

FELSTED

# FOCUS

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

AUTUMN 2021

ISSUE 13

A FREE complimentary magazine or 80p where purchased

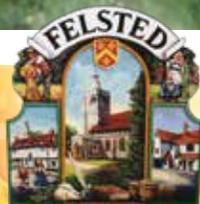
QUARTERLY



© Chris Church

## INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

- Clubs ■ Churches ■ Features ■ Parish Council & District
- Council news ■ What's on Diary ■ Puzzles
- Trade & Service Directories



# Calling All Trades

Felsted Parish Council operates an open and transparent process for contract works on Parish assets.

The Council is keen to hear from locally based trades who wish to be considered for both small construction and general maintenance works.

If you are local trade and wish to be added to our list of potential suppliers, please contact the Parish Clerk at:



Phone: 01371 823071  
Email: [clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk)



## Note from the Editor

Summer is over and Autumn is here. I love this time of year; blue skies, frosty days, fruit ripened, and most of all, bonfire night.

It is great that the Parish will have its own Christmas Tree this year! You will see in the centre pages that there will be 'Decorate the Tree Day' on the 13th November with the chance to make and learn other home decorations. Please, kids of all ages, come along as entry and materials will be free. Anyone who can help or can teach crafts please let me know.

The cover photo, and others inside, have been taken by our own Chris Church, who is now embarking on another local film. We are lucky to have not only great countryside but our own nature area. Go out and try and outdo Chris because we will be having a competition in 2022.

See you all on the 13th November!

*Janice*

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## Felsted Friendship Club

Felsted Friendship Club has resumed meetings in Felsted Memorial Hall on the 3rd Friday of the month 2.15 – 4.15pm. In June Dicky Howlett provided an enjoyable afternoon with his films of local celebrations and pantomime excerpts. In July Christine Middleton gave an illustrated talk about a variety of gardens including Bodnant, Hyde Hall and Marks Hall. In August we are looking forward to an illustrated talk about a Wildlife Safari in Brazil.

Members sit the required distance apart with doors and windows open and mask wearing. We are not providing cushions for the chairs as these would require washing after each meeting so if members would like a cushion they bring their own.

### Meetings planned for the next few months:

Sep 17 'Amusing occurrences in the police force'  
Sep 22 – free half day outing  
Oct 15 Felsted School Band  
Sat Nov 6 Coffee Morning, 10.30 – 12.00  
Nov 19 Banking scams

New members are always most welcome, Friendship Club details available from Alison Moore (821632) or Sue King (821411)

## Wool and Waffle

We are starting again on Monday October 4th from 10.30am - 12 noon in the Heather Room in the Memorial Hall. Please come along to knit or just for a cup of coffee and a chat. Coffee is 50p.

We still have some requests for our knitting. More will come.

Men and women are all welcome.

Kitty Drury 01371 820444



## Felsted WI

We're back! Yes, meetings are reconvening in the Memorial Hall. Come and join us on 8 September at 7.45pm for a talk on "Princesses who didn't get the Disney treatment". Of course we haven't been resting on our laurels. In July we enjoyed an informal outdoors get-together on Bannister Green with delicious home made cakes and (thankfully) warm sunshine! And in August we had an impromptu meeting in the Hall - member Christine Middleton displayed her awe-inspiring creative skills with a flower arranging demonstration and there was time for coffee, more cake and some long overdue catching up. A dozen of us also managed an outing to Bardfield Vineyard for a tour, wine tasting and (yes, you guessed it) more cake. Things are definitely looking up! And we would love you to join us.



For more information on WI please contact Margaret Smith on 01371 822092 or Penny Lewis on 07825 312829.

## Advertising in the

FELSTED  
**FOCUS**  
COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

The Felsted Focus is delivered to approximately 1100 properties in the parish of Felsted and available on the parish council's website.

It is published by Felsted Parish Council every month and they are pleased to support local businesses by offering advertising space in this magazine.

Advertising rates, apart from the trade directory, are on a monthly or discounted yearly basis and are all in full colour.

### TRADE DIRECTORY

£60 per year for a simple black and white text entry. Space is on a first come first served basis.

### COLOUR ADVERTS

Per issue  
¼ page £25, ½ page £50, Full page £100

We understand that times have been difficult for many businesses in the last few months and we will happily speak with you about payment schedules. Please contact us at [felstededitor@gmail.com](mailto:felstededitor@gmail.com).



## Felsted Memorial Hall

Hello everyone!

Here we are at the end of summer, and what a washout it's been hasn't it! It's a bit of a job to keep on top of the weeds in the garden, they seem to grow before your very eyes! But I hope you've all stayed well and enjoyed yourselves.

The Memorial hall is now becoming very busy, it's good to see. There are some new groups either started or starting in September. The "TakeNote" band practice every Monday evening. Some lovely music can be heard when the doors are open.

"Messy Splat" play takes place on Wednesday afternoons. I haven't been brave enough to peep in yet!

Then on a Monday afternoon from September, "Stretch, Tone and Mobility" will be keeping fit.

Our regular groups are all back with us. If you want to book the hall, call Sheila on 07958 140930

We have had some very positive remarks about the improvements made in the hall, though it hasn't been without a few problems, like leaks in the gent's toilet. We have had to call an independent plumber who resolved the issues quickly, but there was a lot of mopping up and drying out to be done! You will notice that we have had a new floor laid in the kitchen, very smart. Also, a group of us formed a "painting party" and decorated the Heather room. So, all is fresh and clean just waiting for you.

The Panto group are meeting in the next few weeks to plan a rehearsal schedule. We want another cast member to play one of the lead parts, so if you are longing to get on that stage, just call me on 01371 820108. You'll have fun, I promise!

Enjoy the autumn and I'll chat to you in the Winter.

Hazel Fox

## HIRE THE FELSTED MEMORIAL HALL

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- Exhibitions
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3 Large rooms  
plus the hall.  
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Call Sheila Kill 07926 377343

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**WEA**

Adult Learning  
Within Reach

**Felsted Branch Autumn 2021**

**Starting in SEPTEMBER**

**ONLINE delivery likely**

**"Native American History" with Ian Chambers**

**10 sessions \* 2 hours**

**MONDAY evenings from 19.30: From 27th September**

**"Rise of Crime as Entertainment" with Kate Jewell**

**10 sessions \* 2 hours**

**THURSDAY mornings from 09.00: From 30th September**

**Further detail: Felsted FOCUS**

**or <https://wea-essex.org.uk/branches/felsted/>**

**01371 704796 [felsted.branch@wea.ac.uk](mailto:felsted.branch@wea.ac.uk)**

**The WEA is a charity registered in England & Wales; number 1112775**



# Services

**9AM: 2ND, 4TH & 5TH SUNDAYS**

**11AM: EVERY SUNDAY**  
WITH YOUNG PEOPLE GROUPS

[WWW.FELSTEDCHURCH.ORG.UK](http://WWW.FELSTEDCHURCH.ORG.UK)

We, at the United Reformed Church, are up and running and almost back to normal.

A few of our members are still very nervous about going out and about and we do hope that when their confidence returns they will soon be back to join us.

Our harvest service has been put forward to October when we plan to have a lunch and an auction of the produce after the service. The Women's Guild will be starting again in September, our first meeting will be an afternoon tea with entertainment when will be celebrating the special birthday's that some members have had during lockdown (90 and 100 years).

Anyone who would like to attend church or the guild will be made very welcome, we look forward to seeing old friends and perhaps some new.

As we have mentioned in previous editions please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you need a helping hand or just need someone to talk to, we are always willing to help where we can.

Contact Diane 01376 583994



	WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	CONTACT
<b>Monday</b>	14:30	Tone and Stratch	Memorial Hall	
	17:00	Brownies	Memorial Hall	01245 361262
	19:15	Take Note Band	07889 851588	Memorial Hall
<b>Tuesday</b>	16:00	Sirius Young Performers	Memorial Hall	07554 703641
<b>Wednesday</b>	13:39	Messy Splat Play	Memorial Hall	07515 254464
	19:45	WI 2nd Wednesday of Month	Memorial Hall	Penny 07825 312829
<b>Thursday</b>	09:00	Tai Chi	Memorial Hall	07522 586788
	17:00	Junior dance	Memorial Hall	whitecourtdance@hotmail.co.uk
	18:00	Senior dance	Memorial Hall	whitecourtdance@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Friday</b>	13:39	Messy Splat Play	Memorial Hall	07515 254464
	19:45	WI 2nd Wednesday of Month	Memorial Hall	Penny 07825 312829
<b>Saturday</b>				
<b>Sunday</b>	09:00	Sunday service 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays	Felsted Holy Cross	www.felstedchurch.org.uk
	10:00	Sunday service	URC Hall	Diane 01376 583994
	11:00	Sunday service with children's groups	Felsted Holy Cross	www.felstedchurch.org.uk



### **New Faces at the Parish Council**

Following permission from Uttlesford District Council to co-opt to fill two vacancies local residents Hywel Jones and Andrew Parker have both joined the Parish Council. The Parish Council has also appointed a new Youth representative, Will Bennett. The Youth Council representative will help young people in Felsted to have a voice and contribute a younger point of view to council deliberations.

We welcome Hywel, Andrew and Will to the Parish Council and we look forward to working with them.

### **Box Clever at Willows Green**

The telephone box at Willows Green has been given a new lease of life with the installation of a lifesaving defibrillator. A defibrillator can provide vital treatment for people in cardiac arrest and they are really simple and easy to use - they are designed for use by someone who has NOT received any training.

There are very simple instructions (given verbally, you don't have to read instructions) to attach the pads to the patient and then the defibrillator does its own test to decide whether or not to shock the patient. If a shock is not needed then the defibrillator will not deliver it. We'd like to remind you that if you suspect someone is suffering from a heart attack always call 999 first.

The telephone box was originally home to a book exchange, and after consultation with the residents of Willows Green the Parish Council has installed some new book shelving in the telephone box, so that books can sit alongside the defibrillator, thus making the most of a very small space. This will once again be a brilliant facility for the Willows Green Community.

### **On the Right Path**

Felsted are lucky to have the Parish Paths Partnership volunteer group who have been working hard over the recent months to keep Felsted's footpaths clear by replacing markers, clearing brambles and making sure paths are passable where they can.

After a spring and summer punctuated with sunshine and showers, Essex County Council are reporting an extremely heavy growth of vegetation. This has affected footpaths all around Felsted and it means that some of the footpaths are still quite overgrown. The Parish Council are aware of this and will report any incidents of overgrown footpaths you tell us about



to the Highways Department at Essex County Council to rectify. Please be aware that residents can also report issues themselves by using the Essex County Council Website <https://www.essexhighways.org/tell-us/problem-check>

### **Keep Felsted Tidy**

In the last edition of the Felsted Focus we recognised that there is an issue with littering. We'd like to remind you that if you are using the parks and green spaces in Felsted and the bins are full please take your litter home with you. Please don't leave litter piled around the bins.

If you would like to help in the fight against litter and do a litter pick in Felsted, please get in touch with the Parish Council who can provide you with all the equipment you will need.

### **Say it with Flowers**

The Parish Council would like to thank David Dempsey for his many years of organising the Parish's floral displays. David is looking to hand over this responsibility now, so we are looking for a volunteer or volunteers who would like to coordinate the planting up, and caring for the floral displays around Felsted. David's years of dedication have brought a riot of colour to Felsted and we are very grateful to him.

### **Sparkle and Shine**

As the nights draw in and autumn is in the air, the Parish Council are looking forward to making the festive period it a really special time with the Christmas tree in the village. If you would like to sponsor the Christmas tree, or make a donation towards it please contact the Assistant Clerk ([asstclerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk](mailto:asstclerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk))

Heather Read Clerk to Felsted Parish Council  
01371 823071 [clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk) [www.felsted-pc.gov.uk](http://www.felsted-pc.gov.uk)

Keep up to date with all the council news – Visit the PC website and enter your email address to receive automatic notification by e-mail of all news articles as they are posted on the website.

## Janet's Recipes

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### Almond And Pear Tart

I acquired this recipe from the hosts of a chalet in the French Alps and it has become a family favourite. It is a great way to use this year's pear harvest, or you can cheat and use tinned pears

#### INGREDIENTS

##### Tart

- Ready-made shortcrust pastry
- 75g/4oz butter
- 75g/4oz caster sugar
- 75g/4oz ground almonds
- 25g/1oz plain flour
- 1 egg beaten
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 poached pears OR 4 tinned pear halves sliced evenly
- 1tbsp apricot jam

##### Poaching Liquid if required

- 1½ pints water
- 225g/8oz sugar
- cinnamon stick (optional)

#### METHOD

If using fresh pears, peel, core and poach pears for 5-15 minutes until soft (allow to cool).

- Heat oven to 180 degrees/350C/Mark 4
- Line a flan dish with pastry and chill until needed
- Beat together butter and sugar until fluffy
- Mix in ground almonds, flour, beaten egg and yolk.
- Fill the pastry case and level with a spatula
- Place the pear slices on top, pressing slightly
- Bake for 45-50 minutes (check after 40 minutes)
- Bring jam to boil with 1tbsp water, and brush over flan whilst still warm



## Blooming Great!

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Led by David Dempsey, a small team of green fingered volunteers who maintain our flower tubs ensure that Felsted is dressed in fabulous floral finery all year round.

David has lived in Felsted for over 60 years and for 25 years has led a committed team of local residents, who plant our lovely tubs and troughs in spring and autumn. From a relatively modest 11 tubs and 4 troughs back in the 1990's, such has been the pleasure the displays have brought, the number of tubs has now doubled to 22 and a couple of more troughs have also been added to produce the annual flower shows. The tubs are not only to be found in the village centre. This year both Crix Green and Cock Green are enjoying flower power, courtesy of David and the team.

David began this labour of love in 1996 as an assistant to Betty Smith. Since then, David principally aided by Brian Grimshaw and the redoubtable George Bellingham-Smith, reckon they have planted more than 20,000 bedding plants in the annual displays. And compost? Oh yes! Approaching 40 tons of the stuff! This summer alone, over 600 plants and 62 bags of compost have been used to produce the enviable show.

Tubs and troughs are planted and refreshed twice a year. In May, hundreds of marigolds, salvias and alyssum were planted to take over



from the tired perennial polyanthus that had brightened the winter months. In October the cycle begins again. David and the team will remove the summer annuals and new polyanthus will return to brighten the winter and take us through to next spring. The summer bedding plan changes annually but the polyanthus are welcome and reliable regulars in our displays.

• *David presented a with an engraved trowel from the Parish Council*



## Blooming Great!

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“The hardest part of keeping this going is the planning.” Said David. “We couldn’t do this without the help and total commitment of wonderful local people like George Bellingham-Smith, Brian Grimshaw and our volunteer planters and waterers.

We used to use George’s trailer to shift the big 50Kg bags of compost. But unlike George, his trailer has been pensioned off! Fortunately, Brian Grimshaw came to the rescue with his trailer and it’s an essential for the team. We couldn’t do without it.

Planting the tubs twice a year is actually the easiest part, it doesn’t take that long at all. With the volunteers we can do the whole lot in under two hours. It’s the daily watering and dead heading that the volunteers undertake, particularly in the summer, to keep the plants looking fresh, that is the really hard and time-consuming part. They are the backbone of this operation.”

The plants and compost are paid for by the Parish Council and bought by David from Bourne Brook Nurseries at Greensted Green. David and the team ensure that dead organic summer material is taken for recycling and lucky parishioners get to share the ‘evicted’ perennials in May!

Was David a horticulturalist by profession? Not all. David ran his own business, for many years producing plastic and acrylic mouldings, including those very familiar salt and pepper mills. “They were everywhere. My wife and I even saw small versions on Concorde!” Said David. Fortunately for Felsted, in more recent years David’s efforts have been more ground-based but no less supersonic!



The Parish Council would like to extend heart-felt thanks to David Dempsey, George Bellingham-Smith, Brian Grimshaw and the whole team for their unstinting efforts.

• *Marigolds, salvias and alyssum bringing colour to Felsted.*

## Planning in Felsted

The Focus Editorial team are occasionally asked to include details of either upcoming or recent decisions on Planning Applications within the Parish in the Focus magazine.

Unfortunately, this is not possible due both to timing issues and the space reports would require. As an example, as I write this in early August, the minutes of the most recent July Planning Committee meeting ran to 13 A4 pages of text! This included 10 pages of submission to the Planning Inspectorate about the Appeal for a potential “Gypsy and Traveller site” on Chelmsford Road in Causeway End. That report alone would take the whole of a couple of issues the Focus!

Fortunately, for those of you who want to monitor planning issues, if you have access to the internet it is quite easy to find details of current planning applications or the Parish Council’s Planning Committee responses to recent applications.

### Here’s how.

Go to the Parish Council Website (<https://www.felsted-pc.gov.uk/>). Under the “Meetings & Documents” tab you will find a list of both Agenda’s and Minutes. By selecting the next “Planning Committee meeting” agenda you will see a list of all current applications with the Uttlesford District Council (UDC) reference number highlighted in blue. This is a live link to the UDC planning Website. Clicking on the blue highlighted link will take you directly to the application you are interested in.

On the UDC Website, under the “documents” tab for the application, you will find all details of the application including location, layout, site plans and any submitted responses from residents. By registering, you can also comment on any “open” application by clicking on the “make a comment” tab. Alternatively you can submit comments via email to: [planning@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:planning@uttlesford.gov.uk) (making sure to include the application reference number), or by post to planning at UDC.

For agendas: <https://www.felsted-pc.gov.uk/meetings/agendas/>

For recent minutes: <https://www.felsted-pc.gov.uk/meetings/minutes/planning-committee/>

In the interests of “openness and transparency” it is important also to note that all full Felsted Parish Council and Planning Committee meetings are always open to the public. The agenda will state whether attendance can be “in person” or via “Zoom” (if via “Zoom” - please email the Parish Clerk for the link). UDC is the statutory Local Planning Authority; Felsted Parish Council has no power to accept or refuse planning applications but is invited by UDC to comment on all applications (or HM Inspectorate in the case of Appeals) and is therefore a consultee, in the same way as residents of the Parish can comment.

# Felsted CHRISTMAS Unlocked!

Try as hard as we all did, we just couldn’t make Christmas 2020 feel like Christmas should. Forced apart from family and friends and unable to travel, a Covid Christmas wasn’t what any of us wanted. So, this year we’re making up for it: big time!

To kick off the 2021 festive season, for the first time Felsted Parish Council is going to make sure Felsted has its very own super-size community Christmas tree. The Council, along with the Felsted FOCUS team and supported by the Events Committee, want to make Felsted’s tree the best in the County!

The tree will be in what ‘senior’ Felstedians know as Woodley’s car park; for the rest of us that’s the car park alongside Linsells and in front of the British Legion in Station Road.

At over 20 feet tall, our locally grown fir will be decked with 3000 lights and some very special environmentally friendly decorations. Local firms are contributing and helping to erect the tree.

There will be a special switch on and a real seasonal celebration of the start of Felsted’s Christmas Unlocked! We may even have someone very special to throw the switch. Ooooh! But, that’s a secret. We will let the Christmas cat out of the bag and FOCUS your attention on the big ‘Switch on’ event nearer to Christmas.

For now, we’re calling on children of all ages to help create some very special decorations for the Felsted tree.



**Naked Christmas trees  
seen hiding near Felsted**

# Decoration day...

## Be Crafty and Dec the Tree with...

On Saturday 13th November a really fun and free Decoration Day is going to be happening at the Memorial Hall in Braintree Road. We're going to prepare all the decorations for the Christmas tree and some for your homes too!

As part of our commitment to the environment, our aim is to use biodegradable materials on the Felsted tree and biodegradable and recycled materials to create home decorations. And don't worry if the Christmas budget is a bit strained. Thanks to the Events Committee, the Parish Council, the Memorial Hall Committee and the FOCUS volunteers, entry and materials for to Decoration Day is free to all Felsted residents. We want as many of you as possible to be involved in crafting some truly original environmentally friendly and biodegradable decorations and to have fun doing it!

The main garland for the tree will be over 100 metres long and will have hundreds of painted decorations strung along it. Children, mums, dads and grandparents will be able to add their own hand-crafted decorations to the main garland. All materials, cones, stars, snowflakes, and blank discs of wood from slices of a very special Felsted tree lost during the year will all be provided. We'll also have an even-tempered adult crafter on-hand to help struggling would be artists!



# Crafty Christmas to go!

As well as decorating our community tree, there will be crafters on-hand to show how children of all ages can make lovely items to decorate their own trees and homes. Once again all materials will be supplied.

Our artful crafters will show you how easy and fun it is to make really personal items like cards and gift tags. We will also be making Scandie stars, snow globes and much more.



Ever produced reindeer food? No. Thought not! Well, our crafters will help ensure Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, and Blitzen don't go hungry!

Just so you know, Rudolph was the ninth addition made famous by the politically incorrect song about his red nose!

And then there's Olive, the other reindeer. (Hmm enough said!)

.. and will the real Rudolph step forward!



# Santa Claus' Postbox

## A letter to SANTA!

We're having a very special post box for letters to Santa. No need to queue at the post office! (Wonderful Linsells is available for all other postal requirements).

All letters posted on the day with a return address in Felsted will be sent to the north pole, opened by (double jabbed) elves, sprinkled with Christmas magic (guaranteed to kill 99% of all household germs) and personally answered by the (appropriately masked) man himself!

If you need a hand deciding what to write, we aim to have one of his elves (furlough permitting) on-hand to help create the magic.

Best of all, the cost of return postage to Santa will be just an expectant smile!

### Felsted's Decoration Day – Help Needed

We already have some wonderful people in the team, but we need more! If you are a crafter or are prepared to help organising the event, can provide materials or are able to give up just a few hours on Saturday the 13th November we'd be very grateful.

**Help us make this a memorable day for Felsted Children of all ages!**

## DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' CORNER:

A Local Plan, why do we need one? Well, as you may recall every District Council needs one. This will contain development policies for our district up to 2040, so that the right facilities and infrastructure are in place to support our communities and to grow the local economy. Every Local Plan must contain policies that will include for example provision for: housing, employment, landscape, green spaces, and heritage, among others.

All information discussed below about the Local Plan can be accessed easily via the UDC website on: <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan> Why not have a look if you have a spare five minutes, and you might even consider registering your interest to be kept advised of updates The initial Consultation exercise was conducted through a series of 'Themed' presentations and the Stakeholder Forums and ran from November 2020 to April 2021. All of the comments then made will help to draft an initial version of the Local Plan that will be ready for consultation in the spring of 2022. All comments made are available to read and are easily accessible through the website.

The biggest and possibly most emotive issue in all Local Plans concerns the number of dwellings that need to be planned for and their locations. The number required is not plucked out of the air but is one that is calculated and imposed by the Government for each individual Local Authority and has to be achieved through their Local Plan. Uttlesford has been given 706 dwellings as its annual requirement district wide and which will run through every year until 2040. Therefore, that is why there was a 'Call for Sites' which lists the land submitted by their owners as potentially "available" for housing, for employment land and for the first time, green spaces. Just because an owner submits a site, it does not mean that it will be allocated in the draft plan. In fact, the 299 sites submitted district wide would provide about six times more dwellings than is required for the local plan.

To aid the council reach the evidenced led decisions on the submitted sites, they have been assessed over the summer and will go for a technical consultation to check that all the factual information submitted about each site is correct. This will go to all Town and Parish Councils and Felsted PC will be consulted in the Autumn. You can see every site that has been submitted on the interactive map via a link above. The next consultation is scheduled for March 2022 which is called 'the Draft (Regulation 18) Local Plan' stage and this is a consultation that we would encourage you to take part in. We will write more about this stage closer to the time.

Should there be any questions that this article has raised or any others that we can be of help with, please do get in touch with us.

[cllrmerifield@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrmerifield@uttlesford.gov.uk) and [cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk](mailto:cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk)

Our very best wishes *Sandi Merifield and John Evans*

## Wildlife filmmaker

Chris Church is a professional cameraman and photographer. His passion for wildlife filmmaking and photography began as a young boy fishing the rivers and lakes in Essex taking in all the sights, sounds and colours that nature has to offer. After buying his first stills film camera at the age of 13 and taking an image of a Robin on his parents' plant pots he was hooked to photography. Chris is now about to start filming wild life in the local area.

During lockdown Chris grabbed his camera to discover the wildlife on his home patch... Felsted Parish's own nature area on Station Road. Here is just a selection of some of his great images.



© Chris Church

Photographs:  
Chris Church



© Chris Church

## Wildlife filmmaker

To see more of Chris' images and what he gets up to on location you can follow him at: [www.instagram.com/chrischurchfilmmaker](https://www.instagram.com/chrischurchfilmmaker)



© Chris Church



© Chris Church

## A sad goodbye...

### to the Purple Beech in the Churchyard

As reported in the “Summer Edition”, issue 12 of the Felsted Focus magazine regrettably it was necessary to arrange the felling of one of the much loved beech trees that dominate the centre of the village. This has now been done and below is an explanation why this was found necessary.

During a routine triennial inspection of Parish trees the tree was found to be exhibiting internal decay that it was thought, could be severely affecting its structural integrity. It was recognised that the tree was a very impressive landmark, being situated in the churchyard behind the church and because it appeared to be in good apparent health and vigour, with no obvious visible problems, confirmation should be sought from more than one qualified arboricultural specialist that it could not be saved.

The head arboricultural officer of Uttlesford Council was consulted as the tree was subject to a Tree Preservation Order. Following his inspection he recommended that the tree should be felled due to it being deemed a hazardous tree.

A supporting independent arboricultural survey confirmed that there was a large decay cavity to the northern side of the stem from below ground level and that this decay was affecting the buttress roots to the north and east where sound tests revealed hollowing, indicating internal decay and loss of structural integrity. Other structural roots were likely to be affected similarly.

The rate of advancing decay with associated loss of structural stability through fungal establishment, (which for the technical amongst you was thought to be *Meripulis giganteus*, together with the additional colonisation with *Ganoderma* spp), necessitated felling of the tree. With the risks associated with the close proximity of the church buildings, parishioner’s legitimate access to the churchyard and an informal path, the safe retention of the tree was considered unsustainable.

It is a condition of the Tree Preservation Order classification of the original tree that *“a replacement purple beech tree shall be planted adjacent to the position of the original tree during the first planting season (October- March) following felling and at a size of not less than 14cm girth”*.

## A sad goodbye...

### to the Purple Beech in the Churchyard

It is hoped that parts of the tree can salvaged and perhaps used to make a bench for the nature area and/or small mementos. Very thin slices of branches from the tree will be made available at the Craft Day that is featured elsewhere in this magazine for children to paint and decorate, which will then be hung on the village Christmas tree that is being planned for the centre of the village this year.



## Call for nature

### Your opportunity to identify environmentally important areas within Felsted

To protect the much-loved green spaces from development in Felsted (and Uttlesford), the council is inviting residents to help map environmentally important areas.

A "Call for Nature" is part of the Uttlesford Local Plan project to devise new planning policy in the district.

Uttlesford District Council wants to hear from residents, children and schools, nature groups and the many people who regularly walk our countryside.

The council also hopes some of these sites will benefit from extra funding and expertise in future.

You can contribute online @ : <https://uttlesfordbiodiversitymap.commonplace.is/> or you can go to the Felsted Parish Council Website <https://www.felsted-pc.gov.uk/> where you will find a live link to click on under "latest News"

## Gardening Tips



### ...FOR AUTUMN 2021

Summer gently fades into autumn as the days shorten and although the afternoons are warm, the nights are much cooler. The resulting morning dews revive the tired garden

Daffodils need to be planted by early September in sunny, warm positions. The bulbs should be planted at least 10 cm below the surface.

When the summer bedding is past its best, the large pots can be put to good use and planted up to produce a winter container that looks good from September to May. These containers will not need watering every day either!

Collect up your leaves as soon as they fall, but before they get wet. This will prevent them from damaging the lawn. Place the dry leaves in black plastic bin-liners, tie these up and leave somewhere shady and dry for 12 months. Then use the resulting well-rotted leaf-mould for mulching and for digging into the soil. If you do this every year, you will have a supply of rich compost every autumn.

*Happy Gardening!*

Judy Mackay



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## September 2021

The last academic year was very challenging for us all. Staff, parents and children all rose to that challenge and we are very proud of what we managed to achieve despite all the obstacles faced. Getting through another lockdown, returning to learning face to face with all the covid restrictions are just some of the changes we faced. Resilience and inventiveness/creativity of both staff and children has helped everybody get through the year having achieved much more than we could have hoped. Some of the highlights for me were the recorded class assemblies, the Race for Life event, the sports weeks, our weekly celebration assemblies through Microsoft Teams and some fun themed weeks planned by staff.

Now onto the challenges ahead. Having been appointed as head from September I look forward to facing those challenges. I know the staff, parents, children and governors will continue to work together and support me in keeping Felsted Primary School the wonderful place that it is. I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Mr Garside for his support over the years and to wish him well in his retirement. He will be missed.

Many of you will remember Jan Catchpole who has worked at the school for 30 years as a learning support assistant. She has also



*(Photo from race for Life event – we raised £1,400.00)*

retired. Jan has been the most wonderful member of staff. She has always been supportive, kind and great fun! Jan is also a member of the Felsted community. We wish her all the best and know she will be missed by all.



## September 2021

Last summer we said goodbye to 2 classes of wonderful Year 6 children. They are more than ready for 'big' school. We managed to go ahead with our leavers assembly and this was an emotional moment for parents, children and staff. It was lovely to be able to give them a proper send off. We are sure they will continue to shine at their new schools and will be thinking of them all in September.

We look forward to welcoming in our new class of reception children who will be starting a week after Years 1-6. Families have all been given a slot to come in and have a proper look at the classroom and talk to staff the week before they start. We hope this will help them to settle in. I'm sure our Year 6 leavers would tell them they have a lot to look forward to!

I am thrilled to be taking over as head of such a lovely school. After 20 years of working here I still enjoy every day at Felsted!

Bryony Collins - Headmistress



*(Photo from Fairytale themed week)*

## PUZZLE PAGE

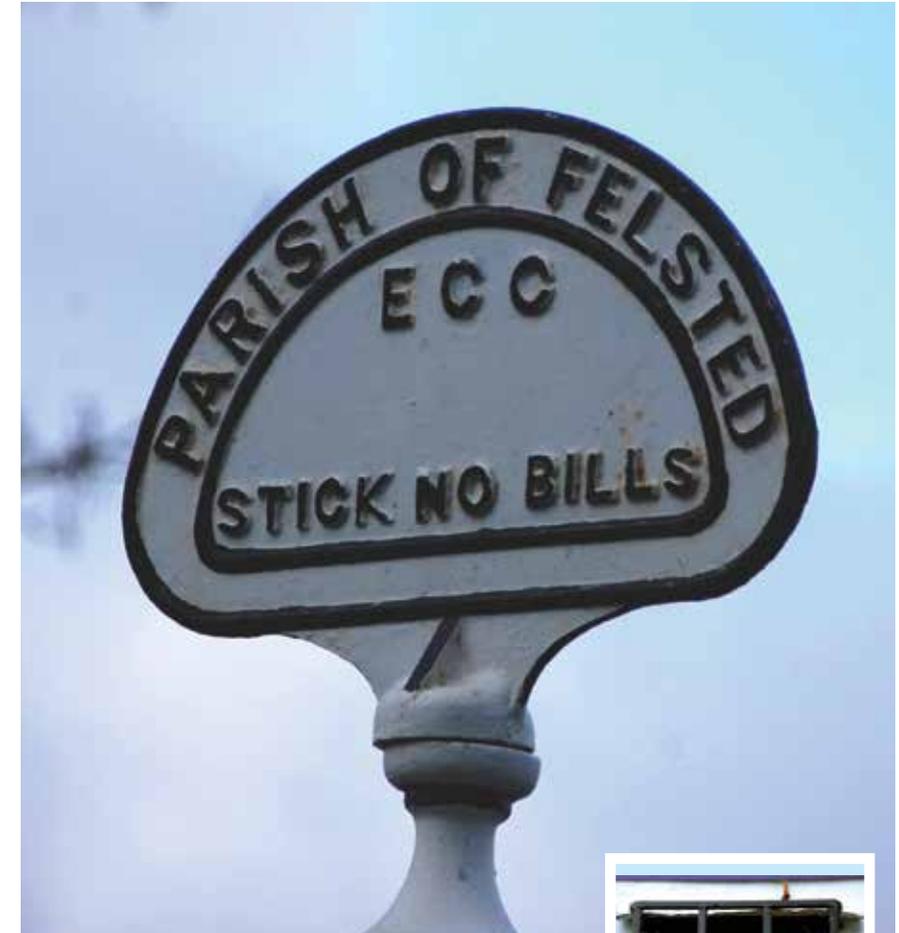
### Word Search - Autumn



FIREWORKS	RED	SPARKLER	BANGER
APPLES	CONKERS	MONSTER	SLOES
PUMPKIN	TRICK	ORANGE	WITCHES
NUTS	GHOST	BERRIES	ROCKET
HALLOWEEN	TREAT	PARLIAMENT	SCAREY
LEAVES	BONFIRE	GUY	

## Where is it?

Each month there will be a close-up photograph of somewhere in Felsted. See if you can find it before the next edition, where we will publish the answer!



Last issue  
Answer: Estate agents, Felsted village Centre.

# The new Face to Face service from Citizens Advice



Since the start of the pandemic, Uttlesford Citizens Advice has continued to offer free, confidential advice to the same high standard, but via the telephone and email, rather than face to face.

All that has now changed in Great Dunmow.

Citizens Advice have partnered with Great Dunmow library to offer a video link service from the heart of the town. You don't need any technical skills - just touch the screen and via the magic of the internet, you will be connected to a 'real-life' adviser, who can help you manage problems related to benefits, money, employment, housing, consumer issues, relationships and more. There is even a scanner and printer connected to the screen to help with sharing documents.

You don't need to make an appointment - just drop into the library to use the new service on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm. Ask any questions you may have, and the adviser will offer advice and refer you to other services just as they would during a face-to-face appointment.

You can also continue to contact the team by telephone on 01799 618840 or email [help@uttlesfordca.org.uk](mailto:help@uttlesfordca.org.uk)



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cllr.martin.foley@essex.gov.uk  
**Uttlesford District Council:** 01799 510510  
**District Councillors:** - Sandi Merifield  
cllrmerifield@uttlesford.gov.uk  
John Evans: cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk

### Felsted Parish Council

Chairman: Graham Harvey  
Clerk: Heather Read  
**Parish Office:** United Reformed Church Hall,  
Stebbing Road, CM6 3JD  
Office Tel: 01371 823071  
Office hours: Mondays: 10:00 - 12:30  
and Wednesdays: 16:00 - 18:30  
email: clerk@felsted-pc.gov.uk  
www.felsted-pc.gov.uk

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kemi.badenoch.mp@parliament.uk

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felstedmemhall@gmail.com

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