

FEBRUARY 2025 | ISSUE NO. 13

HATFIELD PEVEREL

VILLAGE VOICE



A LOOK BACK IN TIME

The history of All Saints, Ulting
Meet the Councillor and
February news to beat the blues!

CONTENTS

Parish News	3
St Andrew's and All Saints	4
Meet the Councillors	6
Valentine's Day: Love Legends and Goats	7
Helen Rollason News and Events for 2025	9
The Western Front Association, Essex Branch	10
Hatfield Peverel Methodist Church	11
Peverel Wine Club	12
Hadfelda Ladies Group	12
Maldon Film Club	14
Joshua Reilly-Hurter – Dog Walker Essex	15
Stefan Tabacu, My Personal Trainer	16
Hatfield Peverel Allotment Association	17
Garden Waste Subscriptions 2025/26	18
Village Hall News	19
Coming soon to HPVH	20

USEFUL INFORMATION

Click below for Parish Council and village information and contacts

[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/) *

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

* [Hatfield Peverel Parish Council](https://www.hatfieldpeverelpc.com/parish-council/) – <https://www.hatfieldpeverelpc.com/parish-council/>

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Front cover: ALL SAINTS CHURCH, ULTING by award-winning coastal and rural photographer JAMES CRISP of [CRISP PHOTOGRAPHY](https://www.crispphotography.co.uk/)

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HATFIELD PEVEREL PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH NEWS

As we continue into 2025, we would like to update our residents on some developments in our local community.

Council Tax

At the January meeting, the Parish Council voted on the budget and precept for the financial year 2025/26. The precept is a tax that parish councils charge their local residents to fund their annual budget and provide community services, and forms part of the overall council tax bill that residents pay. This year's modest increase is £2.90 per year for a Band D property, just 6p per week.

The Peverel Parish Council uses the precept to fund various local services and amenities, including recreation facilities, grass cutting, burial ground, car parks, Stonepath meadows, streetlighting, the Village Voice and more.

Tennis Facilities Improvement

We are preparing for the installation of new double tennis courts on the recreation ground this spring. These courts will provide additional sporting facilities for local residents.

Parish Council Vacancies

We currently have three councillor vacancies and are seeking residents interested in local governance. Parish Councillors are unpaid officials who contribute to community decision-making and local planning.

What Parish Councillors do:

- Represent local resident interests
- Participate in council meetings
- Contribute to community planning
- Support local projects

Being a Parish Councillor offers an opportunity to understand local government processes and directly contribute to your community's development. If you are interested in learning more about this role and how you might contribute to Hatfield Peverel, we recommend contacting the Parish Clerk for further information. Read all about our councillor, Tina Short, in this month's issue in our Meet the Councillor series (page 6).

Village Noticeboards

If you have any community notices that you would like displayed on the Parish Council's noticeboards, please deliver them to the Parish Council office at the Village Hall where staff will arrange this. Notices that will be displayed must be of benefit or interest to the community. Commercial advertising will not be permitted, and all notices will be displayed at the discretion of the Clerk or Assistant Clerk.

Crime Concerns

Please remember you can call 101 for crime prevention advice or to report a crime that does not need an emergency response. It is very important to report crime

to the Police so that they can build up a 'picture' of what is happening in the area. Alternatively, you can report online: [Report a crime](#) | [Essex Police](#)

The Parish Council is working in partnership with Essex Police to recruit two Special Constables. If you are interested in applying to be a voluntary Police Officer for the village, please see our website for further information and the answers to frequently asked questions: <https://www.hatfieldpeverelpc.com/special-constable-recruitment/>



Planning

Planning decisions are made by Braintree District Council, following consultation with residents, the Parish Council, and other agencies where necessary. For information on what planning applications have been received, granted and refused by Braintree District Council, please see: https://www.braintree.gov.uk/info/200225/search_and_tracking_planning_applications/592/weekly_lists

Social Media

Follow us on socials for news and updates.



@hatfieldpeverelpc



@HatPevPC

Click here for the Parish Council's Social Media policy:

<https://www.hatfieldpeverelpc.com/parish-council/policies-and-procedures/social-media-policy/>
Don't forget you can view all Parish Council news on the website: <http://www.hatfieldpeverelpc.com>

Get involved!

The Parish Council meets on Monday 3rd February and Monday 3rd March in the Vic Olley Room, Village Hall. Public participation is welcome; see the agenda on the Parish Council website or noticeboard.

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



PAST AND PRESENT IN THE PARISH

Our stunning cover photo this month of All Saints Church by Crisp Photography was an obvious invitation to provide some history about this beautiful church.

The History of All Saints, Ulting: part one

The church of All Saints was built on the only place where a south facing slope reaches down to the river Chelmer—there being extensive flood plains upstream downstream and opposite.

The oldest part of the present church is believed to date from around 1150 AD as the narrow lancet window in the Chancel is of a style of that period. The first written record of the Church is in 1299 when Lord Robert FitzWalter, a powerful baron and Lord of the Manor of Ulting gave the church to Beeleigh Abbey three miles downstream. The church was under the Abbot's control until the Dissolution and the Abbot of Beeleigh is listed as one of the rectors on the board inside the Church.

Sometime before 1400 a chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary was erected adjoining the west wall of the church. So important this became that in 1477 a Guild of the Blessed Virgin Mary was founded with a resident priest and the shrine became widely known as a place of pilgrimage ranking with Walsingham. Evidence from medieval wills shows that the chapel received necklaces



and crucifixes to be placed around the statue's neck and money was bequeathed for prayers to be said for the souls of the wealthy families supporting the Guild.

In 1548, in Henry VIII's time when Guilds and Shrines were being dissolved, the chapel was destroyed, and the Guilds' jewels and goods were quickly sold before the King's commissioners could arrive. There is now no evidence whatsoever of the chapel building despite an archaeological dig.

Over the next three centuries little changed with the church building save that it obviously was not being repaired or maintained. Often there was no resident priest, and the community relied on visiting priests from other parishes. Records are sparse but evidence from Lambeth Palace Library shows that when a new bishop was appointed, he asked for a report on the state of the parish and there is a report with a footnote "that there are no papists or dissenters in this parish".

By 1872 the church needed extensive restoration. The collapse of the East wall enabled a much larger window to be installed giving a much lighter feel to the church. It had been intended to have a matching window in the west wall but when that needed to be reconstructed, they ran out of funds, and instead two Victorian lancet windows were installed with stone purchased but not used to repair the mediaeval ones in the side walls.

More details of the church, particularly its interior and construction, will follow next month.

Meantime to report on our Christmas services which took place after we wrote our January copy. The carol and midnight services in our two beautifully decorated churches were much enjoyed as was the Light of the World service at St Andrew's on Christmas Eve and a huge thank you to the church full who came and contributed so generously in cash and kind in support of Home-Start Essex. Thank you also to all those who contributed to the Braintree and Witham foodbank in the run up to Christmas—please keep those contributions going.

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 1st February, 10am -Noon
St. Andrew's Church Hall

Filter Coffee, Tea, Cakes, Scones, & great company.
Bric-a-brac, Cakes, Books, & Card stalls!

And get a ticket for the raffle!

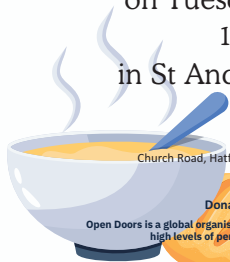


St ANDREW'S &
ALL SAINTS CHURCHES

COME AND ENJOY

Soup and a Roll

on Tuesday 11th February
12.30 - 2pm
in St Andrew's Church Hall



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

Donations in aid of Open Doors

Open Doors is a global organisation that supports and strengthens Christians who face high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith.
Help us to Help them



St ANDREW'S & ALL SAINTS CHURCHES

continued from page 4.

Please note that our February coffee morning is on Saturday 1st and Soup and Roll on Tuesday 11th in support of Open Doors. More details on the previous page. Our January Soup and Roll attracted 37 guests and raised £237 in support of Shelter. Please do come and support these events which provide valuable contributions to charity as well as enjoyment of refreshments and company in our lovely church hall.

Details of our February services can be found on this page. The 10.15am Sunday services at St Andrew's are being held in the warmth of the church hall during these cold months, and with underpew heating at the 9.00 am services All Saints you can be assured of a warm welcome in both churches!

For those who have not heard, Rev Derek Clark is recovering from his broken ankle suffered on Boxing Day. The plaster is off, he now has a protective boot fitted and he hopes to be back in action at All Saints by the time you read this.

Please note that until other arrangements are made, to arrange any special service or other parish request, call John Strange on 01245 381004 or email johnstrange32@btinternet.com or call John Tomlins 01245 380359, email johnandanna.tomlins@btopenworld.com.

Parish of St Andrew Hatfield Peverel with All Saints Ulting

SERVICES etc. for February 2025

	St Andrews	All Saints
Saturday 1st	10 -12 noon COFFEE MORNING in St Andrew's Church Hall	
Sunday 2nd	10.15am Mattins	9am Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 9 th	8am Holy Communion 10.15 am All Age Service	9am Morning Prayer with hymns
Tuesday 11 th	12.30pm – 2pm SOUP AND ROLLS in aid of Open Doors St Andrew's Church Hall	
Sunday 16th	10.15 Parish Eucharist	9am Holy Communion (BCP)
Sunday 23rd	10.15 Parish Eucharist	9am Parish Eucharist

Edward Bear: Every Thursday 10am to 11.30 – Coffee and Company – in hall - with short worship on alternating weeks.

All Saints open for prayer every Wednesday at 9am [with Morning Office]

St Andrew's 01245 380958 Rev'd Derek Clark 380627 07860235778

John Strange 381004 07498362854 johnstrange32@btinternet.com

John Tomlins 380359 07712699722 johnandanna.tomlins@btopenworld.com

HATFIELD PEVEREL & ULTING HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Society's 2025 events schedule is set(see below), with details of our speakers to be announced soon. All events are open to members and non-members alike. Membership cards and yearbooks will be available at Upson's Farm Shop from the end of February for existing members or those wishing to join. Annual membership is just £3 (£2 for seniors).

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2025

27th March	Speaker Meeting - Village Hall
5th April	Spring Show - Village Hall
10th May	Plant Sale - Nounsley Road
3rd July	Speaker Meeting - Village Hall
25th September	Speaker Meeting - Village Hall
4th October	Autumn Show - Village Hall
27th November	AGM Christmas Speaker Meeting - Village Hall

TIPS FOR YOUR GARDEN IN FEBRUARY

Prune: Winter flowering shrubs when finished flowering.

Plant: Hardy annuals e.g. cosmos, sweet peas & Greenhouse crops e.g., tomatoes

Propagate: Divide herbaceous perennials and grasses, clumps of snowdrops after flowering



Meet the Councillors

This month we chat with Councillor Tina Short of Hatfield Peverel Parish Council. We find out what made her join the council, her background and what she loves about the village.

Village Voice (VV): Where did you grow up? What's your background and what brought you to Hatfield Peverel?

Tina Short (TS): I grew up in Farnham, Surrey, enjoying an idyllic childhood climbing trees and making dens in local woodland. At 18, I moved to Brighton to do a teaching degree, living in a hall of residence on the seafront overlooking the then notorious nudist beach! I qualified at a time when there were far too many teachers and not enough jobs (the opposite of today). My endless job applications resulted in my being accepted for a year's teaching in an international primary school in Kuwait What a fantastic experience, I thought. Sadly, it was not to be, as the Kuwaiti government at the time would not allow in any foreign employees under the age of 22. In desperation I accepted a teaching job in the London Borough of Havering and moved to a place I had never heard of Romford! I remember feeling very depressed on the train that first time from Liverpool Street which plodded through dreary suburbs and seemingly endless cemeteries!

The unknown Romford then became my home. I changed schools, bought a house, got married and raised a family in Hornchurch. But the growing claustrophobia of suburbia, exacerbated by Covid, prompted a move three years ago to Hatfield Peverel (again a place I had never heard of!) Now we look out at trees and greenery and it is utterly glorious!

VV: How did it come about that you joined the parish council?

TS: On our first full day at Hatfield Peverel I met Marel Elliston, who gave me a potted history of the village, answering my queries as to why the shops were called Hadfelda. I explained I wanted to play a greater role in the life of the village, so Marel enrolled me as a delivery person for The Review magazine (the forerunner to Village Voice) and she also put me in touch with Paul Goddard at the village hall. The latter meeting, plus a vague enquiry as to whether I liked sewing, resulted in me sitting on the hall floor turning up the red velvet curtains which were fraying badly. I am now part of Paul's happy band of volunteers for shows in the hall and it is often me calling the raffle.

Through Marel's encouragement, I joined the Hatfield Peverel Parish Council in January last year. This is an entirely new venture for me as I have no experience of business or corporate life, but my 30 years of primary teaching has given me experience and a love of working with people of varying ages.

VV: What particular areas of the council are you involved in?

TS: I am on the Youth Services working party and our hopes of starting up a Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme have been fulfilled. We are delighted that we are the first Parish Council in Essex to run such a scheme. I must get lighter and fitter before the expedition happens though!

VV: And how do you relax in your spare time?

TS: I love musical theatre and for many years I was in the chorus for Havering Music Makers, taking part in shows and concerts at the Queens Theatre in Hornchurch. Nowadays I no longer sing, but I try to go to the theatre as much as I can. My current favourite musical is "Come From Away", which is based on the aeroplanes diverted to Newfoundland after the 9/11 disaster.

My second love is needlecraft and I rarely go anywhere without crochet, patchwork or embroidery. I have joined a very friendly group in Witham, who share their widely varying crafts while chatting, drinking tea and eating cake. What more could you ask for? Covid and family illness have curtailed our love of travelling, but I still confirm that nothing beats a good book on a sunbed somewhere very hot and sunny!



Quick Fire Round

Favourite movie:

Anything from Harry Potter or Wallace and Gromit

Favourite book:

The House on the Strand by Daphne du Maurier

Favourite song:

Something from Les Misérables or Miss Saigon

What's on your Bucket list:

To go to India (A trip cancelled by the Covid lockdown)



VALENTINE'S DAY: LOVE, LEGENDS AND GOATS (YES, GOATS!)

Every February 14th, the world gets a little rosier, with cards, chocolates, and flowers exchanged in the name of St. Valentine. But who was this mysterious saint? And why do we mark the day by panic-buying overpriced bouquets? Let's dive into the surprisingly bizarre origins of Valentine's Day—brace yourself, it's a mix of romance, martyrdom, and some truly questionable ancient rituals.

Who Was St. Valentine, Anyway?

Turns out, there's not just one St. Valentine but at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom managed to get themselves martyred.

One popular tale tells of a rebellious priest in 3rd-century Rome who secretly married young lovers. Why the secrecy? Well, Emperor Claudius II, convinced that single men made better soldiers, had banned marriage. When Valentine's clandestine ceremonies were discovered, Claudius sentenced him to death.

Other sources insist the true namesake of the day was St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop who also lost his head – literally. And some say our modern-day Valentine was an imprisoned romantic who, falling for his jailor's daughter, wrote her a letter before his death signing it "From your Valentine" an expression that is still in use today.

Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories all emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic and—most importantly – romantic figure. By the Middle Ages, perhaps thanks to this reputation, Valentine would become one of the most popular saints in England and France.

Goats, Blood, and Fertility—The Pagan Party

Now, if you thought Valentine's Day was always about chocolates and candlelit dinners, think again. Long before heart-shaped everything took over, there was Lupercalia – a Roman fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus. It was held on February 15th and involved the decidedly unromantic and rather goulsh practice of goat sacrifices.

Priests would sacrifice a goat (for fertility) and a dog (for purification). They'd then cut the goat's hide into strips, dip them in blood, and gently slap both women and crop fields with them. Believe it or not, the women welcomed it – it was thought to boost fertility. Later, single ladies would toss their names into an urn, and bachelors would draw one out, creating love matches that lasted for a year and often led to marriage. A sort of ancient dating site!

By the end of 5th century, Pope Gelasius decided enough was enough, decided Lupercalia wasn't Christian enough and banned it, declaring February 14th St. Valentine's Day. Thankfully, the goat-sacrificing tradition didn't make the cut.

Lovebirds, Poetry, and the Rise of Romance

Fast forward to the Middle Ages, when people in England and France started associating Valentine's Day with romance. Why? Because February was believed to be the start of the birds' mating season. Geoffrey Chaucer was the first to tie Valentine's Day to love in his 1375 poem *Parliament of Fowles*. Not to be outdone, Charles, Duke of Orleans, sent his wife a love poem in 1415 while locked up in the Tower of London. (Prison: not great for date nights but apparently good for writing poetry.)

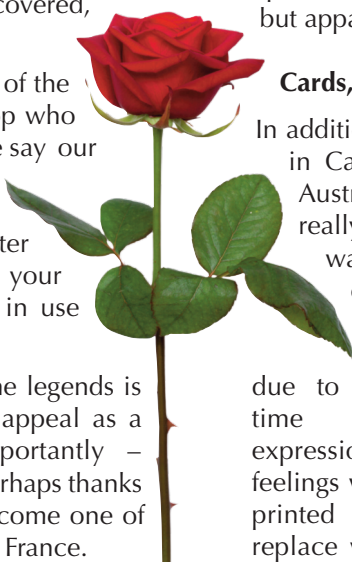
Cards, Gifts, and the Valentine's Empire

In addition to Great Britain, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United States, France and Australia. By the 17th century, Valentine's Day had really taken off in Britain. By the middle of the 18th, it was common for friends and lovers of all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes and even handmade cards featuring plenty of lace and cupids! By 1900, due to improvements in printing technology, and in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged, printed cards began to replace written letters as an easy way to express emotions.

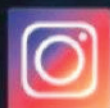
Today, Valentine's Day is second only to Christmas in card-sending popularity, with 145 million cards exchanged annually. So, whether you're penning a heartfelt message or grabbing the last card at the petrol station, you're part of a centuries-old tradition.

A Day for Love (and Laughs)

While the modern version of Valentine's Day is mostly about romantic dinners and adorable teddy bears, its history is anything but ordinary. From rebellious priests to goat-slapping rituals, the day has certainly evolved. So, this February 14th, whether you're celebrating with a loved one or treating yourself to a box of chocolates, take a moment to appreciate the quirky, messy history of love's favorite holiday. Sources: History.com; WorldPopulationReview.com; Britannica.com; talkandchalk.com



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TREES, TREES, TREES...



At the beginning of January, around 1300 Christmas trees were collected from homes around Essex and recycled. This was completed over a frosty and sunny weekend with the help of an incredible team of volunteers. There are so many volunteers to thank – those in our office, driving vans, and picking up trees as well as the businesses that helped us in so many ways. A massive thank you goes out to:

- The recycling hubs – Marsh Farm, Terling Cricket Club, Harlow Cricket Club and The Nuclear Bunker.
- Those who shredded the trees – Beechenlea, RBS Tree Surgery and MBS Ground Maintenance.
- Those who provided vans - Group 1 Volkswagen, Europcar, Axe Van Hire, Queen's Head Boreham, Brice Aggregates, Just Wheels, T.E.S. 2000, Karsson Hawk and Chelmsford Lions.

...and Tesco for providing bacon and rolls for our volunteers.

The money raised for Helen Rollason Cancer Charity will help to support local people living with cancer.

What are we planning?

We are planning some great events for this year. This includes our popular Ride For Helen cycle event on 11th May starting at The Crix Estate in Hatfield Peverel. There are cycle routes ranging from 6 miles to 100 miles so there will be something for everyone, from families to experienced cyclists. There will be support for cyclists and the routes will be signed and marshalled. You can book online at <https://www.helenrollason.org.uk/event/ride-for-helen-essex-2025/>

Keep your eyes on our [website](#) and check back here for details of more events in 2025, including our Vintage days.

Donation Day

We are holding a donation day at our office on The Street in Hatfield Peverel on Saturday 8th February from 9am to 12pm. By donating good quality items, you will be reducing waste, helping the environment and raising funds to support local people living with cancer. We accept clothing and accessories, toys, books, kitchen and homeware, ornaments, collectables, and any other valuable items. Items to be in new or in good condition and preferably eBay saleable. We cannot take electrical items. You can park at the rear of the building to drop off your items.

Our Services

If you would like to know more about our services for those living with cancer, you can call us on 01245 382888 or come in to speak to the support team in our centre on The Street, Hatfield Peverel.

Upcoming Helen Rollason Cancer Charity events

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 8 February | Donation Day.
9am – 12pm. |
| 9 March | Donation Day.
9am – 12pm. |
| 11 May | Ride For Helen cycle event
starting at The Crix in
Hatfield Peverel. |
| 24 August | Marvellous Vintage day out
at Layer Marney Tower |

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THE WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION, ESSEX BRANCH

CASUALTIES OF QUIET DAYS



110 years ago in February, the Western Front was relatively quiet in that there were no major operations under way. So, this month I would like to give an example of what the Western Front Association stands for - education and remembrance – and take you back to April 1915 a little early but there is much to report in April, particularly with reference to the Essex Regiment.

On the 7th of April the Second Battalion of the Essex Regiment was in the trenches near a village called Ploegsteert in southern Belgium, virtually on the border with France. The diary for the battalion that day records:

“Very quiet, but wet. The German artillery sent over a few rounds at nothing in particular and our field guns replied. Casualties, 2 men killed and 1 wounded”.

The men killed were Lance Corporal William Raven (19) and Private William Drury (28) of Hatfield Peverel.

Born Walter William Drury but always known as William, he was ninth of the ten children of Samuel Drury and his wife Mary Ann (née Mynett). Of the four sons, three were engaged in war service, the fourth having died in 1913. William enlisted around 14th September 1904^[1] with the 1st Battalion Essex Regiment which was based in Bangalore^[2]. They transferred to Burma at the end of 1906 then further east in phased detachments until November 1909 when the full Battalion was based in Quetta (at that time in India, now Pakistan). Sometime after the census in 1911 William returned to civilian life as he is listed on the Hoffman Roll of Honour, now located in Chelmsford Cathedral^[3].



According to sources [4], on the 22nd of August 1914 he was called up from the Reserve Lists and was among the 190 men who joined the 2nd Essex Battalion who landed at Le Havre early on the 23rd August. They were quickly advanced to a small village near Viesly, close to the German line, to join the 12th Brigade of the 36th Division. Immediately the 2nd

Essex were involved in the Battle of Cateau. From that, it can be assumed that William would have also fought in the major battles of The Marne, The Aisne, and First Ypres. It is a tragedy then that he lost his life during a relatively quiet period and was the unlucky victim of “a few rounds [aimed] at nothing in particular”.

William is buried in Calvaire (Essex) Military Cemetery in Belgium. There are over 200 burials in this well-maintained cemetery, and 85 of those belong to the Essex Regiment. Many of us in the Western Front Association have visited this cemetery to remember the men of the Essex Regiment and as the famous exhortation ends, “We Will Remember Them”.



The WFA Essex Branch has a monthly newsletter which carries information remembering casualties from Essex, historical articles and forthcoming events or publications that may be of use to anyone with an interest in the First World War. If you would like to receive a copy by email, with attachments, please ask via essexwfa@googlemail.com (We ask for no other information and the newsletter is the sole use of the email address.)

February is one of the month's when the Branch holds its talk at The Royal British Legion in Hornchurch. On 12th February, Historian Peter Hart will give his talk *Laugh or Fly: The Air War on the Western Front*. We are back at the Village Hall at Hatfield Peverel on Wednesday March the 12th for a talk by Stephen Keoghane, “Shield & Protect – The Story of the Essex Yeomanry”. The Yeomanry were a cavalry unit equivalent of what today is the Territorial Army and served with distinction in both World Wars. Our talk starts from 8pm and all are welcome. Though you do not need to be a member of the WFA to attend, we request an entrance donation of £3.50.

Jim Kevany
Essex Branch Chairman, WFA

Sources:

^[1]Curator, Essex Regiment Museum);

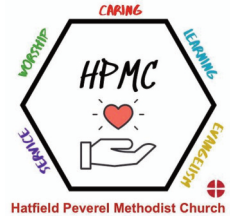
^[2] J W Burrow - Essex Units in the War 1914-1919.

^[3] <https://astreetnearyou.org/>

^[4] <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.iwm.org.uk/>

HATFIELD PEVEREL METHODIST CHURCH

You may remember that back in December, we placed a Christmas Tree in the entrance to the Coffee Lounge at the Village Hall and many of our community added a tag to our tree.



As we promised, we took each tag and prayed for the message it contained, saying each person's name. It was especially moving to pray for those who mentioned missing someone special who would not be with them that Christmas. We continue to pray for those people – and we are always happy to confidentially include any concerns or special people within our prayers – just email them to hpmethodistchurch@gmail.com.

We worship in room 3 at 9.15 am each Sunday morning and afterwards you will find a group of us in the Village Hall Coffee Lounge from 10.15 am enjoying refreshments and a chat. If there is something you would like to talk to someone about, do let us know. Some of us are also there on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays each month from 2-4pm, for Stitch to Enrich. Do come and share your concerns, if you would like to.

Farleigh Hospice Bereavement Help Point (BHP)

On Monday 3rd February a new Farleigh Hospice Bereavement Help Point (BHP) will open in the Village Hall

Coffee Lounge. These sessions will take place every first and third Monday each month between 1.30-3pm. A BHP is an informal drop-in group providing the opportunity for anyone who is facing bereavement to connect with others who have experienced loss. The groups are facilitated by trained volunteers who will offer a safe space, support you, share potentially helpful resources and offer signposting. Some people find the meetings a helpful space to talk about their loss and the challenges they face, while others prefer to listen to the experience of those around them, which can be just as helpful. There is no need to register or book, just come along if you feel it might help you.

Sunday worship at the village hall

Do join us on Sunday mornings from 9.15am in Room 3 of the Village Hall (access through the coffee lounge).

You can contact us as follows:

Minister: Barry Allen 01621 853423

Mission Lead: Jane Cook 07827 594535

Church email for information and prayer requests: hpmethodistchurch@gmail.com



<https://e-voice.org.uk/hpmc/>

45th Anniversary Year

HATFIELD PEVEREL FLOWER CLUB

Programme for 2024/25

4th September -	Roger Woolnough: "September Splendour"
2nd October -	David Wright: "Wheels in Motion"
6th November -	Pat South: Christmas Sparkle"
4th December -	Samantha May: "Festive Fun"
N.B. No meeting in January	
5th February -	Angelika Mead: "A Wild Kitchen"
5th March -	Elaine Boobier: "My Life in Flowers"
2nd April -	Crystal Dyball: "Junk and Jumble"
7th May -	Lee Berrill: "Remember When"
4th June -	Terry Babbage: "My Indian Experience"
2nd July -	Deb Hart: "Willow in the Landscape" A talk and demonstration
N.B. No meeting in August	

Hatfield Peverel Village Hall, Maldon Road, CM3 2HP
7.30 for 8pm
Refreshments and Raffle
Guests welcome Non-members £7

For further details telephone:
Jane Eastall on 01245 466364
or to join the email group to receive updates
contact: Helen Peter on helenopeter@yahoo.co.uk
www.hatfieldpeverelflowerclub.co.uk

PEVEREL WINE CLUB

Christmas Fun, Colourful Quizzing & Diabolically Good Wines!



By Vee Green, Secretary (01245 355723)

January's meeting was a comparatively sedate affair, yet still surprisingly well-attended considering the very chilly weather that evening: in fact, there were enough attendees to provide six teams for the annual quiz evening! Taking advantage of the Village Hall's newly-purchased projector and screen, we enjoyed a Powerpoint quiz on the theme of Colours, ranging from a round on Colourful Celebrities to the final pot-luck round of Multi-Coloured Swap Shop, and offering some interesting questions for debate: would you know, for example, why all of Henry Ford's Model T cars were available in any colour as long as it was black?*

Competition was fierce, with the Steve and Anne Spearman, Ali Pudney and Stephen Roberts' team emerging as eventual winners. As usual, Bob Hill's family team were awarded the wooden spoon (as used to happen with the World Cup, the trophy can be retained after the third successive time!).

All are now eagerly looking forward to February's meeting, a Valentine's special on the theme of Angels and Devils, when we shall be tasting some devilishly good wines complemented by a few heavenly snacks.

If you'd like to join us in February - or indeed for 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). Our website www.peverelwineclub.co.uk is currently being reviewed, but I can happily send a copy of the exciting new 2025 programme if you email me at peverelwineclub@hotmail.co.uk.

**Black paint dried faster and so speeded up production.*

HADFELDA (LADIES GROUP)

What's On...

Hopefully the weather is starting to improve and the frosty days are behind us! There are already plenty of bulbs showing, a sure sign spring is on its way.

To be transported to warmer, exotic places, why not join us for our February meeting on the 26th, when Charles Cope will be telling us 'More stories about Burma'?

In March we have a representative from the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance service. This is an amazing charity that relies heavily on donations from the public. We are making this an open meeting, so please come and bring all your friends!

Have you ever thought about planting your own hanging basket but not sure where to start? On 23rd April Clare will be demonstrating how to make a hanging basket and will have lots of helpful tips.



So lots to entice you to join us! We meet in St. Andrew's Church Hall on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 2pm. For any more information, please call Marel on 01245 380827.

Our next meetings are:
26th February,
26th March and
23rd April.





Pot Shop Garden Centre

& Pet Supplies

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- Herbs & Perennials
- Wild Bird Seed

**Quality
Plants**



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Florist for All Occasions

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01245 465 895



Mothers Day Sunday 30th

Order your flowers now
by phone, in store or
online

H A P P Y
MOTHER'S
day



*Delivery charges apply,
starting from £5*



MALDON FILM CLUB

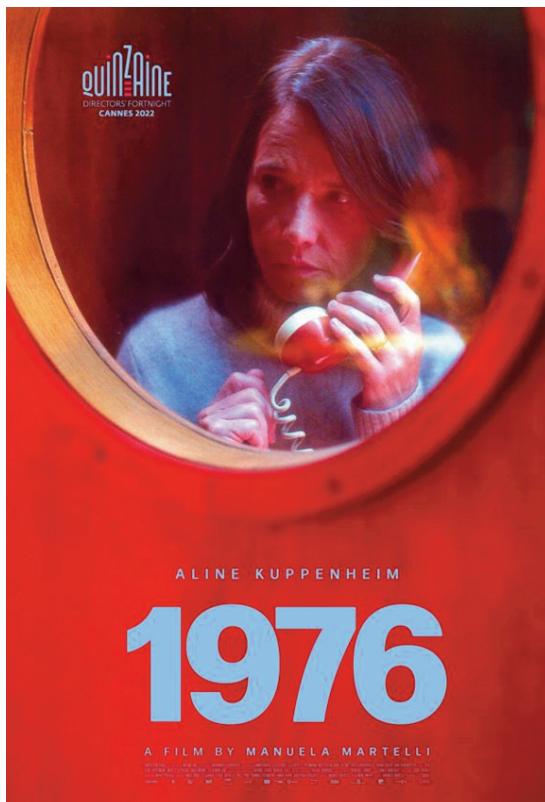
FROM MISSISSIPPI TO CHILE: FEBRUARY'S FEATURES!

Maldon Film Club welcomed in 2025 with the screening of the BAFTA award winning *20 Days in Mariupol* and the highly acclaimed *Wicked Little Letters*. Our season continues in February with the screening of the BAFTA award nominated *Till* and *Chile'76* which is set during the time of Augusto Pinochet's military dictatorship.

Till, which will be shown on Wednesday 5th February, is a profoundly emotional and cinematic film about the true story of Mamie Till Mobley's (Danielle Deadwyler) relentless pursuit of justice for her 14 year old son, Emmett Till, who, in 1955, was lynched while visiting his cousins in Mississippi. In Mamie's poignant journey of grief turned to action, we see the universal power of a mother's ability to change the world. As Emmett Till found to his cost things were very different in Mississippi!

Our second film for February on Wednesday 19th is *Chile'76*. Set in Chile in 1976, three years after Pinochet came to power, Carmen (Aline Kuppenheim) heads off to her beach house to take some time for herself. When the family priest asks her to take care of Elias (Nicolas Sepulveda) a young man he is sheltering in secret, Carmen steps onto unexplored territories, away from family the quiet life she is used to.

Our films for March are the highly recommended low budget British indie, *Scrapper* and *All of us Strangers* which was nominated for 6 BAFTA awards and is described as a poignant story about love, and the ghosts of our past.



Our 20th season continues until 28th May 2025 with films shown fortnightly on Wednesdays. 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.

Membership subscription for the rest of the season is £25. Join now to watch the remaining 9 films for free! Limited places are also available for junior members (ages 16-18 in full-time education or training) for just £18. Members share their reactions to films and help the committee compile next season's programme. Membership is open to all, and new members are very welcome. Guests of members pay just £4 per film!

For details and an application form, visit www.maldonfilmclub.uk, come into the Maldon Visitor Information Centre (Tues-Sat, 11am-4pm), or call 01621 869340 for membership enquiries. Alternatively, come as my guest, meet the committee, and pay your subscription on the night. Any further questions? Contact me, John Salisbury, on 07905 971608.

By John Salisbury

JOSHUA REILLY-HURTER - DOG WALKER ESSEX

BEAT THE WINTER BLUES!



A new year is always a time of reflection and a time to reignite old resolutions or make some new ones. But often with the best of intentions resolutions do not always work out as planned and the New Year blues can set in, even into February. But don't despair! Blue Monday, designated as the most depressing day of the year, has not long happened and the wintry weather is here to stay awhile so it's no wonder some of us aren't quite feeling the joy of new beginnings just yet. But this is where the power of the pooch is so uplifting.

There's nothing like being with your dog to help cheer you up. Here are some helpful tips to get us through those winter blues with our furry friends:

1. **Stay Active:** Keep moving to fight off winter blues. Go for brisk walks, play fetch, or try some dog-friendly indoor exercises.
2. **Try New Activities:** Introduce new games or activities like hide and seek, teaching new tricks, or even trying dog puzzles to keep your dog's mind active.
3. **Socialise:** Arrange playdates with other dogs. Interaction can be beneficial and fun, boosting your pet's and your mood.
4. **Get Outdoors:** Despite the cold, sunny days are uplifting. Bundle up and explore new parks or trails with your dog together.
5. **Maintain a Routine:** Dogs thrive on routine, and maintaining schedules is comforting for both of you. Keep meal, walk, and playtimes consistent.
6. **Use Pet-Friendly Products:** Invest in cozy pet apparel or bedding. Keeping your dog warm avoids the physical discomfort that might add to seasonal woes.
7. **Indoor Environments:** Create a warm, inviting space at home. Use enriching scents to stimulate and relax your dog.
8. **Boost Nutrition:** Consult your vet for nutritional advice. Sometimes a diet tweak is beneficial for energy levels in colder months.
9. **Pet Massage:** Consider learning some simple dog massage techniques to relax and de-stress both of you.
10. **Practice Mindfulness:** Spend quiet, quality time with your dog, focusing on relaxation and just enjoying each other's company.

By incorporating these tips into your winter routine, you can improve both your pet's and your own spirits, making the January blues much more manageable.



WINTER WALKS

Walking your dog in winter can be fun, but it's essential to keep your pet safe and comfortable.

- Dress short-haired breeds in a coat, protect their paws with wax or boots, and stick to shorter walks in very cold weather.
- Stay visible with reflective gear, avoid icy paths, and keep your dog on a leash to prevent accidents.
- After each walk, check their paws for salt or ice and dry them off to prevent chills.
- Watch for signs of discomfort like shivering, and be mindful of wind chill and extreme temperatures, especially for puppies or senior dogs.
- With a little preparation, winter walks can be safe and enjoyable for both you and your dog.

To get in touch with Dog Walkers Essex, visit <https://dogwalker.pet>, follow our Facebook page [@DogWalkersEssex](#) or call 07761 833996



the
COFFEE LOUNGE
at Hatfield Peverel Village Hall

Mon - Sat 9 - 4 pm
Sunday 10 - 4 pm

— ❁ —

BREAKFAST
LUNCH
CAKES & SNACKS
HOT & COLD FOOD

— ❁ —

Coffee Club every Thursday
9 - 11am. Everyone welcome



STEFAN TABACU – MY PERSONAL TRAINER

THE POWER OF THE STRETCH!

Hello again, everyone! It's Stefan here, your local mobile personal trainer. Last month, we focused on strengthening your core for better posture and stability. This month, I want to talk about flexibility—a vital but often overlooked aspect of fitness that can enhance your mobility, reduce discomfort, and improve overall well-being. I'll also share a simple stretching exercise to get you started.



Why Flexibility Is Important

Flexibility is more than just being able to touch your toes—it's about keeping your muscles supple and your joints moving freely. Regular stretching can help counteract stiffness, especially if you spend long periods sitting or standing.

Some of the key benefits of maintaining flexibility are:

1. **Improved Range of Motion:** Stretching keeps your joints and muscles limber, making daily activities easier and more comfortable.
2. **Reduced Risk of Injury:** Flexible muscles are less likely to become strained or injured during physical activities.
3. **Better Posture:** Stretching helps release tension in tight muscles, promoting a more upright and balanced posture.
4. **Enhanced Circulation:** Gentle stretches increase blood flow to the muscles, delivering oxygen and nutrients for faster recovery.
5. **Stress Relief:** Stretching encourages relaxation and reduces stress by relieving tension in the body.

Exercise Tip of the Month: Seated Forward Fold



This month's exercise is a gentle stretch that targets the hamstrings, lower back, and calves.

1. **Start Position:** Sit on the floor with your legs extended straight out in front of you. Keep your back tall and your toes pointing up.
2. **Reaching Forward:** Slowly hinge at your hips, reaching your hands toward your feet. Go as far as you can while keeping your back straight.
3. **Hold the Stretch:** When you feel a gentle pull in your hamstrings, hold the stretch for 20-30 seconds. Breathe deeply to relax into the position.
4. **Return:** Slowly come back to the starting position and repeat 2-3 times.

If you can't reach your feet, don't worry—stretch as far as is comfortable and focus on gradual improvement. Stretching is a wonderful way to stay limber and reduce the risk of stiffness and pain. Give it a try, and you'll feel the benefits in no time!

Join us at Strutt Memorial Recreation Ground for our free community fitness classes, where we incorporate flexibility training into our sessions to support your overall health and wellness. Book in for your session here: <https://bookwhen.com/mypersonaltrainer>

Stay flexible, stay active, and see you next month with another exercise tip!

Stefan - MyPT

07456717115

Instagram @stmypt

FB: @STMyPersonalTrainer/



SIDE BY SIDE Support

For Carers & Families LIVING the challenges of DEMENTIA

WE UNDERSTAND YOUR JOURNEY, & WE SHARE OUR EXPERIENCES & KNOWLEDGE

Come along, Meet us!

TUESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

& Every 3rd Tuesday Monthly

2.00-4.00PM

Hatfield Peverel Village Hall

Maldon Rd CM3 2HP

Spouse, Relative or Friend caring for someone with Dementia?

'Feeling Isolated & Exhausted?'

Need a break, some information & support?

Come for a friendly chat over a cuppa

We are 'FUNDANGLES Musical Afternoons' for Dementia Carers & Loved ones. Our FUN 'Singalong' to tunes thru the decades

Facebook: Fundangles or Glenys: 07956 855038





The Gardener's greatest enemy: weather! Their greatest strength's? Experience, determination, improvisation and persistence.

Mother Nature's unpredictability is undeniable. The summer of 2024, the hottest on record, brought droughts, fires, storms, and floods worldwide. Rivers dried up, while extreme weather disrupted lives globally. Our cold, wet winters may seem harsh, but they pale in comparison to the devastation of California's wildfires.

Around the world, gardeners like you and me must persevere to grow anything while the weather odds are stacked against us.

*A man was in a sales competition some time ago. At the halfway point in the 3-month time frame, he was far from his target. **But** every day he was correctly doing all he should to get results. As time ended, he'd reached and passed his target to succeed by doing the right things.*

Gardeners know that outside influences of weather will affect their crops. The results come down to doing the right things repeatedly to achieve results despite hurdles. These are the tricks of the trade. They include:

- Do a little and often
- Work consistently every week
- Have a plan – be prepared!
- Remain flexible
- Adjust to the weather
- Include a plan B

Allotment Winter Preparation

- Preparing beds before sowing begins is one of the most important February allotment jobs. You'll help to aerate, drain and warm the soil. Be sure to incorporate plenty of compost or composted manure. Then cover in plastic for a few weeks to reduce weeds and warm the soil.
- Now's the time to get cloches ready to warm the soil for early sowings, and protection for seedlings and new plants.
- Clean with a scrubber & warm soapy water, before rinsing off. For early crops, prepare and rake level the soil, before putting the cloche in place a few weeks before sowing.

Cold or Wet Weather Gardening Jobs

An indoor job – in your shed, spend time, cleaning, oiling, and sharpening your tools. Schedule a service for appropriate tools. Mowers, tillers, strimmers etc.

Anticipating spring planting.

We all use a well-tested peat-enriched compost product giving fantastic results. We have an order arriving in mid-February. So, check with your allotment neighbours if you wish to get some.

If you are interested in having an allotment, visit: <https://membermojo.co.uk/hpaa/joinus>

by Drew Price

FREE

Energy Saving Advice Sessions

Come along to our informal talk on cheap and free ways to save energy in your home. Trained energy expert Emily Hilton can help you reduce CO2 and understand and take control of your energy bills and raise scam awareness.

Each session will consist of a 20-minute talk followed by Q&A and 1-to-1 advice.

📅 6th February 2025

🕒 2pm & 6.30pm

📍 Room 3, Hatfield Peverel Village Hall, Maldon Road, Hatfield Peverel CM3 2HP

COMMUNITY
ENERGY
SOUTH



Don't
Miss It!

GARDEN WASTE SUBSCRIPTIONS 2025/26

All existing garden waste subscriptions will expire at the end of March 2025. You can renew or newly subscribe for the 2025/26 collections from 27th January onwards. The new subscription period runs from 1 April to 31 March each year.



If you sign up via the new Waste Portal, you will benefit from automatic renewal in future years, subject to a valid payment each year. (There will be an opportunity for customers to update their card details before payment is taken.) Automatic renewal will not be available to customers who subscribe by phone.

- The full-year subscription fee for the first bin is £55.
- Subscriptions for second and subsequent bins are £30 per bin.
- New and replacement bins are £35.50 per bin
- Biodegradable sacks (for households not on wheeled bins) are £8 per roll of 20 sacks.

N.B. All prices subject to approval of Fees & Charges in February 2025. payment must be made in full when you take out the subscription

Subscription stickers will be sent by post and should be received within fourteen days of subscribing. For 2025/26 the stickers will be a different colour to help the crews identify bins with a valid subscription. As an added security measure, the sticker will also include the subscriber's address.

What happens if I move or stop using the service – will I get a refund?

No, the charge is not refundable, although if you move to another address within the District, the subscription can be transferred to your new address. You must ensure that you take your bin with you and let us know your new address at least two weeks in advance of the move to ensure an unbroken service.

How can I dispose of my garden waste if I don't wish to subscribe?

The best option (environmentally) is to compost at home. To obtain discounted compost bins and find out about the benefits of home-composting and how to get started (including on-line training), visit the Love Essex home composting page <https://www.loveessex.org/ideas/get-started-home-composting>

Can I put garden waste into my grey bin?

The Environment Act 2021 makes it clear that garden waste should be collected separately and so it should all go into your garden waste bin (if you have subscribed to the service), or it can be composted at home or taken to your local Household Waste & Recycling Centre.

Can I put out extra waste alongside my green bin if it won't all fit in?

No, our collection crews will not accept any excess garden waste that is presented alongside or on top of your bin. If you occasionally have more waste than can fit inside your bin, please hold this over and place it loose inside your bin once emptied, ready for the next scheduled collection day. Alternatively, it can be taken to your local Household Waste & Recycling Centre.

More information along with further FAQs is available <https://www.braintree.gov.uk/>

VILLAGE HALL NEWS

2025 CONTINUES WITH A GREAT LINE UP OF SHOWS, EVENTS AND CLASSES AT THE VILLAGE HALL HERE IN HATFIELD PEVEREL.

The Pantaloons, whose December production of *A Christmas Carol* was a sell-out, return this May with Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*. But before that, don't miss a Tribute to Carole King on 22nd February, The ELO Encounter on 29th March, and the UK Bee Gees in April. Be sure to book early, as these popular events are likely to sell out quickly.

Book your tickets here: <http://tinyurl.com/HPVH-Tickets>. And all events taking place can be seen on the events page on our website www.hatpevvhall.org



A Tribute to Carole King

2pm. Tappy Toes, a new dance class for girls and boys from 6 months to 5 years, takes place on Wednesday mornings and The Nickelstick Bulldog group bring Philippine martial arts to the hall on the last Saturday morning of each month.

Bingo continues on the first and third Fridays of the month – all welcome, just come along and get your Bingo Book(s) on the door - £10 per book.

Details of all the clubs can be found on the noticeboard inside the Coffee Lounge entrance, or visit <https://hatpevvhall.org/clubs-at-hpvh> for information and contact details.



Mailing List

WIN TICKETS!

To be in with a chance to win two free tickets to one of our shows in 2025 just make sure your name and email address are on our mailing list. Scan the QR code to sign up or visit <https://hatpevvhall.org/> and scroll down to join the mailing list. We'll select one

person at random to receive two tickets, which we'll announce in the March edition of Village Voice.

By signing up to our mailing list, you'll receive one email a month with information about forthcoming events and shows at the hall.

CLUBS & EVENTS

We now have 24 different clubs at the village hall, with something for all ages and interests. Starting on Saturday 22nd February at 10.30am, Giovanni begins teaching Bread Making to residents. We continue to welcome Side by Side Support for carers and families living with the challenges of Dementia. They meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from

February Events Diary		
Fri 7 th	Bingo	7pm
Fri 21 st	Bingo	7pm
Sat 22 nd	A Tribute to Carol King	8pm

Later in 2025

Mar 29 th	The ELO Encounter
Apr 26 th	UK Bee Gees

Clubs at the Hall

For information, go to the Clubs page on our Website.

www.HatPevVhall.org

Badminton Mondays 7pm	HotSteps Tuesdays from 3:30pm	EMC Lunch club Wednesdays 1-3pm	Table Tennis Tuesdays 7:30pm
Tuesday Toddler Time Tuesdays 9:30am	Little Glow Baby Sensory Thursdays 10:30-11:30	Shea-Lowe Education Wednesdays 3:30-6:15	Little City 3rd Wednesday of the month 9:30am
Tappy Toes Dance Wednesdays 10am	Side By Side Dementia support 3rd Tuesday, 2-4pm	Bread Making 1 Saturday a month 10:30am	Nickelstick last Saturday, 9:30am
Kazen Kai Karate Thursdays 3:45	Methodist Church Sundays 9:15am	Women's Circle 2nd or 3rd Weds 7:15pm	Dancematic Latin Dance Fridays 2pm
Essex Yeomanry Band Sundays 9:30-13:00	Little Oliver Twists Dog Training Thursdays 6pm	Western Front 2nd Wed 8-10pm Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov	Stitch to Enrich 1st and 3rd Thursday 2-4pm
Flower Club 1st Weds of the month 7:30pm	Bingo 1st & 3rd Friday of the month: 7 - 10pm	Essex Tai Chi Academy Saturdays 9:30-12:30	Wine Club 2nd Weds of the month 7:30pm



www.HatPevVHall.org



www.facebook.com/hatfieldpeverelvillagehall



Box office & room bookings: 0300 102 0473



Mailing List

Coming soon to HPVH



WWW.HATPEVHALL.ORG



Scan to Buy Tickets

A Tribute to Carole King

Performing 'Tapestry', one of the biggest-selling albums of all time, and many of her hit songs including 'You Make Feel Like A Natural Woman', 'Up on the Roof', and 'You've Got a Friend'.



Hatfield Peverel Village Hall
Saturday, Feb 22nd



Doors : 7pm Band : 8pm

Tickets :-

www.ticketsource.co.uk/hatfield-peverel-village-hall


Hatfield Peverel Village Hall

Saturday, March 29th

Doors: 7pm

Band: 8pm

Tickets online at...

www.ticketsource.co.uk/hatfield-peverel-village-hall

The UK BEE GEES Tribute Band



From 'You Should Be Dancing', all the way through the romantic ballads such as 'How Deep Is Your Love' and finally into the fantastic disco film tracks such as 'Night Fever' and 'Stayin' Alive', you can be forgiven for thinking that the real Bee Gees are there with you.

Hatfield Peverel Village Hall

Saturday, April 26th

Doors: 7pm Band: 8pm

Tickets online at...

www.ticketsource.co.uk/hatfield-peverel-village-hall


The Pantaloons present Sense and Sensibility



Sunday, May 25th

Hatfield Peverel Village Hall

Doors: 2:30 Show: 3:00

Tickets:-

www.ticketsource.co.uk/hatfield-peverel-village-hall


Tickets from:- <http://tinyurl.com/HPVH-Tickets>