

## VILLAGE VOICE



#### **CONTENTS**

CONTENTS
Parish Council News 3
St Andrew's and All Saints 4
Annual Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch 6
Community Park 7
Hadfelda Walkers8
Hatfield Peverel Allotment Association 9
Helen Rollason Cancer Charity 10
Hatfield Peverel Methodist Church
Terling WI 14
Western Front Association
Hadfelda Ladies Group 16
Maldon Film Club 17
Stefan Tabacu, My Personal Trainer 19
Hatfield Peverel & Ulting Horticultural Society
Christmas in the Park
Breadmaking with Giovanni
Peverel Wine Club

#### **USEFUL INFORMATION**

Click below for Parish Council and village information and contacts

Hatfield Peverel Parish Council \*

Parish Council Meetings \*

Clubs and Societies \*

Local Information and Contacts \*

Credits: Editor: Janice Fitzpatrick communications@hatfieldpeverelpc.com

Publisher: Andrew Smith Print Ltd <a href="mailto:andrew@asmithprint.co.uk">andrew@asmithprint.co.uk</a>

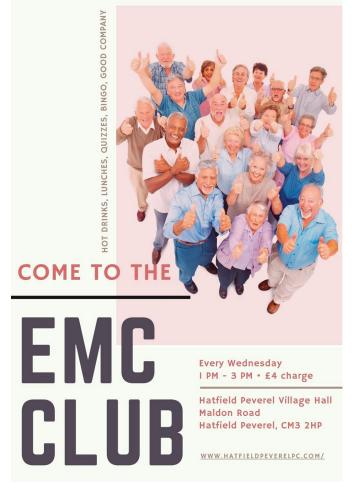
The DEADLINE for the JANUARY 2026 issue of Village Voice is 14th DECEMBER 2025. (Any copy received after this date may not appear in the January issue)

For information on copy specifications email: <a href="mailto:communications@hatfieldpeverelpc.com">communications@hatfieldpeverelpc.com</a>
If you wish to advertise your business in Village Voice, please get in touch for a media pack and rate card.

This publication is printed on FSC-sourced paper and is fully recyclable.

- \* Hatfield Peverel Parish Council https://www.hatfieldpeverelpc.com/parish-council/
- \* Parish Council Meetings https://www.hatfieldpeverelpc.com/parish-council-meetings/
- \* Clubs and Societies https://www.hatfieldpeverelpc.com/welcome-to-our-village/village-culture/clubs-and-societies/
- \* Local Information and Contacts https://www.hatfieldpeverelpc.com/welcome-to-our-village/community-matters/local-information-and-contacts/







#### **Hatfield Peverel Parish Council Update**

Welcome to December's issue of Village Voice. This month, we're pleased to welcome our newly appointed councillor, Teresa Weale. Teresa has dedicated many years to volunteering with the Parish Council, offering invaluable support to our events and initiatives. It's wonderful to now have her join us formally as a councillor.

Our group tennis coaching sessions have started at the Strutt Memorial Tennis Courts. Our appointed coach, Mark Cain, offers weekly sessions for all ages as well as 1:1 coaching. Read more about Mark on page 7. To book the tennis courts directly, visit https://tinyurl.com/book-tennis

#### **Remembrance Parade**

We were delighted to see so many residents join us for the Remembrance Parade along Church Road this year. It was a wonderful coming together of all the community and culminated in a meaningful service held at St Andrew's. A great way to honour our fallen heroes and those who serve.

#### Christmas in the Park

Our annual Christmas event - not actually held in the park! - is soon upon us. We're looking forward to seeing you all with your families for day of seasonal joy! Our committee have been working hard behind the scenes to bring you a day of delicious food and drink, children's activities and music with singalong and the Essex Yeomanry Band. There are further details on page 4. Please note, that parking in the village hall car park is suspended that day apart from blue badge holders. Alternative parking can be accessed behind the Little Bear's Nursery on Maldon Road.

#### **Duke of Edinburgh**

Our first DofE Bronze Award scheme has proved to be a success with four young people from Hatfield Peverel successfully completing their assessment expedition. More details on page 9. We will be running another Bronze Award scheme in early 2026 so share the news!

#### Get involved

Our last meeting of the year for the Parish Council takes place on Monday 1st December in the Vic Olley Room at the Village Hall. Our first meeting of 2026 will be Monday 12th January. Public participation is welcome, please see the <u>agenda</u> which is published on the Parish Council website and on the noticeboard outside the Parish Council office. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor yourself, we'd be delighted to speak with you.

Contact Sarah Gaeta, Parish Clerk; or Carly Truman, Assistant Clerk at the Parish Council Office, Village Hall, Maldon Road, Hatfield Peverel, CM3 2HP Tel 01245 382865. Email: parishclerk@hatfieldpeverelpc.com or assistantclerk@hatfieldpeverelpc.com

THE PARISH COUNCIL WISHES YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

See you on the 7th December!





#### Festive fun in Hatfield Peverel!

## THS CHRISTMAS

#### Join us for this year's Christmas in the Park!

Start the Christmas season with festive food and drink, a children's singalong and music by the Essex Yeomanry Band. Craft and gift stall holders, children's activities and face painting, balloon modelling and a visit from Father Christmas on his sleigh are sure to get you in a festive mood. Entry is free though a small charge is applicable for select activities. (On-site parking is available only for blue badge holders). The day starts at 1pm and finishes with our traditional pipers leading the way to the lighting of the Christmas tree. Pop in for an hour or two or stay for the day - we'd love to see you!



### Mrs Claus has Lost her Washing!

Can you help Mrs Claus find her washing? 1st Hatfield Peverel Scout Group will be

running their Christmas trail fundraiser in and around Hatfield Peverel

#### SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2025 10am - 3pm

Trail maps cost £5 & include a free entry into the raffle

Stalls, refreshments and games on the day as well



#### With special thanks to...

Paul Mason Associates . Essex Property Specialists for sponsoring our Christmas Tree.

#### A note about our event

Please be advised there may be a photographer taking photos of the event on behalf of Hatfield Peverel Parish Council. These photos may be used on social media and the council website. If you do not wish to be in the photos, please tell a member of staff. Please see our privacy policy on the website for details on how we process photographs.



#### NEWS FROM ST. ANDREW'S & ALL SAINTS, ULTING

It's the countdown to Christmas, a time of celebrating the birth of Our Saviour Jesus Christ and Advent, the time of anticipation of that birth.

The four-week period of Advent started on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> November at our patronal Festival of St Andrew at the Parish Church when we welcomed clergy and members of congregations from churches in the Witham Team Ministry. Each Sunday we light another coloured candle in our Advent rings of holly and ivy, culminating with the central white candle at the Midnight services starting at 11.30 pm on Christmas Eve at both churches.

Before then we have a variety of special services throughout December culminating in our Light of the World Service on Christmas Eve. Please see our poster with details of all the services taking place this month at All Saint's, Ulting and St Andrew's. And our services can be seen on the next page.



As many of you will know, the tradition of the Light of the World Service is to support our own local charity <u>Home-Start Essex</u> which does so much to support young families. This charity is one of the county's leading 'early intervention and prevention' charities which supports families with young children under 5 years and aims to give children the best possible start in life. There are many challenges facing families – poverty, physical or learning disabilities, domestic abuse, rehoming and temporary accommodation, struggles with mental or physical health, social isolation, and bereavement.

Home-Start provides support for these via Volunteer Family Support Mentors, Family Support Wellbeing Support Groups, counselling and provision of essential items when needed. So many families are in need and at our Light of the World Service many of us bring donations to help Home-Start to support and bring joy to families over Christmas and beyond. Some like to bring presents for the children, but Home-Start also appreciate monetary donations or tokens from local supermarkets so that appropriate gifts can be offered according to need.

Although looking forward to Christmas is exciting, we must not forget our Remembrance Day services which took place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November. We had services at both churches. The one at All Saints required the congregation to walk up the church drive to the upper graveyard where the War Memorial is situated. The service at St Andrew's involved a parish council organised procession along Church Road from the Scout Hut to the church. Both services which were powerful and meaningful were very well attended and showed a strong ongoing commitment in the parish to the memory of those who laid down their lives so that we can enjoy ours.

Our Soup and Roll in November raised £170 for Christian Aid and our December event on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December will be in support of Home-Start Essex. Finally, we finished November with a film showing of The Shack on Saturday 29<sup>th.</sup> Watch this space for the next film show which will be in the New Year.

All that's left to say is we wish you all a very happy Christmas!

#### Contact details for Parish Team

Rev Howard Schnaar 07761234165 Rev Derek Clark 07860380627 | Charles Cope 01245 382134 | John Tomlins 07712699722 | Mark Keenan 07791141974 Website: <u>www.hatfieldpeverelultingchurches.org.uk</u>

#### Parish of St Andrew Hatfield Peverel with All Saints Ulting

#### **SERVICES etc. for DECEMBER 2025**

SERVICES etc. for DECEMBER 2025			
	St Andrews	All Saints	
Saturday 6th	10 -12 noon in St Andrew's Church Hall		
	CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING		
Sunday 7th	10.15 am - Matins	4pm Carols by	
		Candlelight	
Sunday 14th	8am. Holy Communion	9am Morning Prayer	
	10.15 Messy Christmas		
	Service+Workshop[with light lunch]		
Sunday 21st	10.15 Parish Eucharist	9am Holy Communion	
	4pm Christmas Carols		
	and Readings		
Wednesday	4.30 Light of the World	11.30pm	
24th	11 for 11.30pm	Midnight Service	
	Midnight Service		
Γhursday	10.15 Christmas Day	9am Eucharist	
25th	Service		
Sunday 28th	10.15 Said Service	9am Parish Eucharist	

Edward Bear: Every Thursday 10am to 11.30 (in term time) - Coffee and Company - in hall with short worship on alternating weeks
All Saints open for prayer at 9am every Wednesday [with Morning Office]

St Andrew open for prayer at 9am every Thursday

St Andrew's and All Saints: Rev'd Howard Schnaar 07761234165 revhoward@withamvillages.team, John Tomlins 01245 380359 07712699722 johnandanna.tomlins@btopenworld.com, Mark Keenan 07791141974 kramnaneek@live.co.uk

All Saints, Ulting: Rev'd Derek Clark 01245 380627 07860 235778



#### COME AND ENJOY

#### Soup and a Roll

on Tuesday 9th December 12.30pm - 2pm in St Andrew's Church Hall



Church Road, Hatfield Peverel, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 2LE

Donations in aid of Home-Start Essex

#### TEST YOUR CHRISTMAS KNOWLEDGE - ANSWERS

Yes we turned them upside down!

Jp. Goose

contain real meat! Gravy with your mince pie anyone? 14. Clarence Merry Christmas. 10.Candy, candy cane, candy corns and syrup. 11. 364. 12.Isaac Newton. 13. True - Back in the olden days, mince pies used to Question 1. 5th January. 2. St. Stephen's 3.We Three Kings. 4. Michael Caine. 5.Rubik's Cube. 6.Japan. 7.Poland. 8.Clockwise. 9.We wish you a



How much do you know about the origins of Christmas, the celebrations around the globe and anything generally Christmassy?

Take out quiz to find out!

- 1. The Twelve Days of Christmas finishes on which date traditionally?
- 2. Which saint's day is celebrated on 26th December?
- 3. Which Christmas carol includes the lyrics "Star with royal beauty bright"?
- 4. Who plays Scrooge in "The Muppet Christmas Carol"?
- 5. Which most popular toy of 1980 was designed by a professor of architecture in Budapest to teach his students about spatial awareness?
- 6. Which country's Christmas dinner typically consists of KFC?
- 7. In which country is it traditional to eat a meal of 12 dishes on Christmas Eve?
- 8. Which direction should you stir mincemeat for good luck?
- 9. What carol can you use to demand figgy
- 10. What are the 4 foods that Buddy the Elf sticks to?
- 11. In the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," how many presents are given in total?
- 12. Which famous scientist was born on Christmas Day in 1642?
- 13. Mince pies used to contain real minced meat. True or false?
- 14. What is the name of the angel in "It's a Wonderful Life"?
- 15. Before turkey became popular, which meat was traditionally served at Christmas dinner?

Check your answers on the left (We turned them upside dow so it's harder to cheat!)

## Meet the Coach



Our newly appointed tennis coach, Mark Cain kicked off his first week of coaching in November. Mark will continue to offer a variety of coaching options at the new tennis courts at Strutt Memorial Recreation Ground in Hatfield Peverel. Mark is an LTA Level 3 Accreditation Plus Coach and the Parish Council were delighted to offer Mark the position to promote and coach tennis, offering sessions to all generations.

Here Mark shares a little about his journey into tennis, his career and his commitment to tennis and experience in coaching.

"My coaching career started at 23 years old when I fully qualified with the LTA and later gained the Spanish RPT National Professional Coaching Qualification. My decision to become a coach followed a natural progression from being a high-level junior, playing in tournaments in the UK and Europe and getting as much tennis experience as possible.

I gained the necessary qualifications and having moved to Chelmsford I built up a successful coaching business at a local tennis club who I also represented as a first team player. For a few consecutive years, during the winter months, I worked in Spain and Portugal at tennis centres and at an International School in Spain working with children. This experience in a school environment reinforced my passion for bringing children on in tennis and the importance of children having fun on a tennis court.

I currently work at Felsted Prep School and have been there for over 20 years. I am a dedicated tennis coach, teaching as part of the curriculum in the summer months, after school activities all year round, private and group tennis lessons. I also continue to be Head Coach for Southminster Tennis Club working a couple of days a week since 2017. At Southminster I now have more than 120 children and adults participating in weekly lessons and holiday camps. When I started, we had only a handful of children but with networking, school visits, partnerships and sponsorships we now have healthy junior and adult sections. A first for me this year was working with pre-school children which was immense fun and so rewarding coaching the little ones.

As a coach I am committed to building on my skills and knowledge, and this involves investing in myself and keeping up with tennis coaching changes via online and practical CPD courses.



Tennis is not for everyone, but *everyone* can have a go. It is an inclusive and multi-generational sport where adults can play with their children and a skill which stays with you for life. Children are coached using techniques which keep them engaged with interactive games and decision making to enhance their mental skills. During school holidays I will be running tennis camps at Hatfield Peverel. This is a fantastic way to introduce children to tennis, learning the techniques and developing them using fun tennis related games. If you are interested in learning more or would like to join our Tuesday group coaching sessions, get in touch by emailing <a href="markacain@live.com">markacain@live.com</a> or call 07741 083192.

I look forward to helping inspire the Hatfield Peverel community to enjoy this wonderful sport.



# ROOM

We have great facilities for hire at the hall, including the main hall and stage, our multi-media room 3 with professional presentation facilities and the lounge and large kitchen are also available to hire.

Did you know we've hosted weddings, wakes, birthdays and celebrations, children's parties (including bouncy castles) and more? We can cater your event from our lovely Coffee Lounge and we can provide a full bar service as well. There's free full-fibre Broadband Wi-Fi at the hall and we have free car parking right on site too!















Words by Richard Parker

## BRONZE SUCCESS!



We are delighted to announce that our four young people on the Community Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award scheme achieved a pass, with flying colours, for their qualifying expedition. This formed a key part of the process to obtain their Bronze Award. The DofE Award scheme was funded by Hatfield Peverel Parish Council (HPPC) as part of its support for young people. HPPC is the first parish council in Essex to offer this opportunity to its younger members of the community – something we're immensely proud of. Over the last twelve months, the girls undertook different elements of the Bronze Award - Volunteering, Physical Activity and Skills along with the previously mentioned expedition. Each section challenges young people in different ways, encouraging teamwork, commitment and personal growth. The girls have undertaken such things as learning the guitar, playing football, horse racing, litter picking, photography, and being young leaders at Brownies. Award success depends on careful planning, dedication, and cooperation. While much of the work was done individually, the expedition section requires the group to collaborate closely.

As well as funding the award scheme, HPPC has supported the process with two parish councillors – Cllr Richard Parker & Cllr Tina Short - attending fortnightly training and review sessions within the local village hall. The councillors were also supported by Essex Youth Service Support Workers who guided both the councillors and young people through such subjects as map reading, using a compass, route planning, general navigation, kit preparation and first aid, to name just a few. As the girls were unable to secure a place on their school lead DofE or in some instances their school did not actually run a DofE scheme, joining the council-run scheme was a great solution for them.

We are also pleased to see that by being the first 'community' based DofE scheme run in Essex, other parish councils are looking at what HPPC has done and plan to emulate such a process within their own parish councils. To receive their bronze award, the final step is to have their assessor reports signed off for each of the three sections and subjects covered which is planned to be completed by the end of the year. Excitingly, the girls have all said they now want to move on to achieve their Silver DofE award in 2026.HPPC are now looking to fund a new Bronze DofE cohort to start the award process in January 2026. If you know a young person in the local parish that wishes to be considered for starting this process next year and who has not been able to secure a place via their school, please contact Councillor Richard Parker (cllrparker@hatfieldpeverelpc.com) or Councillor Tina Short (cllrshort@hatfieldpeverelpc.com) for more details.

#### **MALDON CROQUET CLUB**

#### Mallets down for winter



The croquet season is now at an end and members are oiling their mallets for winter storage. Nevertheless, our members will keep in touch throughout the winter via our monthly lunches, newsletters and our Christmas quiz. We will also continue to work with the Parish Council on our expansion plans at the Keith Bigden Memorial Ground.

We have enjoyed yet another successful season with strong support for our "roll up" games, club competitions, and league matches with other clubs. Membership now stands at 80, and we have also enjoyed introducing many local groups to the game throughout the summer and playing friendly matches with our friends at Burnham and Mersea Island

Our finals day was held back in September and the trophy winners were:

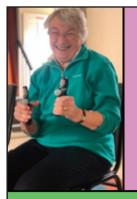
Rainbow Trophy – Martin Ridsdale Forrester Plate – Jean Healey and Derek Ryan Georgie Clarke Memorial Vase – Chris Joslin

We were all delighted when our retiring Club Captain, Chris Joslin, was presented with the Croquet England Diploma in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Club over many years.

To find out more information about our club visit <a href="https://maldoncroquetclub.org.uk/">https://maldoncroquetclub.org.uk/</a> Our season usually runs from March to October, and membership is open to people of any age. New recruits are always welcome and we do not have a waiting list for new members. All members have the use of our equipment as well as access to coaching from our more experienced players.

By Jan Hall





#### **CHAIR EXERCISE**

St Andrew's Church Hall Hatfield Peverel

Tues 10 am-10.45 am

Nov 4th, 18th, 25th Dec 2nd (new term, Jan 6th)

Would you like to improve your...

Balance, strength, flexibility, confidence and general fitness levels? Why not **come and join us** and have some fun too! **You will be very welcome** whatever your level is.

Fully qualified instructor.

Not sure about coming? Feeling anxious? Have you had a fall or are afraid of falling?
Do you have replacement joints? Are you spending more time at home?
Has your mobility decreased since Covid? Your exercises will be adapted to your needs!

Medical conditions must be controlled if you would like to attend.
Fully qualified Chair Based Instructor and Personal Trainer
Mental Health & Exercise Level 4

Please come in comfortable, stretchy clothing, leisure footwear and bring water!

Bookings taken now or turn up on the day! For details and cost <u>mandadurrant@gmail.com</u> Telephone 01376 408046 - Please leave a message.



## Welcoming winter in Hatfield Peverel



As December settles gently across Hatfield Peverel, the air turns cool and damp, and the daylight hours grow precious. Winter invites us to pause, reflect, and prepare. Though much of the garden now sleeps, there's still quiet work to be done — work that sets the stage for a thriving year ahead.

Winter is a time of rest, consideration, and preparation — perfect for tending the soil, protecting plants, and planning next season's abundance. Whether you care for an allotment on the village plots, a back-garden veg bed, or a few cherished pots on the patio, the coming weeks offer the chance to nurture your patch — and your gardening spirit — before the busy spring begins.

#### **Seasonal Tasks for Our Essex Gardens**

A few thoughtful actions this month can make all the difference next year:

#### **Tidy & Protect**

- Clear away any remaining weeds and old crops compost healthy debris and discard diseased material but keep seed heads and stems for birds and insects.
- Mulch bare soil with compost, leaf mould, or straw to feed the ground and stop nutrients washing away.
- Protect tender plants pelargoniums, dahlias, and young herbs — with fleece or by moving them under cover.

#### **Soil & Bed Preparation**

- Dig in well-rotted compost or manure to enrich the soil for spring sowing.
- Turn over heavy soil lightly our local clay benefits from winter frosts breaking up the clods.
- Cover early beds with black plastic or cloches to help warm the soil for early sowings.

#### **Fruit & Veg Focus**

- Prune apple and pear trees while dormant, removing damaged or crossing branches.
- Plant garlic and overwintering onions if the soil is not too wet — they'll thrive in our mild winter climate.
- Check stakes and ties on young trees and soft fruit bushes before the winds strengthen.
- Make notes on this year's successes to guide next season's planting plan.

#### In the Greenhouse or Indoors

- Sow hardy herbs such as parsley or coriander in pots on bright windowsills.
- Ventilate greenhouses on dry days to prevent mildew.
- Water sparingly, just enough to stop compost drying out.

#### **Looking Ahead**

December invites a slower rhythm — the perfect time to dream, plan, and prepare. With a warm drink in hand, browse seed catalogues, sketch out next year's plot, and imagine beds bursting with colour and life. Each small task this month — a bit of tidying, a layer of mulch, a note in the garden journal — is a promise to next year's garden.

Please watch for future newsletters for our special highquality compost delivery timings and costs, which will be available starting in late February.

Wishing all our readers warmth, rest, a Merry Christmas and inspiration this winter.

- Your Hatfield Peverel Allotment Association Team

By Drew Price





### ALL THINGS FESTIVE!

#### **All things Festive**

At this time of the year, we would like to say a massive thank you to those that have supported us throughout 2025. Whether you have attended our events, taken part in one of our challenges, raised money for us or volunteered for us — we are so grateful for all that you do to enable us to support local people living with cancer.

For those living with cancer it can be a difficult time. We see the courage it takes to carry on and keep smiling for family and friends. The demand for our services increases and we are looking for £5,000 to ensure there is support over the festive season for everyone who needs it. Every penny helps and you can donate here: <a href="https://www.helenrollason.org.uk/christmas-appeal-2025/">https://www.helenrollason.org.uk/christmas-appeal-2025/</a> As well as donating, here are some other ways you can support our activities:

#### **Father Christmas Experience 19 December**

We have a limited number of tickets available for our Father Christmas Experience at Layer Marney Tower on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December. Tickets must be prebooked and they are selling quickly. Tickets include a private meeting with Father Christmas, a gift for each child, live festive entertainment, craft activities, storytelling, our donkeys, a ride on a London red bus, mince pies and mulled wine (for the grown-ups). There will be food and drink vendors too. Last year, this was a huge success enjoyed by children and adults alike.



#### **Christmas tree recycling in January**

We will be collecting real Christmas trees from doorsteps across CM and CO postcodes again this year in January. All trees will be sustainably recycled, and all donations will help Helen Rollason Cancer Charity to continue giving support to local people living with cancer. Prebooking only - you can book online now via this link: <a href="Christmas">Christmas</a> Tree Collection



#### Corporate Quiz 11 December

Get together with your colleagues and challenge other local businesses, groups and clubs by joining our Corporate Quiz at Hatfield Place at 7pm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December. Tickets are £10 per person, and you can enter a team of up to 8 people. You may bring your own drinks and nibbles or buy from the bar.

#### Jingle Bells for schools ...

Why not organise a Jingle Bell Jog for your school, nursery or youth club. <a href="https://www.helenrollason.org.uk/christmas-appeal-2025/jingle-bell-jog/">https://www.helenrollason.org.uk/christmas-appeal-2025/jingle-bell-jog/</a>

Or a Jingle Bell Jumper Day

https://www.helenrollason.org.uk/christmas-appeal-2025/jingle-bell-jumper/

We can help you with the organisation. Contact our fundraising team for more information.

#### Christmas cards and 2026 calendars

We have beautiful 2026 calendars and Christmas cards for sale in our centres in Hatfield Peverel and Harlow and in our shops.







#### **Omars of Hatfield Peverel**

Purveyors of Fine Indian Cuisine

#### **Christmas Party Menu**

Christmas Day opening hours 1pm – 4pm

Prebooking only - 01245 380099

£39.95 per person

Your choice of starter, main course and rice. Served with traditional side dish and bread, followed by dessert

#### **STARTERS**

Butter Garlic Scallops

Aloo Chops

#### MAIN COURSE

Home Cooked Authentic Indian Turkey Biryani
Home Cooked Medium Spiced Turkey Curry
Tandoori Grilled Turkey Marinated with Homemade Spices
Homemade Paneer in Caramelised Tomato Curry Sauce

#### **RICE**

Plain rice or Pilau rice

#### **SERVED WITH**

Plain Naan

&

Niramish (Dry Mixed Vegetable Curry)

#### **DESSERT**

Homemade Indian Caramel Pudding









#### HATFIELD PEVEREL METHODIST CHURCH

We had a lovely celebration of 150 years since the opening of the Methodist Church in Hatfield Peverel, with a welcome visit from friends from some of the years in between. We enjoyed a historical display of artefacts and memorabilia, with the cross and lamp from the church taking pride of place.

#### Sunday 7th December

Christmas in the park will take place in the Village Hall on Sunday 7th December. We will move our worship to another venue that morning – do let us know if you would like to join us and we will let you have the details.

#### Carols and Crafts Sunday 14th December 10-00-11.00

We are looking forward to sharing our annual Carols & Crafts event in Room 3 at the Village Hall. We will have a short time of worship from 9.15 am and all are welcome to join us then. The Carols & Crafts will take place from 10.00 – 11.00 – hope you can join us.

#### **Collective Worship at St Andrews Junior School**

Eddie and Jane had a great time reconnecting with the children at St. Andrew's Junior School, especially those who remembered them from the Monday Lunch Club. They shared the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand, along with some magic and electric guitar accompanying our song. For some it is a well-known occasion recorded in all four gospels, when Jesus performed a miracle of feeding thousands of hungry people with very little food available – just 5 bread rolls and 2 little fish. We read that all ate their fill, and there were 12 baskets of leftovers collected. We also recognised what we can learn from the story; we need to use what we have and help those who do not have what they need. And we must remember to thank God for the gifts he has given us - both physical and personal gifts and share them when we can.

#### **Christmas Prayer Tree**

We will place our prayer tree in the entrance to the café again this year. There will be labels for you to write your prayers and hang them on the tree. You may have things to be thankful for, or prayers of sadness or hope. We will include all the prayers in our worship after Christmas

It only remains for us to wish you a healthy, Happy Christmas, and every blessing for the year ahead.





You can contact us as follows:

Minister: Rev. Dr. Jennifer Walters 07824 440820 Mission Lead: Jane Cook 07827 594535

For information and prayer requests: hpmethodistchurch@gmail.com



#### A CHRISTMAS HAVEN

December is traditionally the month when our Branch holds its talk at the Royal British Legion in Hornchurch, and this year is no exception. On 10th December we will be hearing about Talbot House, a remarkable place in Belgium with a unique story. More on that shortly.

Christmas 1915 on the Western Front was a very different experience from the previous year. The war had been brutal throughout 1915, marked by the first German use of poison gas and flamethrowers. British troops had taken part in several major offensives at Neuve Chapelle, Festubert, Aubers Ridge and Loos, but gains were limited and casualties were heavy. By year's end, many of the professional soldiers who had gone to war in 1914 were dead or wounded, territorial units had been heavily engaged, and Kitchener's new volunteer battalions were fighting their first battles. Unsurprisingly, there was little appetite for a repeat of the 1914 Christmas Truce. At best, some sectors adopted a quiet "you don't shoot, we won't" approach, but for many it was simply business as usual.

It was in this bleak context that Talbot House opened its doors in December 1915. The Rev. Philip "Tubby" Clayton, an Army chaplain, established it in Poperinghe, about eight miles west of Ypres and just beyond the range of all but the heaviest guns. The Army had acquired the building with the intention of naming it "Church House", but another chaplain, Neville Talbot, felt the name too formal. Instead, it was named in memory of his brother, Gilbert Talbot, who had been killed near Ypres in July 1915.

Tubby envisioned the house as a haven for soldiers of all ranks—a place of calm amid the chaos of war. A sign on the door famously declared, "All rank abandon, ye who enter here." Inside, men found peace, a piano to play, and a kettle that was always on for the British staple, a cup of tea. In the attic, a small chapel offered space for prayer and communion, while a library provided quiet reading and reflection.

A neighbouring hop store was soon taken over and transformed into a lively concert hall and cinema. Many, many soldiers took advantage of Talbot House during the war. As ever, the Army's fondness for nicknames prevailed: before the NATO phonetic alphabet existed, the signalers' spoken word for the letter T was "Toc". Talbot House—TH—thus became "Toc H". Many readers may be familiar with the charity Toc H, which grew out of this very place and carried forward its ethos of fellowship and service.

After the war, the original owner returned, but tired of exservicemen knocking on the door hoping to revisit the



house, he sold it to Lord Wakefield of Hythe, who then gifted it to the Talbot House Association. During the Second World War, Poperinghe fell to German forces and the house was used as an officers' mess, though much of its contents had already been removed and safely hidden until liberation in 1944.

Today Talbot House remains as a major piece of First World war history. Visitors can stay overnight, and the kettle - true to tradition - is still always on! In 1996, the association purchased the old hop store and transformed it into an excellent museum telling the story of the house and explaining Poperinghe's wider role in the war.

Our Branch has made donations to Talbot House over the years to support its maintenance and special projects. As part of our Branch tour in September, we visited the site some members returning, others seeing it for the first time. The sense of calm that once offered relief to war-weary soldiers is still very much present. And yes, we all enjoyed a cup of tea.

On behalf of the Branch, I would like to wish all the readers of The Village Voice the very best compliments of the season for a happy and peaceful Christmas.

If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter with information remembering casualties from Essex, historical articles and forthcoming events or publications, please email <a href="mailto:essexwfa@googlemail.com">essexwfa@googlemail.com</a>

Jim Kevany Essex Branch Chairman, Western Front Association



#### M Hello from Terling WI!

In our October meeting we welcomed, Giovannone Di Sarno AKA 'The culinary adventures of a travelling baker' who gave an incredibly detailed and informative session on the art of bread making and the rich history behind it. From ancient shapes to modern techniques, every moment was filled with fascinating stories, a lot of laughs, and delicious tasting! Giovanni does various workshops around the county, including a Christmas Breads workshop at Hatfield Peverel Village Hall on 20th Dec! We highly





This month's meeting (18th Dec) we draw our Christmas Raffle and have various party games to get into the festive spirit! Raffle tickets are £1 each, or a book of 5 for £5. Contact us to purchase!

As I write this, January's meeting theme is yet to be confirmed however, we are trying to find someone to teach us Calligraphy.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, and a happy new year! See you in 2026!

#### **KEY TERLING WI DATES**

Thurs 18th Dec - monthly meeting, all welcome. Guest fees apply

Thurs 22nd Jan - monthly meeting, all welcome. Guest fees apply

(Lucy) <u>07926 649669</u> <u>@terlingwi</u>

## Are You Eco Ready?

ESSEX ECO ARE AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP INSTALLERS AND CAN HELP YOU REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

WOULD YOU LIKE MORE INFORMATION OR WANT TO GET A FREE QUOTE?



Give us a call on 01245 850428 or email info@essex-eco.com

www.essex-eco.co.uk



#### ARE YOU HANDY WITH A SCREWDRIVER?

Many of us will have seen the BBC's *The Repair Shop*—that wonderful place where cherished but broken items are brought back to life by skilled volunteers, often resulting in a few happy tears.

We're now exploring whether Hatfield Peverel could have its very own version: a community repair shop or "repair café" based at the Village Hall. The idea is simple: local residents bring in broken household items, and volunteers with practical skills help restore them. It's a great way to reduce waste, share skills, and bring people together.

To make this happen, we need two things:

- **Volunteers** with DIY or repair know-how—big or small—to join a friendly rota.
- **Residents** happy to bring in items that need fixing (and we suspect there will be no shortage of those!).

If you enjoy mending things, solving problems, or would simply like to use your skills to help others in the community, we would love to hear from you. The commitment is flexible—our initial plan is to run the sessions just one morning a month, with the option to expand if demand grows.



To register your interest or find out more, please contact the Parish Clerk, **Sarah Gaeta**. Together, we can create something truly useful, sustainable, and communityspirited for Hatfield Peverel.





#### **HADFELDA (LADIES) GROUP**



Our November meeting was our annual *Members Afternoon* where several of our ladies entertained us with various interesting events that had happened in their lives. On this occasion one of our very talented ladies brought along some of her paintings and told us how and why she'd painted them and explained the stories behind some of them.

Our Christmas meeting is on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm in St. Andrew's Church Hall.

Halloween, celebrated on 31<sup>st</sup> October and known as All Saint's Eve or All Hallows' Eve, is synonymous with all ghostly and ghoulish things. Not to be left out, Hadfelda Ladies held their very own *spooky* meeting in October with members fully entering into the spirit of things!

There weren't many ghosts or ghouls in evidence, but a large number of witches *flew* in to join the meeting! Unfortunately, although there were several broomsticks lying around, none of them managed to get off the ground! Despite that, great fun was had by all with a prize going to the best dressed witch. A Halloween-themed quiz and a couple of suitable spooky readings followed by tea and cake, all added to an enjoyable afternoon.

The committee is now busy preparing the programme for 2026 and it promises to be another interesting and fun packed year.

By Marel Elliston

#### **2026 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

28th Jan A talk from Angela Taylor about Marie Curie

25th Feb An afternoon of Horse Racing!

25th Mar Paul Andre will tell us about volunteering for the National Trust







#### DECEMBER AT THE MOVIES





Our 21<sup>st</sup> season has got off to a tremendous start – great films and a good turnout at each screening. Currently topping the leader board is Conclave with an approval rating of 87.4%. The season continues with the screening of the highly acclaimed *My Favourite Cake* on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December and the poignant drama *Small Things Like These* on Tuesday 16th December. Prior to the screening of this film, we shall be holding our first social of the season!

My Favourite Cake tells the story of seventy-year-old Mahin, solitary until now, who chooses to revive her love life. A chance encounter becomes an unforgettable evening. Mahin has been widowed for 30 years and her two children live abroad, Meanwhile, she is living a lonely life in Tehran. One day she decides to join her friends for afternoon tea and finds a new spark in her heart. She meets someone who makes her feel alive again and the evening brings unpredictable surprises and memories

Small Things Like These tells how in the winter of 1985 a devoted father and coal merchant, Bill Furlong, in New Ross, Ireland, discovers startling secrets kept by the convent in his own town, along with some shocking truths from his own background. At the convent a teenage girl begs him for help but then relents when confronted by the Mother Superior. Furthermore the Mother Superior also alludes to consequences for his own daughter's education if he tells what he has seen.

Our 21st season continues until 3rd June 2026. In 2026, films will be shown fortnightly on Wednesdays. Our films for January 2025 are the Oscar nominated *September 5* and the highly acclaimed *Fallen Leaves*. The Club meets at Maldon Town Hall; doors open at 7.15pm, wine and soft drinks are available at a charge from 7.30pm and unless notified to the contrary all films will commence at 8pm.

The price of an annual subscription remains at £30. So why not join now and watch the remaining 13 films for free. In addition there are a limited number of places for junior members aged 16-18 in full time education and training, at the reduced cost of £20. As a member you will be asked to give your reaction to the films you have seen and also help the committee compile the programme for the following season. Membership is open to all and new members will be made very welcome. Members' guests pay just £4 per film!

For further details and an application form please visit our website at <a href="https://www.maldonfilmclub.uk">www.maldonfilmclub.uk</a>, pop in to the Maldon Visitor Information Centre (Tues—Sat 11am-4pm) or phone 01621 869133 for membership enquiries. Alternatively you are welcome to come along as my guest, meet members of the committee and pay your annual subscription on the night.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me, John Salisbury, on 07905 971608.

By John Salisbury

## Posture and Core Strength: The Foundation of Movement

Hello again, everyone! It's Stefan here—your local mobile personal trainer. This month, I want to talk about something that affects how we move, feel, and even breathe every single day: posture.



In today's world, many of us spend long hours sitting—at desks, in cars, or on the sofa. Over time, this can lead to rounded shoulders, tight hips, back pain, and poor movement patterns. But the good news is, with the right awareness and a bit of daily practice, posture can be improved at any age.

#### Why Posture Matters

Good posture isn't just about standing tall—it's about how well your body supports itself during movement and rest. It helps keep your spine healthy, your muscles balanced, and your joints free from unnecessary strain.

Here's why posture and core strength are so important:

- **Reduces pain and stiffness** Especially in the neck, shoulders, and lower back.
- Improves balance and stability A strong core supports better coordination.
- Enhances breathing Upright posture allows your lungs to expand properly.
- **Boosts confidence and energy** Standing tall naturally improves mood and alertness.

The key to better posture is strengthening the muscles that support your spine—particularly your **core**, which includes the abs, back, and hips.

You're always welcome to join our friendly outdoor classes at Strutt Memorial Recreation Ground, where we combine exercise, guidance, and fun for all ages and abilities. Book your free session at <a href="https://bookwhen.com/mypersonaltrainer">https://bookwhen.com/mypersonaltrainer</a>

Stefan - MyPT \ 07456717115

<a href="mailto:ogen:com/mypersonaltrainer">Ogen:com/mypersonaltrainer</a>

Stefan - MyPT \ 07456717115

<a href="mailto:ogen:com/mypersonaltrainer">Ogen:com/mypersonaltrainer</a>

Stefan - MyPT \ 07456717115

#### **EXERCISE TIP OF THE MONTH: BIRD DOG**

The Bird Dog is a simple but powerful core exercise that improves stability, posture, and balance without any equipment.



#### How to Do It:

- 1. **Start Position**: Begin on all fours with your hands under shoulders and knees under hips.
- 2. Extend: Lift your right arm forward and your left leg straight back until they're in line with your body
- 3.**Hold:** Pause for 2–3 seconds, keeping your core tight and back flat.
- 4. **Return:** Slowly bring your hand and knee back to the ground.
- 5. **Repeat**: Alternate sides for 10–12 reps per side.

This exercise strengthens the muscles that support your spine and improves coordination and balance.

Remember, small daily habits—like checking your posture when sitting, taking movement breaks, and doing a few minutes of core work—can make a huge difference in how you feel and move.

#### HATFIELD PEVEREL & ULTING HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Thank you to all those who contributed to and attended our events this year. It was lovely to see so many members of our village attend.

As always, membership cards and year books will be available from Upsons Farm Shop. Annual membership is just £3 (£2 for seniors).

#### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Our last event this year was on the 27th November so watch this space for the 2026 schedule. We welcome both members and non members at our events and would love to see you there.

For general information about the society contact <u>cliveemberson9@gmail.com</u> or visit

https://e-voice.org.uk/hatpevgardens/

#### TIPS FOR YOUR GARDEN IN DECEMBER

It is a good time of year for tidying up your garden, clearing leaves, and mulching. Start planning next year's garden projects and peruse seed catalogues and supplies for 2026! Check your greenhouse temperatures for the cold nights to come and keep the greenhouse clean and tidy to avoid pest that may like to harbour there this winter. Keep bird feeders topped up to help the bird population during the winter months.

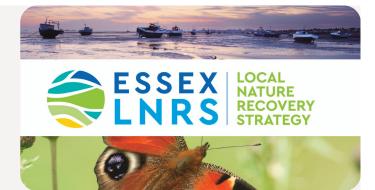
**Prune:** climbing roses and overgrown shrubs to give them a good start for the spring.

Plant: It's a good time to plant bare root roses as well as fragrant winter shrubs in pots such as *chimoanthus*, *sarcococca* and *daphne odora*.

**Propagate**: Take hardwood cuttings from healthy fruit bushes

# Small actions, BIG IMPACT FOR NATURE RECOVERY

Nature recovery begins with all of us. The Essex Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has now launched and outlines how everyone in Essex can play a role in reversing biodiversity decline. Whether it's creating a wild patch in your garden, volunteering at a local habitat project or contributing your ideas to your town or parish council, the LNRS makes it easy to get involved.



At the heart of the LNRS is an interactive map that shows opportunities for wildlife enhancement across the county. Even small changes in your neighbourhood can add up to big gains for nature. You can explore actions, get involved, and find your local area's priorities on the Essex Nature Partnership website.

Start your journey to support nature recovery: www.essexnaturepartnership.com





#### BLENDED WINES: HARMONY AND CONTROVERSY!



November's well-attended meeting saw us exploring the mysteries of blended wines and whether those we tasted were successful – were they Gold Blends in fact? Vee started by explaining some of the reasons why do winemakers choose to blend their wines: the answer is nearly always the desire to make the best possible wines from the ingredients they have available, but for a variety of reasons. These can best be summed up as **pride** (getting a reputation for quality wine), **avarice** (making as much money as possible) and **caution** (to meet legal requirements for *appellation* status, or as a sort of insurance policy against poor weather by growing grapes which ripen at different times).

Sarah Roberts opened proceedings with an interesting blend of Gewürztraminer and Riesling called De Bortoli Willowglen (Amazon £7.50). This is a combo more usually found in Alsace, but this one was from the Riverina in Australia's New South Wales, an area which specializes in unusual grape varieties; the warmer Antipodean weather had certainly brought out the aromas of two grapes already known for their distinctive bouquet. Jill Shakespear then introduced a Swartland Chenin Blanc/Sauvignon Blanc (Waitrose £9) blend from South Africa, and the consensus was that blending the two grapes produced a wine of greater depth, making the most of Chenin's richness and Sauvignon's zestiness. The third white was introduced by Henryk Podlesny, from a country not often seen on wine labels: Slovenia, and included a grape not often seen on wine labels either: Krasno Ribolla Gialla/Sauvignon blend (Majestic £9). The ancient Ribolla grape used to be very popular in Northern Italy (Boccaccio thought overindulgence in Ribolla was an example of the Deadly Sin of Gluttony!) but virtually died out in Italy after phylloxera, since when Slovenia has produced some excellent-value Ribolla-Sauvignon blends. Voting on our favourite white couldn't have been closer, with only two points separating the three wines, but the winner was declared as the De Bortoli Willowglen, thought to be an excellent lunch-time wine at a remarkably low price.

After the break, we moved on to the Big Dogs: Three very different reds from around the world. Our first red from the Languedoc region of Southern France was a well-known **Fitou from Mme Claude Parmentier (Waitrose £10)**, brought to us in glorious Technicolour by Tara Sullivan. She

looked back to the bad old days of the 1980s when Languedoc was flooded by the Great Wine Lake, awash with inferior wine made with the workhorse Carignan grape. The appellation rules for Fitou AOP specify that it must contain at least 20% Carignan together with the more popular Grenache/Syrah/Mourvèdre (GSM) blend from the Southern Rhône. Many critics have wondered why they even bother to include Carignan, and the simple answer seems to be because it's there, and so they might as well use it! Our second red, introduced by David Wickenden, had been included as an example - but of what? It proved to be an extremely controversial choice with members either loudly supporting or even more loudly rejecting its inclusion. The wine in question is the Californian Apothic **Red Blend (Tesco Clubcard £9.50)**, a wine deliberately geared towards people who don't normally drink red wine. Its exceptional smoothness comes from the inclusion of **grape juice concentrate** with the normal Zinfandel blend. It was certainly a success with its target audience of nonred-wine drinkers, several of whom loved it, undeterred by cries of Ribena! from its detractors. Luckily, our final wine was an unqualified success, Feuerheerd's Anchor Reserva (Sainsbury's £10.50 Nectar) praised by Chris Green as an excellent example of an unfortified wine made from the traditional blend of Port grapes, and gaining its exceptional smoothness from spending 12 months in ex-vintage Port barrels!

We are now looking forward to December's Christmas Party, with four courses of sumptuous food and wine provided by members and committee, followed by dancing to live music provided by the ever-popular Beauty and the Beast. We then give our brains a much-needed post-Christmas workout with the traditional January Quiz. If you'd like to join us for this - or indeed any other meeting - for a light-hearted and inexpensive evening out, you would always be very welcome. Please give Vee a ring beforehand on 01245 355723 however, to ensure there is enough food and drink for all. (We normally meet on the second Wednesday of each month in the village hall, but with some exceptions). Visit our new website at www.peverelwineclub.co.uk Our exciting new 2026 programme is nearing completion: email Vee at peverelwineclub@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

By Vee Green



#### Hatfield Peverel Football Club

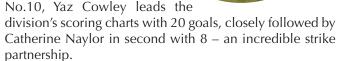
#### **Christmas Fast Approaching**

It only seems like a short time ago we were preparing for the start of the season and enjoying the late summer sunshine. Now the nights are drawing in, and we are all having to wrap up warm to enjoy our junior and senior teams on Saturdays and Sundays. We are all looking forward to a short break for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

We have also been working hard behind the scenes to revamp and relaunch our corporate sponsorship packages. Working in partnership with the Essex County FA, we have produced a 'Social Value' report, which demonstrates the financial and social benefits that Hatfield Peverel FC provide to our local community. For more information please visit: <a href="https://www.hatfieldpeverelfc.co.uk/sponsorship">www.hatfieldpeverelfc.co.uk/sponsorship</a>

Our licensed bar is open Saturday afternoons and on Sundays, hot food, drinks and snacks are available from 9:30am to 4:30pm.

HPFC LadiesIt's been a fantastic start to the season for our ladies' side, who remain unbeaten after their first five matches – scoring 39 goals and only conceding just 5. A home walkover in the first round of the League Cup also sees them progress to the next round.





We're delighted to see captain Lisa Ballard return to training after recovering from a broken leg sustained in March – great to have her back with the squad. We also bid farewell to HWT, who's headed to Canada for a year of skiing and adventure. We wish her all the

best and hope to see her back at the club soon. Off the pitch, a big thank-you to our new sponsor Magnum Limited for keeping the team looking sharp in their new home kits. We're also proud to announce a new partnership with **HerGameToo**, an organisation dedicated to promoting equality and inclusion across all aspects of football.



With strong performances and positive developments both on and off the pitch, it's an exciting time for women and girls' football at Hatfield Peverel. For all the latest photos, behind-the-scenes action, and player updates, make sure you're following us on Instagram: @hpfc ladies.

#### **Grant Funding Received**

We were delighted to receive grant funding of £600 in November from the <u>Longfield Solar Fund</u> via <u>Essex Community Foundation</u>. These funds will be used to purchase new junior nets and goals.

#### **Walking Football**

Our Walking Football squad has been training together for several weeks now, and numbers have steadily increased.

If you're over 50, why not dust off your boots and get back on the pitch - no matter your ability – it's all about fun, fitness & friendship. Just turn up or drop us an email/text at: <a href="mailto:crcwayne@btinternet.com">crcwayne@btinternet.com</a> / 07880 224321 for further details. Every Saturday morning – meet at 9:45 for a 10am start @ HPFC, Wickham Bishops Road CM3 2JL

For results & fixtures visit <u>www.fulltime.thefa.com</u> our social media and club website <u>www.hatfieldpeverelfc.co.uk</u>

#### HATFIELD PEVEREL FC: CONTACTS Youth Enquiries Terry Lingley -07736 042466 terry lingley @ hat field pever elfc. co. uk(U11 to U18) Secretary Youth Enquiries Rich Bute -07795 690576 (U7 to U10) Secretary richard.bute@outlook.com Senior Enquiries 07736 437831 Jim Isaacs Secretary iim.isaacs@skv.com Club Welfare Maisie 07411 504532 Officer Reading maisiereading@hatfieldpeverelfc.co.uk Club Chair Nick Webb 07808 866543 nickwebb@hatfieldpeverelfc.co.uk Club Vice Chair Gareth 07778 408051 & Treasurer Howard treasurer@hatfieldpeverelfc.co.uk Susan Little **HPFC Wildcats** 07841 042389 **HPFC** Meerkats Luca Curtis 07745 728430 hatfieldpeverelfc I Hatfield Peverel FC www.hatfieldpeverelfc.co.uk

# **Mailing List**

#### **Coming soon to HPVH**









