



CONGRATULATIONS!



Karen Watson Rural Employee of the Year Runner Up at The Rural Business Awards. Congratulations to Karen Watson the Education Officer at Barleylands for being awarded Rural Employee of the Year- Runner Up at The Rural Business Awards.



"I am delighted to be the runner up for Rural Employee of the Year Award. The other candidates were all worthy winners too, and I wish them all the best.

My work for Barleylands, running the education programme, is incredibly rewarding and I am passionate about teaching children about food and farming. I would like to say thank you to my team for supporting me, and to my boss Chris Philpot-I couldn't have won this award without them."

Karen's story - I have been educating children about food and farming for many years, and fully believe that the best way to do this is by getting children involved in cooking, learning to love food, and appreciate how it gets from the field to their plate. I am originally from Ayrshire, Scotland. My Grandfather was a baker and I was baking bread with him from a very early age and still have the little stool I used to stand on to reach the work surface! We had a nursery behind our house and grew all our own vegetables. We always used the local butcher and local farm for our produce, so my interest in food started many years ago. My husband and I have two children, now adults, aged 28 and 26, but I do remember when they were 5 and 3, we had an open day on the farm, and my husband asked if I would put on an afternoon tea. I thought about all the people coming who would probably have no idea how the scones were made, so I set up a display of different seeds, such as wheat and barley, and the foods they are equated with. I was amazed with the response, and that is when I realised it was something I needed to do, so really, I was involved in farm education even before I was employed to do it.

The Philpot family have been educating children for over 30 years, and are passionate about educating the next generation about the work farmers do to put food on all our plates. It started with an agricultural themed museum and a small farm park with a range of livestock and a play park. It gave the local community a great place to explore rural life and learn about food and farming.

I joined Barleylands in March 2010, and I don't feel that what I am doing is a job, I just love it. It is more like a hobby and I think about it all the time. It is very important to get the right message to our future consumers, teaching children about sustainable farming, how food is produced, and the benefits of a healthy balanced diet. The subject is so thematic and covers all areas of the curriculum. Two kitchen classrooms at Barleylands allow us to cook with our young visitors, from scratch, and this really brings the field to fork message to life.

It is not always easy for teachers to justify a school visit, even although they know how important learning outside the classroom is. The way forward seemed to be to make sure we were linking our visits to class topics being taught in school. I have always loved a challenge, and we make sure we plan bespoke visits to meet the individual needs and abilities of the children visiting. Bespoke days include Aztec Days, Amazing Kitchen Science and Beatrix Potter, now firmly on our calendar of events.

We introduced Stone Age days when it appeared on the National Curriculum! You might ask, what can studying the Stone Age teach children about today's food and farming? Actually, quite a lot. During the day of indoor and outdoor activities, children look at livestock and crops, sample Stone Age muesli, make soup and take a tractor ride to look at modern fields and how ploughing has changed over the past 4000 years! When I am not at Barleylands, I spend a great deal of time cooking at home. It has to be my top hobby. I love long walks with our Labrador, Isla in the beautiful Essex countryside, and enjoy playing badminton and a bit of Scottish Country Dancing for exercise! I taught dance for years but teaching children about food and farming is undoubtedly the most rewarding job ever.

We are
barleylands

WHO WILL CARE? AWARDS 2019



The Who Will Care? Awards celebrate and give recognition to volunteering that makes a tremendous impact on your communities and improving the lives of others across the County,

Nominations are now open for this year's awards that will be held in the evening of Wednesday 22nd May at Anglia Ruskin University. Please put your thinking caps on and get nominating those groups, organisations and individuals who really make a difference in your local communities.

Nominations are open until Friday 12th April 2019.

More details on the award categories and to make nominations can be found [here](#)

TWITTER: FOLLOW GTRET THE ESSEX POLICE RURAL TEAM: @EP_GTRET



Find out the latest by following GTRET and their day to day role helping to keep rural Essex a safer place to live. We salute you and thank you!

NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE



The first edition of the PFCC new electronic newsletter is available. You can sign up to receive it via the PFCC website or by going to <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKPFCC/subscriber/new?preferences=true#tab1>

GOVERNMENT URGED TO PRODUCE NEW RURAL STRATEGY AHEAD OF BREXIT



Rural services providers call on Government to seize opportunity to end “rural mainstreaming”

Rural services providers and community organisations across England are today calling on the Government to produce an urgent comprehensive strategy for rural areas in preparation for Brexit, in light of a warning that people living in our towns and villages “simply cannot afford to wait any longer for politicians to take their concerns seriously and act on them”.

The call is the result of concern that deep-seated challenges to the sustainability of rural communities and service delivery in rural areas have been inadequately addressed by those in power for too long and the situation has become urgent. The significant outflow of people from rural areas to urban-based jobs continues to be a source of concern, like the prevailing sense that the potential of rural areas is being squandered, despite projections that unlocking their digital potential could add at least £12bn of extra productivity each year to the UK economy. Fuelling concern further is the fear that the UK’s exit from the EU will serve to compound these existing challenges, and others, not least as in many respects the current model is heavily reliant on EU policies and funding streams.

“Rural Communities are frequently overlooked in a policy environment dominated by urban thinking and policy concerns. This often means communities either miss out on the benefits or experience unintended consequences from policies which are poorly thought-through from a rural perspective. It is time for this ‘rural mainstreaming’ to stop. People living in our towns and villages simply cannot afford to wait any longer for politicians to take their concerns seriously and act on them,” said Rural Services Network chief executive, Graham Biggs.

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

NEW COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUND LAUNCHED 1ST APRIL



New Fund to encompass existing CIF, Local Service Fund and Micro Grants administered by the EALC, on behalf of Essex County Council.



Types of Funding Available

- Capital or Revenue Grants up to £10,000
- Micro Grants up to £500

Who can apply

Town or Parish Councils
Formally Constituted Groups
Community Groups/Associations
Social Enterprises
CIC's
Community Benefit Societies

The CIF panel will comprise of members from different sectors and will meet in September. The meetings will be split into areas and each application will be assessed on merit, outcomes and how their initiatives will feed back into the ECC strategy aspirations. Micro-grants of up to £500 are available throughout the year to enable community projects at a grass roots level to gain access to funds quickly and easily. Projects could include, purchasing a fridge for a food bank, organising a community clean up or planting/maintaining a community garden.

All forms are available for download from [EALC website](#).

2019 Time-Line Submissions:

Pre Application Forms— Close of Business 31st May

Application Forms— Noon 18th August

These dates do not apply for Micro-grant applications

For further information on this exciting fund please contact: Louise Gambardella on 01371 879722 or at louise.gambardella@ealc.gov.uk



PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD THAT FCN IS HERE TO HELP

The Farming Community Network (FCN) is a charity that supports farmers and families within the farming community through difficult times.

In order to do this FCN have a helpline: 03000 111 999 via which you can speak to a sympathetic individual any time from 7am to 11pm. You can also email: help@fcn.org.uk

Many issues are dealt with over the phone but for those that are more complex or need the personal touch, FCN have over 400 volunteers nationally who are able to come out and visit you and be by your side until the problem or issue has been solved. Most people turn to FCN because of financial troubles, in particular, issues surrounding the Basic Payment Scheme and low market values, but increasingly FCN is helping people deal with a variety of issues, such as poor mental health, animal welfare, tenancy issues, relationship breakdowns and bereavements. FCN offers a discrete third party who farmers and their families can confide in and trust.

Farming in Essex is a tight knit community and so confidentiality is of paramount importance. Around 6,000 people a year benefit from FCN's service and our volunteers take on approximately 2,500 cases per year.

FCN rely on fundraising to cover the costs of the helpline and the mileage undertaken by our volunteers as they go about their work. FCN are a Christian charity, underpinned by Christian values, however they are non-evangelising and support is provided to anyone for as long as it is needed. Essex is fortunate in having an active and enthusiastic group of volunteers who spend their time promoting FCN by attending events and shows, fundraising and doing the casework to help people locally. FCN are very fortunate to have Rev'd Janet Nicholls as their FCN Chaplain for the group and if anybody is interested in getting involved with FCN, they can contact

HEALTHY PACKED LUNCH PLOT WINNERS ANNOUNCED!



The Healthy Packed Lunch Plot Competition is open to all primary and special schools in Essex. Pupils are encouraged to design a kitchen garden plot and create a recipe for a healthy packed lunch using its produce

This year's winner of the primary school category age 4-7 years was Scarlett, 7, with her design 'Minion salad' from St Helen's Junior School in Brentwood.

The winner for category age 8-11 years was Grace, 10, with her design 'Crop Pop' from Friars Grove Primary School in Colchester.

The runners up for each category were Harry, 6, from Fingringhoe Primary School with 'Harry's Delicious Lunch' and Emmy, 8, from Danbury Park Community Primary School with her design 'Pye's Perfect Pack Lunch'

The winner of the special school Category was Terrie, 14, with her design 'Traffic Light Salad' from The Endeavour Co-operative Academy. The runner up was Caitlin, 12, with her design 'Chicken Kebab & Salad' from Cedar Hall School in Benfleet.

Teacher comments:

Head Teacher Carol Gooding Danbury Park Community School – Runner up

"The children at Danbury Park look forward to the competition each year. Emmy and her friends are keen to start work in our school garden and she is excited to watch the plants grow"

Head Teacher John Chadwick – Special Schools Winner The Endeavour Co-operative Academy

"We were delighted to enter the competition and it is always nice to win, but it was also a positive experience for our pupils to enter the competition and having the opportunity and excitement of participation.

The pupils enjoyed creating their designs and the rules regarding the designs helped the pupils to think & work in a practical, real-life way, which is a skill that we encourage at The Endeavour Co-operative Academy".

We introduced Horticulture here over 2 years ago & this has greatly benefitted the pupils, who, via practical lessons, are able to learn in many ways outside of the classroom".



To the left Primary School WINNER category 8-11 yrs
 Friars Grove Primary School
 Grace with LSA's Kim Sherwood and Rachel Hynes.
 Design: "Crop Pop"



Primary School WINNER Category age 4-7 yrs
 St Helens's Catholic Primary School
 Scarlett with Head Teacher Mrs Laraway
 and SENCO & Gardening Teacher Eva Rauch.
 Design: Minion Salad



Special Schools WINNER
 The Endeavour Co-operative Academy
 Terrie with Head Teacher John Chadwick and
 teacher Patrick Creedon
 Design: Traffic Light Salad

Primary Schools Runner up age 8-11 yrs category
 Danbury Park Community Primary School
 Emmy with Head Teacher Carol Gooding.
 Design: Pye's Perfect Pack Lunch



The competition is sponsored by Augustine Courtauld Trust, Perrywood Garden Centre -Tiptree, Kings Seeds, Royal Horticultural Society and Abberton Rural Training.

ESSEX PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION POSITION OF HON. SECRETARY

The Essex Playing Fields Association is a small charity that has been in existence since 1924.

Its main objectives are to help maintain, preserve, improve, create and most importantly protect playing fields, playgrounds and sports grounds across the county.

We are membership based and our members consist of District/Parish/Town councils, sports clubs and associations and individuals who support the work we do.

We are currently looking for someone to join our Executive Committee as an Hon. Secretary.

This is a voluntary role, although mileage expenses and any expenses accrued will be refunded.

The role is a pleasant one and would suit someone with a little spare time, who is passionate about the play areas and playing fields that surround us.

The role mainly consists of the usual secretarial jobs, such as taking the minutes at our meeting (which are only once every 2/3 months and take place generally in the evenings), general correspondence and helping organise our AGM and presentation evening, which takes place every October. The role should take up no more than an hour per week on average.

Ideally, the candidate will be computer literate, as much of our AGM literature/minutes etc is produced on Word/Publisher/Excel

We are a friendly bunch and we welcome people from all walks of life. We are an equal opportunities charity.

For further information or to meet for a friendly chat to find out more, please contact Tracy Smith,

tracysmith27@mail.com

FULL ERP MEETING DATES For 2019

Date: Tuesday 8th October

Time: Start time 11am – 2pm

Venue: Essex Young Farmers Conference Centre, Whitbread's Farm Lane, Chelmsford CM3 3LQ



IS HARE COURSING HAPPENING IN YOUR AREA?

HARE COURSING IS ILLEGAL

Please call 999 if you are witnessing criminal activity right now

If you have any information about hare coursing in your area, please let us know by:

- Reporting online (www.essex.police.uk/doitonline)
- Calling 101
- To remain anonymous call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

 **ESSEX POLICE**
www.essex.police.uk

#OperationGalileo



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