



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNER OF ESSEX VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2019



Peldon has been crowned Essex Village of the Year 2019.



At a packed Rural Community Council of Essex AGM on Wednesday 10th July, Peldon, a village in the borough of Colchester, was announced as outright winner of the Essex Village of the Year competition for 2019, with representatives from Peldon being presented with a cheque for £500 and the Essex & Suffolk Water shield. Alresford and Great Bardfield were placed joint second and received £200, with Great Tey in fourth place, receiving £100.



This year the competition, organised by RCCE and sponsored by Essex & Suffolk Water and Inkpen Downie Architecture & Design Ltd, was open to villages in Essex with a population of up to 6,000 and, as usual, competition was fierce, with 28 villages vying for the title. The focus of the competition is on the work of communities and the efforts of local people to strengthen and sustain community life. When entering, villages were required to answer the question: 'What makes your village special?'



All shortlisted villages were visited by volunteer judges who met with community representatives and assessed them according to the five judging categories: Community facilities and activities; Businesses and services; Environment and sustainability; Community information and New initiatives and future plans.

Peldon has a population of 459 and the judges were particularly impressed with the enormous amount of community activities and initiatives. The new village hall provides excellent facilities for a wide range of activities, clubs and groups, including the annual village pantomime. There are many outdoor community activities as well including the Peldon festival, garden concerts and gardening club. Volunteers run a lunch club and car service to the local farm shop.

Joint second were Alresford and Great Bardfield. Alresford has a population of 2100 and is in Tendring district.

It was the largest of the four finalists, but retains a strong sense of community having refurbished the village hall and created a community hub at the local church where many activities take place. They are the first parish in Tendring to embark on producing a Neighbourhood Plan and volunteers have created a beautiful community garden space with a range of flowers and vegetables.

Great Bardfield has a population of 1020 and is situated in Braintree. The community is rightly proud of its artistic connections and history, but there is much more on offer by way of clubs, groups and activities. Many take place in the Town Hall, a real community hub, but there is also much to do elsewhere. There is an after school club open to anyone under 12 years, the summer long boules event attracts 80 teams and the community choir has 50 members. The local book shop is a community meeting place and talking hub, where you can chat, read or enjoy tea and cake.

In fourth place is Great Tey (Colchester borough), with a population of 1000. The village has tackled the loss of services, experienced by many rural communities, by coming together to find solutions. One of these is having a part time post office in the village hall and a monthly drop in session with IT support. The community hub has 18 months of activities planned and there is a community outreach group, all of whom are volunteers.

RCCE Executive Director, Nick Shuttleworth said:

“Essex Village of the Year highlights the very best of rural Essex. We saw some outstanding examples of community initiative and enterprise in all the prize winning villages. Peldon, in particular, demonstrates that it is still possible for a small, relatively isolated rural community to sustain a strong sense of community.”

SUPPORTING BRITISH FARMING



Morrisons has announced a new £2 million apprenticeship transfer fund which will be used to train British farmers of the future. Launched at the Great Yorkshire Show, the funding wants to ensure that the industry has enough people trained to meet the UK's food needs. The programme and apprenticeship funding will equip would-be farmers with the broad skills needed. It will also up-skill apprentices with the business knowledge of how to provide for food manufacturers and retailers. Farming apprentices will be matched with supermarket stores so they tell their story to the public and learn what the consumer wants.

Those enrolled will also study the supply chain to develop their understanding of customer attitudes to British sourcing, farming and animal welfare. NFU President Minette Batters has given her support to the programme, saying it is 'vital' in addressing future challenges the industry faces.

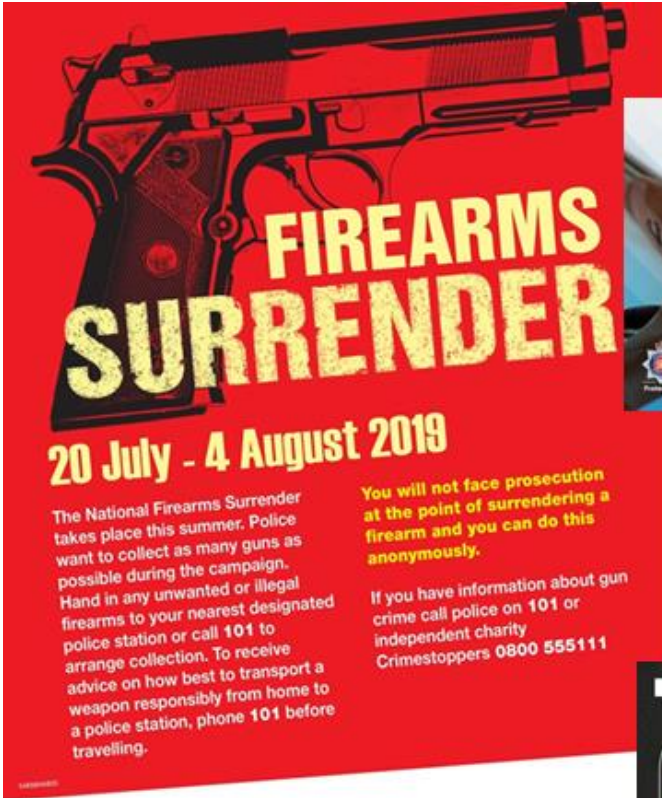
“Improving skills is a key part to unlocking productivity gains on farm and vital in addressing the future challenges and pressures that farming faces.

“Training and skills development also ensures there is a professional, flexible and reliable workforce as well as helping to attract new entrants to the industry,” she said.

David Potts, Morrisons Chief Executive, said: “We are British farming's single largest customer and so it makes sense to invest our apprenticeship fund to contribute to more new farmers being skilled to provide food for the nation.” (Source: FarmingUK 11/07/19)

ESSEX POLICE FIREARMS SURRENDER CAMPAIGN

If you have an unwanted or unlicensed firearm you are being encouraged to hand it in to Essex Police to help keep Essex safe and prevent it from falling into the hands of criminals. Essex Police are running a two-week firearm surrender from Saturday 20 July until Sunday 4 August where you can hand a firearm into Essex Police and won't face prosecution for possessing it illegally. To find out more please [click here](#)



FIREARMS SURRENDER
20 July - 4 August 2019

The National Firearms Surrender takes place this summer. Police want to collect as many guns as possible during the campaign. Hand in any unwanted or illegal firearms to your nearest designated police station or call 101 to arrange collection. To receive advice on how best to transport a weapon responsibly from home to a police station, phone 101 before travelling.

You will not face prosecution at the point of surrendering a firearm and you can do this anonymously.

If you have information about gun crime call police on 101 or independent charity Crimestoppers 0800 555111




.38 revolver
WWI 1915 DWM Luger
PO8 9mm

FIREARMS SURRENDER
20TH JULY - 4TH AUGUST 2019

INHERITED OR OWN A TROPHY OF WAR WEAPON? YOU CAN HAND THE WEAPON IN AS PART OF OUR FIREARMS SURRENDER

ESSEX POLICE
Protecting and serving Essex

THE PRICE OF COUNTRYSIDE LIVING: HOW CAN IT BECOME MORE

AFFORDABLE? Mark Deas of Cambridgeshire ACRE looks at how to address the problem.



The government has set targets to deliver 300,000 new homes a year but how many of these will be in rural communities? More importantly, how many will be tailored to the needs of rural communities?

Costly exodus

Rural communities are changing. They are getting older and they are becoming more dormitory in nature. The urban-rural shift continues as urban workers, retirees and owners of second homes are attracted to a more idyllic lifestyle.

The resulting pressure on rural housing markets has seen prices increase beyond the reach of many locals. According to the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs' March statistical digest, the average lower-quartile house price has risen to 9.1 the average lower-quartile income in mainly rural areas, compared with 7.4 in predominantly urban areas (excluding London).

To put that in context, I recently undertook a survey of housing needs in a small parish in South Cambridgeshire, where four out of the five houses sold in the past year had achieved prices in excess of £1m. The exodus of younger, economically active people and households that results from this distortion of the market has consequences for the community left behind. Social and support networks break down, especially for those who depend on multi-generational family members living in the community.

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

THE WONDERS OF HISTORY IN ESSEX: DISCOVER2020 FESTIVAL -

COMMEMORATING THE SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE IN A VOYAGE AROUND ROCHFORD DISTRICT'S HERITAGE.



2020 marks the 200th anniversary of the launch of HMS Beagle in 1820: one of the most famous ships in history.

She circumnavigated the globe and through her voyages; her famous passenger Charles Darwin; and her captain Robert Fitzroy, her name is synonymous with discovery in the fields of science, meteorology and even space exploration. HMS Beagle was finally decommissioned by the Royal Navy in 1845 when she was transferred to the Coastguard and repurposed as a watch vessel stationed at Paglesham in Rochford District, where her remains are

now believed to be buried in the estuary mud. Rochford District Council is currently developing plans with the RSPB to commemorate HMS Beagle at Wallasea Island in May 2020.

2020 is important as a whole across Rochford District because it marks: The 1000th anniversary of Ashingdon parish church built in 1020 by the order of the king, the famous 'Canute the Great' of Denmark. The first priest at Ashingdon was one of King Canute's personal priests, Stigand, who was the Archbishop of Canterbury who crowned King Harold and officiated at the coronation of William The Conqueror in 1066. He is depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry.

Following the spirit of adventure embodied by HMS Beagle, it is Rochford District Council's ambition that the Wallasea Island event should also mark the beginning of the Discover 2020 Festival – a multi form festival to be held throughout June 2020. To find out more & if you wish to get involved please [click here](#)

To get involved in the Discover 2020 Festival please contact Angela Hutchings, Strategic Director, Rochford District Council angela.hutchings@rochford.gov.uk

Dedham is featured in Countryfile's Best Summer Walks in Britain



Dedham is a village within the borough of Colchester in northeast Essex situated on the border of Essex and Suffolk.

A short walk takes you along the marshy banks of the River Stour, running from the village of Dedham to Flatford Mill (once home to the painter John Constable) and back again.

Please [click here](#) to view the article.

Willy Lott's House – the subject matter for Constable's The Hay Wain ©Alamy

FULL ERP MEETING DATES For 2019

Date: Tuesday 15th October

Time: 10am start Finish 2pm (Lunch to be included)

Venue: Chelmsford City Racecourse

**ESSEX COUNTY
HARVEST SERVICE**
SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2019, 3.30PM

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL
ALL WELCOME TO THE SERVICE
AND REFRESHMENTS AFTERWARDS

CELEBRATING CEREALS

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL

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