

LETTERS

Have your say: Write to 54 High Street Saffron Walden CB10 1EE or email editor@saffronwalden-reporter.co.uk



Saffron Walden Reporter

54 High Street, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1EE

EDITORIAL

Telephone: 01799 513000 / 513024
E-mail: editor@saffronwalden-reporter.co.uk

Editor: Stefan Bartlett
01480 443447
stefan.bartlett@archant.co.uk
Content editor: Hywel Barrett
01799 513000
Hywel.Barrett@archant.co.uk
Reporter: Phoebe Cooke
01799 513024
phoebe.cooke@archant.co.uk

ADVERTISING

Fax: 01480 411481
Commercial director: Tony Little
Sales manager: Tracey Brockman
01480 443470
tracey.brockman@archant.co.uk
Sales executive: Hayden Armes
07584 311458
hayden.ames@archant.co.uk
Recruitment: Claudia Owen
01438 866100
claudia.owen@archant.co.uk
Trades & Services:
01438 866010

DISTRIBUTION

Telephone: 01438 866130
Email: distribution.enquiries@archant.co.uk

LEAFLETS

Telephone: 01438 866072
Email: elena.goakes@archant.co.uk

PUBLISHED BY

ARCHANT EAST

Managing Director: Jeff Henry

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January-June 2014
16,801



On the web

Most viewed stories

1. Saffron Walden public toilets to close for refurbishment
2. Bishop's Stortford train victim identified as 75-year-old man
3. Box of abandoned ducklings dropped off at Stansted castle
4. Saffron Walden warms up for biggest event of the year



Tweet of the week

"Collecting Tesco Saffron Walden with lovely volunteers & pup Toby who is busy showing off his bone!"

@RachHearingDogs

Welcome surprise for charity's coffers

On behalf of Volunteer Uttlesford I would like to thank the Rotary Club of Saffron Walden for giving us £150 from their street collection. At this time all charities are struggling financially so this was a welcome surprise. The money will help us to carry on visiting people in villages who need the help of volunteers.

Many charities are looking for volunteers so contact us to find out about these interesting opportunities.

You can contact us by calling 01799 500525 or you can send an email to volunteer@volunteeruttlesford.org.uk.

PAT LODGE
Volunteer coordinator
Volunteer Centre Uttlesford

How a London child ends up at Audley

I write to you as one of the town's elderly residents and, at the age of 89, I have decided to reveal how a cockney kid from London's east end docks area became a resident at the beautiful mansion home of Lord and Lady Braybrooke. My widowed mother and her five children arrived in Saffron Walden as evacuees from war-torn London in 1940.

The London evacuees arrived in the town by a London Transport double decker bus and at the age of only 14 years I had to admire the skill of our bus driver who easily manoeuvred his huge bus from the High Street into the narrow confines of Abbey Lane. After being given warm blankets and a hot drink at the chapel in Abbey Lane we were taken by car to Audley End House and given free lodgings at the laundry wing of the house. During my period at the mansion I was offered and I gleefully accepted the wage-earning job of garden boy and under the guidance from the adult gardeners I very soon became aware of the pleasures and the hard work of gardening. After Lord Braybrooke died in 1941 my entire family became rehoused into the town to Ashdon Road, when at the age of 18, I was called up for compulsory military service with the Essex Regiment.

TOM WHITE
Little Walden Road
Saffron Walden

Generous shoppers give huge donation

I'd like to thank everyone who gave so generously to our collection for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People at Tesco Saffron Walden on Friday, April 10.

We raised £336.70 which will help to create more life-changing partnerships between deaf people and their hearing dogs.

We hope that you enjoyed meeting Toby and Marty, two of the local hearing dog puppies in training. We need more volunteers in this area to look after our puppies for the first year of their lives. If you think you might be

Housing policy will not help private renters



The extension of the Right to Buy to Housing Association properties, announced this week by the Conservative Party, will see some people being able to buy their own home with help from the taxpayer: these are people already living in good secure homes on some of the country's cheapest rents. The policy won't help the millions of people in private rented homes who are desperate to buy but have no hope of doing so, nor the three

million adult children living with their parents because they can't afford to rent or buy. Housing associations are private social enterprises that exist for the benefit of the community. They already build homes for sale, private and social rent and shared ownership. As well as depriving future generations of decent affordable housing, the Conservative Party are planning to raise £17.5 billion

from the sale of high value properties to fund the discount – a huge sum in times of austerity that could grow into tens of billions as more tenants become eligible. This £17.5b is enough to finance nearly one million new shared ownership homes open to everyone, not just the lucky few already well housed in secure social homes.

MARK HAYES
South Road
Saffron Walden

interested in becoming a puppy socialiser and would like more information please email volunteer@hearingdogs.org.uk.
YVONNE REYNOLDS
Saffron Walden and District Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

Cricket legend has roots near the town

In the light of the recent sad demise of Richie Benaud it may interest local cricketers to know that his great grandparents were James and Martha Saville who had emigrated from Langley, Saffron Walden, in 1855.

Langley has one of the most quintessential village green cricket grounds and it would be nice to imagine that this had a genealogical influence on one of the worlds best loved cricketers.

GEOFF WHITE
Stanleys Farm Road
Saffron Walden

Radical measures to tackle traffic

I was delighted to see from the front pages of last week's press that many local politicians appear to have been reading from our manifesto and are proposing a greater implementation of 20mph speeds limits in town; we applaud their sentiments.

However R4U proposes further radical measures to make our roads and environment even safer. We will keep heavy vehicles out of town during the morning and evening rush hours which will bring significant benefits such as shorter traffic queues and a greatly reduced level of pollution. This is particularly relevant in a

week where traffic and weather have caused high pollution and health risks. We should be aware that air pollution kills many more people than road traffic accidents. R4U will make traffic and pollution a major focus following the forthcoming elections. If you would like to discuss this or any other topic please see me at my surgery this coming Saturday (April 18) at the Walden in Transition Community Café in the town hall between 10.30am and noon.

JOHN LODGE
Chairman
Residents for Uttlesford and Essex County Council representative for the Saffron Walden Division

Housing policy and the Local Plan

Residents of Elsenham, Henham, Stansted and Thaxted particularly but Uttlesford generally should take note of the official and published Liberal Democrat national housing policy which has marked differences with the Conservative position.

Within the context of drafting the Uttlesford Local Plan, Liberal Democrat policy calls for Local Authorities to allocate land to meet 15 years' housing need in their Local Plan.

This compares with the Conservative's requirement of five years.

In similar vein the Liberal Democrat policy is to increase the annual rate of house building to 300,000 per year compared with the Conservative target of 200,000. The implications for Uttlesford of the LibDem policy is clear. A fifty percent increase in annual

building would mean 870 houses a year instead of the suggested figure of 580 in the recent Inspector's report and a fifteen year supply of land is three times the current level. In such circumstances much of Uttlesford would be under pressure. Liberal Democrat candidates for Uttlesford should explain how they reconcile their national policy with the local situation and they should spell out their proposals for the 15 year supply of land in Uttlesford. Meanwhile local Conservatives are conducting a transparent, objective process based on existing numbers. The Planning Policy Working Group is cross party and will not make any recommendation without extensive consultation.

UDC is currently vigorously contesting developers' appeals for proposals in Thaxted and elsewhere that are outside of the Plan.

AARON MENUHIN
Candidate for Thaxted and The Eastons (Conservative)

Treat yourself to help charity cause

National Doughnut Week is approaching and I would like to appeal to independent craft bakers and coffee shops to sign-up for this fun, annual charity event. It takes place from May 9-16. It is held in aid of The Children's Trust, the UK's leading charity for children with brain injury. I also wish to make an appeal to the general public to get involved, by buying friends or work colleagues a delicious doughnut treat from bakers and coffee shops displaying National Doughnut Week posters.

PHIL TUFNELL
Ambassador
The Children's Trust