Woodham Ferrers & Bicknacre Parish Council

Newsletter

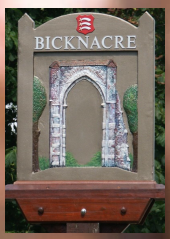
Autumn 2024

Friends of Priory Fields

Christmas RAFFLE

Prizes include:
Kelly Turkey voucher
Luxury Christmas Hampers
AND MANY MORE GREAT PRIZES

TICKETS ON SALE at
Priory Village Stores, The White Swan
or from any member of the Friends





To be drawn following the Christmas Festive Celebrations at Priory School on Thursday 5th December

Friends of Priory Fields

Any prizes greatly appreciated

All Proceeds to Priory Fields

WOODHAM FERRERS & BICKNACRE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meets on the first Tuesday of each month; agendas are available on the website or notice boards or by contacting the clerk three days prior to each meeting. Members of the public are very welcome to attend meetings and may address the Council at the start of the meeting during the public session.

	Cllr Mary Shay—Bicknacre Ward—Chairman
	Cllr John Robins—Woodham Ferrers Ward
	Cllr Richard Poulter—Bicknacre Ward
	Cllr Albert Mair—Bicknacre Ward
	Cllr Paul Walton—Bicknacre Ward
	Cllr John Sharman—Woodham Ferrers Ward
	Cllr Angela Pumfrett
	Cllr Robert Webster
	Cllr Garry Blackshaw
	Miss Lucy White Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer clerk@woodhamferrersandbicknacre-pc.gov.uk Articles not written by the Parish Council are not necessarily the opinion of the Parish Council and it accepts no responsibility for their content. Images supplied by Freepik.com

A TRIBUTE TO COUNCILLOR IAN GRUNDY



The Parish Council was saddened to learn of the recent death of Councillor Ian Grundy.

Councillor Grundy represented the Stock division at Essex County Council, which in turn meant that he was the Parish Council's representative at Essex County Council.

Councillor Grundy worked tirelessly to support all the other Essex residents he represented and, despite his illness, fully intended to attend the next meeting to give his support to the projects the Council is undertaking.

In the short term, Cllr Bob Massey will step in as the County Councillor to represent Woodham Ferrers & Bicknacre Parish Council until the recently announced by-election takes place on the 12th December

Essex County Council

Our condolences go to Ian's family at this sad time.

Clerk's Report – Lucy White



Firstly, apologies to some residents in Bicknacre for the delayed delivery of the Summer Newsletter. This was due to distribution challenges, partly caused by illness. The Council has addressed these issues and is confident that it won't happen again in the future.

However, I have some good news for you in this newsletter...

Priory Fields—land purchase

On the 30th September, the Parish Council successfully completed the purchase of additional land at Priory Fields. The Parish Council believes this is exciting news for the parish, as the land will be held exclusively for the benefit of residents and will never be sold for development.

The Friends of Priory Fields will be managing this land, and the Parish Council is extremely grateful for their dedication. Despite their limited numbers, they do a fantastic job! They are actively seeking more volunteers now more than ever. If you would like to join their team, please use this link: www.prioryfields.org.uk/contact-us/

Community Speed Watch

As always, the Parish Council appreciates the efforts of the Community Speed Watch Group in their commitment to keeping our roads safer and ensuring that those who commit offences are held accountable.

In September, the Community Speed Watch Group conducted 13 sessions and recorded a total of 152 offences. The highest speed captured was an astonishing 52 mph on Priory Road, with an average speed of 37.5 mph among drivers. Additionally, Speed Watch reported one expired MOT and one instance of expired road tax.

Can you believe there were three repeat offenders, including one driver who was caught twice in the same session? My advice: if you're fortunate enough to have a speed limiter in your vehicle, be sure to activate it when the speed limit changes!

Reinstatement of the car park at The Hooe

I am actively following up with Cadent regarding the revised schedule of works to restore the carpark surface to an acceptable standard after the gas governor was moved for safety reasons. Cadent has been pursuing their contractor, who has been slow to respond. I will continue to press for a timely and positive resolution.

20's Plenty— Should the speed limit be reduced to 20mph?

A short while ago, the Parish Council committed itself to supporting the 20's Plenty campaign. '20's Plenty' is a community-driven approach to improving safety and the quality of life in residential areas. By advocating for a 20mph speed limit, the campaign addresses several important issues:

Improved Safety: The 29% reduction in accidents reported in Wales is a compelling statistic. Lower speeds in residential and town areas are proven to reduce the severity of collisions and give drivers more time to react. This is especially crucial in areas with pedestrians, cyclists and children.
Health and Environmental Benefits: Slower speeds encourage more walking and cycling as people feel safer. This can lead to a reduction in car usage, which benefits air quality and contributes to a healthier lifestyle for residents.
Community Well-being: Beyond safety, slower speeds help create a more pleasant environment. Noise levels decrease, streets feel less hostile and residents can enjoy public spaces more comfortably.
Apolitical Nature: The fact that '20's Plenty' is apolitical and receives no government funding strengthens its appeal. It shows that the campaign's agenda is purely based on community interest rather than external influences.

While some may argue about the inconvenience for drivers, the broader benefits of enhanced safety and improved quality of life seem to outweigh these concerns. Overall, it seems a proactive and practical initiative that could lead to significant positive changes for communities.
What are your thoughts on the balance between public safety and driver convenience in initiatives like this? Read more on page nine and give yourself a chance to have your say.
Lucy White, CiLCA—Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Friends of Priory Fields

PRIORY FIELDS

· Protecting Bicknacre's Heritage ·

Well, we have some good news for everyone who uses the fields!



After years of trying to obtain/buy the small field behind the Arch we can now confirm it is now under the ownership of the Parish Council.

It will be cleared by the FoPF over a period, probably quite a long period as the whole area is covered by three metre high brambles and full of barbed wire, rusty iron, hard core, glass and has several cess pits which need to be filled. We are planning to make this an area of open woodland with all existing trees remaining and possibly more added.

We have already started the clearance work, but it is going to be a slow process. There is so much metal rubbish in here that we have already damaged several of our machines.

When we are cutting into dense bramble we don't know what we will find and our brush cutters and flail mower have suffered from hitting old metal gates and a tractor three-point linkage, corrugated iron etc. All things that you could expect to find in an old farmyard. We may have to hire some heavier duty equipment to finish the job and certainly to fill the pits and level the old ditch lines. So we will be hoping to sell lots of Christmas Raffle Tickets this year to pay for the work.



We will ensure any wildlife habitat such as badger setts etc. are allowed to flourish.



Please keep out of the area until it has been cleared and made safe and ensure dogs are not allowed in there as the barbed wire, sharp metal etc. in the brambles could be very harmful. Danger signs have been put on the fence and we hope visitors take notice of these.

We are very conscious of the wishes of the adjacent householders and we will do our best to ensure that their gardens will not be overlooked by visitors to the fields. We hope that the view from their windows will be much improved be our efforts.

It will be nice to see some photos in the future from the rear of the Arch as I have only ever seen pictures of the Arch from one direction.

There will be no access for the public into Priory Fields from the Priors Field estate. As before, the only access to Priory Fields will be via the car park behind Priory School or Moor Hall Lane.

By the time you have read this we hope to have the hedge trimmed between the East Meadow and the Jokers Sports Field. We have previously cut this ourselves with hedge trimmers but have decided this year to employ Alan Sheldrake's tractor mounted cutter. It is a very hard job with a petrol hedge cutter and we aren't getting any younger!

Our Christmas Raffle tickets will be available shortly, please buy lots as we may have a large hole in our finances after clearing the new field.

The draw will be on the evening of Thursday 5th December at the Christmas Festivities at Priory School. Tickets will be available there if you haven't bought any previously.

Green Flag Award Community



Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all our friends and visitors from the Friends of Priory Fields

Living Landscapes Award — Essex Wildlife Trust — Winner

Community Speed Watch



Many of you will have heard of Community Speed Watch before - others may have seen us at the roadside wearing fluorescent jackets and holding a radar gun and clipboards and wondered what we are doing. Some of you may have found out the hard way by receiving a letter because you were speeding.

Why do we give up our time to do this? Well, it's not because we cannot get a proper job or have nothing better to do - as some motorists shout as they pass us by. We all value human life and don't want to see motorists, motor cyclists, cyclists or pedestrians become a fatality or be injured due to someone's selfish disregard for the law. Speed limits are not there to make road users angry but because certain roads are deemed too dangerous to travel on at any greater speed. A collision at 40 mph is much more likely to result in a fatality or serious injury that one at 30 mph.

As a police officer for 38 years, I have seen the devastation driving at speed can do. Telling a wife/ mother/father/son or daughter that their husband/wife/son/or daughter will never come home again or has sustained life-changing injuries is not a pleasant task.



Of course, you may think 'it can never happen to me' but let me assure you it can. A second's lapse in concentration, an animal in the road, a glance at a mobile phone or even talking to a passenger can all be the cause of an accident and, when coupled with excess speed, the results can be catastrophic.

We all like to think we are good drivers/riders but would you pass a driving test every time you take to the roads? If you speed then you would definitely fail.

I think the fastest vehicle we have recorded in our village was travelling at 78 mph along one of our 30 mph limit roads. While we would all agree that such a speed is outrageous many of us don't see travelling at 40mph or 50 mph in a 30mph limit as wrong. All I can say is tell that to the judge when you have had a head-on crash and the innocent passengers in your car or another vehicle lay bleeding.

In addition to speeding offences, we can also take note of motorists not wearing seat belts, using a mobile phone, having no insurance and/or MOT – all things that make using our roads safer.



If you would like to get involved with Community Speed Watch in our parish, we meet on the last Friday of each month at 7pm in the back room of Woodham Ferrers Village Hall. Training and equipment are supplied through Essex Police and Fire & Rescue Service, under whom we are authorised.

If you would like to make a difference to your community please do come along and meet the team. Once trained, we just ask that you give a couple of hours of your time when it suits you each month.

Co-Ordinator—Community Speed Watch

ESSEX HISTORIC MILITARY VEHICLE ASSOCIATION



The Essex Historic Military Vehicle Association (Essex HMVA) is a registered charity dedicated to preserving and promoting the region's military heritage, with a particular focus on Essex's significant contributions. The charity centres around the restoration and display of historic military vehicles, honouring those who built, used and maintained them. It serves as a living memorial, educating the public about the area's historical impact. Essex HMVA is supported by two esteemed patrons: The Rt Honourable Sir John Whittingdale MP and Stephen Nunn, a consultant specialising in the heritage of the Maldon area, who is also an author, broadcaster, and archaeologist.



Essex HMVA actively supports a variety of groups, including the British Legion, local councils, schools, museums, community organisations, and civic societies. Members often participate in events, providing historic vehicles or exhibits as backdrops for fundraising activities. You may have seen us at events in Woodham Ferrers, Maldon, and the surrounding areas, particularly during the 80th D-Day anniversary celebrations and Armed Forces Days. Looking ahead, next year promises to be busy with VE Day commemorations on the horizon.

Additionally, the search for a new storage facility following the loss of our Woodham Ferrers base has been a significant focus of our time and efforts. A long-term goal of the charity is to establish our own museum, allowing us to be more accessible and to properly exhibit our collections and vehicles. The aims of the charity are diverse, encompassing the preservation and restoration of historic military vehicles, armour, artillery, and associated equipment, as well as documents and artifacts that tell the story of our military heritage.



Members dedicate countless hours to researching and ensuring the authenticity of our vehicles, equipment, and displays, making our events both entertaining and educational. This effort helps instil awareness of our history and heritage in younger generations. Our members' vehicles have featured in numerous films, TV series, and documentaries, including *The Monuments Men, Danger UXB, The Dirty Dozen, Patton, Full Metal Jacket,* and *Band of Brothers*, among others.

The charity welcomes anyone with an interest in historic vehicles, military artifacts, nostalgia, or history—local or beyond. You don't need to own a military vehicle to join. Throughout the year, we participate in various events and host our own. We kick off the year with our 'Winter Gathering' on the Maldon promenade, followed by several other events. Our main showcase and fundraiser, 'Echoes Of History', takes place every August at the Living Memorial in Rettendon, offering a captivating living history experience.



To learn more, visit Echoes of History or Essex HMVA.
www.essexhmva.co.uk (main web site)
https://www.echoesofhistoryshow.com/ (show web site).

Facebook pages:
https://www.facebook.com/essex.hmva
https://www.facebook.com/EOHShow



You Tube Channel
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjM8NcPptpGvFTfyFKJcc3Q

Essex Historic Military Vehicle Association, Reg Charity No: 155705

Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre Neighbourhood Watch

Facebook Marketplace Scams



Many of us enjoy using Facebook to catch up with friends and relations but, 'Which?' has flagged an urgent warning because scammers may try many tricks to con you out of your money by cajoling you to give up your Google account security codes using a combination of emails and unsolicited phone calls to emphasize that they are 'genuine' and calling/emailing from the right secure source. However, once they have obtained all the details they require, they are able to lock you out of your account, gaining access to your personal details, including payment details, emails and contact lists which can be very costly because banks often refuse to return any funds lost during the scam.

How to Spot a Google Impersonation Scam



Many scammers impersonate the government, offering bogus discounts on energy bills or even pretending to be emanating from your adult children asking you to transfer monies. In order to find out more information about these scams and how to spot them, access Which? Scam Alerts: you will gain a greater understanding of how devious these scammers have become in recent times.

Local Parish Issues

In recent months, several containers have been entered, a variety of outbuildings have been broken into with saddles and other associated equipment being removed, a quantity of cash and a safe being stolen from a property, a caravan being removed from the driveway of another. It is essential that some form of security device/s are installed, either stronger or more locks or actual alarms within or around your building in order to prevent untoward entry and removal of what it contains.

It also appears that vandalism and drug usage is prevalent on Parish Council property. This has been an ongoing issue in some parts for the best part of a generation, despite attempts to curtail it.

Speeding



In addition, it would appear that speeding is becoming more prevalent with many exceeding the 30mph limit. It was installed about 24 years ago but is still ignored by many. as the Speed Watch Group will testify from their frequent spells on the road reminding drivers of their responsibility to drive safely through our villages.

Timely December reminders

Be mindful of where you place decorations over the festive period, especially if you've moved to a new home. Be conscious of what you place near heat sources and, if you are placing anything high, make sure you have ladders and some help. Check holiday lights for frayed wires or loose connections before using them, and always turn them off before leaving the house.

Winter travel

If you're travelling during the winter months, stay informed about weather conditions and plan your route accordingly. Pack your car with essentials like blankets, warm clothes, snacks (any excuse to dig into Christmas snacks early), water, a first aid kit, and a flashlight in case of unexpected delays or emergencies. Let someone know your travel plans and expected arrival time.

Home Preparations



At this time of year, many of us go on a spending spree for Christmas presents – the police advice is to place all purchases in the boot rather than on display on car seats, especially if you are leaving the car unattended to visit other shops. This is particularly important in multi-storey car parks which have a high footfall.

We all enjoy Christmas time with the cheery decorations lighting up our homes. It is

sensible to avoid displaying a lighted tree surrounded by presents in a place which can be easily seen through your windows by people passing by.



Once the festivities are over, discard cardboard packaging carefully so that pedestrians are not able to see what new items you may now own.

Please do not let your guard down on possible scams perpetrated by email, phone, unexpected parcel deliveries or via door-to-door callers. Remember scammers do not take a holiday – they will try and take advantage whilst your guard is down

Action Fraud
www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040

Bicknacre & Woodham Ferrers NHW
nhwbicknacrewf@yahoo.co.uk Tel: 01245 226438

20's Plenty for Us

...making your place a better place to be

Streets for Life #Love20

unroadsafetyweek.org

Please watch and share this inspirational 20'sP webinar showing how Cornwall, Oxfordshire, Surrey and Cambridgeshire are rolling out 20mph, saving money and lives. 20's Plenty believe it's entirely doable and a vote winner!

The Parish Council, as a Corporate Body, supports the campaign for the following reasons:

A speed limit of 20mph:

- Significantly reduces death and injury.
- Makes walking and cycling safer and more appealing.
- Reduces the dominance of vehicles in communities, making places better.
- Is low cost; in Wales casualties are down significantly without any additional enforcement or traffic calming measures.
- Supports emissions and noise reduction and enhances equality.

There are lots of useful resources and briefings on the national 20's Plenty website to help you decide whether you would support the campaign or not.

Essex County Council, again as a body, is quite resistant to the idea of reducing the speed limit across Essex (where people and motor vehicles mix). With the County Council elections approaching next May, the Parish Council suggests, whether you support the campaign or not, you email prospective candidates to garner their views.

Contact details are below:

Conservatives:	cllr.kevin.bentley@essex.gov.uk	cllr.lewis.barber@essex.gov.uk
Labour:	cllr.ivan.henderson@essex.gov.uk	cllr.lee.scordis@essex.gov.uk
Liberal Democrats:	cllr.mike.mackrory@essex.gov.uk	cllr.stephen.robinson@essex.gov.uk
Green Party:	cllr.paul.thorogood@essex.gov.uk	james.vessey-miller@greenparty.org
Reform UK:	Keiron McGill—essex@reformparty.uk	

20's Plenty would also like to hear your views, so feel free to copy them in: 20splentyforessex@gmail.com

DANBURY & VILLAGES ROTARY

LATEST NEWS

Polio
It is very sad that because of the conflict in Gaza and the destruction of water and sanitation systems, childhood polio has raised its ugly head. On 23rd October – World Polio Day, we held an afternoon tea event at Danbury Village Hall that was well attended to raise funds for World Polio Day. It raised nearly £500. We would like to thank the generosity of those who attended.



Halloween Market and Spooky Trail – 26th October – Danbury Leisure Centre
Following last year's success, we were present with our stall once again. It was great to see children and adults dress up and have great fun. It was great pleasure for us and raised about £100.

Quiz
The quiz on 27th Sept in support of Little Havens Hospice was well attended – in fact, sold out. I am pleased to advise that from ticket sales and the Grand Draw, together with £167.60 previously raised at the President's at Home, amounts to £958.60. The raffle raised a further £262.50, which will go to one of our President Keith's nominated charities. Please keep an eye out for our future quizzes, they are always entertaining.

Ukraine
Danbury Leisure Centre has very kindly allowed us to receive items for Ukraine on the afternoon of the 2nd Friday of each month, 2 to 4 pm. Items needed are extensive, personal hygiene items, sheets, towels, etc etc. Imagine you have arrived somewhere with just a suitcase – what things will you need to survive? That should give you an idea. But not clothing at this stage please.





Bikes
October has started very well with eight bikes already donated. They will all be checked and serviced and go to a deserving person together with lock, lights and a helmet if possible. I cannot thank enough the readers who have supported us.

Join Us
Together, we want to see a world where people unite, live in PEACE and take action to create lasting change – but have some fun while serving others. One aim of Rotary is to welcome to the club like-minded people who would like to help others. As a young club we look forward to more people, both men and women to join us. So please regard this as an open invitation to joining us to help with the good work that we do.

Meetings
We meet on Wednesdays 7 for 7:30 pm at Purleigh Bell, when we enjoy good food and friendship and importantly have a giggle! If you would like attend as a guest to find out more about us, please give us a call and we can arrange the rest. We will be delighted to meet with you.

Contact
For up to date information on what we are planning or we have been up to, please visit our Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/danburyandvillagesrotary
email: info@danburyandvillagesrotary.co.uk

Keep safe and well.
Soroush Ebrahimi—Mobile/WhatsApp: 079321 54061 – Danbury & Villages Rotary

DANBURY & VILLAGES ROTARY



CAN YOU HELP US

Every month Boxers Barbers deliver essential relief items to Ukraine

Please donate what you can

ITEMS NEEDED

- Nail Clippers
- Feminine Wipes
- Knickers
- Shower Gels/Bars of soap etc
- Deodorants
- Toothpaste & Tooth Brushes
- Personal Hygiene products, eg Sanitary products for teenage girls
- Shaving Cream
- Razors
- Cotton Wool/pads
- Hair Brushes/combs
- Medical Products eg paracetamol, plasters, bandages
- Face Wipes

COLLECTIONS
DANBURY SPORTS & SOCIAL CENTRE

FRIDAY 11th Oct | FRIDAY 8th Nov | FRIDAY 13th Dec

2.00pm - 4.00pm



Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome

Many of you will be aware that this year has been somewhat of a challenge for the Charity. Road closures restricting, and at times preventing, access to the museum and aerodrome, together with one of the wettest spring and early summers on record have all adversely impacted on our plans for a sustainable future for your local unique heritage asset.

Throughout this period and beyond we have been extremely grateful for the generous support received from our neighbours, visitors and donors as we have struggled to keep the museum open. This support, together with a significant donation from an anonymous source, means that I am able to confirm that Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome will open as planned next year.

This is fantastic news for our visitors, volunteers, staff and supporters. However, the Charity is not out of the woods yet. Possible funding sources, including Essex County Council, have not been able to provide us with any meaningful support and we therefore still need your help on our journey towards a more secure future for this nationally important historical site. After the Christmas Craft Fayre on Sunday, 1 December 2024, the museum, shop and café will close for its winter break, reopening to welcome visitors once again on 14 February 2025 with a fun packed events programme, including special air show days, a sports car show and living history events, all of which will appeal to aviation enthusiasts, historians and families alike. The museum, shop and Airmen's Mess Café will be open as usual from 10.00am to 4.00pm each Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Other than on event days, the Airmen's Mess Café can be visited without the need to pay for admission to the museum, so makes an ideal location for a trip out accompanied by morning coffee, lunch or afternoon tea.

For more information about visiting the museum and the history of the site, the 2025 programme of events or how you can support us further by becoming a Propeller Club member, a Stow Maries volunteer or making a donation please visit the Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome website www.stowmaries.org.uk.

Thank you.

Martyn Gill
Chair of Trustees
Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome
chairman@stowmaries.org.uk





The BE2 and Nieuport, Propwash Festival of the Air 2024
Image Credit: SMGWA



Visitors enjoying one of the air displays, Wings & Wheels 2024
Image Credit: SMGWA





Airside team, Wings & Wheels 2024
Image Credit: SMGWA



We could do with more like you!...

Join the

ART Club in Bicknacre

Tuesday Mornings

9.30 - 12.30

St Andrew's Church

Main Road, Bicknacre

Tel: 07525 196952

BICKNACRE FRIENDLY BRIDGE CLUB



The Bicknacre Friendly Bridge Club continues to welcome beginners and those looking to refresh their skills. We play bridge at St Andrew's Church in Bicknacre, with entrance at the rear and parking available. The Bicknacre Friendly Bridge Club is open to both members who have never played cards before and those who would like to refresh their knowledge of the game.

The aim of the club is to help members acquire or reacquire the knowledge and experience needed to join the ranks of those who derive great satisfaction and pleasure from playing bridge. We welcome new players! We meet on Monday afternoons from 1:30 to 4:30 (but NOT on the first Monday of the month).

BICKNACRE & VILLAGES FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Are you over 55 & not ready to give up on life?

Then try us out

We are the young, active, over 55s local community.



Great days out



Monthly Afternoon Tea at The Potting Shed – 3rd Wednesday of each month.



Our much loved Magical Christmas Market.



Monthly lunch at great locations

1st Monday of each month

No membership fees, just friendship & enjoyment.

Call Sandy 01245225351

Bicknacre and Villages Friendship Club



Weekly Bridge

What will you do in retirement?



Are you worried about how to fill the hours each day? Why not give something back to your community as a volunteer?

When I retired after 38 years plus as a police officer and 20 years as an instructor with the Army Cadet Force, I wanted to do more for my community and became a Community First Responder (CFR) with the East of England Ambulance Service. I had always had an interest in First Aid and was a trainer/assessor with the police, the ACF and St. John Ambulance. A stand at a Parish Council Meeting run by volunteers from the CFR piqued my interest and I signed up for the South Woodham Ferrers group – EZ 13.

I trained over several weekends in CPR and the use of the defibrillator, oxygen therapy and first aid techniques before qualifying as a CFR. Training continues each month with annual assessments. As a volunteer there are no mandatory set times for duties so members do what they can when they can. There is no criticism if a month goes by without a volunteer being able to respond. At first, I wondered if the regular ambulance crews would resent having 'amateurs' dealing with casualties but found them welcoming. CFRs are usually first on scene to incidents and are very important to the chain of survival, especially as ambulance services are so stretched.

You may ask if age is a factor – it is not but you do need to have a basic fitness to be able to give CPR for a prolonged period, to be able to carry two bags of kit for a hundred yards or so and drive a car. One lady in Suffolk is still performing her CFR duties aged 87!

I have also been a volunteer with the Essex Fire and Rescue Service in recent years, advising on home security and safety plus installing smoke alarms. This free service (just contact the Fire Service) has been estimated to reduce the costs of fighting house fires by hundreds of thousands of pounds each year. I only worked an area within 10 miles of Woodham Ferrers and just did one day a week – but found it enjoyable. If you would like to volunteer with Essex Fire and Rescue Service (EFRS), details can be found online or at any fire station.

Around 2015, a neighbour asked me along to the Community Speed Watch. Having been a police officer for so long, I know only too well how much damage and distress speeding on our roads can cause. Every accident involves speed and reducing speed saves lives. My wife and I both joined the group and in its early years I became a trainer and later took over running our Parish Community Speed Watch.

This does involve a little training and, ideally, we like to see members out for a couple of hours a month although some will do much more to try and keep our roads safer. There are no minimum or maximum hours – it's all voluntary but we must have three members at a site to carry out the tasks safely. If you would like to keep our community a little safer then think about joining our Parish Community Speed Watch Group by speaking to any members you see by the roadside on duty or better still by attending one of our meetings held on the last Friday of each month in the backroom of Woodham Ferrers Village Hall.

I had been fit and active when I was working and wanted to remain so after retirement, so I became a bailiff for a local angling club that had the whole of the River Chelmer and Chelmer/Blackwater canal within its portfolio. This role ensures that I walk at least five miles a week patrolling the riverbanks.

The Angling Trust, in conjunction with the Environment Agency, began a new initiative and formed the Voluntary Bailiff Service to assist the few paid Fishery Enforcement Officers (FEO) in England and Wales.

There is but one FEO for Essex and Suffolk.

I attended a training course over a weekend and because of my background in law enforcement was asked to be the Area Co-ordinator for Norfolk/Suffolk and Essex. Not a job I could do well given the vast area and number of waterways but gradually more people joined the VBS and someone else took over Norfolk and a couple of years on someone took over Suffolk, so I just had Essex - which is enough.

If you like fishing, want to assist the Environment Agency and Essex Police and can identify what is not right, can write logical and factual notes and walk a few miles in a morning/afternoon then you might like to join the VBS. Training, uniform and ID badge are given with courses being run twice a year. Look up VBS on the internet.

Alongside the uniformed volunteering jobs I have, I am also involved with several charities that I find worthwhile and rewarding.

The first is the Fishing for Heroes charity which helps serving and ex-servicemen and women who have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Many are veterans from the Falklands and Afghan wars and PTSD can take years to manifest itself. The charity takes veterans both coarse and fly fishing, teaching them from complete novice to a good standard. Courses and fishing days are held all over the UK and supervised by someone like me who holds a professional qualification and is licensed by the Angling Trust to teach fishing. Angling has been recognised widely in the medical profession as a therapy for the mind and I know in our area we have been a victim of our own success: with so many veterans getting employment after suffering for years with PTSD, the numbers available to attend our gatherings has reduced this last year or so because they can't get time off their new work to attend!

If you or someone you know is a veteran suffering from PTSD and would like more information about the charity do look up Fishing for Heroes online. They supply all fishing tackle, run four-day courses and there are regular outings held in all parts of the UK with accommodation and all costs paid for.

Gatherings for this area are held at Chigborough Farm and Fisheries, near Maldon, where Sam and Paul Talowyn run the site. They make the veterans very welcome and allow us to use their large fisherman's hut for cooking and eating. My wife, Ann, is also involved and cooks the veterans a full English breakfast, a hearty lunch and a high tea at the end of the day.

I am also involved with the Masonic Fishing Charity which aims to help disadvantaged and disabled children and adults. My wife and I are only involved with the fly-fishing aspect of it but we meet twice a year at Chigborough Farm and Fisheries and take between 10 and 30 disabled and/or disadvantaged children and adults for a day of trout fishing in the countryside. For some it is their first sight of the beauty and wonder of the rural parts of our country.

All our assistant fishermen and women are DBS-checked and all tackle is supplied. Participants are fed at lunchtime and any trout caught they can take back to their homes. Sam and Paul who run the fishery do a great BBQ for everyone and the participants all receive a medal and certificate at the end of the day which thrills them.

Last but not least, I am a member of the Royal British Legion where I help out with poppy sales and, until recent technology, was involved with the counting of monies from the collection tins etc. On Remembrance Day I have the honour of being the Parade Marshal at South Woodham Ferrers.
What will you do with your spare time?
Iain Fraser



St Mary's C of E Primary School Celebrates Remarkable Turnaround with recent OFSTED Inspection.

St Mary's C of E Primary School, once under threat of closure, is celebrating a remarkable transformation following its latest OFSTED inspection. The school has been awarded a GOOD rating, with inspectors praising the outstanding behaviour and attitudes of pupils and the personal development programs that have been implemented.

The OFSTED report highlights St Mary's as a shining example of positive change within the education sector. Inspectors were particularly impressed by the school's unwavering commitment to fostering a nurturing and supportive environment, contributing significantly to the pupils' personal growth and academic success.

Key Findings of the OFSTED Report:

- **Outstanding Behaviour and Attitudes:** The report commended the school for cultivating a respectful and inclusive atmosphere. Pupils are described as "highly motivated, respectful, and eager to learn," with behaviour in classrooms and around the school consistently exemplary. Pupils love coming to school, feeling safe and secure thanks to the trusted relationships they have developed with the adults who care for them.
- **Outstanding Personal Development:** St Mary's has been recognised for its exceptional personal development programs. The school's efforts in building resilience, self-confidence, and empathy among pupils have been acknowledged as a significant strength, preparing them not only for academic success but also for life beyond school.
- **Inclusivity and Support for SEND Pupils:** Inclusivity is central to St Mary's. Leaders ensure that pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) can access the full curriculum, providing opportunities for them to apply their knowledge and skills with increasing fluency and independence. The staff swiftly identify these pupils' needs and work closely with external agencies to secure the correct support. Pupils also benefit from mindfulness sessions and play therapy to support their well-being. As a result, pupils with SEND make strong progress from their starting points.
- **Rich, Inclusive, and Ambitious Curriculum:** The curriculum at St Mary's is praised for being rich, inclusive, and ambitious, placing pupils at its heart. It ensures that all pupils have a 'voice' and actively supports them in developing their views and identity. This approach empowers pupils to express themselves confidently and engage deeply with their learning.
- **Embodying Core Christian Values:** Inspectors noted that pupils at St Mary's epitomize the school's core Christian values of thankfulness, compassion, community, truthfulness, courage, and forgiveness. These values are evident in every aspect of school life, creating a harmonious and positive learning environment.
- **Leadership and Vision:** Inspectors praised the school's leadership team for their visionary approach and dedication to improvement. The commitment of staff and governors to delivering a high-quality education, despite past challenges, has been pivotal in the school's journey towards excellence.

The school joined the Berlesduna Academy Trust in July 2020 and have wholeheartedly supported the school to drive the significant changes which were needed. Berlesduna Trust leaders and local governors are rightly proud of the substantial improvement work driven by the headteacher.

Headteacher Mrs Walker expressed immense pride in the school's accomplishments, stating, "This OFSTED report is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and resilience of our entire school community. We were determined to turn things around, and our outstanding ratings in behaviour, attitudes, and personal development are a reflection of the positive culture we have built together."

Parents, pupils, and staff alike have shared in the celebrations, recognising the significant strides made by the school.

The school's turnaround story has also been recognised as an inspiration to other schools facing similar challenges. With a renewed focus on continuous improvement.

St Mary's looks forward to building on this success and continuing to provide an outstanding educational experience for all its pupils.

Proud to be GOOD 2024 Ofsted Good Provider

"We believe, we achieve, we succeed in God's family"

THANKFULNESS ● COMMUNITY ● COMPASSION ● TRUTHFULNESS ● COURAGE ● FORGIVENESS

revive

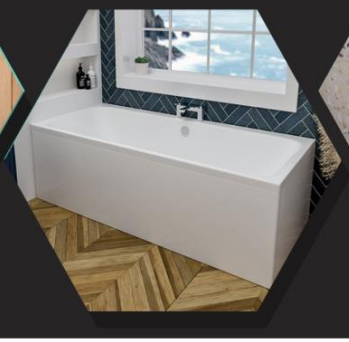


BATHROOM SHOWROOM

Revive Bathroom Showroom

NOW OPEN







WHY CHOOSE US?

Expertise in all things bathrooms

Competitive Pricing

A new large showroom to show you around

Free local delivery

WHERE ARE WE?

20 Baynes Place

Chelmsford

CM1 2QX

OPENING TIMES

Monday to Friday

0730 - 1700

Saturday

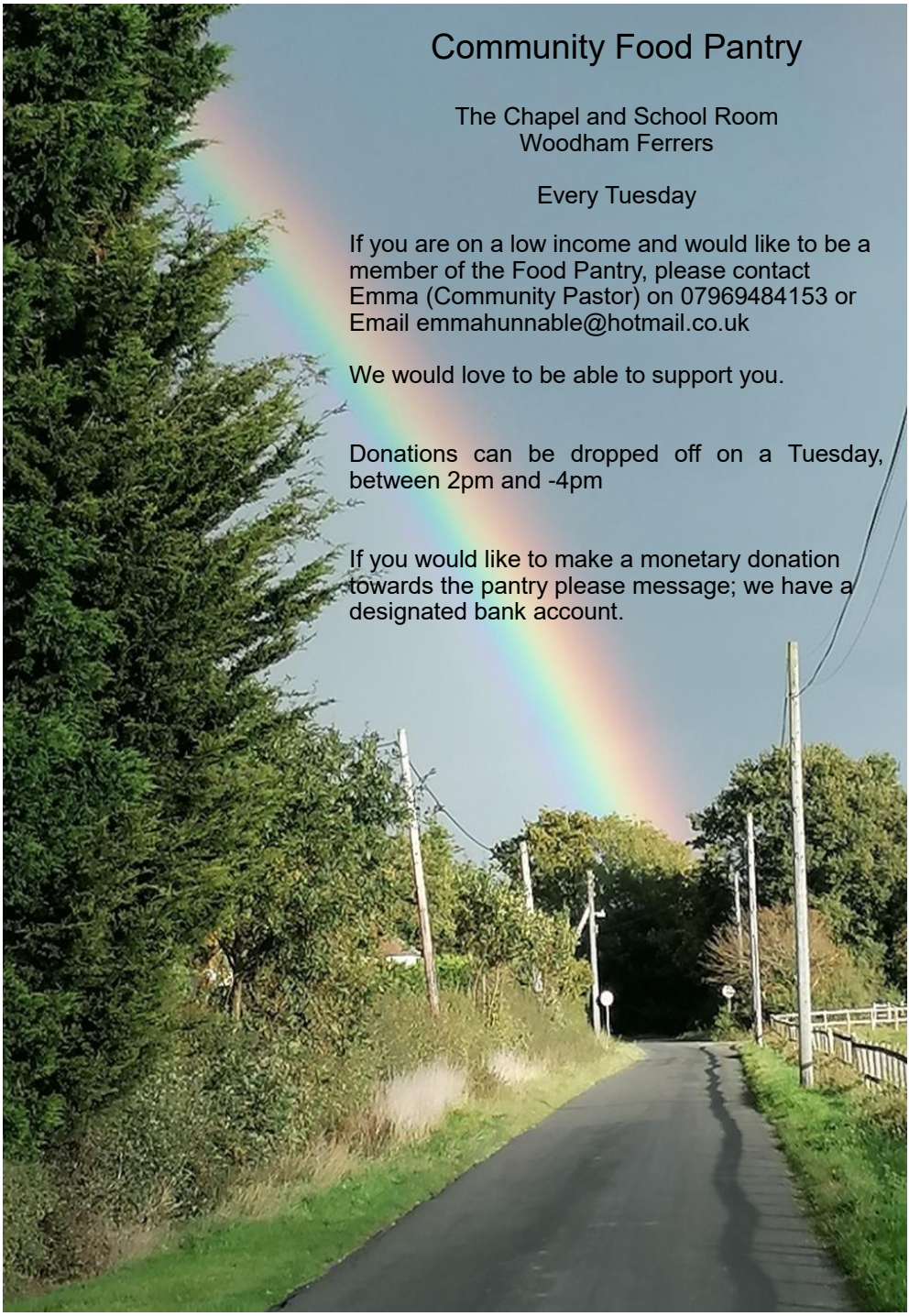
0800-1200

Sunday

CLOSED

cheshowroom@directhp.co.uk

01245357993 (OPTION 3)



Community Food Pantry

The Chapel and School Room
Woodham Ferrers

Every Tuesday

If you are on a low income and would like to be a member of the Food Pantry, please contact Emma (Community Pastor) on 07969484153 or Email emmahunnable@hotmail.co.uk

We would love to be able to support you.

Donations can be dropped off on a Tuesday, between 2pm and -4pm

If you would like to make a monetary donation towards the pantry please message; we have a designated bank account.





MIKE'S FISH & CHIPS



BICKNACRE

THURSDAY & FRIDAY

3.30PM—7.30PM

COME & TRY THE VERY BEST TASTING FISH & CHIPS AROUND!

Mobile: 07477 645021

PUKKA PIES

£3.00

Steak and Kidney
All Steak
Mince Beef and Onion
Chicken and Mushroom
Minced Beef and Veg Pasty
Cheese and Potato Pasty
Veg Pie

Southern Fried Chicken

Strips £1.00 each or 3x£2.50

Onion Rings - Buttered Rolls

CHIPS

£1.95
£2.65
£3.20

Onions Gherkins(wallies)

Mushy Peas
Curry Sauce

Sausages	£1.40
in batter	£1.50
Saveloy	£1.40
Fish Cake	£2.00
Pancake Roll	£2.20
Chicken Nuggets	£2.25
Roe	£2.20
Burger	£2.00
with cheese	£2.20
Chicken Burger	£2.50
with cheese	£2.70
Scampi	£4.35
Chicken 1/4 breast	£3.95

FISH

Cod	£5.50 or £6.50
Rock	£6.50
Skate	£6.00 or £7.00
Haddock	£6.00 or £7.00
Plaice	£7.00

Kids Meals

Nuggets x4 £2.60 x6 £3.25
Fish Bites £3.50
Sausage £1.75 in batter £1.85
Fish Cake £3.00



Keeping the county warm

Contact BFS for prompt delivery of your domestic heating oil direct from our local Danbury Fuel Services depot. You'll find no better service, no better value.

Fuel Services T 01245 425251 www.bfsfuelservices.uk

Heating oil from BFS Fuel Services

BFS Fuel Services are the leading suppliers of home heating oil and farm fuel in Essex. Based near Billericay, we deliver all over Essex and beyond - free of charge. And we have been doing it since 1969.

We are a family business, with a centrally-based depot and a modern BFS tanker fleet that enable us to provide a speedy response, from order placement to delivery. Our friendly, local drivers know their fuel and are more than happy to advise you.

Our long-standing relationship with our sister companies, BFS Fertiliser Services and BFS Farm Services, means we also fully understand the requirements of today's farmers. Crucially, we know they want their heating oil and fuel promptly, and at competitive prices.

CHELMSFORD TREE SERVICES LTD

We are a professional, local family business carrying out all aspects of tree work to a very high standard.

- **Tree reduction, pruning or felling**
- **Conifer/hedge cutting or shaping**
- **Stump Grinding**
- **Site Clearance / Planting**
- **Fully qualified and insured**
- **Local Authority approved**

Please call for a free estimate:

01245 403 009 or 07811 241 605

Seasoned logs

Ahead4

Computer & Web Services

Mon-Fri: 09:00 - 17:30
Tue: 09:00 - 19:30
Sat-Sun: 11:00 - 15:00

YOUR
local computer shop

Assisting home and business users with honest, helpful and professional advice. We're here for all your IT needs.

Computer Repairs **Laptop Sales**

Office Phone Systems **Hardware Upgrades** **SSD's, RAM**

Custom Builds **Remote Support** **Computer Sales**

Clean-up/ Servicing **Phone Repairs**

Friendly and Professional Advice

Tel: 01245 426 163 | Email: info@ahead4.com
117 Hullbridge Road, South Woodham Ferrers, CM3 5LL
www.ahead4.com



Bouquets For Birthdays, Anniversaries & Special Occasions

Sympathy & Funeral flowers

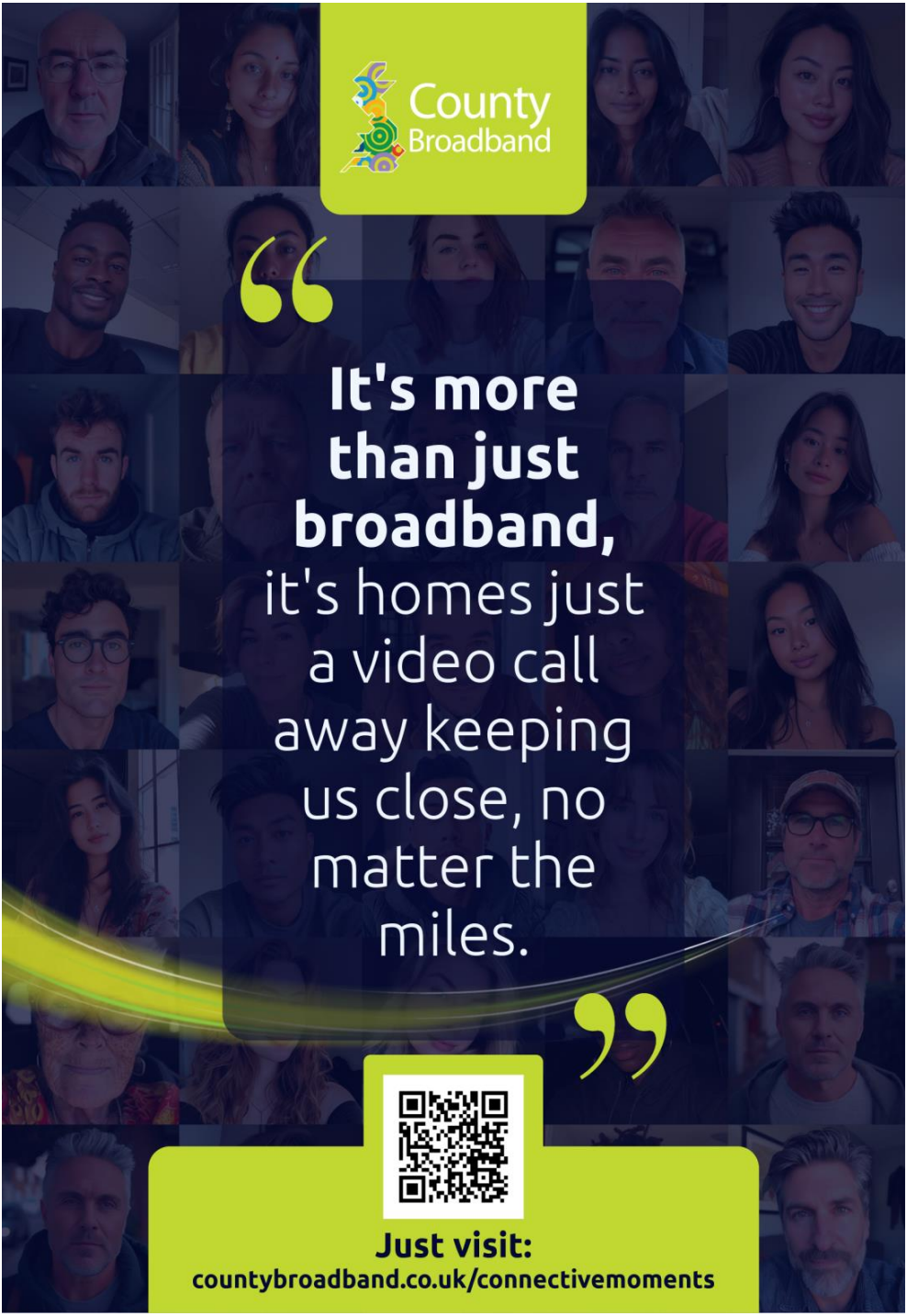
White Elm Garden Centre

White Elm Road, Bicknacre, CM3 4LR

01245 223362

www.eden-florists.com

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY


County Broadband
It's more than just broadband,
it's homes just a video call away keeping us close, no matter the miles.
Just visit:
countybroadband.co.uk/connectivemoments

PRIORY VILLAGE STORES & POST OFFICE

18 MONKSMEAD BICKNACRE

01245—227272

Newsagents—daily paper delivery

Bill payments (Electricity, Gas, Council Tax)

Mobile Phone Top Ups

Mail Order

Dry Cleaning

Charging of Electricity & Gas Keys from 6am—8pm

Free Cash Withdrawals (most banks)

National Lottery

Extensive range of grocery items

Fresh bread, rolls & sandwiches

TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



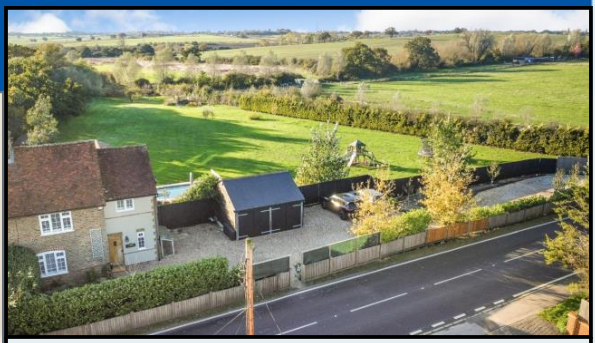




40 years 1977-2017

Church & Hawes
churchandhawes.com

FREE INSTANT ONLINE
VALUATION
How much is your home worth?
Go online at
www.churchandhawes.com
Church & Hawes 01245 225853



Woodham Ferrers Guide £750,000 - £765,000

Extended Character Home on 1.7 Acre Plot With Outbuildings



Bicknacre - £275,000

Brand New One Bedroom Spacious Home, Cloakroom, South Facing Garden



Bicknacre - £635,000

High Specification Three Bedroom Detached bungalow on 0.2 Acre Plot



Danbury

Guide £575,000 - £600,000

Beautifully Appointed Period Home, Three Reception Rooms, Backing Farmland