



## JINGLING WITHOUT THE MINGLING!



### ESSEX FARMERS' DRIVE-IN CAROL SERVICE

*Please join us for  
'Christmas Jingling without the Mingling!'  
with singer •*

NANCY MAY

*Sunday 13th December 2020, 2.30pm*

*Chelmsford City Racecourse,  
Great Leighs, Essex. CM3 1QP*

Booking essential

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/essex-farmers-drive-in-carol-service-jingling-without-the-mingling-tickets-129023391437>



**FCN**

For further details please contact  
Philip Wilson [Philip@fcn.org.uk](mailto:Philip@fcn.org.uk) or  
Revd Canon Janet Nicholls [jnicholls@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:jnicholls@chelmsford.anglican.org)



The impacts of the current restrictions continue which is concerning especially with regards to rural isolation and loneliness, so to help lift some spirits join in by 'jingling without the mingling!'

**Admission is free but you must book a place! For full details and to book please [click here](#)**

## DEFRA ANNOUNCE AGRICULTURAL POLICY TRANSITION PLANS FOR ENGLAND



Defra has set out the Government's plans for the transition from the Common Agricultural Policy. The Path to Sustainable Farming: [An Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024](#) sets out a range of policy measures that will come into force over a period of seven years to help farmers adapt and plan for the future. There will be three levels of support aimed at paying for sustainable farming practices, creating habitats for nature recovery and making landscape-scale

change such as establishing new woodland and other ecosystem services. Some options will be universally open to all farmers and land managers, while others will be more targeted at a smaller number of large projects. There will also be significant grants made available to support farmers to reduce their costs and improve their profitability, to help those who want to retire or leave the industry, and to create new opportunities and support for new entrants coming into the industry.

For more information please [click here](#).

## ESSEX VIOLENCE AND VULNERABILITY UNIT – Keeping children safe



The Violent and Vulnerability Unit (VUU) is supporting the Essex Safeguarding Children Board campaign '[Operation Henderson](#)' to raise awareness of child exploitation at stations and transport networks in Essex. The two-week online campaign, which was launched in November, will share information about how to safeguard vulnerable children on public transport, what signs to look out for and how to report concerns.

While many people are staying at home during the second lockdown, we know children are still using public transport to get to and from school. Traditionally the anonymity of a crowded station has made it harder to identify victims, while in lockdown the lack of passengers can make it easier for young people and their exploiters to move around unchecked. So, if you are out and about for work or caring purposes look out for signs of exploitation, particularly around transport hubs.

Research has also shown that young people vulnerable to exploitation are just as likely to be using trains, buses and taxis as they were prior to COVID-19. A young person travelling on their own during a lockdown could in fact be an indicator of potential abuse or criminal exploitation. They may be unable to stop for fear of punishment from their exploiters. Concerns about child exploitation can be reported to the Police on 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. If there are concerns about suspicious activity in train station grounds the British Transport Police text line number 61016 can also be used. Further information and resources can be found on the [ESCB website](#).



BBC Essex @BBCE... · 28m ...  
@EssexPoliceUK are investigating following reports of a man acting suspiciously around a teenage girl in #Colchester. It's thought to have happened near Hospital Lane at around 3.35pm last Friday [bit.ly/2J8WhRe](https://bit.ly/2J8WhRe) #Essex



Posted 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## RCCE'S COMMUNITY-LED HOUSING ADVISOR FOR ESSEX WITHIN NEW EASTERN COMMUNITY HOMES HUB



Eastern Community Homes is an independent not-for-profit hub for the East of England, which provides essential support to community groups who wish to pursue successful community-led housing (CLH) projects. The hub looks to empower local communities and encourage them to shape their place together. All six counties within



the hub (Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire) now have a Community Led Housing Advisor in their region, who has undergone specific training which is accredited by both Community Led Homes and the Chartered Institute of Housing.

### What is the definition of community-led housing?

- The community is integrally involved throughout the process in key decisions like what is provided, where and for who
- The community benefits. The benefits of the scheme to the local area and/or specified community group are clearly defined and protected in perpetuity
- The community has a long-term role in the ownership, stewardship, or management of the homes
- Community-led housing is different from the rural housing enabler programme which will continue but builds on this experience and puts communities in the driving seat of any initiatives. There are hundreds of examples of community-led housing in urban as well as rural settings across the country and a Hub will support the growth of projects in the towns and cities across the region



The Community Led Housing Advisor for Essex, Laura Atkinson (RCCE's Rural Housing Enabler) will work with budding and more established community groups, housing providers, Local Authorities and other partners to develop new community led housing solutions, such as Community Land Trusts (CLTs), co-housing, cooperatives and self-build schemes. She will work with groups (urban or rural) from inception to completion to ensure the expertise and experience in the region and nationally can support communities to overcome challenges and help them achieve their ambitions. This work will include running workshops, advising on funding and finance, undertaking housing needs surveys, working with neighbourhood plan groups and enabling access to a wide range of technical support.

There are various models associated with community-led housing which can offer a flexible and blended approach;

### Models of community-led housing

- Self-build and custom-build housing
- Co-operatives, 'mutual' and tenant management bodies
- Community land trusts and development trusts
- Self-help housing and empty dwellings
- Co-housing neighbourhoods
- Eco-housing, 'low-impact' settlements and ecovillages
- Almshouses and charities



The diversity of these models presents a real opportunity for local people to come together, identify their own need and deliver homes and other assets which benefit their particular community. There are many reasons why groups are set up; for example a lack of suitable affordable homes in the area or bringing empty buildings back into use. They can also be referenced as an aspiration in a neighbourhood plan to allow local people to take control of how housing is delivered.

For further information, case studies and guidance with regards to community-led housing or other types of affordable housing in Essex, please contact Laura Atkinson, Rural Housing Enabler, Rural Community Council of Essex, on [laura.atkinson@essexrcc.org.uk](mailto:laura.atkinson@essexrcc.org.uk) or 01376 574330.



## CARE TECHNOLOGY HELPING THE VULNERABLE DURING COVID-19



In partnership with RETHINK Partners and Alcove, Essex County Council (ECC) are rolling-out a new and innovative response to the COVID-19 crisis, by providing virtual care and health and wellbeing support to vulnerable or shielded people.

ECC are delivering 2,000 Video Carephones to vulnerable people in Essex with the aim to supplement face-to-face contact, aid social distancing and support emerging needs related to COVID-19. It also ensures that staff and their families will be protected from infection and can continue to work during this time.

The Alcove Video Carephone is an integrated, easy-to-use device which enables users to make video calls to pre-identified services via a locked down tablet and a web portal. Responders can use the Alcove app/web site to make calls, issue reminders and prompts which will allow the continuity of care and ensure general health and wellbeing. Users are being supported to set up the devices remotely and their friends and family members can also be added during set-up. One user said that she's 'thrilled' to have the device and it has allowed her to see a long-lost school friend who she hasn't met face-to-face for years. She has also managed to get shopping and basic essentials through the Help@home service provided with the device. For further information please [click here](#).

## Community Agents Essex - Supporting Independent Living



Community Agents Essex is a countywide network of agents and volunteers who support older people and informal carers to find and develop independent living solutions from within their local community. If you wish to find out more about Alcove through your local Community Agent (CA) then please visit the CA website for further information please [click here](#).

## HELP ESSEX BUY LOCAL



Great food is what makes a great Christmas, discover local farm shops, butchers and more for all of your festive food needs this holiday season.

[Click here](#) for more details.

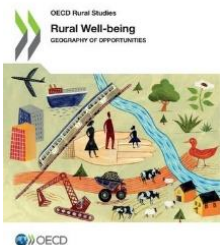


## FOOD AND DRINK BUSINESSES



Digital Food and Drink Guide from DEFRA has launched a new digital guide covering the key actions food and drink businesses may need to take from 1 January 2021. The guide is available to [download](#), alongside a range of other digital assets. DEFRA are keen to have feedback, so please send any suggestions for additional information that would be helpful in this document to [beverly.davies@essexrcc.org.uk](mailto:beverly.davies@essexrcc.org.uk)

## WELL-BEING OF RURAL SENIORS: INSIGHTS FROM THE OECD



The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) recently discussed the issue of the well-being of rural older adults in its report “[Rural well-being: geography of opportunities](#)”, published in October 2020. This report reaffirms the opportunities arising from the Silver Economy in rural areas and determines how these can be better exploited across three types of rural regions. For further information please [click here](#).

## ARE YOU SHOPPING SAFELY?



Fake texts and emails offering unbelievably good deals is a common tactic used by fraudsters in online shopping scams. Follow these [top tips](#) to checkout securely this festive season.

## FCN TEAM UP WITH ARLA FOODS



The Farming Community Network (FCN) have joined forces with Arla Foods, to help let those living & working in rural areas know they can talk to FCN if they are facing hardship.

FCN's Helpline information is being carried on Arla lorries. If you need someone to talk to, call **03000 111 999** or email **help@fcn.org.uk**.

## SEASONAL GREETINGS



The Essex Rural Partnership would like to thank our members for all the support provided to the county during this extremely challenging year. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas & to stay safe and well!

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Essex Rural Partnership Meeting Dates for 2021 TBC

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](mailto:info@essexruralpartnership.org.uk) with 'unsubscribe' as the email subject. Compiled and edited by Lizzie Rose, Rural Community Council of Essex. Rural Community Council of Essex Registered Charity No. 1097009. Company registered in England and Wales No. 4609624