GOOD EASTER PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter

Summer 2026



GOOD EASTER SUMMER FETE

DOG & CAR SHOW

Saturday 11th July
from 1pm

See back page
for further details

GOOD EASTER PARISH COUNCIL

LOCAL COUNCIL AWARD SCHEME BRONZE

The Parish Council meets on the last Thursday of every other month; agendas are available on the website (www.goodeasterparishcouncil.gov.uk) or notice board or by contacting the clerk three days prior to each meeting. Members of the public are very welcome to attend meetings and may address the Council at the start of the meeting during the public session.

	Cllr Graham Seeley—Chairman graham.seeley@goodeasterparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Cllr Leila Balin—Vice Chairman leila.balin@goodeasterparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Cllr Paul West paul.west@goodeasterparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Cllr Tim Glass tim.glass@goodeasterparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Cllr Tom Leng thomas.leng@goodeasterparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Cllr Brian Anderson brian.anderson@goodeasterparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Cllr Malcolm Johnston malcolm.johnston@goodeasterparishcouncil.gov.uk
	Miss Lucy White, CiLCA, BA (Hons) Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer Email: clerk@goodeasterparishcouncil.gov.uk Tel: 07703 170512

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Cllr Mike Steel—Essex County Council



Essex County Council election results

I am pleased to say that I was successful in re-election to the Broomfield and Writtle division. Thank you to all those that voted for me. The boundary has changed such that it no longer includes Gt Leighs and adds Stock and Margaretting, and retains Great Waltham, Little Waltham, Broomfield, Writtle, Pleshey, Chignal, Good Easter, Highwood, Mashbury, Roxwell and part of Chelmsford Garden Community.

I will continue to work with my Parish Councils and in the interest of the residents. Most of what I do is about fixing issues, and one would hope that would stay unchanged. I'm sure that everyone already knows that the Reform UK party have a majority and will form the new administration. But I do not know yet whether they will confirm the previously agreed budget and continue the various initiatives that are important to us locally – like the adoption of the new draft Speed Strategy, the Members Highways In initiative, etc.

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

The Government has announced that Chelmsford will join Brentwood and Maldon, along with Essex County Council services, to form a new mid-Essex unitary authority from April 2028. This forms part of the wider five unitary model which has now been selected for Greater Essex. The Government has also confirmed their commitment to repayment in-principle of £200m of Thurrock Council's debt. Until the 1st April 2028, Chelmsford City Council and Essex County Council will continue to operate as usual. Elections for the Unitary Authorities will take place in May 2027 but the Cllrs will not take control until April 2028.

However, the new Reform Essex County Council Administration have written to Steve Reed MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, and stated that Essex County Council "will utilise all resources at our disposal to challenge and resist LGR". So this may affect the situation.

Essex Safer Speeds Strategy



Essex County Council have carried out a consultation on their draft Essex Safer Speeds Strategy, which sets out a new, flexible and evidence-based approach for introducing safer speed measures across Essex. Speed is the biggest factor in fatal road collisions in Essex. In 2025, 60 people died on Essex roads, with almost half of deaths linked to excess speed. The strategy supports Vision Zero – the ambition that no one should be killed or seriously injured on Essex roads by 2040. In my opinion it is the start of a major shift towards slower speeds and lower speed limits, but it genuinely wants to know whether the general public want this. We now await whether the new Essex County Council administration will take this forward into policy. If it does, it will have my support.

Cllr Mike Steel—Member for Broomfield & Writtle.
Tel: 01245 360918, Email: cllr.mike.steel@essex.gov.uk

Essex County Council

Clerk's report—Lucy White



One of my annual summer jobs has recently been completed: preparing and submitting the Parish Council's Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). This is the document that sets out the Council's finances and confirms that we have the proper systems and procedures in place to manage public money.

Normally, parish councils with an annual income or expenditure below £25,000 can claim exemption from an external audit. However, thanks to Cllr West in securing a grant for the Sportsfield Renovations during 2025/26, Good Easter Parish Council exceeded that threshold and was therefore required to submit its accounts for external audit.

Before anyone starts imagining stern auditors arriving in the village armed with calculators and magnifying glasses, the process is rather less dramatic than that! The audit simply provides independent assurance that the Council's finances have been properly managed and reported.

I am pleased to report that the Council received a clean internal audit, with no matters of concern raised by our Internal Auditor. The AGAR and supporting documents have now been submitted to the External Auditor, and we await their report later in the year.

Whilst an external audit does create a little extra work for your Clerk, it is actually a positive reflection of the Council's success in bringing additional funding into the parish.

As always, Parish Council meetings are open to the public, and residents are welcome to attend and learn more about the work being carried out on behalf of the village.

Good Easter garden and nature group

Following the great success of first two meetings where over twenty people turned up to both meetings, I would like to announce that we will be having regular meetings on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.00pm in the Good Easter Village Hall.

The meetings are generally set up to be fairly informal and are for the villagers of Good Easter and the surrounding villages to socialise with each other whilst having refreshments and also to partake in the following key activities:-

- Having Speakers, Demonstrations and Workshops
- Arranging Future Daytrips to Gardens or Nature Reserves
- Having a Gardening and Wildlife Questions and Answers Session
- The Swapping of Plants, Cuttings & Seeds

Please feel free to attend no matter how much gardening or wildlife experience you may have and I assure you that you will be made very welcome.

All refreshments are free and there is parking available in the sports field car park.

If you require more details, please contact me on 07850868372 or Email: briananderson.goodeaster@gmail.com
Cllr Brian Anderson

Further Funding Secured for the Sportsfield Pavilion

Following a successful grant application by Good Easter Parish Council to Chelmsford City Council for £10,000 towards the refurbishment of the Sportsfield Pavilion, the Parish Council is pleased to announce that a further grant of £5,800 has been secured from the Essex Community Fund, with support from Essex County Councillor Mike Steel.



The additional funding will help Good Easter Sportsfield Association complete the internal works, including plastering, fitting out the kitchen and cleaning the flooring.

The Parish Council has also been successful in obtaining an insurance settlement to replace the pavilion's vandalised main entrance doors and bar shutter.

Ian Watkins and Marie Stevenson of Good Easter Sportsfield Association continue to look for volunteers who can help with plasterboarding, painting and decorating, or any other practical tasks. If you are able to assist, your help would be greatly appreciated.
Cllr Paul West



Food and medicine have the same origin

Only relatively recently has academic research recognised the important role that wild plants have played in human diets around the world. Traditionally, wild plants were gathered mainly by women and children, which may explain why their contribution has often been overlooked.

For centuries, wild plants have been valued not only as food but also for their medicinal properties. They add variety to our diets and provide essential nutrients, vitamins and minerals. Different parts of plants have been used as snacks, flavourings, garnishes, teas, tonics and, in some cases, as medicines.

Knowledge of a plant's food value has often developed alongside an understanding of its medicinal benefits. Many wild plants contain high levels of nutrients that can help support the immune system and may contribute to disease prevention and recovery.

Plants can be broadly classified into four groups: wild plants, weeds (plants that thrive in areas disturbed by human activity), domesticated plants (those that have adapted through human influence), and cultivated or hybridised plants that have been selectively bred to enhance particular characteristics.

Throughout history, people have gathered plants in many ways, from casual foraging to systematic collection and, eventually, intensive cultivation. Even today, many farming communities continue to include foraged plants in their diets, and some researchers believe that agricultural societies may use a greater variety of plants than hunter-gatherers once did.

Plants that were once regarded as 'famine foods' or 'emergency plants' continue to be eaten regularly in many parts of the world. In contrast, modern societies, where people have become increasingly disconnected from the natural environment, have often overlooked or even despised these valuable food sources.

Did you know…
- Nettles – traditionally used in soups and teas.
- Dandelions – the leaves can be eaten in salads.
- Elderflowers – used to make cordial.
- Wild garlic – a favourite spring ingredient.

As interest in herbal medicine and sustainable living continues to grow, we are rediscovering something our ancestors understood well: many of the native seasonal plants that once formed part of our everyday diet were also our first medicines.

Which council does what?

One of the most common questions the Parish Council receives is, "Who do I contact about...?"

With three different tiers of local government, it's no surprise that it can sometimes be confusing! Here's a simple guide to who is responsible for what.

Good Easter Parish Council
Your Parish Council deals with local village matters. It comments on planning applications, maintains supports community projects and work to improve the village. The Parish Clerk is often the first point of contact for residents, even when an issue is the responsibility of another council.

Chelmsford City Council
Chelmsford City Council provides services including:
⇒ Household waste and recycling collections.
⇒ Housing and homelessness services.
⇒ Environmental Health.
⇒ Planning decisions (after considering comments from the Parish Council and others).
⇒ Licensing, leisure facilities, parks and open spaces.
⇒ Street cleansing and litter collection.

Essex County Council
Essex County Council is responsible for many of the services residents use every day, including:
⇒ Roads and pavements.
⇒ Potholes.
⇒ Highway drainage.
⇒ Street lighting.
⇒ Public rights of way.
⇒ Schools and education.
⇒ Libraries.
⇒ Adult Social Care.
⇒ Children's services.

One of the most common misconceptions is that potholes are dealt with by either the Parish Council or Chelmsford City Council. In fact, responsibility lies with Essex County Council.

Reporting a pothole (or other highway issue)
If you spot a pothole, blocked drain, damaged road sign, faulty street light or another highway problem, the quickest way to report it is via Essex Highways' Track It system.



Before reporting a new issue, it's worth checking whether someone else has already logged it. If it has, you can simply sign up for updates rather than submitting another report. If it hasn't, you can pinpoint the location on an interactive map, add a description and upload photographs if you have them. You can also choose to receive email updates as the issue progresses. You'll find the service here:
https://www.essexhighways.org/track-it

If you're ever unsure which council is responsible for a particular issue, don't worry—you are certainly not the first! Feel free to contact the Parish Clerk, who will be happy to point you in the right direction. After all, we'd much rather help you find the correct council than have you wondering who to call while trying to avoid a pothole!

News from St Andrews



Hopefully you have all received the Summer Card through your doors. Once again, we would like to say a heartfelt thank you for all your support in attending and helping at our events. Your support is essential to the financial running of St Andrew's and, just as importantly, getting together is wonderful for our community. There is still plenty to look forward to:

The King's Men – Live in Concert, Monday 13th July—An outstanding a cappella group featuring Choral Scholars and Lay Clerks from the Choir of King's College, Cambridge. Tickets are £20, students £10, and under 16s go free. For tickets, please contact Di on 07729 899023.

Harvest Festival and Harvest Lunch, Sunday 27th September—All ages welcome.

Ride and Stride—Saturday 12th September—Take part in a sponsored bike ride or walk in aid of the Friends of Essex Churches. If you don't fancy the activity, why not pop into the church between 10.00am and 12 noon to view our history display and support the amazing work the Friends of Essex Churches do to help preserve our historic buildings?

Churchyard Tidy-Up and Bulb Planting – Saturday 3rd October

Our Prayer Tree, inside the church, is a new initiative that has already been well used. If there is something—or someone—you would like the church community to pray for, please pop into the church. The church is open daily thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers.

We are delighted to welcome four children and their families into our church family through Baptism. We are busy preparing child-friendly services and keeping them all in our prayers as they look forward to their special day. Our services are open to everyone in the community, and refreshments are served afterwards.
All the best for the Summer, from all at St Andrews.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Church Warden	Diana Matthews	07729 899023
Church Secretary	Allison Ward	07960 796346
Parish Council	Graham Seeley (Chair)	07835 308249
Parish Clerk	Lucy White	07703 170512
Village Hall Bookings	Allison Ward	07960 796346
Sports Field Association	Ian Watkins (Chair)	07841 749015
Sports Field Association	Marie Stephenson (Secretary)	07444 210522
Daisy Circle	Jan Bailey	01245 231866
Community First Responder	Chris Flack	07860 564309
High Roding Women's Institute	Angela King	01371 859287
Great Canfield Cricket Club	Johnathan Clark	01371 873403
Great Canfield Carpet Bowls	David Turner	01279 870578

AT GOOD EASTER SPORTS FIELD

GOOD EASTER SUMMER FETE

DOG &CAR SHOW

SATURDAY 11th JULY FROM 1pm



Tug 'O' War
Dog Show
Stalls
Ice Cream
Hot Food
Licensed Bar
Table top/
Boot Sale
Tea, cakes
Crockery Smash

DOG SHOW AT 2.30pm only £3

* PRETTIEST BITCH * HANDSOME MALE * CUTEST PUP *
WAGGIEST TAIL * GOLDEN OLDIE * YOUNG HANDLER *
DOG THE JUDGE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE HOME.



AT GOOD EASTER SPORTS FIELD