

FELSTED

FOCUS

COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

SPRING 2023

ISSUE 18



A FREE complimentary magazine or £1 where purchased

QUARTERLY



Deer north of Felstead Road
between Cock Green and Hollow Road
Photo: Paul Morris

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

- VOLUNTEERS
- CORONATION
- MAID MARION
- PUZZLE



Independent Funeral Home Serving Essex



Note from the Editor

Following the wonderful Christmas and New Year celebrations in the parish, we again have much to look forward to. Spring is just around the corner and, as our front cover shows, with the increasing warmth and longer days, nature is waking up! Easter comes on April 9 and the Coronation quickly follows on May 6, both occasions to again celebrate personally and in the parish (see page 20). In this issue I have included a section that looks at some of the many ways that you can help by volunteering locally. There are opportunities for all ages to help, including reading for an hour with our primary school children, benefitting both the young and old alike.

Even closer to home is the delivery of the Focus. The Focus magazine doesn't make a profit. The editorial team are all volunteers. The magazine is supported by the Parish Council and all the advertising revenue goes into the printing and delivery but posting the magazine to every one of the 1500 homes in the parish would cost way too much. Unfortunately, our usual delivery lady has family issues that preclude her from continuing.

We want to continue to keep the FOCUS accessible to everyone in Felsted and delivery free, so we are asking for your help.

Could you help us with delivery?

Could you give a little time just four times a year to help deliver to your green or even just your street? We will pay any reasonable costs. (Maybe your children would like a little extra pocket money?) Please contact me on the email address at the side.

Don't forget the DigiGo bus also has £2 fares until the end of March along with all the local bus services.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to the team for producing the last issue and organising the Christmas craft day whilst I took a break.

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www.securehaven.co.uk

Tel: 01245 377077

No.1 Hospital Approach, Broomfield, CM1 7FA.



Felsted Friendship Club

August was a busy month with an extra meeting – a Jubilee Tea with quizzes and delicious cakes. At our regular monthly meeting, we celebrated Harvest Festival, taken by the Rev. Ray Sams, collecting £104 for Felsted Aid.

At our September meeting, we had a two minute silence for Queen Elizabeth II and then sang the National Anthem. Three's Company entertained us with songs from films and shows from the 1940s to the 1960s. We sang along, tapped our feet and (some of us) danced.

On 29 September we had an all-day outing to RHS Hyde Hall, where 30 members enjoyed a leisurely walk around the gardens in glorious sunshine. Many of the roses were still flowering and the dahlias were wonderful.

A representative from Wiltshire Foods came to our monthly October meeting to give us a very informative talk on the 300 different dishes they offer. They make food for those with allergies, too, and the containers are 100% recyclable. They have mini, main and hearty size meals which have been flash frozen. Our members enjoyed samples of many dishes that Vanessa brought along.

In early November, we had our annual Coffee Morning, with a variety of stalls, raising more than £500 to go towards our Christmas Party, entertainment and presents.

At our November meeting, Sharon gave us a very positive talk about her daughter Heather, known as H, who has Downs Syndrome. Now 46 and married, H works a 16-hour week for a local supermarket and she and her husband live independently and lead a very active life. H obviously has very loving and supportive parents and siblings and members felt greatly uplifted by this talk.

We had our Christmas Party in early December, with entertainment from singer Angie Gilbey, who had us swaying in our seats, singing and waving our arms about! (What our grandchildren would have thought, I don't know). Our lovely tea was prepared by Alice McLaren.

Future meetings in early 2023

- 17 February – The perennial Mr Potter
- 16 March – Tea at Felsted School, with music
- 21 April – AGM with lunch and speaker
- 19 May – speaker about Hope House, Braintree

If you are interested in coming along to one of our meetings, please do contact either Alison Moore on 01371 821632 or Sue King on 01371 821411.

Felsted WI

After finishing 2022 on a musical note with Chris Bishop, who sang a selection of funny songs accompanied by ukulele and dulcimer, we started 2023 creatively with a wonderful talk by the very talented Amanda Sutherland. Amanda had a fascinating career in fashion and costume in the TV and film industries and now runs her own business making fashion accessories – the photo of, Amanda modelling one of her beautiful fascinators.

This year promises further interesting talks including: An enlightening talk about hearing, the National Gardens Scheme, Medical Detection Dogs, and A quiet day at the airport.

We have been delighted to welcome some new members and guests. There has never been a better time to give WI a try so why not come along? Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month (except August) at 7.45pm in the Felsted Memorial Hall.

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



Volunteering Opportunities

Felsted Royal British Legion Club



The Legion is open to everyone to join! Would you be willing to become part of our committee?

We urgently need committee members, which involves you attending four meetings a year plus one annual meeting. The branch members are responsible for the military side of the legion which includes assisting with the Poppy Appeal and the annual remembrance along with events to promote the name of the Royal British Legion in Felsted.

If you can help, please contact Terry Nunn, Branch Secretary, on 07769 684839 or email terryn@hopespare.com

Felsted Primary School needs you!

Felsted Primary School is on the hunt for volunteers from the community to spare an hour a week to come in to school and listen to our children read. We recognise that reading is an invaluable life skill and one of the greatest ways of promoting reading is to read aloud to someone. So, if you would be willing to share an hour a week with our children and promote their love of reading, please contact Beki Layzell (Deputy Head) via admin@felsted-pri.essex.sch.uk.

Anyone for tea?

The charity Re-engage is looking for tea party hosts in the area. This involves hosting 5-6 older people who are socially isolated, plus their drivers, on one or two Sundays a year. You provide a delicious tea for them to enjoy in the company of others, helping to reduce loneliness. For more details email [Patchurchill@btinternet.com](mailto:patchurchill@btinternet.com) or call 07796 306700 www.re-engage.org.uk

Felsted Memorial Hall

Hello everyone!

Happy new year to all of you. I do hope you enjoyed the festive season. My good wishes might be a bit late now, but it's the first opportunity we've had to chat.

What an eventful year 2022 was. I wonder what this year will bring? We know there will be a wonderful coronation for our new King and, of course, the build up and preparations will be exciting.

The Memorial Hall Committee has its own celebrations to plan as the hall is 100 years old this year! This was discussed at our last meeting and there are some lovely ideas coming forward. Whatever we decide to do, you'll all be informed and it will be well advertised.

I hope you all managed to see and enjoy our pantomime which was performed in the last weekend of January and first weekend of February. Tickets sold really fast and the price included a fish and chip supper during the interval. Great fun was had by cast, crew and audience. There is such enthusiasm that we are all planning the next one! As soon as we have the figures, I will be able to tell you how much profit we made and our donations to two charities. Our profits go back into the Memorial Hall funds which help to maintain and keep your hall a pleasant place to be.

Our Memorial Hall committee members are a dedicated bunch, meeting regularly, discussing subjects like maintaining the hall, finance, fundraising and bookings to name a few. Some of you may be new to the area and feel you would like to get involved in the community. We have vacancies on the committee and would welcome you. Our next AGM is on Thursday 2 March at 7pm in the hall. Do come along if you are interested. I think I mentioned last year that we will eventually be losing two of our longest serving members, Margaret and Dicky Howett, as they have plans to move away. Margaret is our Treasurer and will be sorely missed, so if you have those skills and would like to join us, please come to the AGM. Dicky too, keeps an eye on repairs and the fabric of the hall, as well as doing the lighting, sound and technical support for our pantos and any other events.

Well, spring is around the corner, so the next time we chat, the sun will be shining!

Take care.

Hazel Fox



WWW.FELSTEDCHURCH.ORG.UK



Easter 2023

APRIL | 7-9TH

FULL DETAILS ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE

“COME TO ME, ALL WHO LABOUR AND ARE HEAVY
LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.” MATTHEW 11:28

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the URC I would like to wish all of our readers a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

We had a very successful 2022, enabling us to donate £700 to our chosen charity, J's Hospice, and thanks to the generosity of our congregation, we were also able to donate £222 to Braintree Mencap – a charity that we have supported for over 60 years. Our last two special events were very well supported, and our thanks goes to all of those who helped in any way to make them so successful.

Dates for your diary

Church Social to be held on Friday 24 March at 2.00pm.

Home Group meets every two weeks at 10.30am commencing on Wednesday 15 February. This group is led by Rev. Ray Sams to discuss and share topics on the bible.

Felsted Connections meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at 12.00pm commencing on 16 February. This is a friendly group of people who meet for lunch (bring your own); hot drinks are supplied by the church.

The Women's Guild will meet every Monday from 6 March - 30 October 2023. We will be having a Coronation Celebration on Monday 15 May. This will take the form of an afternoon tea with music. Both ladies and gents are welcome.

Please contact Diane 01376 583994 with any queries..



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PCSO Report

Hello,

I am PCSO Natalie Smith and I am the local Police Community Support Officer for Felsted.

I have recently introduced a beat surgery in Felsted. I hold this once a month in the Wood Cottage Tea Room within the village. Please feel free to call in and see me to discuss any local issues and crime prevention. The dates are advertised on the Parish Council notice boards / website and our local Uttlesford Facebook page (EPUttlesford).

Our Community Policing Team members are often out in the district carrying out speed checks, which is regularly raised as a concern in the community. Felsted is lucky to have a great group of volunteers who carry out Community Speed Watch. If you have an area of particular concern, please feel free to feed this back through the Parish Council, or of course drop in to the beat surgery.

There are several ways you can contact Essex Police, through dialling 101 on the telephone, via digital 101 online www.essex.police.uk/digital101 and via the online chat function on our Essex Police website. You can also use crime stoppers to pass information to us anonymously, call 0800 555111 or visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

These reporting methods can be used to report crime, antisocial behaviour, suspicious behaviour, found property and more. No matter what the issue is, we urge people to come forward. More reports allow us to create the intelligence reports that enable us to carry out specific and targeted operations. Help us to help you!

I look forward to meeting you on my travels, Stay Safe.

Natalie

Felsted Focus distributors

We are very keen to find people to help distribute Felsted Focus once a quarter. Could you spare a few hours delivering the magazine to the homes of people in your part of the parish? Ideally, we would have one person for each 'Green'. Petrol money can be reimbursed. Please email felstededitor@gmail.com if you are able to help. Thank you, in anticipation.

The Hundred Parishes Society

www.hundredparishes.org.uk

Flowering snowdrops are a welcome sight in early February. Although not native to this country, these spring-flowering bulbs were planted in churchyards from the 16th century onwards. As their seeds are dispersed by ants, they have become naturalised in suitable locations such as hedgerows. Snowdrops carpet parts of Hatfield Forest and the gardens of Audley End and Easton Lodge where visitors can admire them; smaller clusters will be present in most of the churchyards around the Hundred Parishes.

Snowdrops are easily seen, but other early spring flowers will follow them as the days lengthen. Yellow-flowered primroses, winter aconites and lesser celandines appear alongside sweet violets. All these flowers produce pollen and nectar, vital food for early-foraging honeybees, queen bumblebees and other insects. Surveys of churchyards indicate they can be havens for wildflowers, often supporting species which have become rare in the wider countryside.

Whilst neatly mown grass is appreciated by many, leaving vegetation uncut allows many attractive grassland plants to flower for the benefit of insects.

The Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland organises a wildflower hunt to record what is in flower at the start of the year. The aim is to record how flowers are responding to a warming climate. Enthusiasts search their local area, noting what is in flower. This year, the number of species recorded within the Hundred Parishes was much reduced, almost certainly due to the wintry weather experienced in December.

More flowers will bloom as spring advances, so I encourage you to enjoy one or more of the walks or open gardens listed on www.hundredparishes.org.uk - or visit your local churchyard.

If you are able to, take some photos of what is in flower to share with friends or family or post them on Facebook, perhaps on The Hundred Parishes Facebook group.

Tricia Moxey
Trustee



Snowdrops

Recipe: Sultana Cake

This is one of my favourite fruit cake recipes, ideal for your coronation tea party.

INGREDIENTS

225g/8oz sultanas	3 drops almond essence
100g/4oz butter or firm margarine, cut up into small pieces	175g/6oz self-raising flour
175g/6oz sugar	1 pinch salt
2 small eggs, beaten	50g/ 2 oz chopped nuts (optional)

Method:

1. Cover the sultanas in water and let them soak overnight.
2. Grease an 8-inch round baking tin and line the base with greased, greaseproof paper, vegetable parchment or waxed paper.
3. Bring the water and sultanas to the boil and then strain off the water.
4. Placed the sultanas in a large mixing bowl. While they are still hot, mix in the butter or margarine.
5. Mix in the sugar, beaten eggs and almond essence.
6. Sift in the flour and salt and then add in the chopped nuts (if using). Mix well.
7. Pour the cake mixture into the prepared tin and smooth the top.
8. Bake in a moderate oven at 350°F/175°C/160°C Fan, for 30 minutes.
9. Reduce the heat to 300°F/150°C/130°C Fan until the centre is firm to the touch.
10. Turn out the cake from the baking tin onto a cooling rack. Store in an airtight container when cooled.





The Parish Council Office is now open on Mondays from 10.00am until 12.30pm.

20's Plenty for Essex

Felsted Parish Council has agreed to support the 20's Plenty for Essex campaign!

In the last few decades cars have become larger and more comfortable which has led to an increase in the speeds that we are seeing on our roads. The parish council can't make people choose smaller cars, but we can call upon Essex County Council to reduce the speed limit to reduce the risk to pedestrians in our communities.

The stopping distance at 20mph is about half that at 30mph and where visibility is limited, such as after a corner, the risk to other road users is higher. The risk that a pedestrian is fatally injured in a crash if they are hit at 30mph is about 7x greater than at 20mph (<https://www.20splenty.org/>). Lower speed also reduces the fear of a road accident, making the streets more enjoyable for people to walk and cycle. Reduced speed limits also support all other efforts to reduce CO₂ emissions from road traffic and try to leave a human-safe climate for future generations.

As part of the 20's Plenty for Essex campaign, Felsted Parish Council will call on Essex County Council to implement 20mph speed limits in Felsted and throughout the county on streets where people live, work, shop, play or learn. We will ask that 30mph be the speed limit of exception on roads where full consideration of the needs of vulnerable road users allows a higher limit.

Defibrillator Training

The PC is arranging an on-site defibrillator training session which it is anticipated will take place in the URC Hall in the Spring. Although defibrillators can be used without training clinical evidence shows that there are twice as many successful rescues where the local community have attended a training session. The cost of the training session will be in the region of £10 per person. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Clerk.



Nature Area

The Nature Area is a 33-acre site owned by the Parish Council situated behind Station Road. A variety of habitats are being developed throughout the site and these will be managed to encourage wildlife and biodiversity. This is a very long-term project which is being overseen by a working group including both members of the parish council and local resident volunteers. If you are interested and wish to become involved by joining the small, enthusiastic and friendly working group, please do contact the Clerk for more information. No special skills are required, just a love of nature!

Heather Read, Clerk to the Council

Tel: 01371 823071 / 07719 552174 · Email: clerk@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 email of all news articles as they are posted on the website.

New Health Centre for Felsted

The parish council is pleased to report that construction of the new health centre for the parish, which will be included as part of the development in Station Road, is about to commence. Mulberry Homes, who are developing the site, have advised that they are about to start the groundwork. The new health centre will be one of the first buildings to be completed as part of this development.

Whilst there are a few details regarding the internal layout that are still under consideration, construction of the building will start very soon. We will keep you posted periodically with further progress during construction.

Maid Marion

A Robin Hood connection in Little Dunmow

We all know the legendary tales of Robin Hood, but did you know that there is a local connection? It seems that Matilda Fitzwalter, whose effigy lies in Little Dunmow church, may be none other than (or at least inspired the story of) Maid Marion.

You do need a little imagination to follow the tale, but it seems Matilda caught the eye of King John at a tournament held for her 18th birthday by her father, Robert Fitzwalter, proprietor of Castle Baynard and Lord of Little Dunmow. She, however, was smitten with an anonymous knight who arrived and won both the jousting and her heart. King John was well known for his philandering ways and Matilda and her father rejected his royal advances. Legend has it that John set about destroying Robert and history shows that he was banished in 1212.

Matilda fled into the forest and, as luck would have it, bumped into her 'knight in shining armour', none other than Robin Hood, and took the name Marian. The birthday tournament must have taken place in Sherwood Forest as, although its size would have been around 100 times bigger in 1200 than its current 1000 acres, it's nonetheless about 130 miles from Little Dunmow!



Alabaster effigy in the Priory Church at Little Dunmow of Matilda Fitzwalter

Maid Marion

Another part of the story describes how King John was further embarrassed by this brave young woman when, pursued by him and his soldiers into the forest, she spurned him a second time. While Maid Marian does not appear in early Medieval versions of the tale of Robin Hood, she does crop up in a couple of plays around 1600, since when the pair have become forever linked in folklore.

Once his lands were restored to him by King Richard, Robin Hood was able to take up his title of Earl of Huntingdon, but when he died his wife was once more at the mercy of the wicked John. She fled back to her roots at Dunmow Priory, hoping to put distance between them. John wanted the last word, though and not forgetting their chequered past he sent a knight to visit her, complete with a token – a poisoned bracelet – which caused her death.



The Priory Church at Little Dunmow



Rural Cost of Living

Whilst Uttlesford is a beautiful place to live, our location can present a challenge. The cost of living in a rural area is higher because we have to travel further to shops and services – this is particularly hard for anyone trying to find work, access education or navigate the benefits system. A quarter of the houses in Uttlesford are ‘off-grid’ and many are old and poorly insulated, which means that fuel poverty is more prevalent. We also have to contend with patchy connectivity, no job centre and poor public transport links.

A survey commissioned by the Rural Services Network (RSN) last year shows rural areas are also suffering more acutely from the rise in the cost of living compared to urban areas. So, to understand more about rural household budgets, they have launched a Rural Cost of Living Household Survey. If you can spare a few minutes, your input will help the RSN to engage more effectively with Government Departments, MPs and other policy makers.

You can access the survey here until 31st March 2023:

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Rural_Households_Cost-of-Living

As a local charity, we work hard to help everyone in the community overcome, or at least mitigate, these challenges. You can read more about how we make a difference in our Insight Report 2022, available on our website <https://www.uttlesfordca.org.uk/about-us/>

If you are worried about rising costs and struggling financially, our friendly advisers are here to help. We offer free advice and support and can help you to access warm homes advice, help with fuel debts and energy efficiency measures Benefits applications and entitlements.

- Information about council tax support
- Budgeting & debt advice
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- Local food banks and children’s clothes banks
- Support for carers
- Employment advice & access to support for job seekers

Our advice is available to everyone and is always free, confidential and impartial.

For online advice go to www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Call us on 01799 618840

Email help@uttlesfordca.org.uk

Or visit our one-touch video access points in Great Dunmow and Stansted libraries and at the Old School House, Takeley

To access over 150 local health, wellbeing and community groups go to www.uttlesfordfrontline.org.uk

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 Felsted Choral Society

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Saturday 6th May
2023

Felsted celebrates the Coronation

JOIN US!

Felsted Village Events is planning to celebrate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and the Queen Consort Camilla on Saturday 6th May 2023. Join us on the village playing field for afternoon and evening entertainment, food, a bar and more! It's free to enter! Stay tuned for more details.

VOLUNTEER!

Can you spare an hour or two to help?

We need volunteers for the bar, food tent, litter picking and car-parking.

Please contact: fm.felstedpc@gmail.com

MORE INFO

@felstedcoronation

www.felstedcoronation.carrd.co

WELCOME TO HARVARD!

The Dunmow Theatre Company presents: Legally Blonde, The Musical.

The Dunmow Theatre company, previously known as Dunmow Players, turns 102 years old this year. We bring together local talent and likeminded people in an inclusive and passionate environment to bring large scale and affordable theatre to Dunmow and the surrounding areas.

This Easter we will be performing Legally Blonde, The Musical at The Foakes Hall, Great Dunmow, Wednesday 5 - Saturday 8 April.

Legally Blonde explores the transformation of Elle Woods, a love-struck sorority sister turned lawyer once she follows her ex-boyfriend to Harvard Law. As the school year unfolds, Elle quickly learns that she's smarter than she thought and with her ensemble of unique friends Elle proves that being true to yourself never goes out of style. A perfect feel good musical full of fun songs performed by our fabulous cast alongside our live nine piece band.

We have all found our way here out of a longing, whether that is to perform, to be a part of something creative or even just to learn to express ourselves to become more confident and widen our skills in performing arts. As a company, we support and encourage people of all ages who have an interest in the arts and theatre. Whether on or off stage everyone is welcome.



For more information visit our website at:

www.dunmowtheatrecompany.com or follow on social media platforms. Tickets for Legally Blonde can be bought at www.ticketsource.co.uk/dunmow-theatre-company. We can't wait to see you there!

Felsted Primary School



As I write this article we are just returning after a much-needed Christmas break. Reflecting on the Autumn term makes me feel very happy and proud of our school community. We were finally able to fully return to pre pandemic traditions that mean so much to us all.

Our fantastic PTFA held the first Christmas Bazaar since 2019 and raised a huge amount of money for the school. What was great about this event was seeing how much fun the children and families had but also watching the PTFA and staff all pitching in to help. The nativity 'Starstruck', was performed by our wonderful younger children. There were lots of smiles and maybe even a few emotional moments for those watching these shows. The children and staff did so well and it was great having so many parents watching and supporting us.

This Christmas our Key Stage 2 children put on a fantastic carol concert at Holy Cross church. This has been much missed for the last two years and I felt very moved by the amazing, heartfelt singing and beautiful readings. The atmosphere of the church made the concert feel so much more special and again it was lovely to share this moment with our parents/relatives. We managed the walk there through the snow and ice and were made very welcome on arrival, so a big thank you to Reverend Taylor and his team for this.



Another Felsted Primary School tradition that has been sadly missed for the last two years is the whole school trip to the panto. We had booked this last year ready for December 2022 but were told early in the term that the shows had been cancelled. Luckily, we managed to secure seats at the theatre in Bishops Stortford instead. Off we trooped in our three double decker buses. We had the whole theatre to ourselves and Jack and the Beanstalk was a brilliant show with lots of laughter, singing, cheering and booing and even a little dancing! This was a brilliant activity at the end of a very long term!

Felsted Primary School



Our Key Stage 2 choir paid a visit to the residents at Bings Hall and sang them some carols. It was a lovely opportunity for the children and the residents greatly enjoyed the singing. Thank you to the staff who made our children and staff feel very welcome.

We also had a visit from a certain gentleman dressed in red and white! He delivered goodies for all the children and they were very excited and pleased to see him.

We have lots of great things to look forward to this term at Felsted Primary School. We kick the new year off with a skipping workshop day in January, we have plans for an Art week on the last week of term. In between those two events there are many class visits and activities planned to enhance learning.



Bryony Collins - Headmistress

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Felsted for a Sustainable Future: A New Plan to Make Felsted School Greener and More Sustainable into the Future has been Unveiled



To mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Felsted took part in The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) Project, planting over 200 trees onsite and distributing many more to the Felsted community.

In addition to the school's existing eco-friendly measures, which include recycling and energy conservation, is a list of new initiatives, aimed at reducing waste, promoting sustainability and encouraging the ecosystem to flourish at the North Essex independent co-educational boarding and day school.

The Felsted community of pupils, families and staff is committed to making a difference in the world and also to the world, by protecting our planet for the benefit of the generations who follow us,' said Felsted Head Chris Townsend. 'However, we know we need to do more. So, from 2023, Felsted will focus on ensuring that the need to care for our environment is a key consideration in every aspect of life at our school!'

Central to the new 'Felsted for a Sustainable Future' plan is the wider use of sustainable materials, new recycling points, a drive for energy efficiency, and measures to encourage the local ecosystem to flourish:

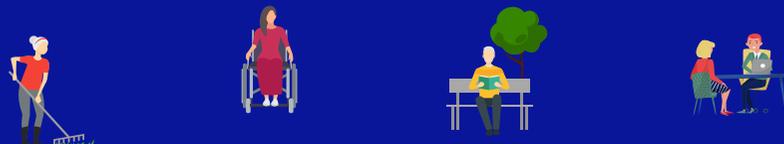
- Reduction of single-use cups – instead students and staff will use sustainable and reusable water bottles and coffee cups.
- Biodegradable and plastic-free items will be used as far as possible on the school site, including medical ice packs and sanitary products.
- More recycling facilities will be installed around the school along with more detailed information on how and what to recycle, including batteries, printer cartridges and even contact lenses.
- New student sustainability reps will be tasked with suggesting and running sustainability initiatives for pupils and staff.
- Composting and the re-use of natural materials will be stepped up.
- Natural habitats on the school site will be rewilded to encourage new species of flora and fauna to thrive and supporting the biodiversity of the local area.

Taking responsibility for the world will continue to be a key theme in lessons and activities for even the youngest pupils at Felsted, which educates boys and girls aged four to 18.

"Practical opportunities to encourage sustainability on a day-to-day basis around the school all help to make a difference," said Mr Townsend, "but just as important is the need to educate young people about the reasons why we must protect the planet for the future – their future."

For further information or comment, please telephone the Felsted Marketing Department on 01371 822647 or email marketing@felsted.org

Read more about Sustainability at Felsted here:
<https://www.felsted.org/sustainability>



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PUZZLE PAGE

Word Search - Spring

J	B	W	C	O	R	O	N	A	T	I	O	N	I	A
G	S	D	B	P	O	R	D	W	O	N	S	R	O	I
S	J	A	B	H	Y	U	S	S	B	L	U	B	I	A
R	N	F	L	J	W	A	T	C	R	O	C	U	S	I
F	I	F	O	I	V	P	V	H	M	H	P	N	X	Q
O	A	O	S	H	H	W	Z	S	A	C	Y	Z	O	H
C	R	D	S	V	M	T	L	R	X	O	U	V	T	E
B	L	I	O	D	Q	X	P	E	R	E	T	S	A	E
K	L	L	M	G	A	A	G	W	M	P	O	O	G	Z
V	Z	S	R	A	N	N	Y	O	F	C	Y	X	E	V
U	R	E	T	C	I	C	O	L	H	A	D	H	X	Z
V	E	A	A	R	V	H	E	F	E	V	V	M	J	D
N	X	K	P	D	I	S	G	W	A	R	M	T	H	V
W	E	S	Q	L	T	M	G	S	P	I	L	U	T	P
S	P	A	U	U	C	T	S	C	B	L	T	M	G	L

Word bank

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|------------|
| 1. bulbs | 2. flowers | 3. eggs | 4. easter |
| 5. blossom | 6. spring | 7. rain | 8. crocus |
| 9. snowdrop | 10. green | 11. coronation | 12. tulips |
| 13. warmth | 14. pancakes | 15. daffodils | |

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DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' CORNER

You may have already read that the Uttlesford Local Plan has been paused recently, this is to allow for the evidence already collected and assessed to be cross-checked and verified. This has come about because of a fresh appraisal of the work already undertaken by a newly appointed senior Planning Policy Officer, who has substantial experience of guiding local plans through to approval, particularly in rural areas.

We know this is regrettable, and we are as disappointed as anyone. However, we believe this is correct and justified because this district needs a Local Plan that is worthy of it. A real benefit of this delay is that parish councils and others will have a much more accessible and clearer justified 'Draft Local Plan' consultation document.

We are always very happy to answer questions on this either by email or directly at our Councillors' Surgery before each monthly Parish Council meeting. Should you want to find more information there are monthly reports to the Parish Council on their website: <https://stebbing-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/meetings/reports> or on the local plan in general: www.uttlesford.gov.uk/new-local-plan

National Planning Policy Framework

Before Christmas the government released a major consultation on planning reform and very importantly upon proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which will have an impact on planning in our District. This consultation asks for comments on potential changes. If you would like to comment please see the link on our January report on the Parish Council website. Do get in touch with us to discuss this.

Cost of Living

Prices are rising and the rise in the cost of living overall affects us all. There is an area on the UDC website that shares information on some of the help that is available within the district, plus some handy hints and tips to help you. <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/cost-of-living>

We are both always very happy to meet with you, answer questions for you or offer our assistance either at our surgery before the Parish Council meeting, elsewhere, on the phone or via email.

cllmerifield@uttlesford.gov.uk and cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk

Our very best wishes *Sandi Merifield and John Evans*



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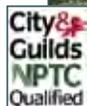


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cllr.martin.foley@essex.gov.uk
Uttlesford District Council: 01799 510510
District Councillors: - Sandi Merifield
cllrmerifield@uttlesford.gov.uk
John Evans: cllrevans@uttlesford.gov.uk

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
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