Easter

Edition

2025

# FordhamTimes

*Spring .*

**HAPPY EASTER to all the residents of Fordham.**



Credit to the photographer for this image

**Publication** The magazine will be available electronically on the website, Facebook and e-newsletter.

To get a copy of the magazine direct to your email, scan the QR code *(to the right)*

**MAGAZINE CONTENT** Please send your submissions to the Editor email: fordhamtimes@fordham-pc.gov.uk

# Chairman's Blog



*'Though no one can go back and make a brand-new start – anyone can start from now and make a brand-new ending'* Carl Bard

**Cllr George Branagh, Chairman**

## Council News

Well, we finished last year with a fantastic Jingle and Mingle event on the Green, which once again was jointly organised by the Parish Council and Ian and Rob two of our village residents Colne Endeavour Band ensemble together with our lead vocalist Bethan and of course the Fordham All Saints Primary School choir ensured the Carols were top notch. The feedback that we have had is tremendous and I thank you on behalf of the Council for all your comments and support. I think everyone will agree that the 'Christmas Lights' were spectacular so huge thanks to Cllr Chapman for procuring the lights and of course a big thank you to Nancy Cannon for switching them on.

This year we will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE Day on evening of 8th May. This will be a Nationwide event on that evening with a short ceremony consisting of singing two verses of 'I vow to Thee, My Country' and the placing of the lit lantern of peace. However, we are also planning a full day event during that weekend which will involve live music from that era by the Colne Endeavour Band, plus an abundance of other entertainment.




Please bear in mind these events take a lot of organising so if you wish to get involved please contact Beth our Parish Clerk, clerk@fordham-pc.gov.uk

I am delighted to announce that because of prudent stewardship of the finances that once again your Parish Council have avoided having to increase the precept. However, I am not optimistic going forward in the next few years as we move towards Mayoral / Strategic Authorities in 2026. These Authorities will have powers/funding available for

- Transport and local infrastructure

· Skills and employment support

· Housing and strategic planning

· Economic development and regeneration

· Environment and climate change

· Health, wellbeing and public services reform

· Public safety (including PFCC functions)

Though the question going forward is how much will be devolved in the fulness of time to the Parish Councils – the jury is still out!

# Information

Meeting Dates for 2025

Fordham Village Hall, 7:30pm start.

- April 29th
- May 27th
- June 24th
- July 29th
- September 30th
- October 28th
- November 25th

There isn't a meeting in August or December.

Come along – All welcome.

Cllr Helen Branagh announced that the contributions from the Hot Dog Stall at the Jingle & Mingle raised £39.80 – Thank you! Also a big thank you to everyone who helped on the evening.

# All Saints Church Fordham and Eight Ash Green
# Easter Season 2025

Jesus said: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark's Gospel chapter 10 verse 45

Join us this Easter as we focus on Jesus Christ: his life, death and resurrection. Jesus came to give his life as a ransom for many people, but what does that mean for you?




**Good Friday** 18th April 12noon **An Hour at the Cross**.
(Eight Ash Green Church)
A reflective service to remember Jesus' saving death on the cross for our sins, followed by tea, coffee and hot cross buns.

Good Friday 18th April 7.00pm **A Good Friday Reading of Mark's Gospel.**
(John Owen Barn)
Come and hear the drama of Jesus' life, death and resurrection with a screening of David Suchet reading the whole of Mark's Gospel.
Part 1: 7.00 – 8.00pm, Interval with refreshments: 8.00-8.15pm, Part 2: 8.15 – 9.30pm

Mark Gospel is short, urgent, passionate and dramatic. Often we hear the Gospels in short sections, but it can be a revelation to read, or hear, the whole of the story at once.

David Suchet is one of the best-known and best-loved actors of his generation. He has worked for the RSC, in the West End and on Broadway, and his most famous role is Hercule Poirot in the long-running television series. Raised without religion, he was converted by reading Romans 8 in a hotel Bible. A practicing Anglican, he is Vice-President of the Bible Society and his best-selling audio book of the Bible, released in 2014 by Hodder, fulfilled a 27 year ambition.

**Easter Day**, Sunday 20th April 10am **Easter Day All Age Celebration Service.**
(Fordham Church)
A Holy Communion service for all the family followed by a children's Easter Egg Hunt.

**All Age Worship Services 2025.**
Second Sunday of the Month 10:00am (John Owen Barn).
Join us on Sundays as we look to worship and learn together, across the age spectrum, with creative teaching from the Bible. Come a little earlier for tea, coffee and snacks from 9.40am.
Future dates: 13th April, 11th May, 8th June & 13th July.




You can join with the Church family for worship, teaching, prayer and community every Sunday 10am at Fordham with the All Saints Club for 4-16 year olds.
First Sunday of the Month, 11.30am at Eight Ash Green (Holy Communion).

Rector: Rev'd Francis Blight, 01206 243266,
francis.blight@fordhamchurch.org.uk
(usual day off Saturday)
The Church Office is open Tuesday to Friday 10.00am – 3.00pm. 01206 243261 office@fordhamchurch.org.uk
Find out more at **www.fordhamchurch.org.uk**

All Saints
Fordham & Eight Ash Green
Colchester

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Calling all local organisations & charities! If you would like to share your news, events, and more information with the residents of Fordham and beyond, please send your content to fordhamtimes@fordham.pc.gov.uk by 11th July for the Summer edition, 10th October for the Autumn edition & 9th January 2026 for the Winter edition. It would be great to hear from you all.

VC REVOLUTION
COLCHESTER



# 2025 CHARITY SPORTIVE

## SATURDAY 31 MAY 2025

## RE-CYCLE, WORMINGFORD, CO6 3AJ

Re-Cycle (Bikes to Africa) | re-cycle.org | Registered Charity Number: 1063570

**REGISTRATION** →

Via British Cycling
or visit re-cycle.org

# ~Local News~

Fordham Village Hall
COMMUNITY

**Many thanks to those who came along and supported the Christmas events raising money for the hall funds.**

**Christmas Bazaar - £177.50**

**Jingle & Mingle Raffle - £61.00**

**Wreath Making Raffle - £153.00**

CAN YOU OFFER YOUR TIME TO BE ON THE COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT YOUR VILLAGE ?

Contact wendyshepherd9@gmail.com 01206 617020
www.fordhamvillagehall.co.uk

## WORMINGFORD HANDBELL RINGERS

are looking for more players

Are you looking to learn to do something completely different?

We are a friendly group that meet weekly on a Thursday between 1pm-3pm in Fordham Village Hall. Musical knowledge is not essential but you must be able to count

If you would like to find out More then call 0777481912



Library Van – Lucas Avenue

**4.00-4.30pm *NEW TIME***

17th April, 8th & 29th May, 19th June.

## FORDHAM VILLAGE HALL

**Are you looking for a venue? Are you thinking of starting a group or club?**





WE HAVE AVAILABILITY



**Hiring Costs**

£10 an hour - Regular weekly or monthly groups

£12 an hour - private event Fordham Residents

£15 an hour - private event non Fordham residents

Ideal for small groups and parties, recently extended kitchen & new disabled cloakroom and baby changing unit

www.fordhamvillage hall.co.uk
Contact:- wendyshepherd9@gmail.com

COLNE ENDEAVOUR BAND

**News!**

Community Grants

Fordham Parish Council are delighted to announce that they have awarded Colne Endeavour Band £500 and
Fordham History Society Essex £400.
Congratulations!

If your local community group would be interested in being awarded a grant, please get in touch, applications open in the Autumn.

Cllr Darius Laws, Cllr Thomas Rowe, Cllr William Sunnucks and Cllr Lewis Barber
Rural North, City of Colchester
Email: cllr.darius.laws@colchester.gov.uk
WhatsApp: 07786 007 560



## Build, build, build

The new Labour government have tasked Colchester to be 40% more houses than planned in this Local Plan period (up until 2033), this represents 11,000 additional houses. Some 900 are being suggested in Langham and 400 in Gt Horkesley. Standing in green fields with pitchforks at the ready won't make a difference and so our strategy is two-fold, Firstly, your Conservative councillors, who sit on the City Council's Local Plan committee, are demanding infrastructure impact assessments before any sites are consulted on. Secondly, we encourage Parish Councils to work with developers and council officers to come up with solutions to mitigate the impact of development as well as enhancements for existing communities for example designating green fields for play parks, wild flower meadows or allotments etc. Additionally, where developer contributions can be achieved new facilities such as community halls might be welcomed.

## Scrutinising Colchester Council

Both Darius Laws and Thomas Rowe sit on this important Colchester Committee and to date have been effective (but responsible) with challenges on the Council's approach to Net Zero, Third sector charity partnerships, the Middlemill Weir collapse in Lower Castle Park, Community Safety and the Council's finances. You can follow the work of Scrutiny on the City Council's YouTube pages.



## Neighbourhood Watch

Your Conservative Councillors were recently in attendance at a meeting in which the Mayor of Colchester and the High Sherif of Essex commended Great Horkesley resident, Graham Stehle, for his outstanding leadership with Neighbourhood Watch. We encourage everyone to consider signing up to Neighbourhood Watch as it offers useful insights into tackling crimes. Furthermore we must stress the importance of residents reporting crime, don't leave it for someone else to report, they might not. The Police will only act on intelligence and sometimes this takes time to substantiate.

## Local Government Reform

Significant changes to local government are anticipated, with Colchester City Council as we know it to disappear with the creation of a single council for North Essex highly likely. This is happening, and in a recent vote in the Town Hall your Conservative Councillors voted to give the Leader of the council (Lib Dem David King) support to begin serious conversations with Braintree and Tendring over the possible reorganisation of local government here in North Essex. The process will throw up some interesting challenges, for example Braintree no longer owns its Social Housing stock and Tendring commission their waste and recycling services, whereas Colchester is in-house. Apportioning Essex County Council's budget in a manner fair for Colchester will be interesting and we will continue to strive to influence outcomes which result in efficiency and value-for-money.

# How to contact Essex Police

**There are now many ways to contact Essex Police, and hopefully this will provide a bit of guidance to choose the best way to suit your situation.**

Circumstances likely to be danger to life.

- use, or immediate threat of use, of violence
- serious injury to a person and/or
- serious damage to property

Road traffic accident

- involves, or is likely to involve, serious personal injury.
- the road is blocked or there's dangerous or excessive build-up of traffic.

Silent 999

***999 – Is for an emergency***

If you are in a dangerous situation and feel you cannot speak freely to an operator, we can still help you.

**If calling from a mobile:** When asked which service you would like, press 55 on the keypad. This will automatically get you transferred to us. You might then be asked to indicate that you're still on the line by one of our call handlers, either by coughing, tapping your phone, or, where possible, speaking quietly. This doesn't allow us to track your location, but we will be able to listen in to what is going on around you and work out how to get help to you.

**If calling from a landline:** If you are calling from a landline and replace the handset at any point, the landline may remain connected for 45 seconds in case you pick it up again. Calling 999 from a landline automatically gives the police information about your location.

Criminal conduct

- the crime is, or likely to be serious and in progress.
- an offender has just been disturbed at the scene.
- an offender has been detained and poses, or is likely to pose, a risk to other people.

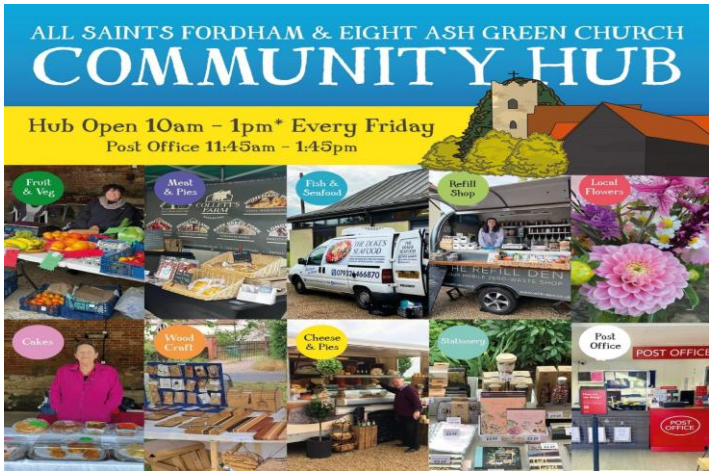
ESSEX POLICE
Protecting and serving Essex

**For Non-emergency contact:**

Information and Live Chat - www.essex.police.uk  Do it online - www.essex.police.uk/ro/report/

101 - We still have our 24-hour 101 service which people can call if they feel it is more appropriate to speak to us or don't have access to the internet. If it is not an emergency and the crime you want to speak to us about is not happening right now, please do not call 999.

Personal and team mobile phones and E-Mails - When using these methods of direct communication please remember that these are unlikely to be responded to until the team or person is working next.




**FORDHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Contact Details**

07453 160831
clerk@fordham-pc.gov.uk
www.fordham-pc.gov.uk
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