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Annual Report and Spring Newsletter 2022

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REPORT
year-end
2021/22

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Welcome



Dear fellow Springfield Resident,

Welcome to the 2021/2022 Annual Report for Springfield Parish Council, incorporating our Spring Newsletter.

During this civic year the Parish Centre has again been severely impacted by the unprecedented pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. However, our office has been here to serve you, our residents, and I would like to offer a sincere thank you to all our parish staff for their support during this difficult period.

Happily we are now fully re-opened and the majority of our users have chosen to return to us. Information about all of our activities is in the reports following pages.

This publication has been put together in conjunction with CommunityAd Web Ltd at no cost to the Parish due to advertising revenue.

The front cover photograph is by Steve James, one of the winning entries of our competition.

Cllr Ms Susan Sullivan

Chairman, Springfield Parish Council



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Chairman's Report

We had continuity in our membership this year, with no changes to councillors to report.

Our scheduled committee meetings have now returned to our usual face-to-face format and are open to parishioners. I am pleased to see that as we have unlocked, residents have continued to join meetings when they had something to ask the Council or to contribute to discussions. I am proud of the way that we have supported our residents during the pandemic.

Your Council has continued to monitor and control all aspects of expenditure with a sharp focus on value for money. As a result of a massive reduction in income from the parish centre, we have had to dip into our reserves. More details about the precept for next year are available from the Finance & Policy Committee later in this publication.

The number of residents in the Parish continues to grow as a result of the development of Beaulieu. We welcome all our new neighbours and hope that they quickly settle in and build friendships. As a result of the new homes, we have received funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy.

We are working on new projects, such as the successful outdoor gyms, that will enhance our Parish offerings.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Clerk Mrs Barbara Larken and her team. We welcome two new officers to the Council this year. Kelly Wilde has joined us as Responsible Financial Officer and Deputy Clerk, and Phil Russell as Senior Handyperson.

It is my sad duty to report the death of John Revill, our much respected and long-serving Senior Handyperson. Our thoughts are with his family at this time.

My fellow Councillors join me in paying tribute to the hard work and support of the team.

We especially thank them for their flexibility in continuing to work during the lockdown to ensure continued support to all our parishioners.

Cllr Ms Susan Sullivan

Chairman Springfield Parish Council

Springfield's Annual Parish Meeting

This annual meeting takes place for the benefit of electors in the parish area. Electors may attend the meeting and put forward suggestions to be considered.

**25th April 2022 - At 7:00pm
Springfield Parish Centre, St.
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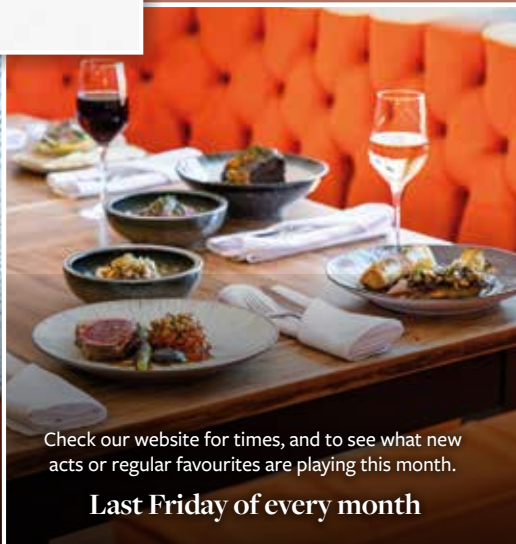

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Parish Councillors

Chelmer Village & Beaulieu Park



Cllr Miss Shelley Bryne-Lagruie
6 Salter Place, CHELMSFORD, CM2 6UU



Cllr Anthony Chong
Elm Cottage, 81 Sandford Mill Road,
CHELMSFORD CM2 6NT



Cllr Neil Gulliver
25 Henniker Gate, Chelmer Village,
CHELMSFORD, CM2 6QH



Cllr Richard Lee
(Address in Chelmsford)



Cllr Mrs Rose Moore
Dairy Farm Cottage, Chelmer Village Way,
CHELMSFORD, CM2 6TD



Cllr Mrs Yvonne Spence
Cuton Hall, Chelmer Village Way,
CHELMSFORD, CM2 6TD



Cllr Ms Susan Sullivan - Chairman
3 Milson Bank, Chelmer Village,
CHELMSFORD, CM2 6QD

Springfield North



Cllr Guy Brazendale
6 Rubens Gate, CHELMSFORD, CM1 6GN



Cllr Richard Carson
25 Candytuft Road, Springfield,
CHELMSFORD, CM1 6YS



Cllr Ian Fuller
8 Jasmine Close, CHELMSFORD, CM1 6XL



Cllr Mrs Christine Garrett
14 Daffodil Way, Springfield, CHELMSFORD,
CM1 6XB



Cllr David Havell
41 Bonington Chase, CHELMSFORD, Essex,
CM1 6GG



Cllr Brian Jeapes
14 Burnell Gate, Beaulieu Park,
CHELMSFORD, CM1 6ED



Cllr Andrew Potts
62 Trenchard Crescent, CHELMSFORD, CM1
6FG



Cllr Mrs Mandy Girling
15 Cowdrie Way,
CHELMSFORD, CM2 6GL

Springfield Parish Council

St. Augustine's Way, Springfield, Chelmsford CM1 6GX
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Officers

Clerk to the Council

Barbara Larken

Committee Clerk

Kirsty Roberts

Responsible Financial Officer & Deputy Clerk

Kelly Wilde

Administrative Assistant

Linda Simpson

Senior Handyperson

Phil Russell

Assistant Handyperson

Ryan Vaughan

Parish Centre Staff

Premises & Facilities Manager

Position Vacant

Finance & Marketing Officer

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Customer Service & Administration Assistant

Sharon Cerson

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Springfield Parish Council Meetings

In May of each year the Parish Council elect a Chairman. For the 2021/2022 Municipal year Cllr Susan Sullivan was elected Chairman and Cllr Christine Garrett elected to the role of Vice-Chairman. The next election of Chairman will take place at the Annual Council meeting to be held on 9th May 2022. The Parish Council hold their meetings at the Parish Centre, located in St. Augustine's Way, CM1 6GX, meeting dates are published on the parish website and they are open to members of the public.

During the COVID pandemic and the lockdown months the government passed temporary legislation to allow Council meetings to take place remotely. In April 2020, this temporary ruling came to an end and all Parish Council meetings reverted to a face-to-face format.

There has been a good deal of discussion and lobbying of parliament by local councils to consider allowing remote or hybrid meetings to allow councils a choice to proceed in the way that suits them best. For the time being the Parish Council must continue to hold their meetings on a face-to-face basis. Members of the public are entitled to attend the meetings and ask questions of members. The following is the schedule of forthcoming Council meetings. Future dates can be found on the Parish website

www.Springfield-pc.gov.uk

All meetings are open to members of the public and press and are held at:
Springfield Parish Centre
St Augustine's Way
North Springfield
CM1 6GX

01245 466313

clerk@springfield-pc.gov.uk



May 2022 - August 2022

May 2022

Tuesday 3rd	6.45 pm	Planning
Monday 9th	7.30 pm	Annual Council
Monday 16th	6.45pm	Planning
Monday 16th	7.30pm	Premises
Monday 30th	6.45pm	Planning

June 2022

Monday 6th	7.00pm	Finance & Policy
Monday 13th	6.45pm	Planning
Monday 13th	7.30pm	Environment & Leisure
Monday 20th	7.00pm	Full Council (End Of Year Accounts)
Monday 27th	6.45pm	Planning

July 2022

Monday 4th	7.15pm	Full Council
Monday 11th	6.45pm	Planning
Monday 25th	6.45pm	Planning
Monday 25th	7.30pm	Premises

August 2022

Monday 8th	6.45pm	Planning
Monday 22nd	6.45pm	Planning

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Finance & Policy Committee

Committee Members: Councillors Mrs Yvonne Spence (Chairman) Ms. Shelley Byrne-Lagruue, Mrs. Christine Garrett, Mrs. Mandy Girling, Mr. Richard Lee and Ms. Susan Sullivan.

This committee is responsible for monitoring the overall spending limits of the Council and setting the precept; a sum of money provided through council tax payments. This year has been another exceptionally challenging year due to COVID as we have seen a significant reduction in some of the Council's income streams, particularly room hire from the Parish Centre. We are pleased to say customers are returning to their classes and, as we welcome them back and move forward out of these difficult times, we hope that our resources will slowly recover. We are pleased that despite the challenging financial year we have been able to give a donation to Essex & Herts Air Ambulance. We have also continued to support Springfield Youth Council and Springfield Afternoon Clubs, who meet in our centre, with subsidised rentals

The committee allocated a portion of Community Infrastructure Levy Funding to provide a new outdoor adult gym facility at

Boleyn Gardens, and you can read more about that elsewhere in this report.

The Parish Council have applied for various government grants, available to us because of COVID, and these have been used to offset some of our income losses. Some staff were placed on the government furlough scheme until June 2021, thus enabling a small recuperation in costs. Councillors were pleased to welcome all staff back to their usual hours of work and we now have a team of 13 regular members, with another two support employees whom we call upon when needed. We are grateful for all they do.

Following the inspection of our annual external audit, PKF accountants notified the committee that they had no matters of concern to raise with the Council.

A summary of the Council's income and spending over the last two years is provided below.

Finance & Policy Committee

2020-2021 Previous Year (Figures given below are based on unaudited accounts)			
Total Income: £ 466,925.00		Total Expenditure: £558,970	
Precept	387,242	Finance & Policy	243,850
Interest & Misc	7,627	Public Loan Repayments	66,080
Premises	39,805	Premises	166,804
Allotments	408	Allotments	77
CIL Tax	31,843	CIL Tax	72,857
		Environment & Leisure	9,302

2021 – 2022 Financial Year (Figures given below are based on unaudited accounts)			
Total Income: £ 538,069.00		Total Expenditure: £ 539,888	
Precept	410,540	Finance & Policy	235,811
Interest & Misc	5,839	Public Loan Repayments	63,467
Premises	120,771	Premises	226,190
Allotments	408	Allotments	200
CIL Tax	511	CIL Tax	450
		Environment & Leisure	13,770



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Premises Committee

Council membership – Susan Sullivan (chairman), Richard Carson, Ian Fuller, Richard Lee, Rose Moore, Andrew Potts.

The Premises Committee oversees the Parish Centre in North Springfield. Unfortunately, the COVID lockdowns have continued to have a significant effect on the Centre this year with its activities curtailed. We have been able to support regular hirers in financial difficulties to ensure that important services remain open for the public.

We recognise that the Heaven Scent Cafe facility, which was much appreciated by users of the Centre, remains closed and we are advertising for a new business to take it over as soon as practicable. New tenants have understandably been reluctant to start a venture during the pandemic restrictions but as these are lifted, we are optimistic it will re-open soon.

We did continue to maintain and upgrade the Centre's facilities. With a focus on health and

safety we have improved lighting in the car park, alarms in the disabled toilets, and fire detection equipment. During the year we were successful in obtaining grants from the RCCE COVID Safe Building Fund for a floor cleaning machine and additional chairs and lockers.

The Parish continues to support the weekly afternoon clubs for senior citizens. We subsidise the Indoor Bowls Club, Bingo and the regular Tea Dances. If you have a spare afternoon and would like to join in with any of these social activities, please call the Centre for details.

Lastly, thanks are due to our outgoing facilities manager, Liz Edwards, who is leaving us for pastures new, the service supervisors, and the cleaning staff for the excellent work they do in maintaining your Centre to a high standard of cleanliness and functionality.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY - CAFE

As the Parish Centre slowly returns to its usual hours of business and customers begin to visit us again, the Council would like to re-open its café.

This enterprise gives a small business opportunity to someone seeking to either start up in catering or expand an already successful tea-room business. The allocated space in the parish centre has a small well-equipped kitchen, and is open each day for customers to come and enjoy a sandwich, coffee, cake, or snack. Further business development is available by providing refreshments and buffets to people hiring rooms for purposes such as training, parties, christenings, and a whole variety of functions.

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Planning Committee

Council Membership – Guy Brazendale (chairman), Shelley Byrne-Laguer, Anthony Chong, David Havell, and Brian Jeapes.

In common with all the Council's other meetings, the Planning Committee was pleased to resume meeting face-to-face in May 2021. As always, residents are invited to participate, and details of how to access meetings are included on the agendas that appear on the Council's website and notice boards around a week before. The Committee meets fortnightly throughout the year, usually on alternate Mondays, in the library at the Parish Centre in St Augustine's Way to discuss planning applications that are sent to us by Chelmsford City Council (CCC). The applications range from residential alterations to large-scale commercial and infrastructure projects, and our comments, along with those from other consultees, are then considered by the City Council (the Local Planning Authority) in deciding whether to approve or refuse the proposals. During the last 12 months, the Committee has considered 178 applications.

Chelmsford Local Plan

The Chelmsford Local Plan 2013-2036 was adopted in May 2020 by the City Council, following extensive consultations and examination by the national Planning Inspectorate. It includes, among many other things, the policies which will be used to decide planning applications, and these have to be consistent with national planning policy and practical guidance regarding their implementation. (As set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practical Guidance).

For largely residential locations such as the Springfield Parish, it is Section 9 of the Local Plan (Policies DM23 to DM29) which is of most relevance in determining the suitability of new developments, alterations to existing properties and commercial activities, the overall aim being to provide the 'basis for promoting Chelmsford as a high-quality place to live and work'. Specifically, it is to policy DM23, promoting high-quality design, and policy DM29 which protects the environment of residents by ensuring that new developments do not adversely affect quality of life, that both

CCC and this Committee now give considerable weight when evaluating applications.

Particular examples of where these policies have been important are:

- **Portway, Chancellor Park** - The Committee expressed a number of objections, which reflected neighbours' concerns regarding the effect on the street scene, and the overbearing/overshadowing of adjacent properties with a consequently detrimental impact upon occupiers' lifestyles. The application was subsequently refused by the City Council largely on the basis of policy DM29.

- **Mast at the junction of White Hart Lane and New Nabbotts Way** - This application, by a commercial mobile telephone company, proposed the replacement of the existing 10-metre-tall monopole with one twice the height. The Committee raised concerns about the suitability and positioning of such a large structure within a residential area, and CCC in refusing the application made particular reference to policy DM23 in objecting to the height, siting, design, and appearance, and the overall harm to the area's visual amenity that the mast would cause.

- **Zone C & E Beaulieu Park** - A number of applications have been considered recently in John Eve and Linge Avenues, which mainly relate to garage conversions, often with the associated introduction of hard-standing spaces to the frontages, and various side/rear extensions. This Committee and CCC have highlighted the adverse impact of these proposals upon the overall design objectives of the neighbourhood, increased on-street car parking, the harm that would be done to the visual amenity of the environment, and in certain cases the impact upon neighbours because of overlooking. With the requirements of policies DM23 and DM29 not being met, the applications have been refused.

Finally, thanks are due as always to Council members and Officers for their much-appreciated contribution to the Committee's work.





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Environment and Leisure Committee

Council Membership – Cllr C. Garrett (chairman), Guy Brazendale, Richard Carson, Neil Gulliver, David Havell, Rose Moore.

Things at the Parish Council are slowly getting back to a normal working life, albeit with a few changes. It is good to see people in the Parish using the facilities again. Outdoor gyms are popping up around our County; the Parish Council installed one of these at Chelmer Village on the village green. This was completed just before the first lockdown and we are pleased to say this is being used by many residents. Sadly, some vandalism has been experienced, but hopefully this will not become an ongoing issue. Since our last annual report, we are pleased to say that completion of another outdoor adult gym has been installed in Boleyn Gardens in Beaulieu. Again, widely used and well received by residents.

There have been several reports about the condition of footpaths around Chelmer Village Green; these are not deemed to be dangerous, but deterioration is evident. The Parish have established that responsibility for these pathways lies with Essex County Council as they appear on their online portal for reporting repairs.

Residents help us by notifying the Council about things that need attention; along with our brilliant handymen, they keep an eye around the parish checking if street furniture needs to be replaced or repaired. We have had several new bin liners bought for litter bins around the Parish and new dog bins requested, which the committee will consider.

During last year talks between the City and Parish Councils took place regarding tree planting and potential areas for wilding projects, the committee will be reviewing this to accommodate wilding areas. It has been agreed to have a wilding area in the Parish centre community garden. The committee are looking for volunteers to help with the garden, so if you are available for an hour here or there please contact us at the Parish.

The Parish has purchased some high viz jackets for volunteers who carry out litter picking around the parish which is ongoing. Again, if you want to be involved, contact the Parish Council.

Calling all budding photographers, our annual photography competition is ongoing. If you have pictures from around the Parish that we can use on the front cover of future issues of the Springfield Pump Magazine, please do submit them

(clerk@springfield-pc.gov.uk). Your entry may be rewarded with a gift voucher.

Once again, **Play in the Park** will be going ahead in 2022. The dates are 6th April in the Parish Centre, 26th to 29th July in the Chelmer Village Green, 3rd August in the Parish Centre, and 15th to 19th August Parish Centre. These are free play days for children during the school holidays which are paid for by the Parish Council. For more information about these, contact **01245 606569**

Allotments for the parish are located at Brookend Road South and comprise of 22 plots. The site offers a relaxing environment in which to cultivate fresh how produce and continues to be well used. There is a waiting list for people requesting plots and those on the list will be contacted as soon as a plot becomes available.





2021 Pantomime

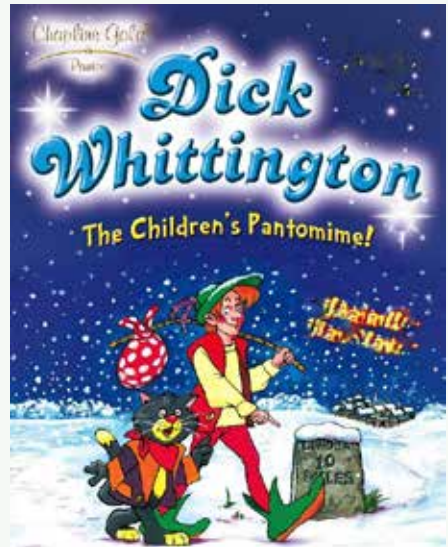
Dick Whittington and his cat arrived at Springfield Parish Centre in December 2021, and performed to a hall of 86 people.

There was plenty of hissing, cheering, and booing during the two-hour performance. This was the seventh year of the parish pantomime!

Special thanks to our sponsors Co-op, Havengore, who provided a hamper full of goodies for the 2021 performance.



Premises Manager Elizabeth Edwards receiving the hamper from Co-op representative



COVID Pandemic

There is no business, organisation, or person that could imagine the impact that the COVID pandemic was to have on us all two years ago.

The Council is no exception to that. Our customers, staff, and members have all seen severe changes to work and leisure. Customer businesses have suffered terribly in every aspect and this, in turn, has seen a huge impact on Council finances. In association with this, half of our employee base were placed on furlough from November 2020 to June 2021. The remaining team kept the Parish Centre open to all essential services where the government guidance permitted.

It has been a tough two years and the Council certainly hope our customer base will return to its full capacity over the coming months. The staff look forward to welcoming back all our organisations and groups including those who cater for the older and younger generations, such as the youth group and families who hire the Centre.





Green & Climate Change

In early 2021, the Parish Council set up a 'Green' working group to discuss ways that the Council might establish a programme of climate change mitigation.

To date, discussion has taken place about various possibilities, one of those being the wilding and greening of areas in the parish. The Parish Council very much hope that residents in our community will take part in the challenge to 'make a small change to make a big difference'. Planting flowers, leaving areas of your garden to wild, or perhaps providing a window box, gives a significant boost to our smaller wildlife residents and climate. If you are already making a small change to make a big difference, or intend to do so please let us know by emailing your pictures and story to clerk@springfield-pc.gov.uk so we can share the good news.

CHELMER VILLAGE GREEN

As part of their Greening project the Council has agreed that it will make some changes to the way in which it manages Chelmer Village Green.

The Green can be found just off Village Square, close to the Asda supermarket. It is maintained by Springfield Parish Council under an agency agreement with Chelmsford City Council; the maintenance of the play space remains with the City Council. Many residents use this popular space for a variety of reasons including walking, exercise, socialising, and play. The area is also used as a main cycling and walking thoroughfare linking shops, schools and homes.

The Council plan is to leave parts of the open space to naturalise, especially along the base of some existing hedgerows to create richer wildlife corridors. When visiting the open space in future you should see more wildflowers and grasses in bloom, and a wider range of bug species. There is also a plan to plant native trees alongside some of those already established; bulb planting will take place in some areas. The Woodland Trust have kindly provided with crab apple, dog rose, dogwood, and hazel whips for introduction into parts of the hedgerow. This ongoing project will see beneficial changes to help our wildlife during the coming years. Small information boards will be positioned to detail the areas that will be left to 'wild' to raise awareness.

The project will not diminish or disrupt public access to the open space and it will take place gradually over the next few years, to benefit and help build nature's defences against our changing climate.

Please do let us know if you have any places and spaces that could become 'wilding areas' or any ideas you have by emailing clerk@springfield-pc.gov.uk

LITTER PICKING – LOVE YOUR CHELMSFORD

There is a significant team of volunteers out there in Springfield who litter pick our area, which goes a long way to help keep our parish clean and tidy – huge thanks go to you all.





CONNECTING HABITATS – BRING IN NATURE

Have you already taken your own action to bring nature to your garden? If you have an area in your garden that brings in nature please do let us know via clerk@springfield-pc.gov.uk as we can log this onto a map to build a picture of connecting habitats for insects and bees etc.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Are you a keen gardener?

Could you help to co-ordinate planting in a small community space?

Are you a willing volunteer?

Would you like to improve your mental wellbeing?

If so, you may be the person we are looking for. Adjacent to the Parish Centre is a small community garden that is visited by people who use Springfield Library, Parish Centre, Tiddlywinks Nursery, and other visitors. Since its development from 2009 until now, the Garden has been transformed from an area of shrubland used for anti-social behaviour to a pleasant space where people can enjoy a few moments of peace and fresh air.

During the Golden Jubilee year of Her Majesty, a raised flower bed depicting a crown was developed.

This will be refurbished to reflect the Platinum Jubilee taking place this year.

Would you like to be part of the project to carry out work on the garden? Please do email clerk@springfield-pc.gov.uk and let us know.

The Council has also been successful in securing a £2000 grant from the Essex County Council Locality Fund, to purchase items such as bug hotels, bird boxes, plants, and shrubs to help with the ongoing project.



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Boleyn Gardens – Outdoor Gym

On 12th May 2021, a new community facility was unveiled by the Mayor of Chelmsford and the Chairman of Springfield Parish Council, Cllr Susan Sullivan.

The equipment and installation was funded by Springfield Parish Council in partnership working with Chelmsford City Council who carried out the ground works for the project.

It is hoped this new facility has encouraged residents to take up and maintain healthy lifestyles. This is the second outdoor gym funded by the Parish Council, the first being located at Chelmer Village Green.



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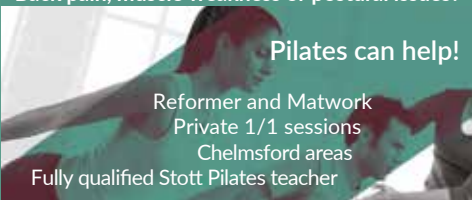
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Staffing Team

The Parish Council has seen some staffing changes during the last year.

The Council appointed Handyman-In-Charge, Philip Russell, in May 2021, and Kelly Wilde, who joined the team as our new Deputy Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer in June 2021.

Both employees have settled into their roles well and it is hoped they will enjoy working for the Council during the coming years. The remainder of the team remains unchanged as follows:

Clerk to the Council:

Barbara Larken

Premises Manager:

position vacant

Service Supervisors:

Lee Woollard and Rob Evans

Cleaning operatives:

Paul Little and Rachael Bracey

Committee Clerk:

Kirsty Roberts

Admin Assistant:

Linda Simpson

Handyman-In-Charge:

Phil Russell

Assistant handyman:

Ryan Vaughan

Finance & Marketing Officer:

Maureen Whitelaw

Admin & Customer Service:

Sharon Cerson

During March, the Parish team said farewell to Premises and Facilities Manager, Liz Edwards.

Liz has been a respected team member for three and a half years, and worked tirelessly to improve all aspects of management at the Parish Centre. All good wishes are extended to Liz in her new career.



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Beaulieu Community Centre

Beaulieu Community Centre continues to grow in popularity as the development around it expands.

We have a full and varied programme of activities at the Centre, including fitness classes for all levels and abilities, as well as child development classes all the way from newborn to secondary school age.

We've made a big focus on providing a helping hand in the community. We regularly support the local Women's Refuge by hosting collections of much-needed items, as well as donating room hire to accommodate fundraising markets for various charities. Through this we have helped support a local homeless charity, children's charity, and the Trussell Trust.

At Christmas, we orchestrated a huge collection of presents and food in order to create hampers for locals needing a helping hand. Many families are facing hardship, and the pandemic only made this worse as job losses soared. We were proud to help the community during this time to try help give them a wonderful Christmas.

We were also really happy to host and donate room hire for our annual Christmas event. Beaulieu Estate Management organised free Santa visits for children from Beaulieu, with a gift and reindeer food bags.

The Rotary Club brought along their Santa Sleigh (later seen in the area throughout December), along with Father Christmas and his elves. Coffee Squared provided free craft activities, and the Mini Market Beaulieu showcased the best of local small businesses. We are really pleased with the strong relationships we have built with local businesses and look forward to many further collaborations.

Recently, the Centre has also been really pleased to invite the Chelmsford Foodbank to operate from here every Friday afternoon.

We managed to secure funding for a storage container in order to allow the Foodbank to successfully operate from here in order to further help the Beaulieu and wider community. We donate room hire, storage, and time to support the dedicated and hardworking team, and know it is making a big difference to local residents in need.

Most recently, we have been mindful of the effects the war in Ukraine may be having on local community members.



the
trussell
trust



Beaulieu

We were proud to support St Francis Community Church in leading vigils for peace, and it was wonderful to see residents from all walks of life coming together. We are also signposting relevant residents to local mental health support services.

Looking forward, we are excited to host the second annual Beaulieu Scarecrow Trail in April after such overwhelmingly positive comments from last year. We also have our planning hats on for the upcoming June Jubilee bank holiday, hoping to plan a truly special day for the community.

To keep up to date with all our activities, please follow us on Facebook and Instagram, as well as visiting our website at beaulieucommunitycentre.org
Ruth Cooper-Gibson, Centre Manager

Beaulieu Community Trust

Three members of Springfield Parish Council sit as trustees of Beaulieu Community Trust.

They are Cllr Susan Sullivan, Trust Chairman, Cllr Ian Fuller, Trust Secretary and Cllr Yvonne Spence. Six other Trustees complete the Board of Trustees: three from Beaulieu church and three local residents. Meetings were held regularly by all Trustees and the Centre Manager Ruth Gibson to monitor the governance and financial performance of the Centre. A report from Ruth is included in this annual report that covers the activities held over the past year. Trust income has been severely affected due to the national Covid restrictions. The Trustees applied to Springfield Parish Council for a payment from its ear-marked reserve to enable the Centre to continue to serve the local community, which was granted. The Trust is grateful to the Parish Council for its understanding and support in this difficult time.

PLAY IN THE PARK



Chelmsford
City Council

Each year, Springfield Parish Council works alongside Chelmsford City Council to provide Play in the Park sessions for our local community.

The Parish Council finance these sessions to enable children to access play during school holidays. Sessions in 2022 will be held:

Tuesday 26th to Friday 29th July at Chelmer Village Green, CM2 6RF

Wednesday 3rd August at Springfield Parish Centre, CM1 6GX

Monday 15th to Friday 19th August at Springfield Parish Centre, CM1 6GX

To book your place call **01245 606569**.

Sessions are suitable for children aged three to 11, including those with access needs.

A parent or carer may be required to stay during the session. Please make sure your child has suitable clothing for playing games, a drink, a snack, and is prepared for any weather.





Make A Change, Become A Councillor

Springfield Parish Council elections will take place in May 2023.

Are you passionate about your community? Do you want to help make a long-lasting change? Do you have innovative ideas for the council? If this is you, then we need you. We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect their community to put themselves forward for election. Make a change and become a councillor.

WHAT DO LOCAL COUNCILS AND COUNCILLORS DO?

Parish councils and councillors make a massive difference to local people's quality of life. They are passionate about their communities and seek to make a change to help improve their residents' lives.

Local councils run numerous services; these include setting up dementia-friendly groups, maintaining footpaths, public seating and litter bins; organising community buses, creating neighbourhood plans, implementing suitable housing, establishing youth projects, managing allotments and open spaces.

Councillors are elected to represent the local community, so you must either live or work in the council area. Becoming a councillor is a rewarding experience as you will be able to make a change in your community to help improve residents' lives. A councillor's role can include developing strategies and plans for the area, helping with problems and ideas, representing the community, working with other local community groups, decision making and reviewing decisions, and talking

to the community about their needs and what the council is doing.

HOW TO BECOME A COUNCILLOR?

Local councils can only be as helpful, connected, and energetic as the people elected to run them, so we need councillors who are enthusiastic and engaged to reflect their communities. You can find out more about becoming a councillor on The Electoral Commission and Local Government Association website. There are three ways that you can become a councillor: standing for election, filling a vacant seat after an election (co-opted), or filling a casual vacancy.

If you are thinking about becoming a councillor you will need to complete a nomination paper to the City Council's Returning Officer. The process will commence during the latter part of March 2023, when nomination papers will become available. Contact clerk@springfield-pc.gov.uk for additional information.



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Public Rights of Way Report

Regular inspections of footpaths within the Parish to identify issues such as broken stiles, restricted access, etc., have taken place throughout the year.

In March 2021, I reported to Chelmsford City Council that the frequency that waste and dog waste bins were being emptied on Beaulieu was inadequate, taking account of the number of additional residencies being occupied there. The problem was particularly acute after weekends and Bank Holidays..

I received no update but can report that an additional dog waste bin was installed in the area, on the mixed-use path that runs from Braganza Way play area through to Centenary Way. I continue to monitor the issue.

In May 2021, I reported that the handrail on the small footbridge that is on Footpath 16, which runs from alongside the new KFC to Chancellor Park, had been broken, possibly vandalised. Since my report this footbridge has been replaced with a sturdy, new one.

I also reported that the same footpath (Footpath 16) was becoming overgrown and was advised that it was on Essex Highways' cutting schedule. It was subsequently cleared.

Russell Richards





Springfield Library

As I write this piece, spring is at last well and truly with us.

It is my favourite season; it speaks of fresh starts, allowing us to cast off those heavy layers, promising warmer weather to enjoy, and of lighter nights to come. It feels that life is returning to a semblance of normality, casting off many of those restrictions that have become almost a part of our daily lives for the last couple of years.

And it feels that libraries are also 'coming back to life'; at Springfield library, where I work as a volunteer, customers and students are once again coming in to study, to sit and read in a warm, pleasant, and cheerful environment, or to use the computers to do research. We have school parties visiting again, and regular groups meeting up. It's wonderful that we can enjoy these simple and innocent pleasures. I wonder where else could you go to do that, with so much valuable knowledge available, at no additional cost? So much has changed in libraries over the decades; those of us of 'a certain age' will remember libraries as often serious and hushed buildings, given over to quiet study. All that has changed – for the good, I feel – with libraries offering so many new opportunities and services. There are encouraging-reading schemes, themed occasions, competitions, Love Your Library Days, and many more regular events throughout the year designed to inspire imagination.

It's a wonderfully British institution and open to all. You can come in and take a book from the shelves and sit and read it there if you wish. They are, I believe, invaluable and special places in each local community. Many won't realise that small electrical items can be left at the library for recycling, or batteries also, and one new scheme is for used printer cartridges. Volunteers are also encouraged to put forward ideas; a recent innovation of which is our Jigsaw trolley, where jigsaws can be donated, borrowed for free, and returned when completed.

Springfield is a lovely library to work in; as part of the Parish Centre, it's light and airy with attractive wood beams throughout, large windows, and even a large squishy sofa! It has a dedicated and enthusiastic team of people wanting and waiting to help customers, volunteers all, who enjoy imparting their knowledge, offering assistance, or just chatting about their favourite books or a new author they've discovered.

I personally get great satisfaction from hearing a mum, dad or grandparent sitting in the children's section reading a book aloud with a child, picked from the varied and colourful choice on offer.

Ann Kirby, Volunteer





Springfield Library Update

Springfield library has been operating a near normal service now since September 2021.

Our regular groups are back using our space. The Winter Reading Challenge was a success and many children participated. The library offers a wide range of reading material, and for those who prefer an electronic read we have a comprehensive e-book offer for all, e-books, e-audio, e-magazines, and e-newspapers.

Essex Libraries subscribes to many online services too so you can research your family history or take one of many learning courses – have a browse on our website to find out more. We recently joined The Library Consortium and through this can offer a wider range of books. Our new self-service machines are chip and pin friendly, and we have a new library app which allows you to manage your account from your phone.

Rhyme times are back on Thursday afternoons at 2pm – no need to book. just turn up and join in with your children.



We have been holding regular Love Your Library Days throughout the year.

The previous one was 19th February and the theme was Super Heroes.

Neighbourhood Watch attended, young and older customers had fun with colouring activities and a Superhero story time. Both the Knit and Natter and craft groups attended, and many customers enjoyed something from our Community Tea stall.



Our Next Love Your Library is Saturday 28th May and the theme is The Queen's Jubilee; all are

welcome to come along and partake of all the activities we are offering.

For all the latest information please check our website for details of our opening hours and service offers. You can also follow us on our Facebook pages.



Springfield library wouldn't be the fantastic library it is without the dedication and hard work by the team of regular volunteers.

We always welcome new volunteers, so if you can spare a few hours a week and are interested in joining the team, please get in touch. We ask for a regular commitment of two to four hours a week, and will support you with the training package. To apply for this role you do need to be over 18, but there is no upper age limit! Pop into Springfield Library when it is open or visit our website and search libraries.essex.gov.uk and see the Volunteering with Essex Libraries page.

Springfield opening hours are:

Tuesday 10-5pm, Thursday 10-5pm
Friday 10-5pm, Saturday 10-1pm.
Remember we are open 24/7 on:

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Vivian Wortley,

Face to Face Supervisor
Chelmsford & Springfield Libraries



Have you ever thought of being a governor at a local school?

Springfield primary school is a community school serving families in this area.

We are looking for committed people to join Springfield Primary School's Governing Board.

We have a number of vacancies and would welcome applications from people with experience in:

- Finance (Accountant, Finance Manager, etc.)
- Human Resources
- Legal (Paralegal, Solicitor, etc.)
- Health and Safety (H&S officer, union rep, etc.)
- Capital projects management

The Governing Board of our school is made up of parents, staff, local authority, and co-opted governors, and operates at a strategic level. We are responsible for both the conduct of the school and for the promotion of high standards. We carry out this role by setting the vision for the school, ensuring that the school works efficiently and effectively towards achieving its vision, and that the school provides a high quality education for its pupils.

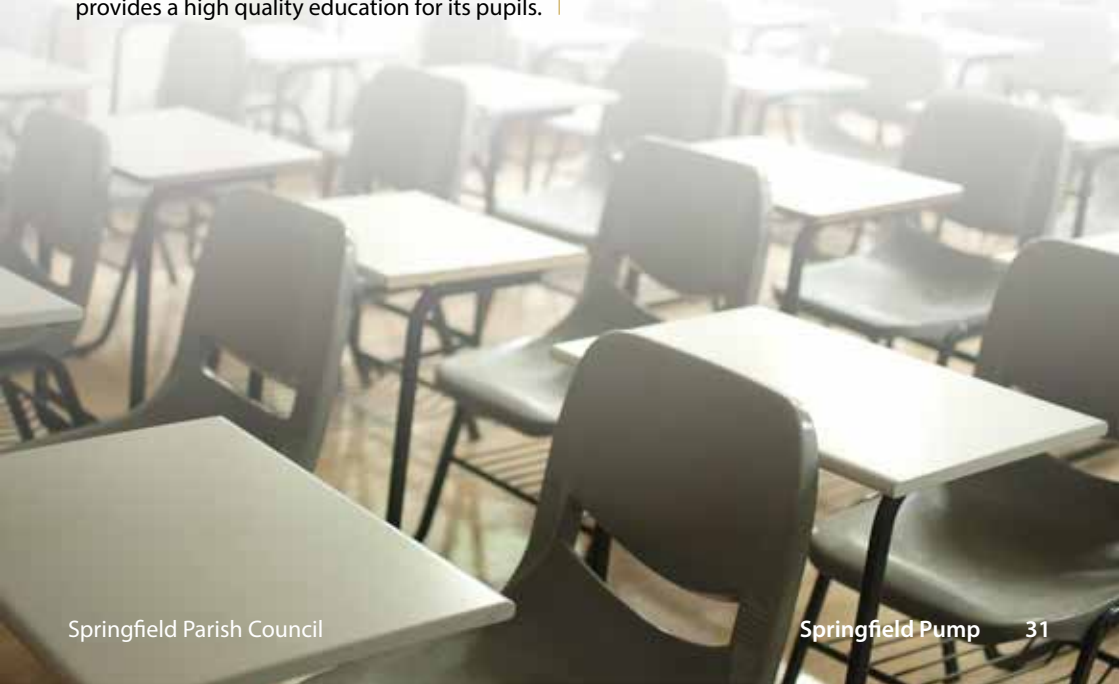


This is done by building a thorough knowledge of the school and its community, by both supporting and constructively challenging the school, and by ensuring accountability and compliance.

Governors need not be experts in the field of education. What they do need is an interest in the school and in the welfare of its pupils, together with the time and willingness to get involved. Governors also need 'soft skills' – the ability to be able to build relationships with a range of people, to be able to work as part of a team, to be able to question, and to make connections between different types of information.

If you would like to find out more about how you can contribute to governance at our school, or have any questions about anything, then please contact the Chair of Governors, Nona Stevenson via email:

nonastevenson@springfield-pri.essex.sch.uk





Springfield District Neighbourhood Watch

Rogue traders and door knockers... Be Vigilant, Be Alert.

With spring around the corner, the regular doorknockers will be wandering around, looking to make easy money. Each answer of the door offers them information. Are you disabled or elderly? Are you living on your own? Looking through your open door can reveal information about your lifestyle and wealth. Never let them in your house. Hi-Vis jackets can be purchased anywhere.

DOORSTEP CRIME involves groups of people looking to make easy money, they can be persuasive and intimidating. These people often target the elderly and vulnerable. As people become elderly or disabled then house maintenance tasks become major chores and a problem where help is needed. The gutters and downpipes outside all need cleaning out and driveways need cleaning.

A knock on the door and an offer of help may seem a godsend. **STOP... THINK.** Never employ unknown people at your door, even if they seem friendly and their brochures seem convincing.

Often comments like: "Your roof is damaged", "You have roof tiles missing", "Your gutters are broken." The cowboy knows you cannot climb up onto the roof to check. The caller wants to frighten you into getting unnecessary work done. Remember, the price always goes up and you get no guarantee of decent workmanship and may end up with more damage.

Never allow callers into your house. "Can I use your toilet? NO." always be polite but firm. If a caller persists, call the police, and inform a neighbour.

If you need a tradesman contact Springfield Neighbourhood Watch for their list of trusted local traders contact mike hellen membership secretary at mike.hellen@blueyonder.co.uk or go online to the trading standards website buy with confidence.

buywithconfidence.gov.uk





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Special Constable in
Springfield Parish**

*my
Other
life*

Make a real difference in your town by volunteering as a Community Special Constable and play a part in keeping your neighbourhood safe. Find out more at the link below:

www.essex.police.uk/communityspecials



FennWright.

Thinking of moving?
Call the local experts on
01245 292100
fennwright.co.uk

What's On at Springfield Parish Centre

Day/Times	Club Name	Contact Details
Monday		
8.00am to 4.00pm	TIDDLYWINKS PRE-SCHOOL	Zoe Perry Tiddlywinks123@btinternet.com 01245 463245
9.00am to 2.00pm	HARTBEEPS	Sheryl Glanville 07462575717
1.00pm to 2.30pm	YOGA CLASS	Kim Brunning 01245 477136 brunningkim@btinternet.com
5.00pm to 6.30pm	6 th SPRINGFIELD BROWNIES	
6.30pm to 8.00pm	6 th SPRINGFIELD GUIDES	For details of 6th Springfield Brownies and Guides, please enquire at office@girlguidingessexne.org.uk
7.30pm to 9.30pm	SPRINGFIELD ART GROUP	Norman Preece 01245 420637
8.00pm to 10.30pm	SPRINGERS Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society	Jackie Bates rjbates@gmail.com
8.30pm to 10.30pm	BADMINTON	Duncan Jarvis 07834 391775 trekduncan@gmail.com
Tuesday		
8.00am to 4.00pm	TIDDLYWINKS PRE-SCHOOL	Zoe Perry Tiddlywinks123@btinternet.com
9.30am to 12.30pm	HEADWAYS ESSEX SUPPORT GROUP (Every third Tuesday)	Angie O'Toole 01206 768797
10.00am to 11.30am	YOGA CLASS	Kim Brunning 01245 477136 brunningkim@btinternet.com
1.30pm to 3.45pm	BINGO SPC Afternoon Club	Duncan Lumley Samcat11@virginmedia.com
7.00pm to 9.00pm	HI-LOW AEROBICS	Jose 07876016943
5.30pm to 9.30pm	LACE MAKING CLASS	Sandra Watson 01245 492427
8.00pm to 10.00pm	WING CHUN KUNG FU	Mark Solomon marksolomonssifu@gmail.com
7.00pm to 9.00pm	INSANITY fitness	Jose 07876016943
7.30 to 9.30pm	LACE MAKING – Bobbing along	Sandra Watson
Wednesday		
8.00am to 4.00pm	TIDDLYWINKS PRE-SCHOOL	Zoe Perry Tiddlywinks123@btinternet.com
10.00am to 11.00am	Heart and Sole – Health Walks in Chelmsford	heartandsole@chelmsford.gov.uk 01245 606569
3.15pm to 6.45pm	KUMON after school Maths and English	Eirini 07534 812489 Chelmsfordnorth@kumoncentre.co.uk
6.00pm to 9.45pm	OFFSPRINGERS Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society	Jackie Bates rjbates@gmail.com
7.00pm to 9.00pm	LANGUAGE FOR FUN Spanish classes	Daniela Daubner-Kershaw 07975565330
7.30pm to 10.30pm	SPRINGFIELD CAMERA CLUB	Chris Webber 01245 468074 chris.webber2@sky.com
9.00pm to 9.30pm	SALSA D'LITE	Alexandra Woodcock 07831 650618
Thursday		
8.00am to 4.00pm	TIDDLYWINKS PRE-SCHOOL	Zoe Perry Tiddlywinks123@btinternet.com
10.30am to 12.00pm	YOGA CLASS	Kim Brunning 01245 477136 brunningkim@btinternet.com
1.00pm to 4.00pm	BOWLS	Duncan Lumley Samcat11@virginmedia.com
4.15pm to 6.45pm	LITTLE STARS (4.30pm to 6.00pm) LAMDA (6.00pm to 6.30pm)	Vicki 07743 650845 backstage@littlestarsuk.co.uk http://www.littlestarsworkshops.co.uk/
7.45pm to 9.15pm	LINE DANCING (beginners/mixed ability)	Tracy attwood@sky.com

Day/Times	Club Name	Contact Details
Friday		
8.00am to 4.00pm	TIDDLYWINKS PRE-SCHOOL	Zoe Perry Tiddlywinks123@btinternet.com
9.30am to 11.45am	BABY BALLET	Laura Watkins 07534260067 babyballet.co.uk
1.30pm to 4.00pm	TEA DANCE SPC Afternoon Club	Duncan Lumley Samcat11@virginmedia.com
4.00pm to 7.15pm	CHILDREN'S BALLET Weston School of Dance	01245 287638 office@theweston.dance
4.30pm to 8.30pm	HIP HOP (ages 12 to 18) Weston School of Dance	Elisabeth Weston 01245 287638
7.15pm to 10.00pm	SPRINGFIELD YOUTH GROUP (ages 11 to 17)	07561842070 (club mobile)
Saturday		
9.30am to 1.00pm	KUMON Maths and English	Eirini 07534812489 chelmsfordnorth@kumon.co.uk
SUNDAY	NO REGULAR BOOKINGS	

St. Augustine's Way, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 6GX. Tel. (01245) 464583

The Springfield Parish Centre is also available for functions and parties. For further information, please call **01245 464583**

Please note that some activities do not run during the school holidays.

What's On at Chelmers Village Hall



Village Square, Chelmer Village, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6RF. Please see below the list of our regular clubs and classes. We are now taking bookings for parties.

Day	Times	Club Name	Contact Name	Contact Telephone No
Mon-Fri	9.00am to 3.30pm (Term time only)	Rainbow Nursery	Monica Burdett	07901 886488
Monday	7.15pm to 10.15pm	Bowls Club	Mr John Matthews	01245 256 611
Tues	4.00pm to 5.00pm 8.00pm to 9.00pm	Dodgeball Stretch	Iestyn North Carolyn Pink	07816 184655 07789 811067
Weds	5.15pm to 6.45pm	1 st Chelmer Village Rainbows (Girl Guides)	Kate Purtill	07778 401237
	7.15pm to 8.15pm	Zumba	Gemma Cook	07917 458958
Thurs	3.45pm to 7.00pm	Weston School of Dance	Ms Elisabeth Swan	01245 287 638
	7.15pm to 8.45pm	Tai Chi	Mr Ch'ng Lay Seng	07986 534733
Friday	7.15pm to 10.15pm	Bowls Club	Mr John Matthews	01245 256 611
Saturday	9.15am to 12.15pm	Shinkyu (Karate)	Amandeep Chodha	07496 095851
Sunday	9.00am to 12.00pm	Bulgarian Class	Mrs Iliana Smith	07432 370534
	9.45am to 11.15am	Aerobics	Mrs Jose Childs	07876 016943

Booking clerk can be contacted on: **07716 790510** or email cvhbookings@hotmail.co.uk
Website www.chelmercervillagehall.co.uk



Booking the Halls



Springfield Parish Centre

The Springfield Parish Centre is located in St Augustine's Way, North Springfield, and is available most weekends for functions, parties, and events. Currently there is availability for licensed functions on Saturday evenings in our Bowers Hall – hire of the bar comes with a bar manager.

At the time of writing there is an opportunity for a new Café in the centre; please contact clerk@springfield-pc.gov.uk to discuss. We also have availability to hire our rooms during the week. For further information and availability email enquiries@springfield-pc.gov.uk

A wide range of activities take place at the Centre each week, such as a Pre-School during the day in our Annex side, Afternoon Clubs (Bingo, Indoor Bowls, Tea Dance), various types of fitness classes for all ages, language classes, Wing Chun, Brownies, Guides, Springfield Art Group, Springers A.O.D.S., Badminton, Aerobics, Lace making, Hartbeeps Baby Class, Kumon, Springfield Camera Club, Club & Lace Making Club, Yoga, Line Dancing, Children's Ballet, Little Stars Theatre, Salsa & Springfield Youth Group once per week.

Contact details for these clubs/organisations can be found later in this publication, on the Parish Council notice boards or look at our web site: www.springfield-pc.gov.uk



Chelmer Village Hall

Chelmer Village Hall, located in the Village Square of Chelmer Village is also available for hire most weekends for functions, parties, and events. Currently there is availability for licensed functions on Saturday evenings and the hire of the bar comes with a bar manager.

Currently a pre-school hires the hall during the day, Mondays to Fridays. Various groups hire the hall in the evening such as carpet bowls, dance clubs, various types of fitness and exercise classes, a karate club, and a drama group. Some availability remains for bookings on weekday evenings. For further information, please call the booking line on **07716 790510** and leave your details with a short message or email cvhbookings@hotmail.co.uk

Contact information for all the groups/ organisations who hire the hall can be found later in this publication, on the notice board outside the hall, or look on the web page: www.chelmervillagehall.co.uk





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NIGHTSTOP

Essex



EST. 1199

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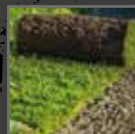
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