

Theydon Bois Issue 129 Sept 2025 **Village News**



Drama Society - Merry Wives of Windsor
see page 39

Theydon Bois Parish Council - Highways Report

We are pleased to report that the Parish Council has started some much-needed replacement kerb works in Orchard Drive and look to continue in other roads subject to funding. It continues to be of concern that with the local government re-organisation and the movement towards a Unitary Authority getting basic jobs done in the Parish becomes much harder to achieve for all concerned.



Cllr. Anthony Purkiss



Cllr. Pat Gill

Theydon Bois Parish Council - Save The Date



Theydon Bois Christmas Market Friday 28th November 2025



If you are interested in having a stall at this year's Christmas market, please contact the Parish Office

**Theydon Bois Village Hall, 07927 581856
email - parishclerk@theydonbois-pc.gov.uk**

Theydon Bois Parish Council - **Wanted Volunteer “Evacuees”!**

As previously reported in the Village News (in Issues 120 and 123), Theydon Bois Parish Council (TBPC) has revised its emergency plan and established a team of ‘emergency volunteers’. This group consists of residents who have completed training to assist if our village is ever affected by a large-scale emergency and on behalf of the Parish Council, I want to thank them all for stepping forward.

Theydon Bois is a very safe place to live, but we live in an increasingly uncertain world, so TBPC believes that it is important to be prepared. By taking a proactive approach to local resilience, the Parish Council aims to provide a faster support response than might otherwise be the case. However, this is not the only advantage; involving local people also means that the team have strong links in our community and, collectively, a wide range of knowledge, skills and life experience that would be invaluable during an emergency.

The team have now met several times to prepare for their role, which includes the possibility that they might be needed to staff an emergency rest centre; check on the well-being of vulnerable individuals in their home; and/or to use their skills and any resources at their disposal to support the community, as needed.



In July, the team received a presentation explaining how ‘major incidents’ are managed by the emergency services and the benefits that can be gained when organisations work together, in a coordinated manner. The feedback received indicates that this training was well received and has helped those attending to better understand how the team would contribute towards the overall emergency service and local authority response to an emergency.

Past emergencies have shown that community support, though less visible than the work of the frontline 999 services, is nonetheless crucial for those affected by an emergency. Testing and refining preparedness plans is thus important to ensure that they will be effective in real situations. With this in mind, TBPC has agreed to take part in a District-level emergency exercise that is being held on **Wednesday 29th October 2025** and our involvement is expected to be from around midday to 4pm.

The planning for this exercise is still being finalised, but Theydon’s role will focus on opening the Village Hall as an emergency rest centre for persons role-playing evacuees from a nearby incident. This will allow our volunteer team to practice their skills in a realistic setting and to experience some of the challenges that they might be faced with, should it ever be necessary to implement TBPC’s emergency plan for real. We are looking for volunteers to act as ‘evacuees’ for this event and you would be required to be available between 12 midday and 4pm. Anyone can become involved – as no experience is required – and we would like a mix of ages and backgrounds that reflects the local population, but all are welcome.

Each evacuee volunteer will receive a comprehensive briefing on their responsibilities prior to the commencement of the exercise and will be supplied with a background narrative (or ‘backstory’) to facilitate authentic role-play in a simulated emergency evacuation scenario, in which the people involved have had little or no advance notice of the need to leave their homes.

To become involved or receive further information about the exercise, please contact the Parish Clerk on 07927 581856 or via email parishclerk@theydonbois-pc.gov.uk - **CLLR PETER COWUP**

Community Cuppa & Repair Cafe

With it being school holidays, there was such a full house with people of all ages, games being played, a big array of items for mending and, of course, loads of delicious homemade cake. We also got to meet our new Vicar, Sarah, and there was a little bit of live music in the background courtesy of Mark, a visiting ukulele player from Walthamstow.

People also brought along excess home produce to share so there was an abundance of apples, blackberries and cherry plums.



2025 THEYDON BOIS COMMUNITY CUPPA AND REPAIR CAFE

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

24 September

29 October

26 November (the Christmas One!)

No Community Cuppa or Repair Café in December

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

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Please visit the **REPAIR CAFE** 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.

Village News from 10 Years ago - September 2015

RURAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY - AGM and Talk - At the society's AGM in July a large audience enjoyed an illustrated talk by Judy Adams, the Chairman of the Friends of Epping Forest, on Conserving Epping Forest for the future.

Following the sad death of the Society's President Bob Day earlier in the year, the Society welcomed Michael Chapman as its new president at this AGM.



TENNIS CLUB - For the first time, the club ran a coaching course for 'tiny tots' aged 3 & 4. This proved very successful, with regular attendees and a great atmosphere. Club Coach Gemma Wiggs ran the sessions with help from older juniors in Helena Tunks and Tom Mitchell. The summer season of league tennis has now finished. We field 10 teams in the South West Essex Tennis League, and this year the Women's A team won the top division so are league champions.



GOLF CLUB - THEYDON BOIS-ON-SEA. On 9th July the course was transformed into Theydon Bois - on-Sea for the Lady Captain's Day. 42 Lady Golfers, many attired in seaside costumes played the course and were treated to snacks and Pimms at the "Beach Hut" on the 11th green – served by the Lady Captain, Linda Ames and helpers in Victorian Bathing Dress!

Bunkers were decorated with sand castles and sticks of rock were awarded to those who went in them. A very good "Day at the Seaside with a little Golf thrown in" was had by all!



HAPPY'S CIRCUS VISIT - Theydon Bois Primary School had a real treat in June when the circus rolled into its grounds. Happy's Circus rumbled in with their big top and set up on the playing field. The school children were invited to have a look around as the circus folk set up on the Friday ready for the big show on the Saturday 27th.

The PTA opened the event at 12.30pm with a barbecue, refreshments, a bar and stalls before the main event began at 2pm. and all 600 seats were sold out by the time the show started.



News from our District Councillors

Epping Forest District Council has been involved in a number of issues.

The protests about the Bell Hotel, Epping, being used to house asylum seekers resulted in a motion calling for the hotel to be closed for this purpose and deploring the presence of agitators from outside the district who had caused problems, which had resulted in arrests. The motion was carried unanimously with every councillor who was present, voting in favour.

You may also be aware that the Council sought a court injunction to prevent the change of use from a normal hotel to an asylum reception centre. This might seem a little strange, but it is in accordance with a provision in the Town & Country Planning Act 1990. At the time of writing, the court's decision had not been announced.

Another issue that has been the topic of discussion, is the proposal to introduce a charge for the collection of the green garden waste bins. At present garden waste is comingled with food waste. The proposal is that a food waste caddy will be delivered to every house and that food waste will not be put in the same container as garden waste. The controversial aspect is that there will be an annual charge for the collection of garden waste. This is in line with other local authorities in Essex as well as further afield. The proposed charge is £60 per annum, although this may change either up or down at the 2026-2027 budget setting stage. It will be the choice of individual households as to whether they retain a green bin.

Last December, the government launched a consultation on changes to the planning system. The idea was to speed up the planning application process by designating certain applications to be decided by planning officers only and preventing them from being put to committee. The main change proposed is that householder planning applications would all be decided by officers whereas at present objections from designated bodies and a number of objectors would mean that a planning committee would decide the issue. Other matters include advertising sign applications being decided only by officers. There was also a suggestion that developments of up to nine new properties could be a matter just for officers. Consultation has now closed and await the government's decision as to how the National Planning Policy Framework will be changed.

Perhaps the most important issue has been proposals for changing the way that local government is organised. Essex County Council was successful in its bid to be in the first wave of local authorities to be reorganised. Proposals have to be sent to the government by 25th September, 2025 and Epping Forest District Council will hold a special meeting, 15th September, 2025 to discuss the proposals. Basically, what is going to happen is that there will be an elected mayor for Greater Essex who will retain some of the functions presently organised at county level. Most services, though, will become the responsibility of unitary authorities. These authorities will be comprised of an amalgamation of existing city and district authorities. Essex County Council is proposing that there should be just three unitary authorities as against the present fourteen local authorities. Epping Forest District would be amalgamated with Harlow, Chelmsford, Brentwood and Maldon. Another group is suggesting five councils which would see Epping Forest joined with Harlow and Uttlesford. Again, the government will decide and may come up with something completely different.



Very much part of the village...



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News from County Hall

It has been an extraordinarily busy August. With my District Council hat on, I have been working hard with council officers, our legal team, and fellow councillors to secure the closure of the Bell Hotel, which is being used as an all-male asylum processing centre. As Council, we have used every legal, democratic, and diplomatic route available to us to get the hotel closed.

In July, I proposed a motion to Epping Forest District Council calling for the immediate and permanent closure of the hotel. I am pleased to say that this was supported unanimously across all political parties. As a Council, we have also written to the Home Secretary, setting out our community's concerns, but sadly we have been ignored.

The Council then took legal action against the hotel owner. This case was brought on the grounds that the Bell Hotel does not have planning permission to operate as an asylum processing centre. The High Court agreed to grant the Council an interim injunction, which will see the Bell Hotel close until appropriate permissions are sought. As the ward councillor I hope fellow councillors will agree that the change of use is completely inappropriate and should be rejected and the hotel should be permanently closed for this purpose.

If successful, this is a victory for our community who should never have been forced to deal with the consequences of the Government's mismanagement of the asylum system and the ongoing illegal immigration crisis. The Home Office did not listen to our concerns, and the hotel should never have been used in this way, as we have consistently argued. The Government is appealing the decision of the court not allow them to intervene as an interested party. The Government's decision to appeal is deeply disappointing and shows a continued disregard for our community in Epping Forest. Instead of siding with the hotel owners, the Government should respect the Court's judgment and support the people of Epping Forest, who have already suffered greatly since the Bell reopened as an all-male asylum centre.

At the time of writing, we are still awaiting the outcome of the appeal. I want to reassure residents that the Council will continue to fight vigorously for our community. Despite these challenges, there is also plenty of good news to share.

Our brand-new, state-of-the-art leisure centre in Epping is due to open this November. This long-awaited facility includes a swimming pool and will provide a fantastic boost to health, fitness, and community life in the district.

At a county council level there is continued investment in roads and pavements. This will see much-needed improvements, as we have already seen in Graylands, Theydon Bois. I am also aware of ongoing safety concerns around speeding in Loughton Lane and Abridge Road. I have been in regular contact with the parish council, and we are looking to find an appropriate way to tackle these issues which blight the village.

The District Council is also stepping up support for local high streets, shopping parades, and small businesses – helping to ensure our local economy thrives. One significant challenge we face is the growing number of solar farm proposals across the district. While renewable energy has a vital role to play in tackling climate change, it must not come at the expense of our countryside or long-term food security. The scale and location of the proposed Upland Solar Farm and the land at Stapleford Tawney are inappropriate, damaging to the Green Belt, and not included in the Local Plan.

Already, more than 1,000 people have signed my petition opposing the number of proposals for solar farms in Epping Forest. You can add your voice here:

www.change.org/p/petition-against-turning-epping-forest-s-agricultural-and-greenbelt-land-into-solar-farms/ Together, let's protect Epping Forest's farmland, countryside, and rural character.

As your county councillor I am here to help. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me as below or follow me on Facebook: facebook.com/cllrhollywhitbread



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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, Loughton and Abridge. When registering an LPA, a court fee is also payable

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Epping Forest Member of Parliament Dr Neil Hudson - An Update

As your Member of Parliament for Epping Forest, I am humbled to represent the area that has given me and my family so much over so many years. I know first-hand what a warm, caring, and compassionate community this is, reflected so clearly in the regular litter picks organised by our Parish Council, which I've had the pleasure of joining on several occasions.

In recent months, I've thoroughly enjoyed attending a wide range of events in Theydon Bois. From awarding prizes at the 113th Annual Show of the Theydon Bois Horticultural Society, to meeting with the Roding Rotary Club at the Queen Vic Pub, it's been a joy to celebrate the life and spirit of our village. I was also delighted to recently welcome both the Epping and Epping Forest Rotary Clubs to Parliament.

This year also marked the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, and I was honoured to attend commemorations across Epping Forest, including at Theydon Bois Primary School. As the MP for the former seat of Sir Winston Churchill, it was particularly meaningful to share this occasion with many of you.

Another special moment was taking part in the Induction and Installation Service at St Mary's Church to welcome Reverend Sarah Moss as our new Vicar of the Theydon Parishes. It was a privilege to take part in such a significant milestone.



with Liz McGuire at the Horticultural Show



Primary School with Head Andre Raal

Visiting local schools is one of my favourite parts of my role. During a recent visit to Theydon Bois Primary School, I was hugely impressed by the pupils, the high standard of teaching and the dedication of the Parent Teacher Association.

Alongside community events, I continue to support residents with local issues. Improving healthcare remains a key concern, and I was pleased to see progress with the St Margaret's Community Diagnostic Centre in Epping, which will help to deliver quicker access to vital tests and scans. I am delighted that this project, initiated and committed to by the previous Government, is on track, and that under concerted pressure from me, the new Government agreed to continue this much-needed project. Transport, particularly the Central Line, is another top priority. As a daily Central Line user myself, I share your frustrations with overcrowding, delays, stifling heat, screeching noise, and increasing graffiti. I've raised these issues regularly with Transport for London, and I will continue pressing for a better service.

As always, I and my small team are here to help. Please don't hesitate to get in touch at neil.hudson.mp@parliament.uk if I can be of assistance, or follow my work at www.neilhudson.org.uk. Thank you ever so much.



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A Heartfelt Thank You Celebration

There was a 'bit of a do' at Lot 14 on Sunday 10th August which hosted a rather special 'thank you' celebration afternoon consisting of canapes, paella and sangria. Over 60 people turned up to join in the celebration which was set up by local residents Roy and Sejal Combs who wanted to say thanks to all for the tremendous help and support they received. They also thanked the NHS and Essex & Herts Air Ambulance, following Roy's heart attack at Easter 2024.

Roy spoke about how his wife called 999, her terrifying efforts at CPR and once the ambulance people arrived Roy was quickly air lifted to a specialist hospital for vital treatment.

Days turned into weeks and while Sejal stoically visited Roy daily help was at hand with lifts and anything else that would help the situation. There were guests at the event who didn't know the full extent of his cardiac arrest and only fully appreciated the story once Roy explained it in a few words.

It's still difficult for Roy to comprehend what happened to him as even now he can't remember large chunks of the event. When he does it saddens him to think what happened. Thank goodness Sejal kept a diary but it's a painful read. They donated to Air Ambulance last year and some guests said they will certainly donate to either Air Ambulance or the British Heart Foundation.



Roy says "The main theme, really is to say how everyone who we knew came to our help and supported us at the most difficult of times. Friends, neighbours, charities supporting Sejal meant she had the strength to care for me. Otherwise, we might both have gone under. It was a long journey, and it continues, each day being a painful challenge. With the right guidance from cardiac, physio, speech and language from services from all three hospital - Cardiothoracic centre at Basildon, PAH, and finally St Margaret's Neurological rehabilitation unit is where my new journey began for recovery.

"The whole fifteen months has been a shock to my system. I've learnt lessons which I'll never forget. I hope and pray that it's made me a better person, more aware of our own mortality, the need to listen to our bodies, take nothing for granted and eternally grateful for the help that my nearest and

dearest and local community of friends and neighbours have given me. My tears still flow, but they are tears of happiness that I pulled through."

by Christine Baker

Theydon Bois Primary School - Sports Review 2024/25

At Theydon Primary, we believe in the power of sport to build confidence, resilience, and teamwork in every child. Sport is a vital part of school life, helping all children to grow as individuals, learn the values of fair play and effort, and discover the joy and health benefits of being active together.

This year, we have participated in 75 internal and external sporting events — from school events such as our new EYFS Easter egg hunt ‘hot cross country’ to national competitions. This has only been possible thanks to our dedicated staff, volunteers, and specialist coaches, as well as the continued support of our parents and carers. We’re always keen to welcome new volunteers, so please do get in touch if you’d like to be involved.

Our children have delivered some fantastic achievements over the past academic year. In June, we competed against 14 schools in district sports across various track and field events. We accumulated enough points to come out on top and win the Sally Gunnell trophy for the first time in 25 years! We were delighted that Sally was able to come to school to present the trophy to our young athletes and pass on some inspiring words to our children.



Year 5 District Sports Athletes with Sally Gunnell & Miss Williams

In cross country, our children also excelled as they competed against around 700 children at the regional championships. They showed courage, determination and some incredible sprint finishes as they claimed five team places out of a possible eight at the county championships, plus some superb individual places.

In my last article, I spoke about the importance of swimming to the school and our young swimming squad did not let us down, retaining the West Essex swimming title at Waltham Abbey Leisure Centre with a super points total. Watch out for more opportunities for our dedicated swimmers next year!

This was also a breakthrough year for our netball teams, winning the schools league with a record points haul and triumphing in the rally for a tremendous double, with our B team showing our strength in depth by also performing exceptionally well. We also sent three gymnastics teams to the national championships for the first time, building on our success last year and demonstrating the strength of our in-house gymnastics club.

Building on our range of sporting pathways, we have recently enhanced ties with our local golf and tennis clubs and have offered many more opportunities in football - made possible by our new MUGA. Our local karate club, the United Karate Association, delivered an enrichment day to children from year 1 to 6 and we offered taster sessions in basketball to year 5/6.

These fantastic opportunities offer the chance for children to enjoy and benefit from sport and, who knows, maybe someone will be inspired to put in the commitment and dedication necessary to emulate the likes of Sally Gunnell one day.

Mr Giles - Head of PE

Theydon Bois Village Association

Our Village Hall – A Hub for Everyone - The Village Hall truly is the heart of our community. It's home to an amazing mix of local groups and activities — from community meetings, educational sessions and drama productions, to the laughter and learning of a Montessori nursery.

Whatever the occasion, the hall has space to suit your needs. It's been the venue for all sorts of events: birthday parties, quiz nights, public meetings, lectures, weddings, christenings, bridge tournaments, charity fundraisers, and even corporate events.

Thinking of booking a space? Here's what's on offer:

- **The Oak Room** – Our largest space, perfect for big events. It seats up to 180 people (theatre-style) and is ideal for performances, talks, or large celebrations.
- **The Beech Room** – A medium-sized room perfect for meetings or smaller gatherings.
- **The Poplar Room** – A cosy space for workshops or seminars.

The **Beech and Poplar Rooms** can also be opened up into one space, creating a small hall for up to 80 guests. When you want to pop the cork but keep it intimate!

How to Book You can check out our page on the Parish Council website:

- <https://theydonbois-pc.gov.uk/village-hall/>
- If you'd like to book the Village Hall for a meeting, party, or class, simply email our Bookings Manager, **Angela**, at bookings@theydonboisvillagehall.com

Whether you're planning a celebration or simply need a good space to gather, the Theydon Bois Village Hall is ready to welcome you.



Oak Hall Anniversary Party



Small Hall Meeting



Oak Hall Meeting

Citizens Advice - Epping Forest District

Holidaymakers and pensioners

We've got two different topics for you in this edition: one for people planning a holiday in Europe and one for pensioners. If you're a pensioner with a taste for travel you may be interested in both!

The European Union – Entry/Exit System (EU-EES)

From 12 October the European Union will be introducing the Entry/Exit System. It is an automated IT system for border control. It registers non-EU nationals, which of course includes British citizens, when they cross the borders of most European countries.



Passport control offices will scan fingerprints or take a photo of people's faces. People can register some data in advance by using dedicated equipment available at the border crossing or a mobile app, if one is made available by the country of arrival or departure. There are some exemptions from the scheme but generally any UK citizen planning to take a holiday in Europe from 12 October will have to use the system.

You can check out more details on <https://travel-europe.europa.eu/ees>

Winter Fuel Payment 2025/6

Up until last year every pensioner, no matter how well-off, got a winter fuel payment, usually £200. Last year it was restricted to pensioners who were receiving pension credit or another means-tested benefit. This year all pensioners will receive the appropriate winter fuel payment, but if your total annual income is over £35,000 HMRC will take the payment back. They will do this either by changing your tax code for the financial year 2026/7 or by adding the amount to your 2025 to 2026 Self Assessment tax return, so that in effect you pay it back in the 2027/8 tax year.



You can opt out of getting the winter fuel payment if you do not want to receive it.

If you're eligible, you'll get a letter in October or November saying how much you'll get. Most eligible people will be paid in November or December.

How to contact us

You can phone us on 0808 278 7855 and leave a message. We will call you back as soon as we can. Or you can go to our website - <https://citizensadviceefd.org.uk/> - and send us a message that way.

Or if you want to see someone in person we are at Waltham Abbey Leisure Centre on Tuesday mornings and at the Civic Offices in Epping on Thursday mornings. It's first come, first served at these sessions, so you may have a bit of a wait.



Theydon Bois Pre-School



We've had a wonderful and busy term at the preschool, filled with fun, laughter, and special memories. One of the highlights was welcoming Casey, a local football coach, who ran an energetic and engaging football session with the children. Not only did the children have a fantastic time, but the event also turned into a brilliant fundraiser for us, raising an

incredible £524. We are so grateful to everyone who supported the event and helped make it such a success.

In June, we were delighted to welcome dads and carers to our special Father's Day mornings. These sessions were a lovely opportunity for families to join in with activities, spend time together, and share in the children's preschool experiences.

Later in the term, we celebrated our graduation—a very special event where we not only said goodbye to our leavers but also raised funds for Brompton Heart Foundation, a cause close to many of our hearts.

This term, we also said a fond farewell to 28 of our children as they move on to various schools. While we will miss them greatly, we wish each and every one of them the very best for their future and know they will continue to flourish in their next adventures.

We also said a very special farewell to Alison who has been part of the Pre-School for many years. Alison has made an incredible contribution to the lives of so many children and families, and her dedication, kindness and warmth will be greatly missed by all of us. We wish her every happiness in the next chapter of her life and thank her sincerely for everything she has done.

Looking ahead to September, we are excited to welcome lots of new children and families to our preschool community for the very first time. We are also looking forward to welcoming back our older children, who we know will enjoy being role models for the new starters. The autumn term is always an exciting one, full of opportunities for learning and discovery.

We have a range of fun topics planned to spark the children's curiosity, from seasonal changes and harvest time to exploring colours, shapes, and favourite stories. It will be a busy and joyful term, and we can't wait to see all the children grow in all areas of their development as they settle into the year ahead.

Jo Fouracres -Administration Officer

A Samaritan in Theydon Bois

By Christine Baker

Let me tell you about Kristie. There I was one day trudging back from Tesco, too much food in my bag dragging me down but worse still I was so breathless I was struggling to walk. There is no seating as you make your way back so it was just me and my efforts until I heard a voice ring out "Can I help?". Of course, my head said "No I'm fine" but that was far from the case. Kristie was on her regular morning walk with Daphne, who uses an aid to help her walk, and they were on the way back to her flat.

Kristie picked up my shopping bag, took my arm, and together we made our way to the flats. When we got there Kristie rushed up to my house and put my shopping on my doorstep. After a chat with Daphne, aged 93, I learned that she and Kristie get together every day for a good walk around the local area which Daphne manages via her walking frame.

I was intrigued when Daphne told me that a few years back when the flats on the corner of the road were agreed planning, she dreamed up a plan to sell her big house in Epping and claim a flat. Initially it would be the top one until she got up there and realised she suffered from some kind of altitude sickness, so it quickly got changed to a ground floor apartment.

According to Daphne just as she got the key and moved into her new flat the front door went and there was Kristie asking if she would like some help. It turns out Kristie was already helping another elderly lady already in the building. Daphne said it was like manna from heaven and from that day to this they have met up daily for some new activity or other. The ladies regularly go off for trips and new places to visit.

Kristie, aged 50, is a single mother of two young people in their twenties, and lives in Sewardstone. She is complimentary about Daphne saying "I have learnt so much from her – Daphne has had such an exciting life. She has lived in Nigeria, Switzerland and Australia and is so worldly-wise." Daphne and her husband did not have a family and enjoyed the freedom to do whatever they liked within her husband's work at a pharmaceutical company.

Why does Kristie keep doing it. "I enjoy Daphne's company, and she has so much energy attending local groups here in Theydon which is a lovely village, and I like coming here." "Being nice and giving back feels good. I think I am as good for Daphne as she is for me. Long may it continue!"



Daphne (left) & Kristie having fun

Navigating family challenges can be overwhelming, but you don't have to face them alone. At Foskett Marr Gadsby & Head, our **Family Team** offer compassionate and expert legal support tailored to your unique situation. Whether you're dealing with cohabitation, child arrangements, or other family matters, our dedicated team is here to guide you with empathy and clarity.

Lynn Gooch

Head of the Family Team

lynngooch@foskettmarr.co.uk**Sarah Tsindides**

Senior Associate Solicitor

sarahtsindides@foskettmarr.co.uk**Business Services**

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*Scan me to explore
our family services*

St. Mary's Church News



As we settle into the new rhythm following the summer holidays, we turn to the gentle embrace of autumn. The vibrant colours of the leaves bring a warmth to the crisp air as the nights start to close in. The crops have been gathered, the fields have been ploughed, and the livestock are being prepared for the winter. It is time to celebrate the Harvest Festival!

This year's Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church will be held on

Sunday 5th October at our 10.30am All Age Worship, and everyone — young and old, lifelong residents and newcomers alike — is warmly invited to take part.

We will have a joyful service that is filled with gratitude, faith, and community spirit, because the Harvest Festival not only marks the end of the growing season but also serves as a poignant reminder of our deep connection to the land, to one another, and to the simple blessings of daily life.

We will also be hosting our

Harvest Soup Lunch on Tuesday 7th October at 12pm in our Church Hall, where you will have a choice of home-made soups, fresh rolls, refreshments, and delicious pudding and cream; all for just £7.

As in previous years, St Mary's Church will be collecting non-perishable food donations for the Manna Centre to support their work in offering hot meals to those who find themselves homeless in London. You can bring your donations to our Sunday Service or our Soup Lunch.



In an age of fast-paced change and uncertainty, the Harvest Festival offers a moment of stillness — a chance to count our blessings, renew ties, and look to the future with hope. As autumn settles in around us, let's gather, sing, and give thanks for the miracle of the land and the enduring strength of our village.

May the harvest be plentiful, our hearts generous, and the spirit of our community shine ever brighter through the years to come. Amen.

Rev. Sarah Moss
Vicar of the Theydon Parishes



Theydon Bois Action Group

Marcris House EPF/0507/25: Change of use from care home to residential and conversion to 8 x two bedroom flats. TBAG objected to this application on grounds of unsustainability, lack of safe pedestrian links to the village and other issues. This application has been REFUSED by EFDC Planning on grounds of loss of valued community facility, loss of specialist accommodation and employment, and the lack of a Section 106 Agreement protecting Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation.

Blunts Farm EPF/1406/22: Change of use from agricultural barns to B8 storage and associated development. TBAG reported on this in March of this year having raised an objection to this revised application. No decision has yet been made, but it appears that the Officer on the case is preparing to have this application heard before EFDC's Planning Committee in September where our District Ward Councillors may speak but are no longer permitted to vote on this application.

Government planning situation. - Further to TBAG's letter to our MP, Dr Neil Hudson, regarding build out rates in England, we were pleasantly surprised to receive an immediate response. Dr Hudson kindly forwarded our letter to Baroness Taylor of Stevenage, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Baroness Taylor also responded promptly, sending several links which are yet to be fully explored. This issue is something that the Government is aware of and monitoring. Dr Hudson expressed his deep concern of the Government's plans to release areas of the Green Belt for development, under their own subjective 'grey belt' definition, which in reality simply waters down all Green Belt protections. He also recognised that the Government are forcing top-down reforms whilst simultaneously silencing local voices by stripping council planning committees of their ability to consider applications.

Subsequently, two Government technical consultations, one on 'Implementing Measures to Improve Build Out Transparency' and one on the 'Reform of Planning Committees' were launched and TBAG has responded to both. We were not happy just responding to the 'tick-box' questionnaire, because some questions were clearly leading. So, in addition TBAG wrote a narrative response to both entitled 'The Planning Situation As We See It'. See <https://theydonbois-actiongroup.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2025-08-21-TBAG-response-to-Technical-Consultation-implementing-build-out-rates.docx> and <https://theydonbois-actiongroup.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2025-08-22-Redacted-TBAG-Response-to-Consultation-on-Planning-Committees-2025.docx>. We mention in our response the issue of developers being fined £100m after the Competition and Markets Authority said they may be sharing commercially sensitive information that affects the price of homes!

Devolution plans for Epping Forest District Council trundle on with no apparent movement, but TBAG maintain that under a Unitary Authority the valuable local knowledge which is currently able to be input by residents and local Councillors will be completely lost and removed from the planning process. TBAG have expressed this serious matter in our consultation responses referred to above.

Local Public Footpaths

Residents may have noticed the deterioration in condition of several of our local public rights of way in the Green Belt surrounding our village. One path has had a bridge completely removed and another has two bridges in a precarious state. TBAG has written to the appropriate authority to report this and have been assured that the corrective work will be carried out in due course. We would encourage residents to explore our footpaths and appreciate our rural surroundings while one still can.

In Memoriam

TBAG would like to acknowledge the sad passing of Graham Law who was a staunch TBAG supporter from its inception and more latterly a member of our Committee. Our heartfelt sympathies go to his wife and his wider family and friends.

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. Please feel free to join.

I wanted to start this issue in memory of a character who meant so much to so many of you. Dear Brian Palmer who passed away in hospital after an illness, he was 88 years old. Brian would visit Tesco most days, with his long grey coat and flowing silver white hair.

He had settled into the village many years ago and forged wonderful friendships with his neighbours who cared for him deeply. He had so many stories to tell and would like nothing more than sharing a cup of tea with friends, reminiscing of times past and looking forward to the future. He will be sorely missed by so many. If his legacy has taught me anything, it's to stop and chat, to look out for your neighbours and to care. Theydon Bois welcomed Brian and we were blessed to have him.



These last few months have seen us welcome a new Reverend to the Parish, Sarah Moss, who I (like so many others) have had the privilege to meet. A kind, forward thinking and approachable individual who we wish every success to in her new role. Sadly in juxtaposition we saw the departure of the Reverend John Fry who has moved on to pastures new but will be found in his new Parishes in Epping. John will be sorely missed but we wish him every success in his future.

There has been quite a lot of confusion regarding the delivery of the blue lidded bins with some purporting to have not received one, also others complaining about the size. It is important to know that larger bins or two bins can be ordered in many cases. There has also been some confusion as to what actually goes in them! Hopefully these are teething problems that will be rectified in the near future. There have been a high number of thefts of tools from vehicles and bicycles being stolen. The people doing this have little or no regard for personal property or the pain and heart ache these thefts evoke. Please be aware at all times, if possible do not leave possessions out of your eye sight or leave tools in your vehicles. These thefts aren't only taking place under the cover of darkness so please be vigilant. If something looks suspicious it could well be so.

Finally I wanted to highlight a wonderful charity that I am proud to be the chairperson of, one that is so important, especially in regards to today's uncertain financial future. Based in our village the United Charities Commission offers reward for those who may need a little help at Christmas time. Those who may be facing hardship, or need that little boost to overcome unforeseen "bumps in the road." We are so lucky to live in this beautiful village but we must never forget that times can be hard for people and this is where the charity can offer some reprieve. For a number of years we have continued in our endeavours to assist those we are aware of with a little bit of help over the Christmas period. This has been done in the past by "word of mouth". I was lucky enough to be in a job where people would come and talk to me as I was village based. However since my redundancy, my employment involves travelling, so am not now in a position to speak as freely to individuals.

Are you in a position that would appreciate a little help or are you aware of someone who is? Would a small cash donation help? There are no forms to fill in, no application as it were and is completely anonymous. Please feel free to speak to me when I am around the village or email me at tippy.cornish@yahoo.com whereby the information supplied would be in the strictest confidence.

I really hope you have enjoyed reading.

Sending lots of love, Tippy

Theydon Bois Horticultural Society

We had an excellent show on the 19th July with a large number of people coming to visit. Sadly a number of the classes had only one or two entries but the beetroot and Victoria sponge were well represented. Please make an effort to submit some entries next year! The weather was mixed and the decision was taken to start the tortoise races a little early whilst there was a dry spell to ensure that they could be held outside.



We were delighted to welcome Dr Neil Hudson, our new MP, to present the trophies which included the following:

- **The Gazette Challenge Bowl** for the best fruit or vegetable exhibit - Shirley Weetch.
- **The Gerald Buxton Cup** for the best flower or plant exhibit – Marguerite Fildes.
- **The Ronnie Roast Salver** for the best beetroot - Emma Rogers.
- **The William Way Cup** for the most successful exhibitor in both the fruit and vegetable section and the flower and plant section – Liz McGuire.
- **The Elcee Cup** for the most successful exhibitor in the Handicraft section – Jane Shears.
- **The Committee Cup** for the most successful exhibitor in the Photographic section – Liz McGuire.
- **The Keswick Cup** for the most successful exhibitor in the Cookery section - Heather Howland.
- **The Banksian Medal** for the most successful exhibitor overall. This award cannot be given to the same exhibitor for two consecutive years – Shirley Weetch.
- **The Garden News Shield** for the most successful exhibitor in the Junior section - Lexie Oliver-Fitch.
- **Mini-Shield** for the runner up in the Junior section – Rafe Cole.

We have two talks arranged in the Village Hall, with a further one planned for March.

- ***The Greening of London by David Williams on Wednesday 19th November at 2.30pm.***
This will be followed by the AGM. We are keen to recruit new Committee members!
- ***Bees by Kate Langley on Wednesday 18th February 2026 at 2.30pm.***



Theydon Bois Golf Club



Theydon Bois Golf Club Captain Ray Doherty together with close friend and fellow club member Mickie Scruton, took on a remarkable challenge on July 17th, playing 101 holes of golf in a single day to raise money for The Breast Cancer department Unit at St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping.

Ray's Nicky, was treated there before she sadly passed away two years ago and Ray was determined to honour her memory by raising money to support the vital work of the hospital. The pair tee'd off at 6am and completed the challenge some 12 hours later when the two exhausted golfers received an enthusiastic applause from the numerous spectators as they finished their challenge on the 18th green.

The fundraising event raised the magnificent sum of £7,346 for the vital work of the hospital.



Theydon Bois Cricket Club

Another Successful Season For The Cricket Club - Theydon Bois Cricket Club has enjoyed another successful season. At the time of writing, with just two remaining league games of the season to play, the 2nd¹ XI are currently second in their division and a victory in either of their remaining games will secure promotion.



They have won 13 of their 16 games so far and produced some memorable performances such as chasing down a total of 263 against Brookweald for the loss of just two wickets.

The 1st XI have also performed well, albeit less consistent, and currently hold a mid-table position in their division of the T. Rippon Mid Essex Cricket League.

The junior cricket section continues to thrive. The following is a summary of the junior team's performances:

U11s – This year the U11s played in the Terriers (soft ball) competition finishing a creditable 3rd, just missing out on the league final. It was an all-round team effort, but mention should be given to both Hunter Pugh and Joseph Faccini for their contribution with bat and ball swinging tight games in our favour. The team also competed in their first hard ball competition finishing 4th in the league. This was a fantastic effort considering most of the players are either U10 or U9. All bodes well for next season!

U13s - Captained by Joshua Fryer, with good all rounds performances from Toby Burchett and Freddie Moore, the team showed some good progress and improved performances finishing 4th in their league. This included their first victory over rivals Thorley in an exciting tight finish! We are starting to see some of the players kicking on from previous years and show the skills they have been developing in the nets and Friday night practice.

U15s – Found themselves up against some well drilled and tough opposition and finished 6th in their league. Again, progress was made with players honing and refining the skills they have learnt in previous years.

Further information on Theydon Bois Cricket Club can be found on their web site at www.tbcc.co.uk

Theydon Bois Tennis Club

The village Tennis Club has enjoyed a vibrant and successful summer season, with our six astro courts hosting everything from competitive league matches to relaxed social play. Our thriving junior section continues to grow, offering coaching and match play opportunities for players of all standards. The calendar of events throughout the summer season includes the French Open, Wimbledon Whites event and even the Irish Open, each drawing enthusiastic participation and showcasing both skill and club spirit.



Our **highly popular summer camps** welcomed children from across the local area, introducing them to tennis and a variety of ball skills in a fun, supportive environment. These sessions were led by our fantastic coaching team and provided a brilliant way for young players to stay active, build confidence, and make new friends.

Wednesday evening and Saturday afternoon socials brought members together for summer suppers and drinks at the club bar, while the Coaches' Charity Day raised funds for Great Ormond Street Hospital.

With strong facilities, dedicated volunteers, and a passionate membership, Theydon Bois Tennis Club continues to thrive, on and off the court.

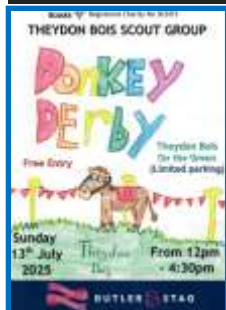
We always welcome new members of all ages, abilities and levels of tennis experience.

Please contact



**theydontennismembership@gmail.com or see our website
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/TheydonBoisLawnTennisClub> for more details.**

Theydon Bois Donkey Derby July 13th



This year's Donkey Derby was another huge success, raises necessary funds for the scouting and guiding movement. The scouts are looking to replace the dilapidated Rover Den at the rear of their site and this event is vital to raising money for this project. It also helps keep costs down on trips and events for the scouts and guides throughout the year.

As ever the village pulled together to help put on the derby, with volunteers manning the stalls and helping to set up and take down the huge amount of tentage that is involved in the event. This year saw the expansion of the popular Local Craft Area with about 20 craftspeople showing off and selling their homemade wares. There were also some new games which had been designed and built by Mark Marsh which proved

very popular with the children. This was the first year that the MG Club was invited to hold its display of cars at the event. The Club has its roots in Theydon Bois as it was started at the Queen Vic pub though it no longer meets there.

The child jockeys really pulled it out the bag this year with only one falling off - a record given the donkeys are all ridden bareback though all the riders have to be experienced to be able to have a race.

Donkey Derby chair, Nik O'Flynn, said: "A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the day a success - your input is invaluable. Also a big thank you to our sponsors, Butler and Stag, advertisers and stallholders and the paying customers who all help to make it a great day."

One marked change was that the committee paid parking stewards who managed to keep the road between the greens clear of parked cars which really helped with congestion which had been a problem the previous year. Everyone parked courteously apart from two entitled Range Rover drivers who parked on the Green where the event was held.



Theydon Bois Donkey Derby July 13th *(continued)*



Theydon Bois Donkey Derby July 13th (continued)



Theydon Bois & District Rural Preservation Society

Planning: Since the start of June, there have been 18 full planning applications for Theydon Bois with most of these coming towards the end of the quarter. At the time of writing the Society is preparing a few objection letters to the latest applications to try and ensure our village retains its character and charm with the Green Belt protected. We were pleased to see that the application, to which we objected, for 8 x 2-bedroom flats at Marcris House along Coopersale Lane was refused as we consider this to be in an unsustainable location.



During the quarter, the Society has responded to the Government's Technical Consultation paper on the proposed reform of planning committees. The government is looking to have a standard national process as to which planning applications should be delegated to planning officers for a decision and which should go instead to a District Planning Committee. They are proposing that much more is decided by the Planning Officers, with less sent to a District Committee. We disagree with this.

At a District Planning Committee, Councillors (who may have local knowledge of the application) make a decision as to whether to approve or refuse a planning proposal that has been raised to the Committee. We feel that the current local process works well. It seems to us that the two-tier national structure being proposed is an erosion of the local democratic process and disenfranchises locally elected District Councillors. The proposal would remove the ability for democratically-elected Ward Councillors to apply their knowledge and experience of local context and local concerns. The Government sees the planning process as being the roadblock to development. However, in our opinion this is not the case. There are a very large number of planning applications that have been approved but have not been built out.

Events: We supported The Donkey Derby on the Village Green again this year with an Advertisement in their programme and our stand at the event. Our stand at the event proved very popular again with craft activities for the children, often ably assisted by their Parents These were devised by our Greenshoots members

Our next event is a free talk at the Village Hall on Friday 17th October titled "Epping Forest, then and now and then again".

This is an ongoing project that is gaining momentum with regards to the history of Epping Forest. The Speaker is Paul Morris who is a Verderer of Epping Forest.

"Epping Forest Then and Now" was printed in the late 80's and reprinted again in the 90's, and this talk relates to a fresh look we are having towards many historic features; some related especially to Theydon Bois. This talk will also touch on Rural Preservation in a modern environment. 'Verderers' in the former Royal Forest of Epping have been appointed since the early 13th century. The office was preserved by the Epping Forest Act 1878. They are nowadays elected by registered commoners. The 'Verderers' act as representatives of the user of the of Forest, meet the Superintendent and other officials regularly, and are members of the Epping Forest Committee of the City of London.

Visit our Website [Website <https://tbruralpres.org.uk>](https://tbruralpres.org.uk) or see the **Village noticeboards** for details on all the latest planning applications and future Rural Pres. Events.

Theydon Bois & District Rural Preservation Society

*Helping: to protect and preserve our village since 1943
Registered Charity no. 286346*

Supporting Art in our Schools

The Arts Society West Essex, whose long time meetings centre is Theydon Bois Village Hall, is a strong supporter of Art Bytes, an organisation set up four years ago to support art in schools as the teaching of and availability of learning about art suffers catastrophic decline for young people of school age.



Three winners of the

Regional heat in the national Art Bytes competition this summer, all pupils from Epping Upland Primary school, from left Henny Berner (1st), Alice Millward (2nd) and Felix O'Rourke (3) see <https://artbytes.co.uk/schools/epping-upland-primary-school-417/>



Art Bytes, an organisation open to schools nationally, has seen a big uptake following efforts to damp down the teaching of art in schools, with record numbers of entries. Explaining support from The Arts Society West Essex, chairman Elizabeth Nash said: "TAWSE sponsored the Class of 30 pupils in Year 5 at Epping Upland Primary School to take part in the Art Bytes national art competition for

schools. They produced observational still life drawings of a bowl of fruit, inspired by Paul Cezanne.

"We were delighted to hear that the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners (pictured), were invited to attend a regional prize giving at Kettles Yard, Cambridge on 12 June. What a wonderful opportunity for them to see their art works hanging in a prestigious art gallery."

During September some 40 members boarded the coach from Theydon Bois, Loughton and Epping for the society's annual holiday which this year visited sites of interest in Northampton under the heading "County of Squires and Spires". With so many historic attractions to choose from such as Compton Verney; Kelmarsh Hall; Rennie Mackintosh House and more the trip was brimming with interest and experience.

The monthly lectures recommenced in September with the Bronze Age Frescoes from Santorini questioning whether these emanated from the lost City of Atlantis, followed by the Bank of England's Artworks in October, Gustave Caillebotte: Painting Paris in November and for December Tchaikovsky to Tin Pan Alley - Uplifting music for Christmas.

The society meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Theydon Bois Village Hall excepting August. To join contact Susan Smith 07973 636455. See more on our website: www.theartsocietywestessex.org.uk

Loughton Astronomical Society



Members of the Society have been busy during the summer months, even when it does not get really dark. With specialised equipment we can safely image the Sun - seeing flares, prominences and sunspots during the recent peak in the 11 year cycle of activity. One way to image is to capture video and then stack individual frames for a better quality result; imagine the surprise when the International Space Station crossed in front of the Sun!



SUN WARNING: It is crucial to never look directly at the sun with telescopes, binoculars, or any form of lens without proper eye protection as this can cause permanent blindness. Only use specialized solar

filters or eclipse glasses.

Discover the wonders of the universe with the LAS, a 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. 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.

We invite you to join our regular meetings, or our junior AstroKysds section, to engage with captivating topics and observe the sky's splendour. Contact us to get involved and find out more about the LAS. <https://las-astro.org.uk/> - **Brian Morton Secretary,**

Mobile Library Service - Use it or Lose it!

Dates for Mobile Library - V Hall Car Park - Every 3 weeks 11.15 am to 12 noon

23 Sept	14 Oct	4 Nov	25 Nov	16 Dec
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News from The Village Montessori Nursery

It's been a while since my last report in Theydon Bois Village News, but I am pleased to tell you that this summer The Village Montessori Nursery has continued its activities supporting children's development and readiness for primary school, offering a variety of educational and creative experiences over the summer. The nursery emphasises practical life skills, language, mathematics and environmental awareness in line with Montessori principles.

- **Engaging educational activities:** Children participated in outdoor play, observed butterfly metamorphosis, explored symmetry through art, and engaged in practical life tasks such as food preparation, dressing skills, and hand-eye coordination exercises. They also practised early reading, writing, and basic math.
- **Creative and environmental projects:** The children contributed to creative topics such as making stone walls for a castle and frog hats; they learned about recycling and practised greetings and counting in other languages.
- **Quality accreditation maintained:** The nursery retained its STAR accreditation from Montessori Global Education, reflecting its commitment to high standards, child-centred learning, and respect for each child as a unique individual.
- **Upcoming term and contact information:** The nursery will reopen in the autumn term with sessions Monday to Thursday, including optional extended days and forest school activities.

Debbie Palmer

Interested families can reach out via *Instagram* - [thevillagemontessorinursery](https://www.instagram.com/thevillagemontessorinursery) or *phone* - 07930-313075 or *email* - villagemontessori@hotmail.com for more information



Epping Forest - Restoring Habitats



Restoring Important Habitats in Epping Forest

Epping Forest may look wild and unchanging, but its landscapes have been shaped by centuries of human intervention. Historically, local commoners maintained open areas by grazing animals and cutting trees through pollarding. As these traditional practices declined, holly and young trees spread, shading out valuable habitats such as meadows, glades and heathlands.

Today, these habitats are severely reduced. Heathland, once widespread, now covers just 18.1 hectares - only 0.7% of the Forest. Nationally, heathland has declined by 80% since the 1800s, making it one of the world's rarest habitats.

To reverse this trend, Epping Forest will launch its largest-ever heathland restoration project at Long Running this autumn. It will start with contractors removing silver birch and young oak, which have encroached the heathland. These efforts aim to allow heathland plants like heather and creeping willow to return, supporting specialised wildlife from lizards to lichens to invertebrates.



Want to learn more?

- Join one of our free Walks and Talks at Long Running East on Saturday 4 October, 9–11am or Wednesday 8 October, 11am–1pm.
- Register your interest: [*Habitat Restoration Works – Long Running*](#)

The 2025 Habitat Restoration Programme will also restore ponds and pollards in Epping Thicks, enhance wildflower meadows at Sheppard's Meadows, and improve conditions for veteran trees in Lower Forest.

How you can help:

- **Be aware** – Some works will need machinery, follow the signs to keep everyone safe.
- **Be prepared** – All of these works involve the removal of some trees and the results may initial look severe but will deliver long-term benefits for biodiversity and habitat resilience.
- **Be gentle** – Please avoid walking over the newly opened-up areas to give the rescued habitats time to emerge.

Find out more at:

- [**Habitat Restoration Programme – City of London**](#)
- epping.forest@cityoflondon.gov.uk | 0208 532 1010

Community Agents Part of Essex Wellbeing Service



Community Agents Part of the Essex Wellbeing Service

Community Agents provide support to individuals in order to maintain independence living in their own home. We can help anybody over the age of 18 that is in particular need of a home visit in order to source the support needed. Community Agents can assist with:

Equipment
Blue Badges & Bus Passes
Benefits
Social Opportunities
Transport
Meals & Shopping
Carers Support

To refer yourself, family member, friend or neighbour to Community Agents.

Please call EWS direct 0300 303 9988

Please note you must have the person you are referring's permission. Lines open Monday to Friday 8am-7pm and Saturday 9am-12pm.



**Essex
Wellbeing Service**



Community Agents is a free to access home visiting service, helping people to live independently in their own home. We can help anybody over the age of 18 that is in particular need of a home visit in order to source the support needed. We are not carers, but Community Agents can assist with:

- **Equipment** - Assess and arrange installation for grab rails, bed rails, steps, toilet aids, bathing/showering aids, furniture raisers.
- **Blue Badges & Bus Passes** - Complete applications and renewals.
- **Benefits** - Assist with benefit form completion or signpost to the relevant, local service.
- **Social Opportunities** - Community Agents know many local clubs and activities and have details of what's on in your local area.
- **Transport** - Advise on community and hospital transport links.
- **Meals & Shopping** - If preparing meals or shopping is becoming difficult we have details of options that may be suitable.
- **Carers Support** - Provide support to unpaid carers including sourcing respite options and carers support groups.

Please call EWS direct 0300 303 9988 to refer yourself, family member, friend or neighbour to Community Agents. Please note you must have the referrer's permission. Lines open Monday to Friday 8am-7pm and Saturday 9am-12pm.

News, Comments & Notices

How to Find a Reputable Therapist - Theydon based counsellor, Dawn Humberstone has written this brief article for Village News.

Mental health is no longer such a taboo, but for many visiting a therapist is still unknown territory. When it comes to finding a therapist it's important to follow a reputable route. One option is a GP referral to NHS Talking Therapies. Alternatively, your employers may offer staff counselling support or there are many private counsellors across the region. And if you prefer online counselling you have a country of therapist to choose from.



Unfortunately, unlike other medical professions counselling is unregulated. This means that anyone can set themselves up as a counsellor. So, it is vital you make sure your therapist is registered with a recognised organisation such as the British Association for Counsellors and Psychotherapists (www.bacp.co.uk). The BACP vets all the practitioners on its directory to ensure they comply with its high professional standards. Any reputable counsellor will happily supply proof of qualifications and professional memberships.

Finding the right counsellor can really help you deal with the things that may be holding you back in life.

In a mental health emergency dial 999 or 111 and option 2.

Dawn Humberstone, MBACP Accred. Counsellor.

T:07905300115 E:dawnhumberstone@yahoo.com

Linda's Textile Art Display in the Gibberd Gallery Harlow

A member of the Theydon Art Group - Linda Tilling won the Harlow Open Art competition this year. Linda has displayed her art works at the Theydon Art Group show for a few years and was pictured in the June issue in front of her displayed work. As part of the competition prize she has the chance to display art work for a month. An exhibition of textile art entitled 'Marked, coloured and stitched' will be on display in the Gibberd Gallery Window Galleries from 2nd - 30th October. The Gibberd Gallery is a visual arts space run by Harlow Art Trust in the Water Gardens and well worth a visit - see website at <https://www.gibberdgallery.co.uk/>



The Buxton Trust Playing Field - Notice To Dog Owners

The Trustees of the Buxton Trust respectfully advise that the Buxton Trust Playing Field is a private sports ground and not a public park. **Therefore, in the interest of hygiene,**

PLEASE DO NOT EXERCISE YOUR DOG ON THIS GROUND.

Regrettably, inconsiderate dog owners are allowing their dogs to foul the area. It is no fun for people playing sport on the ground to tread on faeces or worse still field a ball which has been in contact with faeces. This could potentially lead to serious health concerns. You are also putting your dog at risk when machinery is being used on the ground! The number of dog owners using the ground has become untenable and therefore the Trustees will have no alternative but to take action against persistent offenders.

Please be aware that CCTV is in operation on the ground.

News, Comments & Notices



The Circus is Coming to Theydon Bois Primary School! Join us on Sunday, 5th October 2025 for an afternoon of spectacular family fun, laughter, awe-inspiring acts, and memories your children will never forget!

As well as the circus performance, there will be a delicious butcher's BBQ, a fully-stocked bar, and plenty of treats and entertainment for all ages – from sweet stalls to games and more.

Time: Gate opens at 12noon.

Big Top opens 13:30, Show 14:00 - 16.00.

Tickets: £15 per person.

THIS IS A TICKET ONLY EVENT, WITH LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE!!

Buy your tickets NOW at <https://tinyurl.com/TB-PTA-Circus> to avoid disappointment.

All proceeds from the event will go directly towards supporting school projects and resources that benefit our children – from new playground equipment to classroom supplies and enrichment.

The Theydon Bois singers had another successful concert in July. The large, appreciative audience enjoyed our renderings of numbers from Oliver, The Lion King, Oklahoma, Gilbert and Sullivan and The Carpenters. We were treated to a lovely duet by Shirley and Trish.

Our audience was also in good voice and joined us, enthusiastically, in singing the Tallis Canon and 'When the Saints' and 'Swing Low Sweet Chariot'. The evening finished with the audience and choir enjoying a glass of Pimms on the patio outside the hall.

We are a small, friendly choir, always ready to welcome new members. Come and give us a try!

The new term starts on Monday 22nd September at 7.30pm in Theydon Bois Village Hall
For more details, contact Barbara Lane on 01992 574892 email: barbaralane45@outlook.com



SAVE THE DATE

Our Christmas concert is on Tuesday 16th December at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

St Clare Quiz

Saturday 1st November

Village Hall 7.30 for 8pm start

TABLES of 8 (6-10)

£10.00 ticket

BYO food and drink.

Please contact
Martin & Marion Oliver
01992 812042



Supporting **Smile** Helping families in London & Essex living in poverty & homelessness

This Event is Run By **Crafty Cow Markets**

SCAN ME
Like & Share

Autumn Market & Artisan Craft Fair

Sunday 5th October

10am - 4pm

The Village Hall,
Coppice Row,
Theydon Bois Village,
Theydon Bois
CM16 7ER

FREE ENTRY
FREE EVENT

Information on booking a stall email:
craftycowmarkets@outlook.com

Shop local



FISH AND CHIPS



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



News, Comments & Notices



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Please Contact Miss Sandra On 07956617228

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adventure






Scouts
1st Theydon Bois

Contact us on:
1sttheydonbois@gmail.com

OPEN GARDENS DAY - *So good – we've booked it for next year!*

THEYDON BOIS OPEN GARDENS 2026 will be on Sunday 7th June

Way back at the beginning of June we had a very enjoyable Open Gardens Day. Lots of lovely visitors, lots of gardens to see and thanks to everyone's generosity we were able to donate £1800 to St Clare Hospice and £200 to the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Service. Gardeners opening for the first time agreed it was a lovely day and they had enjoyed the comments from appreciative visitors.



News, Comments & Notices

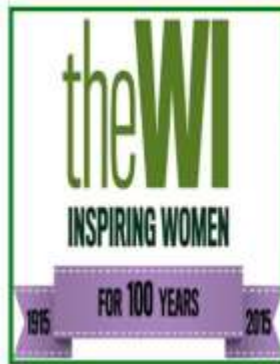
Theydon Bois Drama Society



Theydon Bois Drama Society is celebrating its centenary this year, and to mark this important milestone a special outdoor production of Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* was performed in June. For only the second time in its 100-year history, TBDS transferred its stage from the Village Hall to the field next door, and the audience enjoyed the Elizabethan romp *al fresco*, bringing their own garden chairs and a picnic. Unfortunately the weather permitted only one outdoor performance, and the two Saturday shows had to take place inside the Hall.

Photo captions: *Left* - Angei Beckett-Franks (Mistress Page) and Liz Douglass (Mistress Ford) **Front Page** - Rebecca Manning (Nim) and Paul Daynes (Sir John Falstaff)

TBDS' next show is *Glorious*, the story of the off-key soprano Florence Foster Jenkins, on November 27, 28 and 29. Tickets at £15, plus a free programme, can be booked via the website: www.theydonboisdramasociety.co.uk or phone 01992 919038.



Theydon Bois Women's Institute

- 17th Sept "A Change in the Weather"
- 13th October *Mr Philip McKinder*
- 15th Oct "The History and Restoration of Copped Hall"
Ms Linda Stewart
- 19th Nov "Things I have discovered of interest in Essex"
Mrs Maggie Piper
- 10th Dec "Christmas Entertainment"
Debbie Spicer: Please note this is 2nd Wednesday not third.

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.



10th Sept 25	"Saving Lives at Sea" (History of Life Boats) - Mark Lewis
8th Oct 25	"Old King Coal" - Fall of a Mighty Empire (Railways) - George Grumble
12th Nov 25	"The Highland Canals of Scotland" - Richard Thomas
10th Dec 25	"The Royal Protection Unit" - Richard Wain

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.

23 Sept	Mobile Library Village Hall Car Park 11.15 to 12 noon
24 Sept	Community Cuppa & Repair Café at St Mary's Church Hall
5 Oct	Theydon Bois Primary School Circus - see page 36
5 Oct	Autumn Market & Craft Fair Village Hall - see page 37
14 Oct	Mobile Library Village Hall Car Park 11.15 to 12 noon
17 Oct	Rural Preservation Society - talk in the Village Hall - see page 29
29 Oct	Community Cuppa & Repair Café at St Mary's Church Hall
1 Nov	St Clare Quiz - Village Hall - see page 37
4 Nov	Mobile Library Village Hall Car Park 11.15 to 12 noon
19 Nov	Horticultural Society talk in Village Hall - see page 22
25 Nov	Mobile Library Village Hall Car Park 11.15 to 12 noon
26 Nov	Community Cuppa & Repair Café at St Mary's Church Hall
28 Nov	Theydon Bois Christmas Market
27- 29 Nov	Theydon Bois Drama Society - see page 39
16 Dec	Theydon Singers Christmas Concert Village Hall - see page 36
Various	Women's Institute - page 39
Various	Mens Forum - page 39



Copy for Village News - email the editor Tony Ames at

theydonnews@virginmedia.com

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



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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