may have put in the odd appearance.

The outlook for Stebbing Ladies Group is very sunny, with a guaranteed warm welcome to some very interesting and wide ranging topics.

For our next meeting on **February 25th**, we are joined by Helen Beard who is talking to us about 'Lady Masons', personally for me every day is a learning day as I wasn't even aware of this group, so looking forward to finding out more.

March 25th sees us joined by Mike Perry, for the 'Story of the Flich Trials', a chance to find out what this 900 year old spectacle held every four years is all about.

'My Creative Journey' is the title for our **April 22nd** meeting. Amanda Sutherland talks to us about her career journey through film, TV, and theatrical costume design.

May 27th come along for a magical evening with Jim Conway, 'The Magic Reveal', Jim will reveal the secret behind some tricks so that we can impress our family and friends with some tricks up our sleeves.

Please come along and see what we are all about, we meet at The Village Hall, Mill Lane, doors open at 7.30 for an 8pm start. New members always welcomed.

Wendy Haynes

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

On Wednesday 25 March, Ken Lodge will be teaching us how “Body Language Speaks Volumes”. A humorous exploration of Body Language and Voice Tone. We are good at recognising when things don't seem quite right in others – but are we so aware of the signals we might be giving out? It's near impossible to communicate nothing, our feelings will reveal themselves!



“Body Language Speaks Volumes”
Wednesday 25 March - 1.30pm for 2pm start



On Wednesday 29 April, Roger Hance will be taking us on a photographic journey showing us “The Secret Life of a Wood”. When we walk through a typical broad-leaved woodland, we do not always see the breadth and diversity of the wildlife which live there. This talk shows some of the birds, mammals, insects, wildflowers and fungi that can be found there which, although present, are not always visible until we look more closely.

“The Secret Life of a Wood”
Wednesday 29 April - 1.30pm for 2pm start

On Wednesday 27 May, Graham Short will open our eyes to “My Life as a Micro-Artist”. Graham Short is known for engraving The Lord's Prayer on a speck of gold inside the eye of a needle, and the words, 'Nothing is Impossible' along the sharp edge of a razor blade! He has appeared in many radio and television programmes in Britain and internationally and has been the subject of a Discovery Channel documentary.



“My Life as a Micro-Artist”
Wednesday 27 May - 1.30pm for 2pm start

All our monthly meetings take place at Foakes Hall, Dunmow CM6 1DG.

To find out more, email membership@dunmowu3a.org.uk or visit Du3a's website <https://dunmow.u3asite.uk/>

Writing Your Own Farewell: A Celebrant's Perspective On Journaling Your Celebration Of Life

As a celebrant, I am privileged to sit with families at some of the most tender moments of their lives. They come carrying love, memories, and grief—often alongside uncertainty about how best to honour the person they have lost. One of the greatest gifts someone can leave behind is not a list of instructions, but a thoughtful journal describing how they would like their own celebration of life to be shaped.

Journaling your wishes for your funeral can feel confronting at first, yet it is, in truth, a deeply compassionate act. It is a way of speaking across time, guiding those you love when words are hardest to find.

Choosing the Music That Tells Your Story

Music has a remarkable ability to express what words cannot. I have seen rooms transform when a song begins—tears flow, smiles appear, and memories surface. Music can hold joy, sorrow, humour, faith, and hope all at once.

In your journal, you might list songs that have accompanied important moments in your life: a piece that reminds you of childhood, a song that carried you through hardship, or something that simply makes you feel peaceful. You might also share why these choices matter to you. When loved ones hear that music, they won't just hear a melody; they will feel your presence and understand the chapters of your life in a new way.

Readings and Poems as Messages Across Time

Readings and poetry often feel like messages from the soul. Some people choose spiritual passages, others prefer nature poetry, philosophical reflections, or excerpts from books that shaped their thinking. These words can capture beliefs, values, and hopes that are difficult to summarise in everyday conversation.

In your journal, you might explain what a particular poem or passage means to you. Perhaps it reflects your understanding of love, your view of life and death, or your sense of wonder at the world. These reflections help a celebrant craft a ceremony that is not generic, but deeply personal and authentic.

A Thoughtful Act That Eases Grief

After a death, families are often faced with many decisions at a time when they feel least able to make them. They wonder: Would Mum have liked this song? Was Dad religious enough for this reading? Would they have wanted a formal service or something light-hearted?

By journaling your wishes, you lift that burden. You give clarity at a time when clarity is scarce. This is not about controlling every detail; it is about kindness. It is a final act of care, easing the emotional stress and uncertainty for those you love.

A Living, Evolving Document

Your journal does not need to be perfect or final. It can change as you change. Think of it as a conversation with the future—a guide for those who will one day gather to remember you.

You might include favourite quotes, stories, humour, messages of gratitude, or reflections on what has mattered most to you. These details allow your personality to shine through and help others feel connected to you, even in your absence.

From a Celebrant's Heart

When I am given someone's own words, their chosen music, their treasured poems, it feels as though they are still present in the room, co-creating their ceremony with us. It transforms a farewell into something rich, meaningful, and deeply human—a true celebration of life.

Journaling your wishes is not about planning for death; it is about honouring life, love, and connection. In doing so, you offer your family an extraordinary gift: the confidence to remember you well, the permission to grieve openly, and the reassurance that their farewell reflects who you truly were.

Chrissie Astell

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I have availability for trips to: **Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum & Tour** on 9th May, **High Society at The Barbican** on 4th June, **RHS Wisley** on 19th June, **Sinatra: The Musical** on 15th July, **CATS at the Regents Park Open Air Theatre** on 8th August, **Highclere Castle with Bombay Gin Distillery Tour** on 20th August, **Operation Mince meat** on 5th September, **Leeds Castle** on 5th December, **Thursford Christmas Spectacular** on 7th December, **Bustranome** on 15th December and **Carols at The Royal Albert Hall** on 19th December.

There are of course many other trips during the course of the year which are sold out, Paddington the Musical, Andre Rieu and Michael Ball 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

Puzzle Corner: Stebbing Scramble

In this issue, lets unscramble the letters to find streets in Stebbing.
Do you live on one of these? Answers at the bottom.

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ACNE ALLEY

BANNERS FIDDLE

ADIT WHOREHOUSE

DENTS WHO

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Stebbing Directory

AFSS/Stebbing School	Office	856260
Badminton	Mark Hayden	07791526278
Beavers	Nieky van Veggel	scouts.stebbing@gmail.com
Bell Ringing	Neil Bromley	820898
Bowls Club	John Pitkethly	856155
Carpet Bowls (Afternoon)	Pat Hopwood	856183
Carpet Bowls (Evening)	Roger Butson	856348
Church (Administrator)	Emma Nicholls	pilgrim.parishes.enquiries@gmail.com
Church (Vicar)	Sue Hurley	revsuehurley@gmail.com
Church Flowers	Hazel Kerr	856993
Cricket Club	Adrian Farr	856691
Cubs	Simon Fisher	scouts.stebbing@gmail.com
Dorcas Society	Rosie Pitkethly	856155
Fete	Karen Clark	07710400581
Footpath Rep	Brian Martin	856664
Friday Morning Market	Kim Matthews	856112
Friends Meeting House	Angela Newbrook	856464
Garden Club	Denise Puttnam	07760 488145
History Society/Archive	Derek Towler	856680
Judo Club	Faith Pitman	07595 331073
Ladies Group	Gina Going	855943
Meals on Wheels	Sue Riley	856548
Over 60s	Doreen Cumming	856408
Parish Clerk	Amy Ferraro	855805
Parish Paths Partnership	Brian Martin	856664
Primary School	Lucy Heys	856260
Rainbows	Liz Hooper	856814
TOTs & Co	Rev Sue Hurley	859158
Stebbing Scene	Karen Clark	07710400581
Tennis Club	Ian Ford-Robertson	07967751262
Village Hall	Donna Kiberd	01787 703993
Village Stores	Julie Gray	svsmanager1@gmail.com/856380
White Hart	Emily Luther	856383

Please help us stay up to date – tell us about changes: karen@howetraining.com

MICHAEL J WALSH
FUNERAL DIRECTORS
A DIGNIFIED AND CARING APPROACH

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.

Full Service Cremation

£3,465

FUNERAL INCLUDES:

- Our professional services.
- A standard oak veneered coffin.
- Traditional hearse to Dunmow Crematorium.
- Cremation fees for a Full service at Dunmow Crematorium with 2 hours between services.
- Attendance of funeral director and bearers.
- Officiant fees.
- 50 copies of the order of service.
- A single image on screens and music throughout the service.
- 25 photo music tribute.
- Traditional coffin spray of flowers.
- Handling donations and tribute page.
- Collection of cremated remains.

DUNMOW
CREMATORIUM

No Hearse Full Service and Wake (for 50 people)

£3,765*

FUNERAL INCLUDES:

- Our professional services.
- A standard oak veneered coffin.
- Transport of deceased to Dunmow 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.
- Seasonal coffin spray.
- Wake after the service at Dunmow Crematorium Chapel Barn with sandwiches and cake for 50 people.
- 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.**



Funeral Cost Estimator

We all know a passing is difficult, that is why at Michael J Walsh Funeral Directors and Dunmow Crematorium we like to be as transparent as possible, by giving you the reassurance that the funeral cost will be kept to a minimum, with no unexpected surprises when it comes to receiving the bill. Which is why we have included a cost estimator on our website. You can find this under the funeral tab on walshfunerals.com

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

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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

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