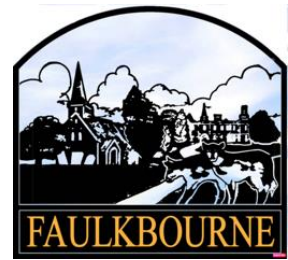




WHITE NOTLEY & FAULKBOURNE
PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2026



Essex Village of the Year Competition 2026

White Notley wins Third Place

Essex has a wonderful variety of villages where local people are doing great things to sustain and strengthen community life in these challenging times, much of it involving the efforts of volunteers. Through Essex Village of the Year, the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) wants to celebrate and reward these efforts. The Parish Council entered the competition this year. We are delighted to say that White Notley was awarded third place at the AGM held on Wednesday 8th July.

We thought you might like to read our entry as it shows the wide range of activities happening in White Notley:

White Notley nestles in the Brain Valley halfway between Witham and Braintree. Its history goes back to Roman times. For a small community we are pleased to share the wide range of activities described below.

Parish Council meets monthly and among other activities organises a popular play scheme in the summer holidays, a 3 monthly visit by a refuse vehicle to support villagers less able to clear bulky rubbish, and a monthly community minibus to Chelmsford to reduce isolation for older residents. A group of volunteers run Community Speedwatch on a fortnightly basis to discourage speeding. At Christmas villagers of all ages come together to sing carols round the tree (60 in 2025)

St Etheldreda's Church is the spiritual centre. It reaches out to the village with All Age Services each month, annual outdoor Remembrance service, an open-air service at Pennetts Farm and communal carol singing in the Cross Keys. Villagers come together for quarterly Do Days to keep churchyard tidy.

The 105 pupils in the village school come into the church for a termly service and hunt Easter eggs in the graveyard! School is well supported by the PTA and the Parish Council. The recent development of a quiet garden is very popular with the children. Councillors are invited into school to see children perform.

The Cross Keys pub at the centre of the village was purchased by the owners of White Notley Hall to preserve a village hub. It has been refurbished inside and out and a new car park added. As well as a watering hole it is an integral part of many of the activities described.

White Notley Station has been adopted by former inhabitants of Station House. Activities organised include train trips for village school children, ghost walks and a beer festival with Cross Keys.

White Notley Football Club recently marked its 75th anniversary when 300 guests attended celebrations. There are four age group teams as well as first team and reserves and veterans and reserves.

Gemma's Farm has developed a Petting Zoo which is increasingly popular and particularly valued by neurodiverse children and their parents.

The Village Hall is regularly used by Carpet Bowls, White Notley Cameos, Braintree Beekeepers, Mid-Essex Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers and others.

White Notley Walkers meet monthly to encourage all-age enjoyment of the countryside in and around White Notley with walks of 4-5 miles. Average attendance 15-20.

White Notley Duck Race has been running for 20 years on the 4th Sunday in August. Village volunteers prepare the river prior to the event and sell 1500 ducks to race.



The event attracts villagers of all ages and families from far and wide. The event is followed by a barbecue at the Cross Keys. Money raised by this and bake sales has funded a Military Memorial which was installed and blessed last year when 80 villagers attended the service.

To add historical significance a time capsule was buried including records and artefacts and contributions by children from school.



Annual White Notley Duck Race

Sunday 30 August at 11am

on the River Brain

Rubber ducks released down the River Brain

After the Duck Race back to the Cross Keys for BBQ, Live Music and Good Times
Fun for all the family

See you there!

SUMMER PLAY SCHEME

The Play Scheme will take place on the four Tuesdays in August
4th, 11th, 18th & 25th

10am – 4pm at White Notley School Hall
for ages 5 – 12 years

Under 5's may attend if accompanied by a responsible adult.

The Play Scheme is open to all residents of White Notley & Faulkbourne. It is free to attend; however, children should bring a packed lunch if staying for the whole day and some pocket money for refreshments.

Due to the messy nature of some of the activities, it is best to wear old clothes.



HIRE OF THE REFUSE VEHICLE

The dustcart will be visiting for the last time this year on Saturday 17 October starting at The Green at 8am, The Street, White Notley 9am, Vicarage Avenue/Vicarage Close 10am and finishing at Faulkbourne Village Hall at 11am. (Times are approximate)

Community Speed Watch

We are delighted to announce that Pip Trowles has completed her training and introductory session and has joined our team of Speedwatch volunteers for White Notley and Faulkbourne. We now have 8 volunteers who regularly monitor traffic speed through our villages and report speeding vehicles to the police who then send a warning letter to vehicle owners. We would love to have a larger team, so if you are interested in giving up an hour every few weeks to deter speeding in our villages then please get in touch with Cllr Ian Bentley at email i42an@aol.com for more details.

St Etheldreda's says thank you to its 'Do Day' volunteers



Our beautiful ancient church and churchyard in White Notley require a lot of maintenance and cleaning, and we are very grateful to everyone who gives up time and effort to help. Three times a year on a Saturday morning a group of volunteers gathers for 3 hours of mowing, strimming, weeding, edging, painting and cleaning, both inside and outside the church. We call them 'Do Days', and the last one was on Saturday 4 July. It was a beautiful summers day and plenty of

White Notley villagers came along to lend a hand, making a huge difference to the appearance of our village church. Of course, it is thirsty work, so a coffee break halfway through and a cold beer at the end for everyone were very welcome. Our thanks to everyone who came and helped.

Our next Do Day will be in the autumn on Saturday 3 October from 10am, Please come along with any gardening/cleaning equipment you have, but we also have equipment you can use. For more details, drop an email to Ian on i42an@aol.com



My name is John Morris, your recently elected Essex County Council Councillor for the Division of Witham West & Rural. I have lived and worked in the area for the last 30 years and look forward to making a positive contribution to the lives of my constituents. I have been married to Margaret for the last 36 years, we have one grown up son, George who is now 29. I and Margaret enjoy taking long countryside walks with our Cavapoo, Bella. I also try to keep fit by playing (badly) Padel Tennis, which I'm at the novice stage.

Please contact me if you feel I can be of any assistance: cllr.john.morris@essex.gov.uk

News and Events for Faulkbourne

Coffee Mornings



These are held the third Saturday of each month at the village hall from 10.30 to 12 noon.

There is lots of chat, homemade cakes and savouries. Book swap, homemade preserves for sale. All very informal a lovely place to swap recipes gardening tips and so much more.

Church services at St Germanus

On the first Sunday of the month it's our service of Holy Communion at 11am. 2nd Aug with Rev Rob Cadman, 6th Sept and 4th Oct with Revd Dr Jonathan Pritchard. Our Taize services are held on the fourth Sunday of each month at 6pm. 23rd Aug; Heather Brewster, 27th Sept; Melanie Hicks and 25th Oct with Simon May. A peaceful uplifting service by candlelight.



For our Harvest Festival, weekend Saturday 10th October and Sunday 11th we will be opening the church to showcase our harvest flowers and displays. Saturday Tea and cake will be on offer as well as the chance to purchase harvest pies crumbles, cakes and preserves. This will be from 1.30 till 4 pm.

Our traditional Harvest Service is at 11am on Sunday the 11th. We would love to encourage like-minded flower lovers to join us we are just very enthusiastic amateurs. More details from Melanie 07956 539877 or Heather 07948 281208.

Speeding in the village

This continues to be a problem, but we must thank the police who are now monitoring the situation and turn up at least once a week at various times with their speed gun. They are being very successful which is a good thing, as due to closures on the Cressing Road we have far more vehicles using this route.

Mobile Library

The Mobile Library visits the village hall car park every three weeks on a Monday arriving at 11.40 till 12 noon, 10 August, 21 September and 12 October.

Children's Play Area – Vicarage Avenue.

The playground has recently been inspected by RoSPA who undertake a biennial safety check on behalf of the Parish Council. The Council is responsible for acting on the report to improve safety for those using the playground. The safety surfaces under the junior and toddler swings are developing gaps which RoSPA identify as a trip hazard and these will need to be resurfaced.

The report was very concerned by finding that seats had been moved onto the safety surfaces. This constitutes a risk for those using the swings and has also contributed to the damage which will have to be repaired.

PLEASE DO NOT MOVE THE SEATS ONTO THE SAFETY SURFACES

The Council would welcome suggestions for improvements to the playground. Please contact the clerk or any councillor with your ideas.

White Notley Football Club

It feels like the summer months are flying by, and before we know it the colder, wetter – and more familiar footballing weather – will be back upon us.

Our men's teams have already returned to training and are working hard to ensure they are fit, focused, and ready for the new season. Pre-season friendlies are scheduled for the end of the month, with the league campaign kicking off in mid-August.

If you're aged 16+ and interested in joining, please get in touch with 1st Team Manager Lee Greenwood on 07791 836334. Our youth teams will follow a few weeks later, with their season starting in September. Once again, we'll be running four youth sides:

Under 10 Girls competing in the Essex Girls League

Under 14, Under 15, and Under 18 Boys competing in the Blackwater & Dengie League

If you have a son or daughter interested in giving football a try, please contact us using the number on the poster or reach out via our social media channels or website.

In the meantime, let's get behind England in the world cup, and make it a summer to remember... you never know, football may be coming home!

Justin "Jack" Daniels

Chairman, White Notley FC. www.whitenotleyfc.co.uk

Friday Community Shopper Bus to Chelmsford

We continue to subsidise this service for residents, but if it is not well used, we may have to reconsider future bookings.

Remaining dates for 2026

14 August & 11 September

The bus will pick up from the Cross Keys / Vicarage Avenue at 10am (the bus also picks up from Faulkbourne) and returns from Chelmsford at 1.45pm

Places must be pre-booked

Please contact Betty Bright, 01376 583434, or Shirley Daniels, 01376 583298
Fare: £5.00 return

Village Hall Hire

White Notley Village Hall: Booking Secretary Mrs S Daniels, 16 The Street, White Notley. Tel: 01376 583298.

Faulkbourne Village Hall: available for private hire, full catering facilities and enclosed garden. <https://hallbookingonline.com/faulkbourne/>

News from White Notley School

Farewells

This is the time of the year where we say farewell to the Year 6 children and some families, whose last children are leaving White Notley. Some of these families have had a long association with our lovely school and we would like to say thank you for all your support over the years. Thank you for attending events, helping out with the PTA, supporting trips by providing transport and cheering from the side-lines at sports events, just to name a few. We say goodbye to the Glover, Cook, David, Lawrenson, Kassan-Lawrence, Fuller and Bunn families – although don't be strangers and please come back to visit; you will always be part of the White Notley family. The children are going off to Notley High, Rickstones, Maltings and Anglo-European secondary schools.



We are also saying farewell to Mrs Manning. Mrs Manning has been working at White Notley for the past 5 years and has been a compassionate, caring and extremely hard-working member of the school team. We will miss her immensely but are excited as she embarks on her new journey.

Grandparents' Day

On Wednesday 24th June we had our grandparents come to school. First, they had a presentation on the history of the school by three of our Year 6 students whilst having a cup of tea or coffee. Then they spent some time with their grandchildren, talking about their experiences of primary school. We were very lucky to have grandparents who went to White Notley themselves; it was great to hear how the school has changed over time. Together, the children and their grandparents coloured a leaf to create a tree and the grandparents wrote some words of advice or wisdom to add to the tree. Everyone had a wonderful time and we plan to have another one in the autumn term.

Dear Mrs Fitzpatrick

This is to thank you, your team and the children for hosting yesterday's Grandparents' Day which was an absolutely wonderful experience for me on my first visit to the school.

I know how much hard work and preparation goes into making these events such a success so well done all round!



By working hard, you can achieve
great things.

Don't follow the crowd. Make
your own decisions

Father's Day Breakfast

It was wonderful to serve breakfast to over 60 dads and their children at the recent Father's Day breakfast.

Sports Day



Sports Day was a super event, with the children trying their best and competing well. The Tribe Relay at the end was a rousing, competitive and exciting race which had everyone on their feet. Kikuyu were the winners this year but it was very close indeed!



Joshua Pillar was the recipient of the White Notley and Faulkbourne Parish council award this year. He started in Reception last September and had to be off school earlier this year for 7 weeks in order to have major heart surgery. Once he came back to school he has worked really hard to catch up from missing such a significant part of his first school year, with determination and courage.

Year 6 vs Staff Netball Match

The annual Year 6 vs staff netball match was a fiercely fought competition, with great competitive skills and sportsmanship shown. The children battled hard with some excellent passing against a team that was significantly taller than them. Ava scored the majority of the goals for the Year 6 team and was awarded player of the match. The children chose Mrs Anderson as player of the match for the staff team. The staff team was victorious with a narrow win; the final score was 12-9.



Summer Fete

Thank you to the PTA, parents and staff, who put on a fantastic summer fete on Saturday 27th June. It was such a lovely community event and everyone had a wonderful time. Thank you to the church also, for lending us gazebos; they were much appreciated in the heat!



Wishing you all a wonderful summer and we look forward to sharing our news with you in the new academic year.

Patsy Fitzpatrick
Head of School

Village Directory

Carpet Bowls	Every Monday 7pm – Village Hall Ann Williams 01376 567590 whitenotleycarpetbowls@gmail.com
White Notley Football Club	Chairman: Justin Daniels wnfc@hotmail.co.uk
St Etheldreda Church, White Notley	Churchwardens: Ian Bentley 01376 583119 Antony Stark 01376 583117 Secretary: Ian Bentley Treasurer: Lindsay Bentley Team Vicar: Rev'd Jonathan Pritchard
St Germanus Church, Faulkbourne	Churchwardens: Melanie Hicks 07956 639877 Heather Brewster 07948 281208 Secretary: Simon May 07939 249349 Team Vicar: Rev'd Jonathan Pritchard 07468 575114
White Notley Primary School	Headteacher: Ruth Baugh 01376 583376
W.I.	1 st Thursday of the month, 7.30pm – Village Hall Secretary: Julie Burston 01376 323486 Julieburston2506@gmail.com
White Notley Village Hall Committee	1 st Tuesday, every other month at 8pm. Shirley Daniels 01376 583298
White Notley Village Hall	Booking Secretary: Shirley Daniels 01376 583298
Faulkbourne Village Hall	https://hallbookingonline.com/faulkbourne/

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at either White Notley or Faulkbourne Village Hall at 7.30pm. There is 15 minutes available for Public Forum at every meeting. Details of the meetings and an agenda are posted on the notice boards and website a week before the meeting.

Your Councillors are:

Cllr Betty Bright (Chairman) 28 The Street, White Notley CM8 1RH	01376 583434 bettyusanbright@yahoo.com
Cllr Ian Bentley Garden House, Church Hill, White Notley	01376 583119 i42an@aol.com
Cllr Heather Brewster Gardeners Lodge, Faulkbourne Hall	07948 281208 heatherjeanb57@gmail.com
Cllr Shirley Daniels (Vice-Chairman) 16 The Street, White Notley	01376 583298 shirleydaniels@talktalk.net
Cllr John Guy Old Mill Barn, White Notley	01376 585164 john_guy@btinternet.com
Cllr Linda Harrison 29 The Street, White Notley	01376 585065 lindah49@icloud.com
Cllr David Phillips 2 Post Office Cottages, Faulkbourne	07715 632203 davephillips1958@hotmail.com
Cllr Dee Smith 42 The Street, White Notley	01376 583627 smudger8ds@gmail.com
Cllr Alessandro Sapienza Whiteways, Witham Road, White Notley	07881 298950 ale.sapienza@hotmail.it
Angela Balcombe (Clerk) 6 Shires Close, Great Notley CM77 7FT	01376 550927 clerk@whitenotleyfaulkbourne-pc.gov.uk

Visit our website at:

www.whitenotleyfaulkbourne-pc.gov.uk

*This newsletter is produced by White Notley and Faulkbourne Parish Council.
The views expressed within it are not necessarily those of the Council.*