



Monthly Bulletin

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FAREWELL TO SUZANNE....



Suzanne Harris will be leaving RCCE early in the New Year to take up a new appointment as Community Safety and Reducing Reoffending Manager at the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

Suzanne has worked for us for more than 17 years, starting as a fieldworker before progressing to a number of management roles. For much of this time she has been responsible for the management of the Essex Rural Partnership, overseeing an increase in its membership and activities. This included initiating the first ever successful bid for LEADER funding from Essex, building an effective working relationship with South East

Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) and co-ordinating publication of the new Essex Rural Strategy last year.

I am sure all ERP members would want to join me in wishing Suzanne every success in her new role.

She is contactable here up to 5th January. After that please direct any general ERP enquiries to Lizzie Rose (elizabeth.rose@essexrcc.org.uk), or for more strategic matters, contact me (nick.shuttleworth@essexrcc.org.uk).

Nick Shuttleworth, Executive Director, RCCE



EPHING'S GILWELL OAK WINS TREE OF THE YEAR 2017



You may remember from the September Bulletin that the Gilwell Oak in Epping was one of ten trees shortlisted for the Woodland Trust's Tree of the Year Competition.

Looks like this fantastic oak won – congratulations to Epping! There were nine other trees on the English shortlist from Cumbria, Surrey, Sherwood Forest, Dartmoor, London, Sussex, Kent, Devon and Norfolk.

A little history about this notorius tree:

The Gilwell Oak sits at the heart of Gilwell Park in Epping, the home of the scouting movement conceived by Robert Baden Powell. The towering oak was adopted by Powell as a neat analogy in 1929 for not only the growth of the scouting movement worldwide, which began with a small trial camp some 21 years earlier, but as a message to young scouts that big things are possible from modest starts. It has a

chequered past, with less wholesome and well-intentioned adventurers once mingling amongst the oaks at Gilwell, including notorious highwayman Dick Turpin and his gang.

BBC news article please [click here](#)

Woodland Trust [direct link](#)



COMMUNITY AGENT OPPORTUNITY!



Supporting independent living

Community Agents (CA)Essex is a countywide network of agents and volunteers who will support older people and their informal carers to find and develop independent living solutions from within their local community.

CA are seeking to recruit a Community Agent to work to operate in the Chelmsford area within Essex. Full training and support will be provided but the applicant will need a good knowledge of the local community and the district.

For further information about the role please [click here](#)



'WRITE TO YOUR MP OVER HOSPITAL TRANSPORT'



People in rural areas are being asked to write to their MPs and call for a review of non-emergency patient transport services. It follows warnings by Age UK that older people are facing huge difficulties getting to routine hospital appointments. The charity has called for a review of non-emergency patient transport services – and wants people to write to their MPs in support of the campaign. For most people, just having a medical appointment is enough to worry about, it says; but older people

also often need to make long and complicated journeys to and from hospital.

“Sadly, this is a stark reality for many older people – who are the main users of the NHS,” says Age UK’s Rosie McKearney. Older patients can feel alone, and in pain, while being constantly anxious that they will be late for their appointment, she adds.

To read the full article please [click here](#)



HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



For many of us becoming a police officer was a childhood dream but for whatever reason life didn’t quite allow this dream to be fulfilled. Fancy a second chance ? Here’s how...

Special Constabulary: Are you able to give 10 hours a month to become a volunteer Police Officer? You would have the same police powers, uniforms and equipment as regular Police Officers but give your time on a voluntary basis. If you are interested in becoming a [Special Constable](#), contact:

www.essex.police.uk/join-the-police/special-constabulary



RURAL OPPORTUNITIES



Community, Maintenance and Repair Grants – National Churches Trust

The National Churches Trust currently has a number of grant programmes open including:

- Community Grants programme. This offers grants usually of between £5,000 and £25,000 towards the cost of projects introducing facilities to enable increased community use of places of worship. Projects that include toilets and catering facilities are prioritised. The closing date for applications is 5 March 2018.
- Maintenance grant programme. This is a pilot programme, in partnership with the Pilgrim Trust, offering awards of between £1,000 and £2,500 to encourage churches to act on small, urgent maintenance issues and repairs to listed church buildings, as identified in a recent Quinquennial Inspection Report, condition survey or report by a gutter management contractor, and costed between £2,000 and £10,000. Proposed works must be to the main listed church building, and applicants must be able to show they have already raised 50% of the total repair costs, and to have obtained two quotes for the works. The closing date for applications is 24 January 2018.
- Repair Grants programme. This offers grants usually of between £5,000 and £40,000 towards the cost of urgent and essential structural repair projects. The closing date for applications is 5 March 2018.
- Project Development grant programme. This is a pilot grant programme offering awards up to £10,000 to support churches to become more sustainable through the diagnosis of issues affecting the church, by testing the viability of proposed solutions to improve sustainability, and through development of guiding policies and plans that will be implemented through an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, or other large church heritage funders. The closing date for applications is 10 January 2018.

For further information please [click here](#)

Community Branch Fund – Post Offices

The £20m Community Branch Fund – for Post Offices with no other suitable retailer within half a mile – is now open for applications. These Post Office branches or Outreach and Satellite services play a particularly vital role in the local community. The Community Branch Fund offers investment for sub-postmasters to support the growth of their Post Office business and help to underpin the long term viability of their business.

The fund can be used for a wide range of improvements such as changing the branch format to open plan, new signage, or gearing up for new services such as Click & Collect. Funding is also available for Outreach and Satellite services.

Most applications are expected to be below £10,000 (or below £2,000 for Outreach or Satellite Services). The fund will only be open whilst there is still money available. It is anticipated that the fund will not run beyond March 2018.

Further information please [click here](#)



ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL - SALT BAG PARTNERSHIP



During periods of extreme weather; such as heavy snow experienced in past winters, communities and individuals can do a lot to help themselves and others. Self-help is actively promoted as it is about communities coming together to help each other on a voluntary basis to target their local needs and build their resilience.

ECC operates the Salt Bag Partnership scheme which is designed to help local communities support themselves during periods of heavy snow. One tonne of bagged salt, delivery and a support pack is provided, free of charge, to help County Councillors and Parish Councils organise the scheme and to provide helpful information to volunteers. It is also an opportunity to plan ahead and think about how your community will be ready for winter.

How does it work?

Each participating council/urban area is given one tonne of palletted salt (approx 40 x 25kg bags) for use on locations they consider important in their local community, such as footpaths outside doctors surgeries, local shops and services and access routes to main bus stops. Remember you don't need to salt those sites already on the salting route.

For further information in preparation for next year please [click here](#)



WIN ALLOTMENT EQUIPMENT FOR YOUR SCHOOL AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLANT YOUR DESIGN!

Growing Communities invites all children in primary schools and special schools of Essex to take part in designing a healthy kitchen garden plot and also create a recipe for a healthy packed lunch using the produce.

The age groups for the competition are: Infants (Years R,1&2) and Junior (Years 3-6)

Think about the vegetables, fruit and herbs that could easily be grown at school or at home and when harvested, could be used to make the perfect healthy packed lunch. The 'dish' can be sweet or savoury but must include the produce from the plot. You can also use additional ingredients for example: pasta, rice, bread, couscous, meat, fish or chicken and not forgetting some seasoning!

We want to hear some exciting and new ideas for lunches, try putting a twist on the usual packed lunch and create an explosion for the taste buds!

The FIRST 20 Primary Schools and FIRST 8 Special Schools to register will receive a PLANTING KIT kindly sponsored by Perrywood Garden Explorers. All applications received by Friday 12th January 2018 will receive FREE seeds, kindly sponsored by Kings Seeds.

For more information on the competition [please click here](#)



SAVE MONEY WITH THE ESSEX ENERGY SWITCH

Essex Energy Switch

Essex residents have saved more than £2million in the Essex Energy Switch. Sign-up and let the energy companies bid to supply your home for the cheapest price.

Essex County Council

Registration opens on Tuesday 5 December, and closes on Tuesday 13 February 2018, before the one-day auction. One email address can be used up to five times to register for the scheme to help out those who don't have access to the internet. Everyone who registers will receive a

personalised offer on 23 February 2018, which details how much they could save by switching to the winning provider, or cheaper tariff.

[Register for the next auction on line](#)

FINALLY SUZANNE AND LIZZIE, YOUR SECRETARIAT TEAM, WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR MEMBERS AND READERS A WARM AND WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



This newsletter is produced and sent by Rural Community Council of Essex on behalf of the Essex Rural Partnership. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter in future please e-mail info@essexruralpartnership.org.uk with 'unsubscribe' as the email subject.

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