

HATFIELD PEVEREL

# VILLAGE VOICE

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## **NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS!**

January events in Hatfield Peverel  
A curious wartime tale  
Winter on the allotments

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## 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](#) \*

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Publisher: Andrew Smith Print Ltd

[andrew@asmithprint.co.uk](mailto:andrew@asmithprint.co.uk)

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

For information on copy specifications email: [communications@hatfieldpeverelpc.com](mailto:communications@hatfieldpeverelpc.com)

If you wish to advertise your business in Village Voice, please get in touch for a media pack and rate card.

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

\* [Parish Council Meetings](https://www.hatfieldpeverelpc.com/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/) – <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/) – <https://www.hatfieldpeverelpc.com/welcome-to-our-village/community-matters/local-information-and-contacts/>



### CHAIR EXERCISE

**St Andrew's Church Hall  
Hatfield Peverel**

**Tues 10 am-10.45 am**

**Jan 6, 13, 20 | Feb 3,10, 24  
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Apr 14, 21 (Return May 5)**

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Telephone 01376 408046 - Please leave a message.

## Hatfield Peverel Tennis Coaching

### Tuesday Group Sessions

3.45 - 4.30pm 5-8yr olds

4.30 - 5.15pm. 9-12 yr olds

5.15 - 6.00pm. 13-18 yr olds

6.00 - 7.30pm Adults

**First session is free**



**For more information / prices**

**Contact:**

**Appointed Tennis Coach**

**Mark Cain**

[markacain@live.com](mailto:markacain@live.com)

**07741 083192**

**1-1 Private lessons  
also available**



# Hatfield Peverel Parish Council Update

## Welcome to 2026!

This month we bring you news of our next DofE scheme, how to become a Barclays Free Tennis Activator, an update on the EMC club and a piece of little-known history from the village!

Our group tennis coaching sessions continue at the Strutt Memorial Tennis Courts. Our appointed coach, Mark Cain, offers weekly sessions for all ages as well as 1:1 coaching. We have been delighted by the response to the adult sessions. If your young person has any interest in tennis, then consider signing up for afterschool sessions with Mark. Details on page 2.

The tennis courts are also available to book privately via our online booking system. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/book-tennis>

## Cleaner needed

We are still looking to fill the vacancy for a weekend cleaner for the Village Hall. See the ad below for more details and share with anyone who might be interested in joining the team.



## JOB VACANCY WEEKEND CLEANER

### RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Helping to make our village hall a clean and welcoming place to visitors
- 4 hours per week (flexibility considered for completion of work before 9am Sat & Sun)
- 18+ No experience necessary

### APPLY NOW

01245 382865

[assistantclerk@hatfieldpeverelpc.com](mailto:assistantclerk@hatfieldpeverelpc.com)

Hatfield Peverel Village Hall,  
Maldon Road, CM3 2HP

## Christmas in the Park

It was great to see so many of you attending our Christmas in the Park event in December. A big thank you goes out to our Events Committee who work hard so hard on this festive event. Now we set our sights on this summer's Party in the Park. We're always looking for volunteers to become involved in the planning of this event - any skills and enthusiasm you can bring will be much appreciated. We're also keen to have as many stallholders as possible. So if you're a homemade business, charity, local group come and help us make this year's Party in the Park the best yet. Get in touch with Carly Truman at [assistantclerk@hatfieldpeverelpc.com](mailto:assistantclerk@hatfieldpeverelpc.com) and register your interest.

## Duke of Edinburgh

After our first successful Bronze DofE Award cohort the council is keen to run another Bronze scheme. If your young person could not get on a school Bronze DofE scheme and is interested in joining ours, get in touch.

We have five spots available and students need to be 14-19 (or 13 1/2 and in Year 9). Contact [cllrparker@hatfieldpeverelpc.com](mailto:cllrparker@hatfieldpeverelpc.com) or [cllrshort@hatfieldpeverelpc.com](mailto:cllrshort@hatfieldpeverelpc.com)

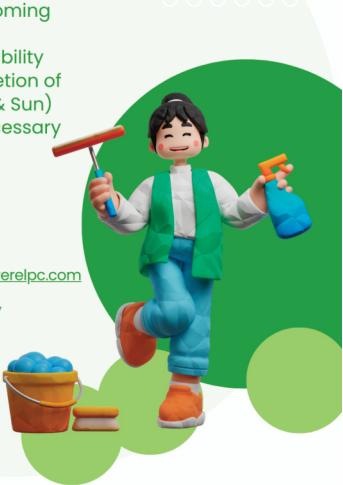
## Get involved

We welcome you to come along to our full Parish Council meetings held on the first Monday of each month. January's meeting will however be held on Monday 12th January. All meetings are held in the Vic Olley Room at the Village Hall. To view the agenda visit our website or see 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](mailto:parishclerk@hatfieldpeverelpc.com) or [assistantclerk@hatfieldpeverelpc.com](mailto:assistantclerk@hatfieldpeverelpc.com)



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

Happy New Year everyone from the clergy and parishioners of St Andrew's Hatfield Peverel and All Saints, Ulting.

We had a busy and joyous advent in the 24 days leading up to Christmas Day. We tried to deliver a Christmas card with details of our services to all homes in Hatfield Peverel. This was a massive effort and huge thanks go to all our deliverers. We are sorry if we missed some homes but got round to just under 2000!

Christmas services started on 7<sup>th</sup> December with Carols by Candlelight at All Saints with the Hadfelda Singers under the leadership of Barbara Mason. On the 14<sup>th</sup> our Messy Christmas service at St Andrews was entertained by a very grumpy owl! On the 21<sup>st</sup>, it was Carols at St Andrew's and then on Christmas Eve we had our hugely popular Light of the World Service at St Andrew's supporting Home-Start with gifts of toys and finance. This was followed later by our Midnight services welcoming the wondrous birth of Jesus. Our Christmas trees inside and outside our two churches were much admired and we hope gave pleasure to all who saw them.



Christian services celebrating the birth of Jesus don't just stop on Christmas Day. The Feast of the Epiphany, traditionally taking place on the 6<sup>th</sup> January, records the arrival of the three Wise men/ Magi/ Kings and so the revelation of Jesus to the world at large. That is also the day when Christmas decorations are traditionally taken down, but meantime this arrival can be celebrated by "chalking the doorway" of your house. If you have some woodwork above your front door, you can achieve this by chalking there the following for the year 2026 : **20+C+M+B+26** - C being Caspar, M being Melchior and B Balthazar, then see if anyone else has done the same!

We will have our first **Coffee Morning** of the year on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January from 10am to 12 noon**. You don't have to bring unwanted Christmas presents although you are welcome to do so if you wish - the bric a brac stall is ready and waiting! But we do want to see you to wish you in person a Happy New Year.

Our first **Soup and Roll** lunch of the year will be on **13<sup>th</sup> January from 12.30 to 2.00pm**, in aid of Christian Aid. Our last event in December, when brave souls defied the drizzle and enjoyed food and company raised £161.20 for Home-Start.

And finally, we are delighted to confirm that the Vicarage at St Andrews, which has been empty since Father Stephen left for his new home in Dovercourt, is to be occupied by Rev Noah Cockett, a member of the Witham and Villages Team Ministry. Noah will not officially be part of our parish team, but we hope he will find time to attend some of our services and events and to enable us to welcome him personally. Details of our January services, to which you are all most welcome, are on the next page.

### Contact details for Parish Team



Rev Howard Schnaar 07761234165

Rev Derek Clark 07860380627 | Charles Cope 01245 382134 |

John Tomlins 07712699722 | Mark Keenan 07791141974

Website: [www.hatfieldpeverelultingchurches.org.uk](http://www.hatfieldpeverelultingchurches.org.uk)

Parish of St Andrew Hatfield Peverel with All Saints Ulting

**SERVICES etc. for JANUARY 2026**

	St Andrews	All Saints
Saturday 3rd	10 -12 noon	
<b>COFFEE MORNING</b> in St Andrew's Church Hall		
Sunday 4th	<b>Epiphany 10.15am</b> Matins	<b>9am Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
Sunday 11th	<b>8am Holy Communion</b> 10.15 am <b>All Age Service</b>	<b>9am Morning Prayer</b> with hymns
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm – 2pm	<b>SOUP AND ROLL</b> in aid of CHRISTIAN AID St Andrew's Church Hall
Sunday 18th	<b>10.15 Parish Eucharist</b>	<b>9am Holy Communion (BCP)</b>
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>10.15 Parish Eucharist</b>	<b>9am Parish Eucharist</b>

**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 Andrews open for prayer** on Thursdays at 9am

**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  
[kramnameek@live.co.uk](mailto:kramnameek@live.co.uk)

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

## Could You Become a Tennis Activator?

Hatfield Peverel is hoping to bring a new community activity to the village in 2026 — Barclays Free Park Tennis, a national initiative designed to encourage people of all ages and abilities to enjoy free, friendly tennis sessions in local parks. To make this happen, we are looking for volunteers to step forward as Tennis Activators.

### What is Free Park Tennis?

The scheme offers weekly, book-in-advance sessions where anyone can turn up and play for free. No experience is needed and all equipment is provided. It's a simple way to get people moving, meet others in the community, and make good use of our local courts at the Strutt Memorial Recreation Ground.

Here in Hatfield Peverel, the plan is to run a one-hour session every Sunday morning, from April 2026 through to October half term. To run safely and smoothly, each session needs two activators present. Activators aren't coaches — their role is to welcome players, set up equipment, help the session flow and ensure everyone has a good experience.

### Who can be an Activator?

Almost anyone! You don't need to be a tennis player or have any sporting background. Barclays Free Park Tennis provides clear guidance, activity plans and all the tools volunteers need. What's required is:

- Around 2 hours of online training, including a short safeguarding module
- An LTA DBS check
- A friendly, encouraging attitude

To avoid the commitment falling on just one or two people, we are looking to train at least four new activators, ideally more. With a small team sharing the rota, the sessions remain enjoyable and manageable for everyone involved.

Becoming a Tennis Activator is a great way to support the village, meet new people and help provide an inclusive, healthy activity for the community.

If you're interested or would like to learn more, visit the LTA's information page at [www.lta.org.uk/play/free-park-tennis/](http://www.lta.org.uk/play/free-park-tennis/) Then get in touch with Sarah Gaeta at [parishclerk@hatfieldpeverelpc.com](mailto:parishclerk@hatfieldpeverelpc.com) to register your interest.



HELP KEEP OUR EMC CLUB RUNNING

## VOLUNTEER NEEDED



Mainly for senior members of the community, the EMC (Every Members Club) was started to help combat loneliness and create a warm and friendly space for connection and support.

We meet every Wednesday 1-3pm at the Village Hall. It's a warm, relaxed get-together with lunch, quizzes, bingo and great conversation.

Our Chairman, Councillor Mark Weale runs the club but needs help to keep it going. If you're outgoing and friendly, enjoy a chat (and putting together a quiz!), can you spare the time to help?

We'd love to keep this facility going for those who attend. Please call Mark on

07801 443733

[cldrweale@hatfieldpeverelpc.com](mailto:cldrweale@hatfieldpeverelpc.com)



# Hatfield Peverel Flower Club

## Programme for Spring/Summer 2026

**N.B. No meeting in January**

<b>4th February</b>	Janet and Jane - "A Day In The Life Of "
<b>4th March</b>	David Wright - "Kaleidoscope 25"
<b>1st April</b>	Naomi Wells - "Stories"
<b>6th May</b>	Rachel Borenkova - "If Flowers Could Talk"
<b>3rd June</b>	Vicky Hease - "Here Comes Summer"
<b>1st July</b>	TBC

**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](mailto:helenopeter@yahoo.co.uk)**



# Christmas fun in Hatfield Peverel

A huge, big thank you to the Christmas in the Park committee for organising a fantastic day on the 7th December. We hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did.

We were once again serenaded by The Essex Yeomanry Band who played a mixed set of old and new Christmas songs to perfectly set the scene. It was heartwarming to hear the children in their Christmas singalong, led by our very own Lara George. What a fabulous mixture of stallholders we had this year too, selling their crafts and did you get to enjoy a special hot chocolate with The Tipsy Grey? If you missed out, it's definitely one to put on your list for next year!

From face painting to balloon modelling, teddy tombola and our Christmas raffle, we hope there was something for all ages to enjoy and the excitement of those children who visited Santa in his grotto was so wonderful to hear. We hope everyone was pleased with their gift.



To top it all off our fabulous piper once again led the way out to the tree - kindly donated by Paul Mason Associates – where Santa did the honours to switch on the lights. And lastly but most importantly, a big thank you also goes to you our residents for joining in with the fun and making it such a special day.

The Parish Council were delighted to see so many of you there. Your enthusiasm and festive spirit are what make this annual event truly magical.

Keep following us on socials for news of this summer's Party in the Park event to be held on Saturday 4th July - this time actually held in the park!

## Can you help?

Our events committee are always keen to welcome newcomers to help organise events. Additionally, the events committee meetings are open to the public so if you would like to come along and offer ideas, we'd love to have you. Visit : <https://tinyurl.com/hppc-committees> for future meeting dates.

If you are interested in having a stall at our Party in the Park event in July, contact Carly Truman at [assistantclerk@hatfieldpeverelpc.com](mailto:assistantclerk@hatfieldpeverelpc.com)



Village  
Hall



# Event Venue Hire

Catering for weddings, birthdays & celebrations, children's parties (inc. bouncy castles), wakes and more. Full bar service & catering available. Free Wi-fi and parking on site too! Visit our website for more details



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**Website**  
[hatpevhall.org](http://hatpevhall.org)

**Contact Us**

# THE PINK HORSE OF HATFIELD PEVEREL

## A Wartime Tale from 1914–15

*When cavalry men, permanganate of potash, and one very unlucky horse made local history*



Outside the stables at Hatfield Peverel - 1914 (Photo: National Army Museum)

When the First World War broke out in August 1914, Hatfield Peverel became an unexpected temporary home for the Bedfordshire Yeomanry, a Territorial cavalry regiment mobilised for active service. By 27th August 1914 the regiment had moved to Winslow in Buckinghamshire. "From there a series of daily marches brought the regiment through Edlesborough, Codicote, Luton, Hertford, Epping Forest, South Weald and to finally reach Hatfield Peverel [sic]"\*. They were stationed here in Hatfield Peverel and Stansted from late 1914 until June 1915, before departing for France. Their presence left a lively, if fleeting, mark on the village.

Among the stories handed down in village memory is one that brought colour - quite literally - to those wartime days:

*"A detachment of the Bedfordshire Yeomanry was billeted in the village for three years in the 1914-18 War. When it was ordered abroad an officer who rode a white horse is reputed to have asked if anything could be done to make it less conspicuous. The story goes that the farriers painted the horse with a mixture of permanganate of potash, but unfortunately in the morning the horse was pink!"\*\**

### Did it really happen?

The Yeomanry's documented stay in Hatfield Peverel along with a long-lost image in the National Army Museum archives that I uncovered, means the setting of the story is unquestionably correct. The origin of this anecdote is the local heritage booklet of the parish, and although I have not been able to locate an official war-diary entry that

confirms this exact episode, it does sit well with the kind of improvisation and humour that soldiers often adopted in home service. Permanganate of potash otherwise known as Potassium permanganate was widely used at the time for cleaning and staining and may well have been in the stores of the regiment or farriers. It is known to stain hair and fur various shades of red and purple. In fact, there is a documented 1915 case (far from Essex, in the US Army) where a cavalry horse was dyed with permanganate to make it less visible.

What makes the tale enduring is not just its humour, but what it reveals about life in the village during the early months of the war. Hatfield Peverel's lanes, stables and fields would have perhaps been bustling with horses, troopers, kit, farriers' forges and unfamiliar routines. For residents, this sudden influx of uniformed activity must have felt extraordinary. And for the men themselves - living away from home, preparing for the battlefields of France - moments of comedy and camaraderie like this one may have provided much-needed relief.

If you're interested in the history of Hatfield Peverel, we have a wonderful resource of local history (from where this story originates) on our website at <https://tinyurl.com/hplocalhistory>

Words by: Janice Fitzpatrick

\*source: [The Long, Long Trail+1](https://tinyurl.com/longlongtrail)

\*\*source:<https://tinyurl.com/villageheritage>



# ADVENTURE IS OUT THERE!

**Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – New Cohort Starting January 2026**

As reported in last month's issue, Hatfield Peverel Parish Council is preparing to run another Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Award programme from January 2026, open to Hatfield Peverel students aged 14–19.

Hatfield Peverel remains the first parish council in Essex to offer the DofE Award directly, and we're pleased that even more local young people will have the chance to take part. The Parish Council funds the scheme, and two councillors – Cllr Richard Parker and Cllr Tina Short – lead the fortnightly training and review sessions held in the village hall.

## What's involved?

The DofE Bronze Award is widely recognised by colleges, universities and employers—not just for its prestige, but for the commitment, character and skills it helps young people develop.

Participants work toward three core sections over three to six months:

- **Physical** – taking part in regular exercise
- **Skills** – learning and developing a new ability
- **Volunteering** – giving time to support others in the community

“...the chance to strive for achievement, overcome obstacles, and set your mind to a personal challenge”

The programme concludes with a two-day expedition involving hiking and camping, where teamwork, independence and resilience are put into practice.

If your child is aged 14–19 and either cannot secure a place through their school or does not have access to a school-run DofE scheme and are resident in Hatfield Peverel or have links to the village, we would be delighted to welcome them. To register your interest or request more information, please email Cllr Richard Parker at [cllrparker@hatfieldpeverelpc.com](mailto:cllrparker@hatfieldpeverelpc.com) or Cllr Tina Short at [cllrshort@hatfieldpeverelpc.com](mailto:cllrshort@hatfieldpeverelpc.com)



**Hatfield Peverel Parish Council**

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# Winter Gardening: Small Steps for a Strong Start

By Drew Price

When winter arrives, many gardeners close the shed doors until spring. But the quieter months are one of the most valuable times to stay connected to your garden or allotment. With a few simple habits, winter becomes a season of calm progress, gentle activity, and small wins that set you up for a flourishing year ahead.

## A Winter Boost for Your Well-Being

Fresh air and natural daylight are precious in winter. Even ten minutes outside—checking on a bed, topping up a bird feeder, or gathering fallen leaves—can brighten your mood and give you a lift on darker days. A quick purpose outdoors often does more good for us than we realise.

## Quick Jobs for Cold Days

Winter offers a leisurely pace. These simple tasks keep you connected without feeling like work:

- Clear away dead annuals and tidy pathways
- Remove a few obvious weeds before they settle in
- Add compost or mulch to empty beds
- Check pots for waterlogging and improve drainage if needed
- Secure plant ties and supports loosened by wind
- Refresh bird feeders and water sources

Small actions now prevent bigger jobs later—and make spring feel welcoming rather than overwhelming.

## Weekend Wins for Spring Success

If you've got a bit more time, winter is ideal for:

- Pruning fruit trees and dormant shrubs
- Planting bare-root fruit bushes, roses, or hedging
- Reviewing the shape of your borders while the structure is visible
- Sorting through seeds and planning your crop rotations
- Giving tools a clean, oil, and sharpening

These calm winter jobs often make the most significant difference in the long run.

## Find the Quiet Beauty

Winter gardens may be subtle, but they're full of charm. The glossy berries on holly, the coloured stems of dogwood, the fragrance of winter-flowering shrubs—there's always something to appreciate when you slow down and look closely. Winter teaches us to notice the gentle details we miss in summer.



## Grow a Little Something

Hardy winter vegetables like kale, leeks, winter cabbage, and purple sprouting broccoli thrive in the colder months. Even a pot of parsley or winter herbs by the back door can feel wonderfully rewarding.

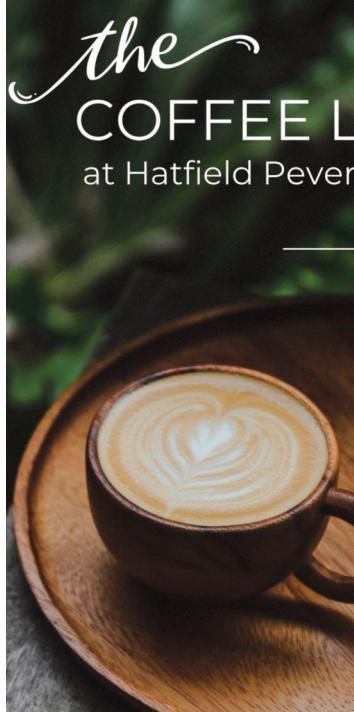
## Plan, Dream, Prepare

Winter evenings are perfect for dreaming up next year's garden. Leaf through seed catalogues, sketch new ideas, and think about what worked well last year. This slower planning time often leads to more intelligent choices and stronger results in spring.

This winter, choose one small habit that keeps you connected to your garden. A few gentle steps now will set the roots for a vibrant, successful year ahead.

Happy New Year, Everyone!

*the*  
**COFFEE LOUNGE**  
 at Hatfield Peverel Village Hall



Mon - Sat 9 - 5 pm  
 Sunday 10 - 4 pm

—————  
 BREAKFAST  
 LUNCH  
 CAKES & SNACKS  
 HOT & COLD FOOD  
 —————

—————  
 Coffee Club every Thursday  
 9 - 11am. Everyone welcome  
 —————



# WAYS TO HELP THIS WINTER

## Christmas tree collection and recycling

Do you have a real Christmas tree, and would you like an easy way to recycle it?

We will be collecting Christmas trees from doorsteps across many CM and CO postcodes from Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> to Monday 12th January. All trees will be sustainably recycled. Trees must be pre-booked for collection and bookings are open until midnight on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January. We ask for a small donation, which will help Helen Rollason Cancer Charity to continue giving support to local people living with cancer.

Book online now via

[www.helenrollason.org.uk/event/christmas-tree-collection-2026/](http://www.helenrollason.org.uk/event/christmas-tree-collection-2026/)

## Christmas Appeal

This winter, we are facing an extremely high demand for our services. We need to make sure we can continue to be here for our community, but we need your help. To support local people living with cancer we would like to raise £5,000. If you can donate even a small amount you will help our clients to carry on smiling for loved ones over what can be a difficult time of the year. Please donate whatever you can here at [www.helenrollason.org.uk/christmas-appeal-2025/](http://www.helenrollason.org.uk/christmas-appeal-2025/)



### CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Are you having a real fir tree for Christmas?

Would you like an easy way to recycle it after Christmas?

We'll be collecting real Christmas trees from doorsteps across Essex in return for a small, suggested donation.

(We'll be collecting from 7th January to 12th January 2026)

**Register Today**

[www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree](http://www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree)

Helen Rollason will receive 85% of the net monies raised  
Justhelping will distribute the remaining 15% to other local charities

 Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR  
Registered Charity No: 1052861



**JUSTHELPING**

**Helen Rollason Cancer Charity**



**New Year's resolution or a challenge in 2026?**  
 Are you looking for a challenge in the New Year? Whether you are a runner, walker, or cyclist we have something for you throughout the year starting with the London Landmarks Half Marathon and the TCS London Marathon both in April 2026. Followed by Ride for Helen scheduled for May 2026. Book your place and help us raise funds! Details of all our challenges are on our website at [www.helenrollason.org.uk/challenges](http://www.helenrollason.org.uk/challenges)

Spicing up 2026 together



Omars of Hatfield Peverel

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Community a Happy New Year!



01245 380099

## A warm welcome at Omars

Nestled at the centre of our community, Omars has become a much-loved local favourite, a place where good food, warm welcomes, and familiar faces come together.

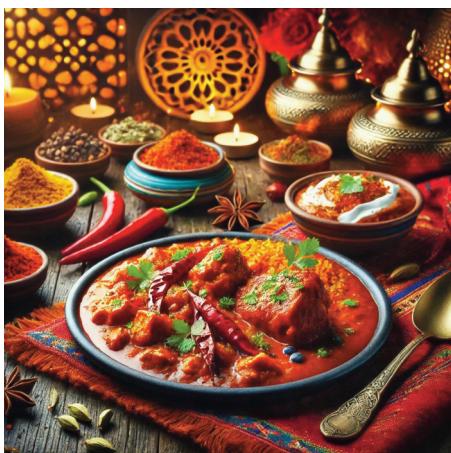
Established in 1997, Omars is proudly run by owner Shamim and his family, who have poured their passion, heritage and love of food into every aspect of the restaurant and takeaway. What started as a small venture has grown into something truly special, thanks to the support of our wonderful community.

This year, that hard work and passion was recognised in the most incredible way. Omars was awarded Best Indian Takeaway in Essex at the 2025 England's Business Awards.

"It's an achievement that means the world, not simply because of the title, but because the awards are based on customer votes. Knowing that our customers took the time to support us is something we will always be grateful for and reminds us why we do what we do every single day".

Of course, none of this would be possible without their commitment to quality. They continue to use fresh, locally sourced ingredients wherever possible, blending them with traditional Bangladeshi spices and methods to create dishes that are authentic. In addition, the menu proudly features cherished home cooked recipes by Shamim's wife Ayesha, including the popular Tuna Kebab starter, Ayesha's rezalla and Khushbu tarkari. Whether you're dining in the restaurant or picking up a takeaway to enjoy at home, Omar's want every meal to feel special.

"Ending the year on the high of being England's Business Award winners, Omars are stepping into 2026 with excitement, gratitude and a renewed passion for what we do. With your continued support, we hope to make the coming year just as memorable, filled with great food, warm welcomes and moments to share together as a community. Omars also have some exciting plans and special events coming up in the new year, so keep an eye out!"



To keep up with news, events, menus and opening times, follow Omars on Instagram [@omars\\_hatfieldpeverel](https://www.instagram.com/@omars_hatfieldpeverel) or Facebook [@omars\\_of\\_hatfield\\_peverel](https://www.facebook.com/@omars_of_hatfield_peverel) or drop in and say hello – they'd love to see you.

## Hatfield Peverel Methodist Church

HPMC had some exciting activities during the Advent and Christmas periods. Our friends at Maldon Methodist Church had their church open for the evening as part of the town celebrations and we were glad to join other friends in some musical celebrations. We also led music at our Chelmsford Methodist Circuit Advent event at Broomfield Methodist Church. It was a lovely time of sharing the anticipation associated with Advent and we concluded with a time of carol singing by candlelight in the car park.



On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December Santa was in our usual room at the Village Hall. Instead, we met in a small barn – perhaps better described as a stable. Very fitting for the time of year! There was a very special feeling of nativity with an atmosphere resonant of how a stable might have been. And more local carol singing made for a lovely preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

Thank you for sharing your prayers on our Christmas Prayer Tree in the Café. It was good to connect with those who had made requests and share in your concerns as we offered the prayers on your behalf during our post-Christmas service. Don't forget you can ask for prayers via our email address (below) or find us in the café on a Sunday morning.

As we look forward to a New Year, we are hoping to be able to introduce you to our new Community Outreach Worker. There are still some pieces of the recruitment puzzle to put in place, but we are hopeful and encouraged. There is always much to look forward to – and we hope you might like to join us at worship on a Sunday mornings from 9.15am in Room 3 of the Village Hall and at any other events we have planned.

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](mailto:hpmethodistchurch@gmail.com)



[@HPRealityChurch](https://www.facebook.com/@HPRealityChurch)

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



## WHEN WOMEN TOOK THE FIELD

May I begin our first article of 2026 by wishing all Village Voice readers a very Happy New Year on behalf of our Branch.

Our next talk at Hatfield Peverel Village Hall is on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January where our subject will be football – not something that readily springs to mind when it comes to WWI apart from stories about the Christmas Truce in 1914.

Our speaker on this topic is Steve Bolton. His talk "Total War and Women Footballers – The Dagenham Invincibles of World War 1" tells the story of the Sterling Telephone Factory and the Sterling Ladies football team. Often referred to as the Dagenham Invincibles, they went unbeaten between 1917-1919. Steve's grandmother, Lizzy Ashcroft, played for the team and was one of the most renowned players in the women's game. The talk will include how the "Mmunitionette" game developed and what happened after the War.

It is well known that throughout the war, the needs of the Army resulted in women undertaking jobs in factories and agriculture, particularly within munitions making weapons and ammunition - hard, dirty, and dangerous occupations. These were major operations, with many of the workers living in works accommodation and distractions were needed. One of the things developed was the creation of football teams, playing under the name of the factories they worked for. In Essex, these included (in addition to the already mentioned Sterling Ladies) Hoffmans' Ladies from Chelmsford and Kynoch Ltd from Shell Haven Creek.

Football boosted morale and many matches were played for charitable purposes, raising significant money for wartime charities. In some cases, spectator numbers exceeded some of the crowds seen in the Premier League even today!

Even after the war, many thousands turned up to see the matches, impacting on the returning men's game, which had been suspended in 1915 for the war's duration. Eventually attitudes changed and women's football was effectively banned on professional pitches until the 1970s.

Steve Bolton is a recognised historian of women's football throughout the ages. 2026 is, of course, a World



Football match between The Sterling Ladies and Vickers Ladies, 1918 Chalwell Park, Southend Picture: Gammelseth/the National Library of Norway

Cup year in the USA and Steve is one of a group that has curated an exhibition of Women's wartime football at the World War One Museum in Kansas - the largest WW1 Museum in the world.

### Talks for 2026

Some of the talks at Hatfield Peverel through 2026 will concentrate on local history, including Maldon in the First World War and the history of the Hoffman and Marconi factories from 1914-1945, both highly important producers of military equipment.

We meet on the second Wednesday of every other month, January, March etc. from 7:30 for an 8pm start in the room 3 off the bar area and teas and coffee are available. We request an entrance donation of £4. Members and non-members of The Western Front Association are equally welcome. Any new visitors are guaranteed a friendly atmosphere and a warm welcome from a group of like-minded enthusiasts.

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

Jim Kevany  
Essex Branch Chairman, Western Front Association

# TERLING WI



## Happy New Year from your local WI

For our November meeting we were very unfortunate that our planned speaker had to cancel at the last minute. No fear, our super committee stepped up and within a couple of hours our meeting was organised! We had several crafts out on the large communal table, and members and guests enjoyed painting all sorts of items - Christmas themed of course!

### Coming up in 2026

For this month's meeting on 22nd January we welcome Mike Courtenay, who will teach us the art of calligraphy. Members and guests are welcome, guest fee applies. And at February's meeting we will be making Dorset buttons with our very own Deb!

#### Key dates for Terling WI;

Thursday 22nd January - monthly meeting, all welcome  
guest fee applies

Thursday 26th February - monthly meeting, all welcome  
guest fee applies

For more information, contact us on [terlingwi@outlook.com](mailto:terlingwi@outlook.com), or call Lucy on 07926 649669. And follow us on social media



# Celebrating with EMC

FESTIVE FUN & ENTERTAINMENT AT THE VILLAGE HALL



Back in December, we had the pleasure of hosting the EMC Christmas Lunch – a real highlight in the club's calendar.

The afternoon began with a wonderful performance from the Year One children of Hatfield Peverel Infant School, who delighted everyone with a selection of festive songs and carols. We were then entertained by the ever-popular Liz Le Fay, who provided the perfect soundtrack while members enjoyed a delicious three-course Christmas meal, accompanied by a well-earned glass of red.

Throughout the year, we enjoy marking special occasions together. Earlier this year, members were treated to an Afternoon Tea to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day, bringing together senior residents, local schoolchildren and community groups for shared memories, music and conversation.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Belinda from the Coffee Lounge for preparing and serving such an excellent Christmas lunch for more than 20 guests. Bringing people together in this way is always special, and occasions like this remind us just how important the EMC is to our community.

The EMC (Every Members Club) was established to help tackle loneliness and bring residents together on a regular basis for companionship and support. While it is primarily aimed at older members of our community, the club is open to adults of all

ages. We meet every Wednesday from 1–3pm in the Vic Olley Room at the Village Hall for a relaxed and welcoming afternoon. Members enjoy a drink, a chat, a light lunch and a friendly activity – usually a quiz or bingo – all for just £4.

However, the club relies heavily on the dedication of volunteers. Our Chairman, Mark Weale, has been running the EMC almost single-handedly for several years and would greatly welcome some additional support. The commitment is modest – just a couple of hours a week – and shared between a small team, it would ensure the club continues to thrive rather than placing the responsibility on one person alone. If you are friendly, organised and enjoy helping others, we would love to hear from you.

The EMC is more than just a weekly meet-up – it is a lifeline for many and a valued part of village life. With a little extra help, we can make sure it continues to offer warmth, friendship and connection for years to come.

If you can help out, please get in touch with Mark at [cldrweale@hatfieldpeverelpc.com](mailto:cldrweale@hatfieldpeverelpc.com) or come along on a Wednesday to see what it's all about and how you can get involved.



## HADFELDA (LADIES) GROUP

Happy New Year from the Hadfelda Ladies! At our November meeting, one of our very talented ladies had brought along some of her paintings which she sold for a donation to charity. She sent the money to the Alzheimer's Charity and we were really delighted to receive a letter from them thanking us for the £40 donation.

Christmas is a special time and the Hadfelda December meeting is always full of fun and laughter. This year we played an adult version of 'pass the parcel' where all the members sat round in a circle holding a wrapped parcel. They then had to pass it to the left or right following the instructions read out in a Christmassy story. Great hilarity and confusion followed, but everyone eventually ended up with a gift. Our next game was to guess the number of sweets in a jar, not as easy as it sounds as some were quite small and well hidden! The one who guessed closest to the correct number won a magnificent hamper kindly made up by one of our members and full of all kinds of goodies. One of our ladies went home very happy! After the obligatory tea and mince pies, to round off the afternoon we were entertained by some very amusing readings and poetry, all with a Christmas theme.



We meet on the last Wednesday of the month in St. Andrew's Church Hall at 2pm Guests are always welcome to join us but if you'd prefer you can Marel on 01245 380827 for more information.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN 2026

28th Jan	A talk from Angela Taylor about Marie Curie
25th Feb	'An Afternoon at the Races' with Marrie Webster
25th Mar	Paul Andre - volunteering for the National Trust

By Marel Elliston

**LIVE TRADITIONAL JAZZ AT ITS BEST!**  
Wickham Bishops Village Hall, Snows Corner, CM8 3JZ

**WICKHAM BISHOPS JAZZ SATURDAYS**

**MUSICIANS**

3rd Saturday of the month  
6.30pm for 7.30pm-10.30pm

17 Jan Pete Ruderforth's Jazz Band  
21 Feb Sarah Spencer's Transatlantic Jazz Band  
21 Mar Alan Gresty & Friends

RING PETE ON 07548 775777 or EMAIL [wickhambishopsjazzclub@gmail.com](mailto:wickhambishopsjazzclub@gmail.com)  
Proceeds to charitable causes

**HATFIELD PEVEREL**



### Spanish History and Its Regions Derek Robinson

*Although you may know Spain, do you know about the country away from the Costas? In this course we look at the history of Spain from prehistoric times, through the many periods of occupation. Then on to the civil war of the 20th century and the current situation. The topography of the peninsular affects the unity of the country that boasts no less than six official languages.*

A 6 week course starting on Tuesday 3rd February 2026, 10am at the Scout & Guide HQ Church Road, Hatfield Peverel. Fee: £96.00

To book online go to [wea.org.uk/courses](http://wea.org.uk/courses)  
Use Course Code Q00025249  
Or ring: 0300 303 3464



# YOUR JANUARY FILM GUIDE: STORIES TO START THE YEAR



Our 21st season continues to pull in the crowds – great films and an excellent turnout for each screening. Currently topping the leader board is *Conclave* with an approval rating of 87.4%. The season continues with the screening of the Oscar nominated ***September 5*** on Wednesday 14th January 2026 and the highly acclaimed and Golden Globe nominated ***Fallen Leaves*** on Wednesday 28th January.

*September 5*, which stars Peter Sarsgaard, is a historical drama that focuses on the 1972 Munich Olympic hostage crisis from the perspective of the ABC Sports crew. The film highlights their transition from covering the Olympics to reporting on the hostage situation involving Israeli athletes, and showcases the intense and emotional experience of live broadcasting during a global tragedy.

Our second film of 2026, *Fallen Leaves*, is set in modern day Helsinki. It tells the story of Ansa and Holappa who are two lonely souls in search of love and who, by chance, meet in a karaoke bar. However, their path to happiness is beset by obstacles including lost phone numbers, mistaken addresses, alcoholism and a charming stray dog! The film premiered at the 76th Cannes Film Festival and was selected to compete for the Palme d'Or in its main competition section, where it won the Jury Prize. It went on to receive critical acclaim and was named one of the top five international films of 2023.

## Coming next month

Our first film for February 2026 is the 1973 classic, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, directed by Milos Forman and starring Jack Nicholson. The second is the highly acclaimed *Radical* set in a Mexican border town renowned for low achievement, violence and hardship.

Our 21st season continues until 3rd June 2026 with films being shown fortnightly on Wednesdays in 2026. 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 the membership subscription for the rest of the season remains at £25 so why not join now and watch the remaining 11 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 £18. As a member you will be asked to give your reaction to the films you have seen and 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 web site [www.maldonfilmclub.uk](http://www.maldonfilmclub.uk), pop into the Maldon Visitor Information Centre (Tuesday – Saturday between 1100 and 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 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



# STAYING ACTIVE FOR HEART HEALTH

**Hello again, everyone! It's Stefan here—your local mobile personal trainer. This month, I'd like to talk about something that affects every single one of us, no matter our age or fitness level: heart health.**



Your heart is the engine of your body. It works 24/7, pumping blood, delivering oxygen, and keeping you alive and moving. But like any engine, it needs the right care to stay strong—and regular physical activity is one of the best ways to support it.

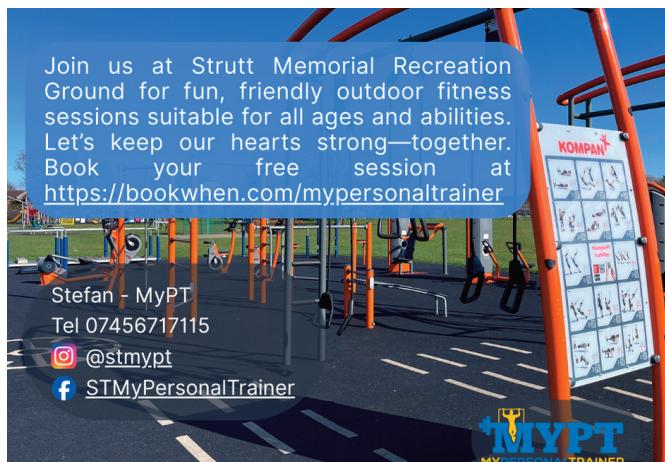
## Why Heart Health Matters

Keeping your heart healthy isn't only about avoiding illness. It's about improving your energy, mobility, and overall quality of life. Even small daily movements can make a massive difference.

Here are some key benefits of staying active for heart health:

- 1. Better circulation** – Exercise strengthens your heart so it can pump blood more efficiently.
- 2. Lower blood pressure** – Regular movement helps keep your arteries flexible and healthy.
- 3. Reduced risk of heart disease** – Staying active reduces long-term risks significantly.
- 4. Improved stamina** – Everyday tasks like walking, climbing stairs, or carrying shopping become easier.
- 5. Increased energy and mood** – A healthy heart improves overall well-being, confidence, and mental clarity.

You don't need long workouts—just **consistent movement**, whether it's walking, light cardio, strength training, or simply being less sedentary during the day.



## EXERCISE TIP OF THE MONTH: MARCHING IN PLACE

This simple, low-impact exercise boosts your heart rate, improves coordination, and strengthens your legs and core. It's perfect for beginners, older adults, or anyone wanting a gentle cardio boost at home.



### How to Do It:

- Start Position:** Stand tall with your arms by your sides.
- Begin Marching:** Lift one knee up to hip height (or as high as comfortable).
- Alternate Legs:** Continue lifting one knee at a time, marching rhythmically.
- Add Arms:** Swing your arms naturally to increase intensity.
- Duration:** Aim for 30–60 seconds, rest, and repeat 2–3 times.

To progress, lift your knees higher, march faster, or hold light weights in your hands.

Heart health is something we build day by day. A short walk, a few minutes of marching, or a gentle workout in the park can make a huge difference over time.



## HATFIELD PEVEREL & ULTING HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Society is preparing for the new year and we always welcome new members. Our thanks to Upsons farm shop who again will be making available our membership cards and year books in the Spring. Annual membership is just £3 (£2 for seniors).

We are busy organising our schedule of events for 2026 so watch this space and details will be available next month. We welcome both members and non-members at our events and would love to see you there.



## TIPS FOR YOUR GARDEN IN JANUARY

### Prune:

Continue to prune climbing roses and overgrown shrubs to give them a good start for the spring. Apple and pear trees can also be pruned to remove dead or diseased branches.

### Plant:

Bare root roses, shrubs and hedging. January is also a good time to plant ornamental trees. The cold months will enable these plants to establish roots without the demand of leaf and fruit production.

### Propagate:

Take hardwood cuttings from deciduous shrubs. Root cuttings can also be taken from some perennials such as acanthus and oriental poppies

For general information about the society, contact Clive Emberson at [cliveemberson9@gmail.com](mailto:cliveemberson9@gmail.com) or visit <https://e-voice.org.uk/hatpevgardens>



## PEVEREL WINE CLUB

# CHRISTMAS FUN AND A GREAT NEW PROGRAMME FOR 2026!

The Wine Club enjoyed its usual superb Christmas Party at the Village Hall in December, with an enjoyable 4-course buffet supper provided by members and committee, followed by live music for dancing from the excellent Beauty and the Beast, returning for a third triumphant year. Once again, they were able to tempt a selection of volunteers onto the floor to try their luck as Abba, Elton John and the Village People, the latter all surely good enough to win some applause from Donald Trump, their greatest fan!

A new addition to the evening's entertainment was Chairman Steve Spearman's introduction of a new party game during the interlude between main course and pudding: a version of Pass the Parcel which soon sorted the sheep from the goats, or rather those who knew their right from their left, from the rest of us who didn't! Six lucky ambidextrous winners were each awarded a box of Ferrero Rocher. Jill Shakespear kindly provided a seasonal quiz, in which Caroline Murphy emerged the eventual winner after a keenly-fought tiebreak – well, would you know the country from which St Nicholas originated? \*



Caz was delighted to receive a festive bottle of Santa (Julia) Malbec. This year's charity raffle, run by Laura Cranfield and Lucy Garrod, was in aid of our local Helen Rollason Cancer Charity, and raised a magnificent £155, thanks to members' incredible generosity, both in buying tickets and donating prizes. Well done everyone!

Our thoughts are now turning towards a very different event in January: The Club's Annual Quiz, where we all attempt to cudgel a few answers from our fuzzy post-Christmas brains. All have been invited to bring along a bottle of their favourite Australian or New Zealand wine to help inspiration flow a little more freely.



If you'd like to join us in January - 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](http://www.peverelwineclub.co.uk) has now been relaunched in a new and very clear, easy-to-use format – why not take a look? Our exciting new 2026 programme is nearing completion, and February promises to be an early highlight, with a South African supper and wine tasting: email Vee at [peverelwineclub@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:peverelwineclub@hotmail.co.uk) for more information.

\**St Nicolas, rather surprisingly, came from Turkey (Turkiye).*

Words by Vee Green



## WHAT'S ON AT HATFIELD PEVEREL VILLAGE HALL

We kick off 2026 on 21<sup>st</sup> January with our Legends of Rock show and follow up in February with the number one Joy Division Tribute - Shadowplay. Two shows not to be missed. The full diary for HPVH shows in 2026 is

- Jan 31 Afterlife: Legends of Rock
- Feb 28 Shadowplay: Joy Division tribute
- Mar 28 Elvis Tribute
- Apr 25 The Real Swing
- May 2 The Book of Genesis
- June 14 Pantaloons: Sherlock Holmes
- July 25 QUO'D
- Sep 26 Telegram Sam (T.Rex Tribute)
- Sep 27 Pantaloons: Twelfth Night
- Oct 31 Halloween event
- Nov 28 The Coldplay Tribute
- Dec 6 Pantaloons: Jack & the Beanstalk
- Dec 19 The ELO Encounter

Tickets for music and theatre at the hall are available from <http://tinyurl.com/HPVH-Tickets>. For all events at the hall, go to the events page on our website at [www.hatpevvhall.org](http://www.hatpevvhall.org)

We've made many improvements to the hall in 2025 including new doors, new air-conditioning and heating for the Nursery; a new oven and fire-proof shutter in the main kitchen; new tables for the Vic Olley room and a new raised bed outside the Coffee Lounge to improve the outdoor seating area and help reduce dirt coming into the lounge when it's muddy. We're grateful to the Horticultural Society for adopting the planter and maintaining this throughout the year. We've also improved the broadband at the hall and now have a full-fibre service from Gigaclear. We've made this change transparent in that we've not changed the WiFi ID nor password, but if you use the hall WiFi, you should experience a much faster internet service.

In 2026, we are planning a new roof and solar panels for the main hall, improved paths and footways around the hall, new main stage curtains and a sound-proof door for the Vic Olley/Room 3 meeting room. Many of these improvements have been made possible through generous support from Hatfield Peverel Parish Council.

 A promotional poster for 'Shadowplay: THE DEFINITIVE JOY DIVISION TRIBUTE'. The poster features a black and white graphic of a mountain range with many peaks and valleys, resembling the cover of Joy Division's 'Unknown Pleasures' album. The word 'shadowplay' is written in a large, lowercase, sans-serif font at the top, with 'THE DEFINITIVE JOY DIVISION TRIBUTE' in a smaller font below it. The word 'OFFICIAL' is on the left and 'TRIBUTE' is on the right. At the bottom, it says 'Endorsed by Peter Hook' and 'facebook.com/JDshadowplay'. The date 'Saturday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup>' is prominently displayed in the center, with 'Doors : 7pm Show : 8:00pm' and 'Tickets in advance from : [www.ticketsource.co.uk/hatfield-peverel-village-hall](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/hatfield-peverel-village-hall)' below it.

There are a wide range of clubs and societies at the hall, which you can find on our clubs page on our website. We have lots of activities for children and adults and we have some new clubs coming to the hall in 2026, including a children's drama school. We're also hoping to add a yoga group.

All details on our website at [www.HatPevVHall.org](http://www.HatPevVHall.org) on the village hall noticeboards and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/hatfieldpeverelvillagehall](http://www.facebook.com/hatfieldpeverelvillagehall) or call the Box office & room bookings number on **0300 102 0473**. Or scan the QR codes below.

If you want to get notified about future events and ticket sales by email, join our mailing list by scanning the QR code. You'll receive just one email at the end of each month with details of the coming events – and you can unsubscribe at any time.



Mailing List



HPVH Website



# HPVH & AFTERLIFE



present:

# LEGENDS of Rock

You'll hear from Rock Legends including Led Zeppelin, Lynyrd Skynyrd, The Rollin' Stones, Neil Young, ZZ Top, U2, Free, The Eagles, Eddie and the Hot Rods, Bad Company, Bob Segar and more. All the classic Rock n Roll Legends from the 60's to today. Grab your leather jacket, blue jeans and air-guitar and prepare for a night of classic rock.

## Hatfield Peverel Village Hall

### Saturday, Jan 31<sup>st</sup>



Click to Buy Tickets

Doors : 7pm Show : 8:00pm

Tickets in advance from :-

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/hatfield-peverel-village-hall](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/hatfield-peverel-village-hall)