

A pdf version will be on the village website at [www.hempstead-essex.org.uk](http://www.hempstead-essex.org.uk) and a hard copy is available on the Parish Council Noticeboard.

### **Parish Council**

#### **Responsibilities**

Our new Councillors have taken on responsibilities as follows: Carrie Hughes for Health & Wellbeing, and Emma Tarry for Communications (Parish Council Web site). Members of the Parish Council can be directly contacted by emailing the Parish Clerk at [parishclerkhempstead@gmail.com](mailto:parishclerkhempstead@gmail.com).

#### **Highways**

We are very grateful to Cllr Martin Foley for his intervention when Anso Road was marked as a diversion following Finchingfield Bridge being closed for works. The diversion was immediately withdrawn after photographs of lorries, a tractor and trailer and a coach met, significantly mounting the verges to pass each other, causing verge collapse that blocks drains, and produces flooding.

#### **Local Plan**

The Council discussed the creation of a Neighbourhood Priorities Statement to work alongside the new Local Plan once the National Planning Policy Framework has been agreed. The Statement would set out the primary desires of the village on matters such as Housing and Development, Transport and Connectivity, Environment, Health & Wellbeing and the Local Economy.

Residents will be able to have their say on these topics when the matter is progressed in the autumn.

#### **Uttlesford District Council message re: support with Heating Oil**

You may have seen the government announcement of £53m of support for vulnerable households who rely on heating oil.

The support will be targeted to help low-income households in rural communities affected by the recent surge in costs. The additional funding will be distributed by local authorities via the Crisis and Resilience Fund, which comes into effect on 1 April and replaces the temporary Household Support Fund. Locally, the fund will be administered by [Essex County Council](#). Please direct residents to them, not UDC.

If help is needed before the Crisis and Resilience Fund starts in April, people can apply to local councils (Essex County Council) for support, but any cash would need to be from existing pots of money.

The Cost of Living Support section on our website [Cost of living support - Uttlesford District Council](#) has been updated to make it clear who enquiries should be made to if residents need help with their heating costs.

UDC officers will also be attending pan-Essex meetings and will work to ensure available funds are distributed equitably to those in need.

#### **Bus Consultation – reply from Cllr Mark Platt of ECC to the Parish Council**

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of Hempstead Parish Council regarding the proposed withdrawal and redesign of certain bus services operating within the Uttlesford area.

Essex County Council is currently consulting on changes to services 59/590/319/320/321 and 305/315/325. These proposals have been brought forward to ensure that supported local bus services remain financially sustainable and continue to align with the Council's Supported Local Bus Services Priority Policy, which assesses value for money using a benchmark Cost Per Passenger Journey (CPPJ). For services 59/590/319/320/321, earlier passenger data had indicated that several routes were operating significantly above the £5 CPPJ benchmark, prompting the proposal to retain only the best-performing service (319) and withdraw the remainder. However, more recent data collected between October and December 2025 shows improved performance across the contract, with CPPJ now consistently below £7.50. Subject to the outcome of the current consultation, this improved position supports the potential continuation of the full contracted services for a further two years, with scope for contract extensions. We fully recognise that the withdrawal of certain services would affect some smaller settlements—such as Hempstead, Radwinter, Swards End, Great Hallingbury, Bedlars Green and Gaston Green—which would lose their only fixed-route public bus provision. Larger settlements, however, would continue to be served by alternative public transport options.

Please be assured that no final decisions have been made. The purpose of the consultation is to gather feedback from residents, passengers and stakeholders before any changes are confirmed. All comments received will be carefully considered alongside the operational and financial evidence.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on the **Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm** in the village hall. *Members of the pubic are always welcome to attend Parish Council meetings to raise issues with the council but can't speak during the formal proceedings.*

*Nick Turkentine - Chairman*

### Litter Picked



First bags back.....

Mark Welbourn of the Parish Council organised a litter pick on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March to keep our village looking as we would wish it to be, and a trusty team turned out in support covering all the area within the 30mph limits (and a bit beyond).



Mark Welbourn

### Footpaths

Some footpaths across fields have now had the crops sprayed off so please enjoy using them. Dogs must always be under control and keep to the paths only please.

*Thank you*

### A message from Local Fire Officer Kevin Jenner

As the Station Manager covering Sible Hedingham, Saffron Walden and Thaxted, keeping our community safe is at the heart of everything my team and I do. Over the last 12 months, firefighters have attended 731 house fires across Essex, and here in Uttlesford alone there have been 23 house fires, tragically resulting in one fatality. Behind every number is a home, a family, and a life affected.

From attending incidents locally, we know that cooking is the leading cause of house fires, accounting for 23%, followed by electrical devices/appliances at 14%. Many of these fires were preventable with small changes, such as never leaving cooking unattended and regularly checking electrical appliances and cables.

One of the most concerning trends is that smoke alarms were present in only 72% of homes where fires occurred. Smoke alarms provide an early warning and can make the difference between safely escaping and being overcome by smoke. We also see that 68% of house fires in Uttlesford happened in homes with only one occupant, which highlights how important it is for people living alone to have working smoke alarms and a clear escape plan.

The good news is that there is support available. Essex County Fire and Rescue Service offers free Home Safety Visits to anyone living in Essex. During the visit, firefighters or our safety team can provide personalised advice, help you plan an escape route, and fit smoke alarms where needed.

These visits are completely free and could help save your life or the life of someone you love. If you or someone you know would benefit, please take a few minutes to book a visit.

Phone: 0300 303 0088 Online: [www.essex-fire.gov.uk](http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk)

Email: [home.safety@essex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:home.safety@essex-fire.gov.uk)

### Our lovely village in Spring



### Easter at St. Andrews



Thursday 2nd April -  
Maundy Thursday, 7.30pm  
Eucharist (SL)  
This is the only service at St.  
Andrew's over Easter. Other  
service information is  
available at [The Churches of  
Thaxted, The Sampfords,  
Radwinter and Hempstead](#)

### 'Gig on the Glebe'



Save the date!  
**Saturday 11 July, 2-9pm**, 'Gig on the  
Glebe', Hempstead  
Live music, food, and a bar!  
Children's activities, local stalls, and a  
chance to visit the church.  
Please contact Diane Frainer on 07940  
558328 if you can help with the  
preparations or on the day!

### Knitting Group



Next meeting  
dates for the group are  
Fridays, the 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>  
April and the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>  
May, in the village hall,  
from 10am to 11.30am.  
£2 per session. All are  
welcome for a very  
sociable morning.

### Next Bric-a-brac sale

We are back in Thaxted on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April** from 9-1.30pm for our next bric-a-brac sale raising funds for the village hall. As always there will be a wide selection of house, garden, vintage hobbies, art, small furniture and much more. Do come along and support us if you can. The town has a small market on Friday mornings, and some other lovely shops so why not bring a friend and enjoy a pleasant trip.

**If you have some good quality items to donate, please email me at [diana\\_frost@lineone.net](mailto:diana_frost@lineone.net) or mobile: 07796 438137.** I'm happy to collect, thank you.

### Booking the Village Hall

The online booking form to hire the village hall on the village website can only be completed online if you have Adobe Acrobat downloaded on your device. Some people have suggested the form "doesn't work" and this is the reason. If you prefer, you can print off the form, complete it, scan it and send it by email that way or write to Julie Dalton, Booking Secretary, via [villagehall2023@gmail.com](mailto:villagehall2023@gmail.com) in the first instance.



**T&C:** Newsletter entries must be received by [diana\\_frost@lineone.net](mailto:diana_frost@lineone.net) by the **24<sup>th</sup>** of each month. Only village events will be promoted. No advertisements or personal profit promotions will be featured. To unsubscribe, email Diana Frost.