

# Theydon Bois Issue 127 March 2025 Village News



Chinese New Year Celebrations at the Pre-School

See page 12

## Theydon Bois Parish Council - Chairman's Report

On the 8th May, we mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, our nation will unite to celebrate 80 years of peace since the end of World War II in Europe. VE Day 80 is not only a tribute to those who fought for freedom but also a powerful reminder of the resilience and unity that have defined our country ever since. Something of particular relevance considering the current situation in Ukraine.

As the 8<sup>th</sup> May is a normal workday and school day, the Organizing Committee has decided that our Village Event to mark the occasion will take place on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May at the Primary School starting late afternoon and going through to the evening. Details can be found on pages 20 & 21 of this magazine but be sure to put it in your diary.



In January, the Parish Council approved the budget for the next financial year which begins in April. As I have mentioned in previous reports, it has become clear to the Council that if the Village environs are to be maintained to an acceptable standard, then unfortunately the Parish Council will have to fund it. A number of improvements are planned in the coming months.

This is of course in addition to the fixed costs the Council has which include staff wages, paying off the Public Works Loans for the Village Hall and Community and Youth Trust building, maintenance of the Village Green, Cemetery, Allotments and the Village CCTV system.

With this in mind, the Council has made an increase in the Precept which equates to an additional £6.71 per Band D household this year.

Another hot topic being discussed at present is the restructuring of the Council system across Essex and the creation of the post Mayor of Essex. You may be able to read further details elsewhere in the magazine, but basically Essex County Council and the District Councils will cease to exist and will be replaced by three Unitary Authorities.

The Unitary Authority for our area will likely include Epping Forest, Harlow, Uttlesford and possibly Brentwood. The restructuring is a Government initiative but has been welcomed by the Leader of Essex County Council.

There is concern at Parish and Town Council level as they have not been included in any discussions or in the decision process. It remains to be seen what role we will play as a Parish Council moving forward.

Finally, I note the sad passing of Jim Sear. Jim will be fondly remembered by many people in the Village. He was for many years our local estate agent. He lived his life in the Village right up to a couple of years ago when he moved to Sussex. His funeral has taken place in Sussex, but I understand a memorial service will be arranged in the Village to remember Jim's life.



**Councillor Peter Goch**  
**Chairman Theydon Bois Parish Council**



# Theydon Bois Parish Council - Highways Report



We are pleased to report that Essex Highways have repaired the very poor section of pavement and kerbing in Graylands to make it safer for all users after negotiations with our County Councillor. The Parish expect to be doing more works in the Village in the coming month.

However, we fail to understand why Essex Highways/ Ringway Jacobs cannot repair potholes speedily and to a proper standard. The Parish notified Highways on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 of a pothole opening on the bend in the Abridge Road near Piggotts Farm. They then came to put a “dob” of tarmac in the hole and depart. Would it take much longer to repair and seal the pothole to a good standard?

Subsequently with all the bad weather that pothole turns into a

crater and by January becomes dangerous on a busy country road which is also in the tyre line. A further two visits and “dobs” are put in that hole “to make safe” but the further five potholes in the next 50m are left untouched - “why”? That pothole (and many others) are still not repaired. Potholes should be added to the Fatal 5 to make Fatal 6 . Likewise, drains are not regularly cleared.



What is the cost that Ringway/Jacobs charge Essex Highways to come out each time and do a poor repair ? The Contract with Ringway-Jacobs finishes in two years and we hope the current County Council can carefully consider who the next operator who wins the Contract is, as our roads are maintained to an appalling standard overall with very little scrutiny and cost analysis; and we hope the critical choice of Contractor is not lost in the fog of “devolution” !



Cllr. Anthony Purkiss



Cllr. Pat Gill

## Theydon Bois Parish Council - Community Engagement

Building on the recent success of our Christmas Market, which raised £1,684.31 for the local charity Voluntary Action Epping Forest, the Parish Council's community engagement work has got off to a busy start in 2025.

We held our second 'Living Room' in St Mary's Church Hall on 21<sup>st</sup> January, providing a warm space where 25 local people met, socialised and received a range of useful information.



This year, in addition to free light refreshments, tasty treats and a raffle, there was 'one-to-one' advice on offer regarding how to use the NHS app to access GP services from The Limes. Essex Police and Essex Fire and Rescue Service were also on hand to provide information and access to services to help those attending to stay safe and to be more secure in their homes. We plan to open our 'Living Room' again next year and to boost attendance, we will act on the suggestions that we received to advertise earlier and to promote the event more widely in future.

A day later, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January, we held our second briefing session for our Theydon Emergency Volunteer (TEV) group in the Village Hall. This means that we now have a total of 24 volunteers in our village who have been trained to run an emergency rest centre in the Village Hall and to provide other types of support and reassurance to residents in the event of a significant emergency affecting our village. The training, which included input on our local emergency plan and from the District Council's emergency planning officer, was well received, with almost all those attending saying that they now better understand how emergencies are managed and feel more confident about undertaking the emergency volunteer role.



Further training that will bring the whole TEV team together is planned for later this year and we are also exploring options to participate in a County or District led emergency exercise, in order to test the effectiveness of our plan and the resilience of our local arrangements. We're proud to say that Theydon Bois is one of the few localities in our district that has an organised group that is available to respond if the worst happens and this is a fitting testament to a community that has a strong tradition of helping others.

Other community engagement events that are run or supported by the Parish Council include our regular monthly litter picks and the Repair Café.

# Theydon Bois Parish Council - Community Engagement (continued)

The Litter Pick is held on the first Saturday of each month, meeting at 9 am in the rear of the Village Hall car park. Given the sterling job done by our street cleaner Gilles, we generally concentrate our efforts on roads leading into the village (such as Piercing Hill, Coppice Row, Abridge Road and Coopersale Lane), where sadly those driving into and through our village seem to think it is ok to discard an unsavory collection of cups, cans, bottles and perhaps, worst of all, NOX cylinders! We know that nitrous oxide can cause users to act dangerously and in some cases even suffocate, so we are determined to do what we can to help tackle this problem. And so, as well as removing cylinders that might otherwise encourage even greater use of this substance in and around our village, we also regularly report the locations where these cylinders are found to Essex Police to help build local intelligence regarding where this abuse is taking place.



Results of the last Litter Pick!

The Repair Café is run as part of 'Community Cuppa', which is a series of events organised by 'Villager of the Year' Lisa Kenneally and her team to bring people together over a hot drink and some delicious cake on the last Wednesday of each month during the winter period. The Repair Café team, who are led by Cllr Pat Gill, will try to repair a broad range of household items and their recent successes have included dining room chairs, dolls houses and vacuum cleaners. A happy customer is pictured opposite. The Parish Council is also able to accept donations of any unwanted mobility equipment (such as folding wheelchairs and walkers) and then make this equipment available to residents on a free loan basis.



A Happy Repair Customer

A common theme to all the events described above is their reliance on volunteers, people who come together to make our community a better place to live, work and visit.



Unfortunately, it is not possible to name them all here nor to list the many other local groups and activities that benefit our village, but I am sure you will want to join me in thanking them all for their hard work and commitment. Indeed, the very fact that you are reading this article is testament to the dedication of Tony Ames and the team of helpers who sort and deliver this magazine to every household in Theydon Bois!



If you are someone who likes to make a difference in your community and is interested in opportunities to help others, please contact the Parish Clerk on 07927 581856 or via [parish.clerk@theydonbois-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@theydonbois-pc.gov.uk).

Cllr Peter Cowup

## Theydon Bois Parish Council

The Forestry Commission have been in touch with parish, town, and other community councils across the southeast, with the aim of increasing awareness of the issue detailed below at the local level. They are encouraging everyone in the Proactive Spruce Removal Area to be vigilant for windblown, snapped, damaged and stressed spruce trees, and to submit a Tree Alert report for anything of concern or email [ips.t@forestrycommission.gov.uk](mailto:ips.t@forestrycommission.gov.uk). This could be landowners, those directly involved with managing spruce (e.g. foresters, tree surgeons, Christmas tree growers), or members of the public. Additional info can be found via the GOV.uk *Ips typographus* page.



### DO YOU OWN, MANAGE OR KNOW OF SPRUCE TREES IN YOUR LOCAL AREA?

If so, they could be at risk of infestation by the highly destructive tree pest *Ips typographus*.



Breeding gallery

Pests and diseases are a continual threat to the health of trees and woodlands. The eight-toothed spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) is a serious pest of spruce trees, and we need your help to deal with it.

If this pest becomes established in England, it will have a major impact on our environment and wood-based industries. By actively managing woodlands, we can increase their resilience, protect them against future threats and prevent this and other pests from spreading further afield.



Windblown, snapped, stressed trees

Recently windblown, snapped, stressed, dying and sawn trees are particularly susceptible to infestation. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Forestry Commission encourage proactive management of spruce to remove or reduce the risk of beetle establishment. [Watch our video guide for more information.](#)

*Ips typographus* was first identified in Kent in 2018, with further outbreaks found in the South East in 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024, also in 2024 breeding populations were found in East Anglia. An extensive surveillance programme is in place to locate and eradicate all *Ips typographus* establishments.



*Ips typographus*

Spruce trees

Control measures exist in the *Ips typographus* Demarcated Area (DMA) for spruce to be inspected and authorised before any forestry operations. If you are in the DMA you need to:

1. Monitor your spruce and remove stressed, dead and dying material wherever possible.
2. For any planting, movement, felling or other forest operations on spruce, all landowner or managers must seek authorisation from the Forestry Commission.
3. Report any suspect findings to TreeAlert.
4. Conduct swift destruction of any spruce timber that is left in situ, either by burning or chipping, especially in the *Ips typographus* flight season (April – September).

All Landowners or managers looking to stack timber in situ to season (dry out) must also seek authorisation first from the Forestry Commission before adopting any approach of timber stacking.

Guidance and information on support can be found on the GOV.UK *Ips typographus* webpage. Grants are available through the [Tree Health Pilot scheme](#) to manage or fell your spruce trees, restock your woodland and maintain your newly planted trees.

If you have any questions or would like to know more, please contact [ips.t@forestrycommission.gov.uk](mailto:ips.t@forestrycommission.gov.uk):



Please submit any reports of susceptible spruce to TreeAlert using the QR code.



## News from our District Councillors

There have been two important matters this year which will affect the locality. The budget for 2025-2026 and plans by the government to make major changes to the organisation of local government.

The budget and Council Tax was unanimously approved at the Council meeting 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2025. Back in October 2024, the projection for £2025-2026 was a £1,048M deficit. This is not permitted by law, and local authorities are required to produce a balanced budget. Discussions took place between the Cabinet and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and others, which lead to the production of a balanced budget.

It has meant cuts, and the additional police officers paid for by Epping Forest District Council are being removed as well as various staff cuts. The Epping Forest District Council element of the Council Tax will rise by 2.99% which for a Band D property means a rise of £4.99 per annum, from £167 per annum to £171.99 per annum. The total Council Tax bill for a Band D property will be £2186.69.

A major part of the tax goes to pay for Essex County Council services and the police and fire service budget with additions for Town and Parish council costs.

In December, 2024, the Government published proposals for the reorganisation of local government and devolution of powers. County Councils were invited to submit requests to take part in the first wave of reorganisation which would also entail postponing the elections due in May 2025. Of the 18 councils that applied, 7 were successful, of which Essex was one. Draft proposals have to be submitted during March 2025, with final proposals in September, 2025.

If the plans go ahead, Essex County Council would be replaced by an elected Mayor and strategic authority. Existing District Councils would be abolished and replaced by much larger unitary authorities having most of the present functions of the county councils. Epping Forest District Council would be abolished, and it has been suggested that it could be replaced by a combined authority comprised of the present Epping Forest, Harlow and Uttlesford councils.

The Government has, however, suggested that the population size for unitary authorities should be 500,000 and the three councils mentioned have a combined population of much less than that. So, we may see a completely different configuration although there is provision for a case to be made for smaller populations.

If the plans are accepted, the Mayor would be elected in 2026, the shadow authority in 2027 and the new council in 2028.

I have concerns that these geographically larger authorities will be more remote from the population that they are intended to serve. It has been suggested that Town and Parish councils could be given more powers, but these are not mentioned in the Government's proposals.

Cllr Tippy Cornish and I are always ready to listen to your concerns and we are both happy to be approached by residents about matters.

**CLLR CLIVE AMOS**



Very much part  
of the village...



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News from our District Councillors

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For an informal chat to discuss your requirements, please call

**Gareth Humberstone 020 8367 3230**

\*Home visits are limited to Epping, Theydon Bois, Lougton and Abridge. When registering an LPA, a court fee is also payable

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**18 March**

**8 April**

**29 April**

**20 May**

**10 June**



## News from County Hall

### Local Government Reform, Budget, and Support for Foster Carers

**Major Changes to Local Government in Essex** - Essex is set for the most significant local government reform in over 50 years. The Government has confirmed that Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea City Council, and Thurrock Council have been included in the Devolution Priority Programme, paving the way for major restructuring.

This reform will see district, borough, and city councils merged into larger unitary authorities, with Essex County Council abolished and the new unitaries taking on most of its responsibilities. A newly elected Mayor of Essex will take responsibility for key areas such as public transport and economic development, bringing decision-making closer to residents and creating new opportunities for businesses and communities.

At this stage, the exact structure of the new unitary councils remains unclear. The Government has suggested that each should serve around 500,000 residents, and discussions, along with data analysis, are ongoing. To facilitate these changes, the Government has postponed the upcoming elections for Essex County Council, originally scheduled for May. Holding these elections would have cost taxpayers up to £3 million, only for them to be re-run shortly after. Additionally, the pre-election purdah period would have restricted public consultation on these significant and fast-moving changes.

While this is a complex transition, it presents a huge opportunity to create a more efficient, responsive, and resident-focused system—one that will help Essex thrive in the years ahead. However, it is vital that local representation and our local voice is protected and does not become lost but strengthened in this process.

It is crucial to stress that Essex County Council has taken a proactive approach in shaping this reform, rather than having it imposed upon us. Labour made it clear in their manifesto and the local government white paper that they intend to push ahead with these changes—whether councils want them or not. With their large majority, this reform cannot be stopped, making it all the more important that Essex leads the way in securing the best possible outcome for residents. I will continue to keep residents updated as more details emerge.

**Delivering a Responsible Budget While Keeping Taxes Low** - While major changes are underway in local government, business as usual continues at Essex County Council. In February, the 2025/26 budget was set, ensuring continued investment in essential services while keeping council tax as low as possible.

Essex remains one of the lowest-taxed counties in the country, with a Band D council tax increase of just £1.09 per week—the second-lowest rise in England this year.

#### Key Budget Priorities:

- **Protecting the most vulnerable:** Over half the council's budget is allocated to adult social care and children's services, ensuring vital support for those who need it most.
- **Investing in Highways:** Road maintenance is a top priority for residents, so an extra £12.3 million has been committed to improving Essex's highways. This includes £8.5M for the Members' Highways Initiative, £1.6M for road safety improvements, £1.3M for cycle path enhancements, £500K for repairing road signs, and £400K for drainage and flood prevention. With one of the busiest road networks in the country, this investment will help keep Essex moving safely and efficiently.

**News from County Hall** *(continued)*

**Supporting Foster Carers – A Nationally Leading Approach** - Essex County Council is leading the way in supporting foster carers, announcing a 16% increase in professional fees, in line with inflation. This means higher take-home pay for those providing vital care for vulnerable children.

Essex is the only county council in the country to introduce a one-off £2,000 bonus for households that fostered during 2024—recognising and rewarding their dedication. This commitment ensures that foster carers receive fair financial support and professional recognition for the invaluable work they do.

**Defending our community** - As we navigate these local government changes, we must also stand firm against pressures from national government—including the push to develop so-called ‘grey belt’ land. Essex’s character and quality of life must be protected, and I will continue to fight for our area, ensuring it remains a fantastic place to live, work, and visit.

At the same time, we have felt the impact of the Government’s funding decisions at a district council level, where grant funding has been reduced and redistributed elsewhere. This has placed additional pressures on local services, and we must closely monitor how the Government’s agenda affects our area, ensuring that Essex gets the fair deal it deserves.

If there are any Essex County Council issues in Theydon Bois that I can help with, please do not hesitate to get in touch at [cllr.holly.whitbread@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.holly.whitbread@essex.gov.uk).



**Councillor Holly Whitbread**  
 County member for Epping & Theydon Bois  
 Email: [cllr.holly.whitbread@essex.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.holly.whitbread@essex.gov.uk)



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# Theydon Bois Pre-School



The children at Theydon Bois Pre School have been celebrating the 'Chinese New Year' and welcomed a visit from Nicolas, his team and some of the residents of Frank Foster. The children were treated to a dragon dance, explored some beautiful Chinese objects and were gifted pretty red 'good fortune' envelopes that contained a chocolate coin for each of them. After the children waved goodbye to the residents they sampled various Chinese foods whilst listening to traditional Chinese music.

Additional to this the children have learnt how to count up to five in Chinese, copied Chinese script using fine paint brushes and listened to some topic related stories. One of their favourite stories is 'Cleversticks' which is about a small child who finds starting Pre School a challenge until he discovers he is able to teach some of his new friends how to eat with chopsticks.



## Rural Preservation Society

**Planning** - Planning matters. The number of Applications has vastly reduced in recent weeks, probably because the price to apply has increased considerably. Typical of applications are Dormers and extensions. Blunts Farm is still causing concern regarding the Paddle Courts. EFDC have refused the latest application.

**Events - GreenShoots.** Nicola had previously produced a leaflet for the forthcoming dates, and confirmed they are on the Society's website. Nicola, Caroline and Barbara are to meet to discuss the format of future meetings.

**Deer Sanctuary** visit update. A message from Michael Chapman was read out, explaining why there has been a delay in organizing a visit. It is to be organised as an educational visit and will start after the deer mating/rutting season in April. As previously stated numbers are limited and pre booking is essential

**Treasurers Report:** Since our November meeting we have had the Christmas market at which Nicola, Caroline and Barbara raised £78.17. We then paid £92 for the village hall to cover the Speakers Talk and Committee meetings. London Green Belt Council Annual Sub is due now.

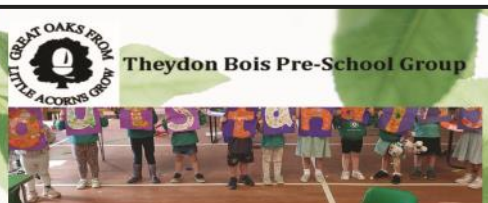
**Peter Newton** -A presentation was made to Peter Newton to thank him from the Committee for his very many years as Chairman of the Rural Preservation Society. He is now to be known **Chairman Emeritus.**



Peter with Caroline Lowe at 2024 Donkey Derby

[www.tbruralpres.org.uk](http://www.tbruralpres.org.uk)

### Theydon Bois Pre-School (continued)



Theydon Bois Pre-School Group



Apply for a place at Theydon Bois Preschool  
September 2025

Have you got a child who will be aged 2.5 -  
5years in September 2025?

Theydon Bois Preschool is an OFSTED rated Outstanding setting which offers care term time 9.00 am - 3.00 pm Monday to Friday and Tuesdays 9:00 - 12.00 pm. The children enjoy a wide range of play based activities in a nurturing environment.

If you would like more information or to enrol your child.

Please email [tbpsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:tbpsoffice@gmail.com)

The children at Theydon Bois Preschool took part in a sponsored dance. This was led by Donna owner of the 'The Tiny Ballet Company'. The children took part in 45 minutes of movement including dancing and games.

The children loved it and raised a fantastic £342 for the preschool. A special thank you to Donna for volunteering her time to help raise funds for Theydon Bois Pre- School.



## Village News from 10 Years ago in March 2015



**Lorna Farrell has finally decided to retire after 29 years in the Post Office** and will leave the Post Office in March. Village News recently talked to her about her time as Theydon's Postmistress and the future for the Post Office. I started by chance really. We lived in Dukes Avenue, my son James was 6 years old then and one day when we were in the school playground I was asked if I would like a part time job working in the sub post office which was then in Forest Drive and I decided to give it a go. I am now the Post Mistress and my son now works as one of the village postmen.



**Village News spotted our Primary School Headmistress, Mrs. Lesley Lewis** playing the cornet in the concert (4th from the left opposite) by the Fairlop Brass Band in the Village Hall.

We arranged to meet up in February and have a chat about her obvious enjoyment of brass bands and music in general.



**2015 marks 50 years of the Pre-School in Theydon Bois.** It began as an idea back in 1965 and has grown and developed since then. Sarah Bolton the present day Chair couldn't imagine the amount of commitment and dedication, not to mention paperwork, that must have gone into starting it up from scratch but she was very grateful to those that dared to dream, as it is a valuable part of our Village Community.



*Railway Arms*

**With last orders called at the Railway Arms** and more recently, the Sixteen String Jack we are down to just two village Pubs.

This reflects the national trend as according to the Campaign for Real Ale, Pubs in the UK are closing at a rate of 29 per week. Against this backdrop of the decline of the Village Pub, the time seems right to look at the history of our "locals".



At one time there were five Pubs in the village: The Queen Victoria, The Bull, The Railway Arms, The Wheatsheaf (later the Sixteen String Jack) and The Live and Let Live. The Live and Let Live was situated about 50 yards higher up the hill from the Wheatsheaf and was demolished quite a few years ago.

Thankfully, the Queen Victoria and the Bull have been designated as buildings of 'special architectural or historic interest.' and so the buildings have the protection afforded by their Grade II Listing.

## St. Mary's Church News

We hope we might be able to announce a new Vicar in the next issue of Village News, but in the meantime there is plenty going on at St Mary's. Our usual pattern of services continues, thanks to our lay leaders and the support of visiting clergy. We are able to plan for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Our popular Lent Soup Lunches will take place every Tuesday from 11<sup>th</sup> March to 16<sup>th</sup> April, starting at 12 noon in the Church Hall. A bowl of tasty home-made soup, with a roll and butter, tea or coffee costs £5, (£2 for a child's portion). Delicious home-baked desserts with cream or custard are available for £2.

The soup lunches have been running for over 30 years with the aim of raising funds for mission and for those in need, at home and overseas, as well as providing a warm, welcoming space for people in the community to meet together.



Our Junior Church children's group for three- to eleven-year-olds has restarted, meeting in the Parish Centre on the second and fourth Sundays in the month in term time, (**in April - on 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>**), during our 10.30am service.

We are about to undertake the first phase of restoration work on the exterior stone and brickwork of our Grade 2 listed church. While the church is not about to fall down, it is essential, and indeed required, that we maintain the fabric of our heritage buildings. We will aim to minimise any disruption and expect the church to be fully functioning for services and visitors. Carrying out such works, of course, comes at a price and while the church is able to meet a good part of the cost, we will be seeking grant funding and would certainly welcome any donations from the readers of the Village News.

Having completed the restoration of the railings between the churchyard and The Hoppit, we have now started work on the boundary railings around the back of the churchyard, thanks to a grant from the Rural Prosperity Fund, obtained through Epping Forest District Council and with the assistance of Theydon Bois Parish Council.

**Please do not hesitate to contact us via the Benefice Office, 01992 814725 or email [office@theydonparishes.org](mailto:office@theydonparishes.org).**

**Mary Gill and Andrew Crook, Churchwardens**

## Citizens Advice - Epping Forest District

### Citizens Advice: Parking



It's a lucky driver who never gets a parking ticket, and people can feel very strongly that a ticket is unfair. It's possible to challenge parking tickets but to be successful you have to follow strict procedures and meet tight timetables.

There are four types of parking ticket. Confusingly, they have similar names. They are:

- a **Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) or an Excess Charge Notice (ECN)** – usually issued by a local council on public land, such as a street or a council car park. They will also be issued if you fail to pay the London Congestion Charge, the ULEZ charge, or the DART charge;
- a **Parking Charge Notice** – issued by a landowner or parking company on private land;
- a **Fixed Penalty Notice** – issued by the police on red routes, white zig zags or where the police manage parking.

The ticket may be on your car, or you may get a letter saying you are liable. Whichever you get, don't ignore it.

But if the first thing you get is a text saying you owe a charge you should ignore it. It's probably a scam. Public authorities and reputable parking companies send letters not texts.

If the letter or ticket is genuine you need to act quickly. You should either pay up, in which case you may get a discount on the charge, or contact the body which issued the ticket or letter and explain why you should not have to pay. You need to follow the instructions in the letter or ticket as to what you need to do, and by when.



If the letter or ticket is genuine you need to act quickly. You should either pay up, in which case you may get a discount on the charge, or contact the body which issued the ticket or letter and explain why you should not have to pay. You need to follow the instructions in the letter or ticket as to what you need to do, and by when.

There will be some guidance in the document or on the body's website as to what is or is not a good reason. "It's unfair" or "I forgot" is not likely to do you any good. Nor is "I wasn't there long". For instance, if you stop in a TfL station car park such as Theydon Bois you become liable for the parking charge after 10 minutes.

If you're turned down you can appeal a PCN to an independent tribunal, likewise for a Parking Charge Notice, if the parking company belongs to an Accredited Trade Association, (which most do). If you don't pay an ECN or a Fixed Penalty Notice you can be taken to the magistrates court, where you can dispute liability, but are at risk of heavier costs.

There is a detailed guide to all these issues on our national **website**: <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/law-and-courts/parking-tickets/>. Or you can go to our local website - <https://citizensadviceefd.org.uk/> - which gives you different options as to how to contact us for advice.



## Essex Police Information

### ***Be fraud smart***



**Examples of mobile phone scams** - Text scams offering you money for an accident you may have had is often a ploy to get your personal details. Don't reply, even by sending a 'STOP' text. Simply delete the message.

You may get a text or advert encouraging you to enter a competition for a great prize. The scammers will charge extremely high rates for the messages you send them, as high as £2 per text message. Don't reply.

'Trivia scams' involve you answering general knowledge questions to win a prize. The first few questions will be very easy, so you keep playing. But the last one or two questions you need to answer to claim your 'prize' could be very difficult or even impossible.

If you try to claim your prize, you may have to call a premium-rate number, often beginning 0906. You then have to listen to a long recorded message, designed to keep you on the line. It's highly unlikely there'll be a prize at the end of it. Don't phone back to claim.

'SMiShing' (SMS phishing) is when a scammer texts asking for personal or financial information. The message may appear to be from a legitimate company, like a mobile phone provider, but legitimate companies never ask you to provide sensitive information by text. Don't reply to these texts. Simply delete them.

Unless you're using a secure webpage, don't send or receive private information when using public WiFi. And be aware of who's around you when using a mobile device to go online. For more information and help and to report this and many other types of fraud, visit [Action Fraud](#) the UK's national fraud and cybercrime reporting centre.

### **Protect your phone**

- Never reply to unsolicited text messages, even to get them stopped. Simply delete them.
- Sign up to the Telephone Preference Service to prevent marketing phone calls.
- Install antivirus software on your phone.

### **Protect your computer**

Keep your computer security programs, such as antivirus and firewall, up to date. Make sure your web browser and operating system are the latest version. If you're not sure how to do this, ask a computer specialist or someone you trust. Be wary of clicking on links in unsolicited emails. They may contain viruses or other programs that can harm your computer.

If you're making a financial transaction online, make sure you're on a secure site. You can do this by looking at the address, as below. Usually a website will start with 'http' but a secure site should start with 'https'. For example, <http://www.mybank.com> is the address of Mybank, then if you want to go to the transactions page you have to log in. At this point the address bar changes to something like <https://mybank/login.com>. A padlock icon will appear in either the bottom left or bottom right corner of your browser bar. The address bar may also change colour.

If you get an email claiming to be from your bank, asking that you contact them, ask yourself if it's genuine. If you're unsure, don't click on any links in the email. Open another window in the browser and visit your bank's website using your normal method.

## Theydon Bois Primary School

### THEYDON BOIS GYMNASTS TUMBLE INTO THE MEDALS AT THE REGIONAL TRIO GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS!

On five categories. Sunday 2nd February 2025, three trio gymnastics teams from Theydon Bois competed in the regional competition. All gymnasts across the three teams performed exceptionally well and they won a medal in each of their prospect.



The U11 girls team, consisting of Daisy, Olivia and Eden were up against 4 other teams. They each performed their individual floor routines and vaults in the morning. All three girls shone on the floor and scored 15, 13.6 and 14. Daisy's score of 15 was the highest U11 score of the whole competition. They bounded effortlessly over the vault with precision and scored 14, 13.7 and 13.8. Again, Daisy's score of 14 was the highest U11 vault for the competition. Finally, with exceptional timing and teamwork they performed their trio routine consisting of 6 gymnastics skills and 2 trio balances scoring 25.6.

The three girls, became the regional trio champions beating 4 other teams for the title and scoring a massive 109.7!

The U11 mixed team, a first for Theydon Bois, consisted of Andreas, Iris, Valentina and Emmeline. They each performed excellently across the floor, vault and group routine. On the floor they scored 12.6, 13.7 and 13.9. They jumped over the vault with ease and scored 12.5, 13.6 and 13. Their group routine was performed with excellent

timing and poise and scored them 23.6 points.



The first ever Theydon Bois mixed trio team were awarded 2nd place with a total score of 102.9!



The U11 Boys trio team, another first for Theydon Bois, consisted of Hunter, Rhys and Casper. All three boys performed with confidence across all three events. On floor they scored 12.3, 12 and 11.2. They vaulted well to score 12.6, 12 and 10 with their group routines scoring them 21.9! The boys trio earned themselves 3rd place and a bronze medal; an excellent result for their first competition.

## Theydon Bois Village Association

The Trustees are delighted to welcome Andy Bowles who is joining us as Secretary of the Village Association, taking over from Carol James who is stepping down from the committee. Andy has lived in Theydon Bois for many years with his wife and two (now grown-up) children. Andy is also Treasurer for the Scouts, and involved in the Donkey Derby and both churches, so knows the village well. The Village Association would like to extend our deep gratitude to Carol for her many years of faithful service to the Association and wish her a happy retirement!



Carol hands over to Andy

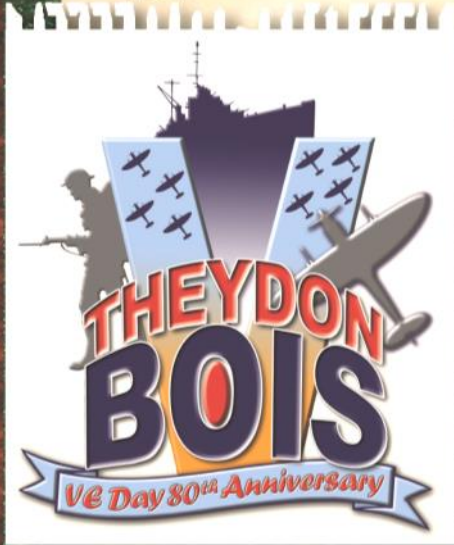
Andy joins us just as we are approaching the **AGM on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April** when anyone is welcome to come along and hear of our activities over the past 12 months and put any questions they may have on the running of the hall.

**Three of our Trustees have now served their full term of office and will be standing down at the AGM, so we are looking to replace them. If you feel you would like to get more involved in the community and be part of this local thriving facility, we would be very pleased to hear from you. If so, please get in touch with our Chairman, Phil Simmance on 01992 813732."**



VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations on 9th May

CELEBRATION OF  
THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF VICTORY IN EUROPE



**FREE ENTRY**

FRIDAY 9th MAY  
3.30pm - 10pm

THEYDON BOIS  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
FIELD

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

- Live Music
- Dancing
- BBQ
- Bar Available
- Kids' Activities & Stalls
- Face Painting

*Bring your own  
Food and Drink,  
Rugs, Gazebos etc.*



<https://theydonbois-pc.gov.uk/ve-day>

# VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations on 9th May

*It is the Duty of Everyone  
to Enjoy themselves and have  
Lots of Fun!*

## EVENTS' CHECK LIST

# STOP PRESS

FULL DETAILS OF THE  
PROGRAMME WILL BE RELEASED  
NEARER THE TIME BUT WILL  
INCLUDE LOTS OF FUN  
ACTIVITIES FOR ALL THE  
FAMILY INCLUDING LIVE ACTS,  
GAMES AND STALLS!



*40's Fancy Dress encouraged,  
but not required.  
Prizes for the best!*



*NB!  
Voluntary Cash Donations  
will be gratefully received  
on the night to cover costs.*



**VE DAY**  
80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

# Theydon Bois PHARMACY

10 Forest Drive - Telephone 01992 812130 - email: [pharmacy.fde36@nhs.net](mailto:pharmacy.fde36@nhs.net)  
[www.theydonpharmacy.co.uk](http://www.theydonpharmacy.co.uk)

**For all your Pharmacy Needs & Specialist Health Care**  
 Please call in or email us to book an appointment for the following services

- Repeat Prescription Service & Text Message Alerts for Collections
- Healthy Living Checks (Private & NHS funded for those eligible)
- Ear Wax Removal Clinic (Microsuction, Otoscopy & Hearing Assessment)
- Vaccination Clinic (Influenza, Covid-19 seasonal boosters & Travel)
- Smoking Cessation Clinic & Sexual Health Services
- Allergy and Food Intolerance testing
- Private Weight Loss Clinic
- Private Prescriber Available

**Full range of Perfumes, Clarins, Blood pressure monitors, Razors, Hair trimmers  
 and other small electricals - many at discounted prices**

9am - 1pm & 2pm - 6.30pm - (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Frid) 9am - 1pm & 2pm - 5pm (Wed) 9am - 5pm - (Sat)

## Theydon Bois BALTI HOUSE



AWARDED A 5 ★★★★★ FOOD & HYGENE RATING

We invite you to the longest established curry house in Theydon Bois, you will find excellent food and service at reasonable prices, prepared with the highest quality ingredients by our experienced innovative chefs.

*10% Discount on Take-Aways*



**Tel: 01992 813 850 / 814 104**

Station Approach, Coppice Row, Theydon Bois, CM16 7EU

*Free customer Parking*

[www.theydonboisbalti.co.uk](http://www.theydonboisbalti.co.uk)



**DREW & SON**  
 INDEPENDENT FAMILY  
 FUNERAL DIRECTORS

YOUR VILLAGE FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS



01992 676181

[drewandsoninfo@gmail.com](mailto:drewandsoninfo@gmail.com)

[www.drewfunerals.co.uk](http://www.drewfunerals.co.uk)

- Conveniently located in Abridge & Theydon Bois
- Providing for all your funeral requirements
  - Funeral Plans available
  - 24 hour call out service

Abridge office: THE WHITE HOUSE, MARKET PLACE, ABRIDGE RM4 1UA

Theydon Bois office: 1 STATION APPROACH, THEYDON BOIS CM16 7EU

Parking available

## Theydon Bois Action Group

**Balti House Proposed Development:** While no planning application has yet been submitted, further groundworks in the form of trees being removed from the site has been undertaken. There is one Ash tree with a Tree Preservation Order at the corner of the site, to the right of the Balti House.

**Land north of Forest Drive. EPF/0292/21:** Still officially 'under consultation'. Now over a year since the formal decision to permit was given at EFDC Planning Committee on 17 January 2024.

**Blunts Farm Padel Court. EPF/0931/24:** Erection of 8 padel, 2 tennis courts and ancillary clubhouse building. Despite EFDC having recommended 'approve with conditions' the application was refused at the new Planning Committee B on 4 December 2024 by 4 votes to 1. Our District Councillors Sue Jones and Clive Amos both sit on this committee and whilst they may speak, they may not vote on applications in their Ward. TBAG regard this as a loss of local democracy in the planning determination process. TBAG submitted their comprehensive objection, including a photograph taken from a Public Right of Way to the north of the site, to all District Councillors on Plans B Committee. TBAG felt that it was important for Councillors who are not local to fully understand the landscape character and sensitivity of this site. District Councillor Sue Jones arranged for the photo to be helpfully displayed to the Committee at the meeting.

**Blunts Farm, Change of use from agricultural barns to B8 storage and associated development, EPF/1406/22:** This is a revised application to previously refused EPF/2402/21, also for change of use, and is currently under consultation. TBAG consider the current revisions to be extremely trivial and would still negatively impact the vehicle movements along Coopersale Lane. TBAG have submitted a further strong objection.

**Government consultation on changing existing planning policies.** A revised National Planning Policy has just been published and requires close scrutiny to see what the impact this will have to the protection of the Green Belt. The definition of 'affordable' housing has also been 'tweaked', and it is unclear what the definition truly is.

There remain well over **1 million extant planning applications**, as quoted by the Local Government Association, yet Central Government still refuses to address this issue. Large development companies are habitually drip-feeding properties onto the market to maintain housing prices but if Government want so many homes built quickly, why don't they insist these extant permissions are now built out? It would cut down the time for delivery of these 1 million dwellings because permission is already in place!

TBAG contacted Affinity Water (October 2024) to report, and request the repair of, the **water leak in Station Hill**. Affinity determined that it was clean water that is leaking. Affinity have been working in Station Hill, and having switched off the stop valve to Station Hill for 24 hours, the leak was unfortunately not affected. Affinity are kindly in regular contact with TBAG and are continuing their investigations to try and ascertain where this clean water is coming from. They are determined to get it fixed and TBAG will watch their progress. Possible other problems including a blocked sewer and a broken surface water drain in Station Hill were also mooted. The initial leak has been leaking for over 15 years and TBAG are now keen to ensure that this Green Belt lane is maintained in a presentable manner going forward. TBAG are also approaching Essex County Council to get the drains jetted and properly maintain the highway.

## Tippy's Topics - Theydon Bois Facebook Groups



Welcome readers old and new to our regular round up of news and views, topics and debates from our All Things Theydon Bois and Theydon Bois Villagers Only Facebook pages- our online community for the discussion of issues relevant to our village. Feel free to join.

On the 14th February, the day of love and All Things Valentines. Four individuals were arrested swiftly by the police after attempting to burgle people's homes. They were detained after tripping alarms and hiding out in rubbish bins, maybe the idea of cupid and his arrows were lost on the four. Villagers were quick to congratulate the police for a job well done and we all hoped that the victims were not too badly shaken up by the horrendous experience.

**The Limes Surgery** - On occasion I feel as though I am repeating myself however villagers are complaining in their droves about getting through to The Limes Surgery. I am in no doubt that the service received by the amazing medical staff is top notch but it is the actual process of making an appointment in the first place that is causing so many issues and has been for a long time, despite many complaints and attempts by individuals to see this matter rectified. For some, being told to wake up as early as possible and then continue ringing for long periods of time, is not practical, especially people who may be unwell or in pain.



**The Bull** - Dear Sally from The Bull public House has opened her car park for villagers popping to the shops before the pub opens at 11.30 am. I'm sure we all agree that this is a very kind gesture and villagers have thanked her for this. After this time the car park is for the use of The Bull's customers and staff only. Villagers agreed that this was more than fair and thanked Sally for her kindness.

**Slade End** - There have been numerous posts about Dogs mess being left at the corner of Slade End, apparently in the same place at the same time daily. Villagers have been driven crazy by this, arguing that it is a health hazard, that it is disgusting, some has been trodden in and walked up towards food shops. Poo bags have been left by desperate residents for the owner to pick up the mess to no avail. Some have even suggested capturing the culprit on camera. Guidelines were shared regarding the responsibility of owners and the financial penalties of not picking up the mess.

There have been major incidents on the Abridge Road since our last edition, one of which involved a police chase and a fire, another involving four cars crashing on black ice. Roads were closed. Villagers and other agencies created much ado several years ago which resulted in commuters being unable to park along said road however there is a massive issue with flooding under the bridge which creates so many problems, it has been inspected, had repairs on numerous occasions yet still continues to create upset and misery. One could surmise that maybe some areas are just not meant to be built on. There have also been serious collisions at the junction of Coppice Row and Piercing Hill which have resulted in the air ambulance descending on the green to assist any casualties. Our hearts go out to any individuals who have been affected.

The community cuppa are looking for a tech savvy person to come along and help out at their events. This would be an amazing opportunity to become a part of a friendly team, to meet villagers and help others. Please contact Lisa Kenneally at the venue for details. Finally let's hope we are waving goodbye to the incessant rain and cold weather.

Lots of Love **Tippy**



## Theydon Bois Horticultural Society

The snowdrops in my garden are quivering in the breeze but the crocus are closed: they need sunshine to open. Nevertheless, it's time to get out in your garden and start clearing away the dead leaves and stems to make way for the new growth and flowers.



But it's not all hard work. **On the 19th March** take a break and come to the Village Hall for the talk by Hugh and Diana Meteyard about their travels in Uzbekistan. It starts at 2.30pm and is free for members and just £3 for non-members. There will also be a plant stall where you can buy interesting plants quite cheaply.



Our coach trips this year are to Ickworth House and Gardens (entry free for N.T. members) on **Wednesday 28th May**; to RHS Garden Wisley on Saturday 21st June and to Kelmarsh Hall and Gardens on **Tuesday 19th August**. We are taking bookings for all trips now so, if you are interested in coming on any of these please contact Margaret Jones on 01992 814797.

We will be changing the plants in planters in May and if you have time to help, please contact us via our website. Similarly, if you would like to help when we work on the station flowerbeds, please get in touch.

Finally, the **Village Show** is on the afternoon of the **19th July** and we look forward to seeing you all then. **Please look at the Schedule on the website and try to put in some entries of your own, particularly in the handicrafts section. And, again, if you can help either to set up on the 18th or on the day, we would love to hear from you.**

## Theydon Bois Golf Club



*Club Manager John Reeder welcomes Bradley*

Village News popped into the golf club to meet Bradley Preston, who has settled into his new role of Head Professional, having started on New Year's Day. For the last 5 years of a thirty-plus year career, Bradley had been coaching full-time at Epping Golf Course but was delighted to have an opportunity to have a bit more variation in a role that will include welcoming guest golfers, booking and hosting golf societies, recruiting new members and selling golf equipment as well as coaching people from the complete beginner to elite golfers. Bradley has a reputation for holding a range of popular group lessons and he will be continuing these at Theydon Bois.

Having gained his PGA qualifications in 1994, there's not much from a career in the golf industry that he hasn't seen. He's done most things that you can do in a golf club including General Manager, Director of Golf and working at TopGolf as Head Professional. Among his clients have been European and US PGA Tour Player Brian Davis. He also caddied for Brian in numerous tour events world-wide.

He'll tell you he's been very fortunate to have had some wonderful experiences. He's very modest about what he's achieved and experienced, but with a little encouragement he's happy to share a few stories. Some of them (such what you wish you knew the pros get up to on tour) you'll have to come over and ask him yourself, but he won't mind us telling you that as a young professional he saved the lives of an elderly couple who had the misfortune of driving into a lake at Fairlop Waters and getting trapped in their car. Having dragged them to safety Bradley performed CPR on the driver and he was given an award for bravery from HM Queen Elizabeth II. The tale does not quite end there. Wet through from head to foot, he only had a pair of golf waterproofs to change into and a ladies' group were waiting for their lesson. Within minutes of his heroic feat, he was back on the practice field, not quite fully dressed! That deserves a medal in itself!

## Theydon Bois Golf Club (continued)

Working as a Club Professional can mean some long days. Most evenings Bradley can be found in the Club's Swing Room, where he's teaching clients using the latest technology. This enables clients to enjoy lessons any time throughout the year and adds an extra dynamic for those who enjoy using the impressive data which the technology provides. Bradley also uses this tech to advise customers on the most appropriate equipment for their game – a bespoke club fitting service.

When he first arrived, Bradley was keen to ensure that visitors to his shop will have the best experience and he spent a lot of time working on the shop space where he and his team will be stationed. Former club professionals had an office in the rear, not Bradley. His team will be front and centre so that they'll be able to welcome visitors as soon as they step inside and keep an eye on the what's happening out on the first tee and the 18<sup>th</sup> green. It's a lovely view too. He has been working closely with equipment and clothing reps to ensure that the shop is fully stocked with the latest kit and clothing.

When he's not at work, Bradley is busy with his family, wife Kim and three children, two boys and a girl, all of whom are sporty. His eldest son is a superb golfer with plans to turn professional soon, his daughter enjoys art and his youngest is a talented footballer. If you're fortunate you might visit the club when Coco is visiting. She's Bradley's dog, a beautiful Cane Corso who also seems to be very content while she's here.

In the last few years, the number of junior golfers at Theydon has increased dramatically (from 2 to 80 in four years) Bradley is very enthusiastic about junior golf and runs weekly junior sessions.

The Club has traditionally had a very strong Ladies' section, but numbers do need a boost. With this in mind, Bradley will be holding a Ladies' Golf Taster Day (free, for ladies of all standards) and will play an integral role in the launch of New to Golf programme (with 4 free group lessons for those who sign up).

We wish Bradley and his team all the best for the future. Exciting times for the Club.



**BPI**  
BRADLEY PRESTON GOLF  
HEAD PGA PROFESSIONAL

**SUNDAY  
23RD MARCH**

**LADIES GOLF  
TASTER DAY**

**THINKING  
ABOUT  
GOLF?  
TIME**

**1pm till 4pm - FREE**

**No golf clubs needed, just comfortable shoes**

Swing by for  
coffee and cupcakes  
and a golf taster session  
with PGA Professional

**Bradley Preston.**  
This taster session is  
specifically designed for  
women of all abilities.

For more info or to book your place please contact:  
[info@bradleyprestongolf.co.uk](mailto:info@bradleyprestongolf.co.uk)

**THEYDON BOIS GOLF CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1897

## Theydon Bois Cricket Club

**Cricket Club Looking Forward To New Season** Theydon Bois Cricket Club is looking forward to the forthcoming cricket season which is only a matter of weeks away. The Club will again be running their junior coaching sessions, details can be found in the poster below:

### THEYDON BOIS CRICKET CLUB



**Try for free for the first week!**

**Costs**

Colt membership including training and all match fees.

Year 5+ - £100

Year 4 - £80

Reduced cost for multiple siblings of £10 per additional child

**Registration Evening**

Thursday 17th April from 6:30pm to 8pm

Tuesday 22nd April from 7pm to 8:30pm.





**Coaching and competitive cricket for children regardless of ability and gender from Year 4 (8) to Year 11 (15).**


**Coaching evenings start on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April to 18<sup>th</sup> July for 1h session. Places will be limited.**

Please note the dates of the registration evenings. In addition to the above, the Club will also offer the ECB backed All Stars Cricket Program which is for boys and girls aged between 5 and 8 years old. These sessions will start on May 15<sup>th</sup>. **For further information contact Warren Hyde at [warren@tbcc.co.uk](mailto:warren@tbcc.co.uk)**

With regards to senior cricket, the Club fields two XI's in the T. Rippon Mid Essex Cricket League on Saturdays and one XI on Sundays playing friendly games. If you are interested in cricket and would like to become a member, either as a player or as a social member, then the Club would like to hear from you. You can be assured of a warm welcome. Further information on Theydon Bois Cricket Club can be found on their web site at [www.tbcc.co.uk](http://www.tbcc.co.uk)

## Theydon Bois Men's Forum

Meets in the hall behind Theydon Bois Baptist Church. The meetings start around 10.15 when coffee is served and this is followed by the talk which can be on various subjects that we hope will be of interest. The dates of the meetings are as shown below together with the subjects of the talks and the speaker.



9 Apr 25	“Hearts of Oak- The V.C. Story Part 2” Mark Smith
14 May 25	“How They Built Lighthouses”
11 Jun 25	“All Quiet on the Western Front” Mervin Martin

## Theydon Bois Tennis Club

The start of the 2025 season is just around the corner, and the club is already warming up with regular social sessions, floodlit evening sessions and junior coaching. Our club is friendly and welcoming to all standards of player and particularly welcomes those who have had time away from the game and feel a little rusty.

TBLTC MEMBERSHIP	
■	MINI - UNDER 11 £30
■	JUNIOR - 11-18 £57 <small>OR COST OF JUNIOR OF A SENIOR MEMBER</small>
■	STUDENT - 18-21 £74
■	21 - 30 £95
■	NEW SENIOR £123 <small>NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN A MEMBER</small>
■	OFF-PEAK SENIOR £167 <small>MONDAY TO WEDNESDAY</small>
■	SENIOR £245

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT - [THEYDONTENNISMEMBERSHIP@GMAIL.COM](mailto:THEYDONTENNISMEMBERSHIP@GMAIL.COM)

### THEYDON BOIS LAWN TENNIS CLUB

## HALF PRICE JUNIOR COACHING COURSE

SESSIONS  
**FORAGES**  
 5+

Get into playing tennis at Theydon Bois LTC  
 Half Price for those signing up to their first course of group coaching

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL -  
[THEYDONBOISCOACHING@GMAIL.COM](mailto:THEYDONBOISCOACHING@GMAIL.COM)

We have 6 top quality astro courts, with floodlights on one court enabling play throughout the seasons. We have a very strong social section, welcoming people of all standards to play throughout the week and to enjoy a drink together afterwards. We also enter competitive teams in various Essex league competitions. Our junior section welcomes new players, offers both private and group coaching and encourages youngsters to learn the game whilst having fun and making friends. Get in touch through our website.

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/TheydonBoisLawnTennisClub>

or e mail [Theydontennismembership@gmail.com](mailto:Theydontennismembership@gmail.com)

and let's have a chat about how you can get back to enjoying regular tennis.

# theWI

INSPIRING WOMEN

1915 FOR 100 YEARS 2015

## Theydon Bois Women's Institute

- 19<sup>th</sup> March – “For Valour” The Story of the Victoria Cross  
*Speaker Mr Mark Smith*
- 16<sup>th</sup> April – AGM
- 21<sup>st</sup> May – “Medical History on the Doorstep”  
*Speaker Mr Richard Pusey*

## Play in the Park - Easter 2025 - Epping Forest District Council

Play in the park is all about playing games and having fun outdoors and socializing with friends and family. No need to book, just drop in at any time. The Play in the Park team bring a range of sports equipment and arts & crafts resources for children and their parents/carers to enjoy together. For children aged 5 to 12. The team will be there to help organise activities and games all totally free of charge!



### **Tuesday 8 April**

10:00 – 12:00 Roding Valley Recreation Ground (near Tennis Courts), Roding Rd, Loughton IG10 3LQ ///wake.punt.bind  
 13:30 – 15:30 Town Mead Leisure Park, Waltham Abbey, EN9 1JH ///banana.dance.logic

### **Wednesday 9 April**

10:00 – 12:00 Stonards Hill Recreation Ground, Epping, CM16 4QF ///lofts.life.pirate  
 13:30 – 15:30 Roding Valley Recreation Ground, Spider Park Field, Buckhurst Hill, IG9 6BX ///hint.firm.trees

### **Thursday 10 April**

10:00 – 12:00 Memorial Playing Field, Queens Hall, School Green Ln, North Weald, CM16 6EY ///gosh.works.coats  
 13:30 – 15:30 **Shelley Park**, St Peters Avenue, Ongar, CM5 0BT ///parade.trip.wires

### **Friday 11 April**

10:00 – 12:00 The Sports Field, Houchin Drive, Fyfield, Essex, CM5 0RG ///feeds.wing.nearly  
 13:30 – 15:30 Abridge Village Hall Field, 39 Ongar Rd, Abridge, RM4 1UH ///  
 clocks.apples.united

### **Monday 14 April**

10:00 – 12:00 Roydon Playing Fields, Occupation Lane, Roydon, Essex, CM19 5HL ///  
 pies.theme.hungry  
 13:30 – 15:30 The Limes Green, Copperfield, Chigwell IG7 5LF ///echo.trade.major

### **Tuesday 15 April**

10:00 – 12:00 Jessel Green Playground, Colebrook Lane, Loughton IG10 2HP ///  
 tester.keen.ropes  
 13:30 – 15:30 Town Mead Leisure Park, Waltham Abbey, EN9 1JH ///banana.dance.logic

### **Wednesday 16 April**

13:30 – 15:30 Hornbeam Road Recreation Ground. (Near Newton Court). Buckhurst Hill. IG9 6JT ///swear.cones.villa

### **Thursday 17 April**

10:00 – 12:00 Love Lane Playing Fields, Love Lane, Chipping Ongar, CM5 9BL ///  
 names.grand.swim

*Location can be found by entering the 3 words into the website or download the app: <https://what3words.com>*

## News, Comments & Notices

**Arts Society West Essex - TASWE** For a fifth year The Arts Society West Essex (TASWE) is sponsoring the Essex Young musician of the Year (16 years and under class) organised by the Ongar Music Club whose President is local pianist John Lill CBE whose name is now linked to the awards.



***Winners of the 2024 Young Musician of The Year Awards. Picture Ongar Music Club***

Each year the Essex Music Scholar of the Year receives a monetary award to help them with their studies, an award partly funded by TASWE. Said a spokeswoman: “Our society covers the arts in all its forms and we are particularly keen to foster young talent. We regard our support as a very good fit with both our objectives and those of the Essex Young Musician Awards”.

TASWE has started the year with a busy programme of visits including a Zoom tour of Spitalfields in January, a visit to Apothecaries Hall in February and the Royal Opera House in March and a Day of Special Interest on 26 March with Mark Hill of Antiques Roadshow fame. Also upcoming are a Theatreland walk, a visit to the Stanley Spencer Museum at Cookham and a visit to St Paul’s Cathedral.

The first two lectures of the year have been given via Zoom enabling one lecturer to escort a walk around the Vatican Museum and Sistine Chapel in Rome and the other to conduct a tour of the Rembrandt pictures in the Wallace Collection in Marylebone.

Swinging into action in time for the Summer holidays is the Society’s Craft Bags operation with the bags to be distribution through Epping Food Bank to the children of parents who visit the Food Bank. Contents are either given or purchased with donations from members of the Society.

The March 5 speaker was Tony Faber of publishers Faber and Faber whose subject was TS Elliott & Art which proved a particular favourite with many attending.

## News, Comments &amp; Notices

**Epping Forest U3A welcomes new members**

Epping Forest University of the Third Age (u3a) is looking for people who are retired, semi-retired or soon to retire; people who want to develop new interests, keep their brain and body stimulated and make new friends. This local charity offers all kinds of activities: learning a foreign language, current affairs and clothing and fashion discussions, literature and writing, flower arranging and gardening, art and photography, card games, coffee and lunch groups, model railways, wine tasting, snooker, table tennis, ten-pin bowling, keep fit, board games, chess and sports chat groups.

There are walking groups that give you the chance to explore London and Essex on foot as well as coach outings, visits to galleries and museums, cinema and theatre trips, social events and monthly meetings with speakers. You may even have a skill yourself that you could share with other people. Members gain access to a range of different activities, receive a monthly Newsletter and can use our book and jigsaw puzzle swap stall at our monthly meetings in Theydon Bois Village Hall.

**We are running an Open Morning in Theydon Bois Village Hall on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March from 9.30-12.00 and this annual event gives a good overview of group activities on offer.** so anyone interested in finding out more should come along. Entry is free. However, this edition of Village News may not be delivered in time so alternatively, google us at **[eppingforestu3awebsite](http://eppingforestu3awebsite)** for a comprehensive overview and photos of our groups, or phone **07922 866535** to find out more. We look forward to welcoming you.

**FRIDAY ART SHOWS OFF ITS COLOURS - By Christine Baker**

The Friday Art group, one of the many and varied groups in the EFu3a, has occupied space at the Village Hall for something like 25 years. The group consists of 26 members, male and female, who enjoy the opportunity to pursue their art choices and share thoughts and ideas. Examples include portraits, still life, digital art, pencils, watercolours and acrylics. The Art Group also runs workshops, again varied choices depending on the members. Organisers Joan Simpson and Anne Walker encourage members as to what they would like to be featured. The last one introduced working with lavender leaves which was very different and much enjoyed. The group meets throughout the year apart from a break at Christmas. Sessions start at about 9.30 until about 12.30 the village hall.

“Our members bring a wide range of offerings and most weeks they walk round to see what others have been doing. It is very friendly and welcoming” says Joan. She joined about 15 years ago and then co-opted Anne to help. Jobs are shared and a tea rota is in place for tea, coffee and biscuits.

“It’s a joint effort” says Joan “Also we have a range of talents within the group. We share an exhibition of our pictures once a year sharing with other groups within u3a for people to get a better idea of what’s on offer.”

While membership is currently full, if you would like to know more and join the waiting list contact Joan Simpson on [joansimpson08@me.com](mailto:joansimpson08@me.com)





**News, Comments & Notices**

**Theydon Bois Short Mat Bowls Club**

**CELEBRATION OF A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY** - This year Theydon Bois Short Mat Bowls Club celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was established on 27 May 1985 and founded by the formidable Joy Wainwright and her husband Ken. On arrival in Theydon Bois, Joy became an enthusiastic and positive worker on behalf of village affairs, she was a parish councillor, district councillor, and an active member of the Conservative Party.

During these years, older people were supported with the formation of a “meals on wheels” service. Joy instigated the formation of the charity the ”Playground at Theydon” and for many years the “Open Gardens” event was organised by Joy and enjoyed by the huge numbers of people who attended, coming to Theydon Bois from far and wide.

Theydon Bois Short Mat Bowls Club has continued to flourish over 40 years and a particularly successful season last year. Fifty-two members turning up to the Village Hall every Thursday for some fun games, gentle exercise, a warm welcome and a cup of tea. What could be better!

There’s all to play for too! Friendly games, Target Bowls, internal competitions and a Bowls Club League competition with other clubs which started last year. Social events also take their place during the year with lunches following competitions and a special Christmas treat locally. The photo here shows the recent winners of Target Bowls - John Davis & Barbara Standing.



Club Treasurer David Jolly says “We are so grateful to Joy and Ken and their vision to put in plans for so much for local people to enjoy, visit [www.theydonboisbowlsclub.co.uk](http://www.theydonboisbowlsclub.co.uk). A special 40<sup>th</sup> celebration plan will be in place towards the end of the year. Joy Wainwright’s legacy is all over Theydon Bois and one can only think how proud she would be today with so many of her projects still going strong.

**Christine Baker**

**2025 THEYDON BOIS COMMUNITY CUPPA AND REPAIR CAFE**

**Join us on the last Wednesday of each month, 10-12pm- St Mary’s Church Hall**

<b>29 January</b>	<b>26 February</b>	<b>26 March</b>	<b>30 April</b>	<b>28 May</b>
<b>25 June</b>	<b>30 July</b>	<b>27 August</b>	<b>24 September</b>	<b>29 October</b>
<b>26 November (The Christmas One!) - No Community Cuppa in December</b>				

We look forward to welcoming you for homemade cakes, great company and a lovely community morning. All welcome.

**UNLIMITED TEA/COFFEE £1.00 SLICE OF CAKE £1.00**

*Please visit the REPAIR CAFÉ in the back room to see how they can help you repair, re-use & reduce waste. Bring your items for the volunteers to offer you a valuable community service.*

## News, Comments & Notices

### 29<sup>th</sup> March - Join the Loughton Astronomical Society observing a partial eclipse of the Sun

Gather near the pedestrian crossing in Theydon Bois for this special event looking at the partial (30%) eclipse. We will have specialised solar equipment for safe viewing. The eclipse will begin at around 10 am, maximum coverage is around 11am and lasts until a few minutes after noon. Lets hope for clear skies!

**About the Loughton Astronomical Society** - Discover the wonders of the universe with the LAS - West Essex's community for astronomy enthusiasts and sky watchers of all levels.

Our society is dedicated to exploring the night sky, sharing knowledge, and igniting a passion for the cosmos. We offer a welcoming space for both novice stargazers and experienced astronomers to connect and grow. Dive into our rich programme of events, including educational talks, observation nights, and special workshops designed to enhance your understanding of astronomy. Our extensive gallery of astrophotography showcases the beauty of space, capturing the imagination of all who visit. The LAS is more than just a society, it's a place where friendships are formed under the stars.

We invite you to join our regular meetings, or our junior AstroKyd's section, to engage with captivating topics and observe the sky's splendour. Contact us at <https://las-astro.org.uk/index.html> to get involved and find out more about your astronomical adventure with the LAS.



### THEYDON BOIS OPEN GARDENS 8<sup>TH</sup> June 2025

Everyone says how much they enjoy looking round the gardens and that they are looking forward to this year's event - it's a very enjoyable day. So to ensure this year is as successful as possible we could really do with a few more gardens – the day will not go ahead unless we have some more gardens open.

### COULD YOU OPEN YOUR GARDEN & JOIN IN THE DAY?

No special requirements are needed – just a pleasant garden to enjoy.

Please do give Carol or Mary a call to find out more  
Carol - on 01992 812250 *email:* g.james1@btinternet.com  
Mary 07957 232765 *email:* mcp97531@gmail.com

## News, Comments &amp; Notices

**Fairlop Brass in The Village Hall 2024 & 2025**

Fairlop Brass Band were delighted to present two very different, and highly successful concerts at the Village Hall towards the end of last year. In October the 28 strong traditional British Brass Band presented “Sunday afternoon at the Movies”. A large audience was treated to a wide range of film music with something for everyone to enjoy. The Band returned to the Hall in December to present their Christmas Crackers Concert, with a sold-out audience enjoying an evening of festive music, Christmas Carols and with some truly remarkable singing! At this concert the Band presented their Musical Director, Kevin Jordan, with a Photobook chronicling the history of the Band which he joined in September 1968 (three months after it was founded) and marking his 40<sup>th</sup> year as the Bands Musical Director.

The Band is so pleased to consider the Village Hall it’s main concert venue, and the growing number of local supporters making use of this wonderful local facility is a joy to see. The concerts are very informal with seating set around a table with audience members encouraged to bring their own food and drink to make a very relaxed atmosphere.

The Band are delighted to be presenting two further concerts at the Village Hall this year. On **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm “Sunday at the Movies 2 – the sequel”** with a completely new programme including music from Harry Potter, The Blues Brother, Gladiator and Saving Private Ryan.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December the Band will present their Christmas Crackers Concert**

Tickets for this will sell fast, so please keep an eye on the Band’s website [www.fairlopbrass.co.uk](http://www.fairlopbrass.co.uk) or contact us to be added to the Band’s mailing list.



*Women Together provide a friendly caring place for ladies of the Church and the wider community to meet. We enjoy a varied program including light refreshments, why not come and join us?*

**WE MEET EVERY THURSDAY AFTERNOON IN THE REAR HALLS of the Baptist Church starting at 2.15pm.**  
For more information please email Christine at: [christine.mcclean30@gmail.com](mailto:christine.mcclean30@gmail.com)

## News, Comments &amp; Notices

**Theydon Bois Drama**

This year sees the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Theydon Bois Drama Society! It has performed in the village, uninterrupted for all those years, bringing the most amazing range of plays and shows to an audience that not only includes people from within the village, but brings people from all over Essex, North London and sometimes even further afield. As part of our celebrations, we are most grateful to the Village Association for once again agreeing to our putting on an Open Air Shakespeare production (though we are fervently hoping it will be a little warmer than it was when we did 'Midsummer Nights Dream' in one of the coldest Mays for many years!). **On 6 & 7 June, we will produce 'The Merry Wives of Windsor'.**

This is one of Shakespeare's liveliest, brightest comedies – and unusually for Shakespeare, one in which almost everyone gets a happy ending. It's an exciting project for us all – outdoor theatre brings with it a mass of complexities, from flights being re-routed overhead from Stansted, to random wildlife deciding to take part in the production, but it is always very special, listening and watching the best of the Bard as the summer light begins to fade around you. There will be one show on Friday night (at 7 pm) and two on Saturday (a 2 pm matinee and a 7 pm evening performance.).

People are encouraged to bring blankets and portable chairs (there will be no seating set up), and if you want to bring some food with you, please do – though our well-stocked bar will of course be at everyone's disposal. We have already assembled a stellar cast of Theydon favourites, and we will once again be joined, as we were for 'The Dream' by the multi-talented 'Bruin's Ruin', who will provide live music before the show and in the interval. Hope to see you there!

**Teresa Greener: Chairman**

**NODA**  
For every stage



William Shakespeare's  
**The Merry Wives  
of Windsor**

PERFORMED ON THE BANK BEHIND THE

**Theydon Bois Village Hall**

7 pm Friday 6 June

2 pm and 7 pm Saturday 7 June 2025

Tickets £13.00 from

[www.theydonboisdramasociety.co.uk](http://www.theydonboisdramasociety.co.uk)

or Phone 01992 919038

Tickets on sale from 25th April 2025

**'Bring your own blankets/seats'**

## News, Comments & Notices



# SPRING FAYRE

## IN SUPPORT OF ST MARGARET'S HOSPITAL, EPPING

**SATURDAY 29TH MARCH 2025**  
**11.00AM TO 2.30PM**  
 THEYDON BOIS VILLAGE HALL

Please support your local community hospital, the Epping Forest and Mental Health Units of St. Margaret's in Epping, by coming to our Spring Fayre. The unit gives care to stroke and mental health patients, and provides rehabilitation for patients after acute illness. The Friends of St. Margaret's raise funds for items requested by the wards and departments which the NHS cannot supply. So please help us to help St. Margaret's.

**Drop in for a bite, a quick coffee & cake and a browse**

**Stalls: Homemade cakes, bric-a-brac, cards, tombola, plants etc.**

### 20 Years of Keeping People In Theydon 'Active in Retirement'

For 20 years Roding Valley u3a (RV u3a) has been encouraging people in Theydon Bois and the surrounding areas to keep physically and mentally active as they leave full-time employment. We have over 400 members.

RV u3a is exclusively for semi-retired or retired men and women, giving them the opportunity to make new friends who share similar interests. If you've always wanted to learn a particular skill, pursue a hobby, or enjoy sharing your knowledge with others, RV u3a could be perfect for you.

We have monthly talks, interest and hobby groups, theatre trips, outings, lunches and social events. Our groups range from book clubs to gardening and quiz afternoons to creative writing. We even have a curry club. Our talks and lots of our groups take place in Theydon Bois Village Hall.

We would encourage anyone who is not in full-time work to join. We are a great bunch of people, doing a whole range of interesting things. Just email [RVu3a@hotmail.com](mailto:RVu3a@hotmail.com) if you want more information or go to our website at [www.rodingleyvalley.u3asite.uk](http://www.rodingleyvalley.u3asite.uk) or search "Roding Valley u3a".

### u3a Roding Valley

Monthly Meetings & Interest Groups including:

- Gardening
  - Bridge
  - Family History
  - World History
  - Keep Fit
  - Book Club
  - Creative Writing
  - Theatre & Concerts
  - Outings & Walks
  - Current Affairs
  - Curry Club
  - Pub Lunches
- ....and many more

<https://rodingleyvalley.u3asite.uk/>

## News, Comments &amp; Notices



**EPPING FOREST COMMUNITY LOTTERY**

Support your local good causes and take part in the Epping Forest Community weekly lottery

**WIN UP TO £25,000**

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT THE WEBSITE TO SIGN UP

[www.eppingforestcommunitylottery.co.uk/support/eppingforest](http://www.eppingforestcommunitylottery.co.uk/support/eppingforest)

18+ GambleAware Epping Forest District Council EPPING FOREST COMMUNITY LOTTERY

**THEYDON BOIS SINGERS**

We had a very good Christmas concert with an excellent, appreciative audience. As a result of the concert's success, we were able to make a donation to St Clare's Hospice. In the same week, we also led the singing at the 'Light up a Life' event at the Hospice.

By the time this edition of the magazine is published, we will have performed at a joint concert at All Saints Church, Woodford Wells. We are singing Rutter's 'Requiem' with Epping Forest Singers, the Church choir of All Saints and Woodford Symphony Orchestra. The event is to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Church – should be exciting!

We are a small friendly SATB choir with a talented conductor, Lawrence and an excellent accompanist, Paul. We welcome new members - there is no need to audition, so why not come along and give us a try. Remember, singing can boost your mood, beat stress, improve memory and enhance your well being.

We meet on Mondays 7.30-9.30pm at the Village Hall. We will be starting to rehearse for our summer concert on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March.



**SAVE THE DATE Our summer concert 'A Summer Celebration of Music' is on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

Barbara Lane, Secretary - contact me on 01992 574892 or by email [barbaralane45@outlook.com](mailto:barbaralane45@outlook.com) - You can also follow us on Facebook

## News, Comments & Notices

### Drewe & Sons - Annual Charity Dog Walk

The Walk around Epping Forest on Sunday 8th December was a great success. We managed to raise a total of **£1,656.74**. We had a great turnout despite the weather.



### **THE REPAIR CAFÉ IN ACTION** *Report from Councillor Pat Gill*

The Repair Cafe, held monthly in conjunction with Community Cuppa, had a busy session this month. We attempted 15-20 repairs with a 75% success rate, sadly not everything can be repaired.

Dyson products being especially challenging to even dismantle! Vacuum cleaners usually make up the bulk of the broken household utensils, we also get radios, clocks (not watches) lamps, side tables, chairs, toys, ornaments - the list is endless! One local resident is as pleased as punch. Her Dyson had been giving gip for some time, and she had little faith it could be repaired but when she got the call a while later, she was thrilled to pick up what felt like a new vacuum cleaner. Well done our Repair Café for making people happy!

This week Pat Gill repaired and re-installed the Duck swing in the Village playground.



# Village Activities 2025

*The information, opinions and views presented in Village News and on the Village Website reflect the views of the authors and contributors of the articles and publication of articles, advertisements or product/services information does not constitute endorsement or approval by Village News or the Parish Council.*

12 Mar	Epping Forest U3A - Open Morning - Village Hall - see page 32
19 Mar	Horticultural Society Talk V Hall 2.30pm - Travels in Uzbekistan
23 Mar	Theydon Bois Golf Club - Ladies Golf Taster Day - see page 27
29 Mar	Spring Fayre at Village Hall in aid of St. Margaret's Hospital - see page 37
3 Apr	Toy & Train Collectors Fair - Village Hall - 7-9 pm
17 & 22 Apr	Theydon Bois Cricket Club Registration Evening - see page 28
30 Apr	Village Association AGM at the Village Hall 8pm
8 May	VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations - see pages 20/21
28 May	Horticultural Society Outing to RHS Garden Wisley - see page 25
6-7 June	Theydon Bois Drama Society - Merry Wives of Windsor - see page 36
8 June	Theydon Bois Open Gardens - see page 34
11 July	Theydon Bois Singers - Summer Celebration of Music - Page 38
19 July	Horticultural Society Show at the Village Hall - see page 25
Various	Lent Soup Lunches - see page 15
Various	Epping Forest "Play in the Park" at Easter - see page 30
Various	Village Litter Pick - First Saturday in each month
Various	Women's Institute - page 40 - Men's Forum - see page 43
Various	Community Cuppa & Repair Café - see page 33



Copy for Village News - email the editor Tony Ames at

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or send to c/o Parish Clerk, Parish Office as below



## Theydon Bois Parish Council

Theydon Bois Village Hall, mob 07927 581856

email - [parishclerk@theydonbois-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@theydonbois-pc.gov.uk)



Thanks to our Sponsors : **Theydon Bois Pharmacy, Indian Ocean, Theydon Bois Balti House, Martin Shepherd Solicitors, Theydon Bois Dentists, Butler & Stag, Drew & Son, Home Instead** See pages 8, 9, 11, 22

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