

# Campaigner's claims were 'totally devoid of facts'

**THE PROPERTY developer under fire in a front page story in the Local last week has branded the claims made against him as 'outrageous' and 'totally devoid of facts.'**

Bill Bampton of Pelham Structures accused housing campaigner Neil Hargreaves of 'character assassination' in the article which claimed that after getting permission from UDC planners for a care home in Bury Water Lane, Newport, the developer was applying for change of use to residential and had started negotiations for an estate of 45 homes.

Said Mr Bampton: "No decision has been taken to apply for housing in place of the care village.

"We made it very clear during our three day exhibition that the Sworders application for 84 houses in the village, if granted, could prejudice the viability of the care home. This point was also made to UDC planning officers.

"We objected to the 84 house application on the grounds of highway safety and ineffective use of Grade II agricultural land but the application was granted which will result in our 'care village' being totally surrounded by houses.

"The care village was not a Trojan Horse - if we had considered housing to be the best option we would simply have applied for them with every chance of success.

"The reason we did not apply for housing was that it is both our

view, and that of the site owners, that housing would generate an unacceptable level of traffic through Newport Grammar School if the necessary highway improvements identified were not carried out.

"The estimated cost of these works is approximately £900,000 and would be both unaffordable and inequitable if the nursery site had to pay for this so that other landowners could benefit.

"Without the necessary safety improvements being carried out at the school both we and our clients believe that the current situation of the proposed 84 houses on the Sworders site, combined with the care village, is the worst possible outcome for the village and the school in particular.

"I can assure both the school and the parents and children of the school that I and my company will explore all and any scenarios that will resolve this unfortunate situation. This may or may not include re-applying for housing. This would increase the site value and this extra value could then enable all the necessary highway work to be funded.

"As Mr Hargreaves and the other members of Save Our Village know if they wish to inform themselves of the current situation I am and have always been available to answer their questions. "They can then engage in character assassination from an informed point of view and not hearsay and conjecture!"



● The street party organised by Design Essentials, Joseph Barnes Wines and Dionne McCreery Catering and Johnny and Jenny in Market Row on Friday was a great success with a wonderful atmosphere. Said Wendy Howell of Design Essentials: "We would like to thank all the people who came along and made the evening so enjoyable - they supported us by just turning up. We really enjoyed the evening and collaborating to make a shopping experience more fun. Buoyed by the success of the party there are now plans for Market Row to open to support Late Night Shopping on Friday December 6." Pictured are Dion, Gareth, Wendy and Charles.

## Treasure trove appeal a third way to its target

**THE URGENT public appeal launched by Saffron Walden Museum Society in September to purchase a unique Anglo-Saxon gold ring and other treasures has already raised more than £2,500 of its £7,500 target thanks to the generosity of local donors and organisations.**

With several national organisations also offering generous grants the Society is hoping to raise enough matching funding from local sources by mid-December for the district.

Tony Watson, chairman of the Saffron Walden Museum Society, said: "Now we need one final push to secure these treasures for Uttlesford for everyone to enjoy."

The outstanding find is a large gold ring engraved with pagan and Christian symbols which date it to the 'age of Sutton Hoo' (around 580-650 AD). The other treasure finds include an unusual silver mount decorated with animal heads and a silver hooked tag also decorated with animals.

All the finds have been made by metal-detectorists in Uttlesford since 2011 and have been declared treasure under the Treasure Act.

Donations to Saffron Walden Museum Society Ltd (Charity No 1123209) and offers of sponsorship or assistance with fundraising are welcomed. Please contact Saffron Walden Museum on 01799 510333 for further information.



● Anglo-Saxon gold ring

## Geoff and Bernie return

A LOCAL VILLAGE bucked the national trend when its 'local' re-opened last Friday - The Bell in Wendens Ambo, which has been closed for almost five months, is up and running again thanks to owners, Bernie and Geoff Bates, who a decade or so ago made their Bell Bash summer festival famous.

Geoff and Bernie were overwhelmed on their opening day with old friends, ex-regulars and villagers crowding in, delighted to get their pub back.

## crime shorts...

● A house in Rookery Close was burgled during the night of October 29/30. A pvc door lock was 'popped' and the keys to a Silver VW Passat taken. The vehicle was then driven away. Rucksacks hanging in the downstairs area which contained property including cash, Nintendo games and an in-car charger, were also stolen. The value of the vehicle is £10,500 and the items £628.

● There was a break-in at Veerman Park Industrial Estate in Thaxted Road at 1.45am on October 31. A disabled toilet was entered and a door was damaged but nothing stolen.

● The Saffron Hotel was broken into between 2.48 and 4am on October 28 by three suspects who came in through the main entrance and the fire escape. A safe by the reception desk was opened and keys and staff tips stolen. Two men went into the guest bedroom corridor, jemmied open the office door and stole a total of £4,000 in cash.

● Burglars were apparently disturbed by an alarm which went off within the house when they were attempting to enter a secure shed at Middle Street, Clavering, between 2 and 3.30pm on October 29. Nothing was stolen.

## Multi media event

**X:SITE, the multi-media event for youngsters, is back this weekend! Run by local churches for junior school children in Years 3-6, X:Site is being held at New Life Church in Shire Hill, on Saturday November 9 from 6-8pm.**

Said a spokesman for the event: "It costs £2.50 for a fun evening learning about Jesus and the Bible including games, activities, competitions, singing with a live band and the much-loved gunging of the leaders. No need to book - just bring the kids and their friends along and there is a prize for everyone who finds the number hidden under the gold bar on the website."

If you've not been before, and to save time on the night, please visit [www.xsite.org.uk](http://www.xsite.org.uk) and download the registration form.

# WALDEN Local

# Family Announcements

### DEATH NOTICES

**MARGARET ANNE BRADY** - died in peace at Addenbrooke's Hospital, on Thursday 31st October 2013, aged 78 years. Beloved wife of Sean, mother of Gillian and Richard and much loved Grandma to Bella, Olivia, Chessie, Liam, Nia, Mila and Amelia. Funeral Service at St Mary's Parish Church, Saffron Walden on Friday 8th November at 11.30am. No flowers please, but donations, if desired, may be made direct to either a Cancer or Alzheimer's charity of your choice.

**JOHN PALMER** - passed away peacefully at Saffron Walden Community Hospital on Tuesday 29th October 2013, aged 78 years. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at St Mary the Virgin Church, Arkesden on Tuesday 12th November at 2pm. Family flowers only please, but donations, if desired, may be made payable to 'CCEA' (Crossroads Care East Anglia) or 'Cancer Research UK' and sent c/o Peasgood & Skeates, Shire Hill, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3AQ.

**EVA KELLY** of Hatherley Care Home, Saffron Walden, died suddenly, peacefully and unexpectedly in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge on 29th October 2013 aged 99 years. She will be missed by all her family and friends. Her funeral will take place at St Peter's Church, Church Road, Little Thurlow, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 7JQ on Wednesday 13th November at 11.30am. Family flowers only, but donations to 'Cancer Research UK' can be sent to Peasgood & Skeates, Shire Hill, Saffron Walden CB11 3AQ.

### FLORIST

**EVERGREEN**  
your local florist  
7 Market Row,  
Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1HB  
Tel: 01799 522277 or 01799 527130

### FUNERAL DIRECTORS

## PEASGOOD & SKEATES

Independent Family  
Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons

- Purpose built funeral homes, private chapels of rest
- Arrangements can be made in the comfort of your own home
- Funeral pre-planning

A personal, caring service from a local business day or night



Shire Hill 45 Moorfield Rd 66b High St  
SAFFRON WALDEN DUXFORD SAFFRON WALDEN  
(01799) 523314 (01223) 833463 (01799) 513513

[www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk](http://www.peasgoodandskeates.co.uk)

### PLACING YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IS EASY -

Please write, fax or email (sales@waldenlocal.co.uk)

your announcements to *The Walden Local* or call into 10 Emson Close, Saffron Walden (opp SW Laundry) Open Mon to Fri from 9.00am until 5.30pm

or call **01799 516161**

Copy for Family Announcements must be received by 4pm Tuesday