ISSUE 85 – MARCH 2025

UPDATE

THE NORTHAW AND CUFFLEY PARISH COUNCIL MAGAZINE

NCPC Moves to a .gov.uk Website

On 31st January, Northaw & Cuffley Parish Council made the move to a new **.gov.uk** website. Our new website can be found at **www.northawcuffley-pc.gov.uk.**

We would appreciate your feedback on the new website.

Do you find it easier to navigate? Is there something else that you would like to be included?

Why .gov.uk? Why not .org.uk?
A **.org.uk** domain is typically used for charities and non-profits in the UK, but local councils should use **.gov.uk** addresses to ensure that their websites and communications are viewed as safe and trustworthy.

Switching to a **.gov.uk** address offers better security and control over data, and ensures that public services are recognized as coming from a trusted UK public sector source. Ultimately, it's about improving safety and authenticity on the internet for everyone.

Why the Change Now?
While adopting **.gov.uk** email addresses for officers and councillors might seem like an unnecessary expense for a small parish council, by transitioning at this time we were able to secure grants and bursaries to cover the costs of this rebranding effort.

Changes to Email Addresses:
Along with the website change, our email addresses have also been updated. You can now contact the Clerk at **clerk@northawcuffley-pc.gov.uk** and the Office Manager at **office.manager@northawcuffley-pc.gov.uk**. Councillors can be reached at **cllr.surname@northawcuffley-pc.gov.uk**.

While we encourage you to start using the new addresses, don't worry—the old ones will still work for a little while before they stop forwarding.

Contact Numbers:
Our contact numbers remain unchanged:
Council Office: **01707 875825**
Parish Clerk: **07375 962772**
Office Manager: **07743 927069**

New Office Opening Hours

As of 1st March, we will be changing the office opening hours to Tues to Friday 10.00 – 14.00

A new look to The Millennium Gardens in Cuffley

The Parish Council have sadly had to take the decision to remove the concrete fountain in the centre of the Millennium Gardens in Cuffley.

With a recent specialist survey suggesting it would cost over £2,000 to repair, and maintain, the fountain for just the next 12 months, in addition to significant concerns relating to legionella contamination, alongside other safety considerations, the Council agreed to remove the fountain, before warmer weather brought further risk to residents.

Welcome to Chris Omand our latest Parish Councillor

Chris was coopted to the Parish Council at the meeting in November.

He has lived in the parish since 2014 with his family and is keen to help with local issues.

His main concern is the infrastructure in our community, with increased development locally and the surrounding areas. He is also keen to address pedestrian safety within the Parish. Chris is a member of the newly formed Highways and Footpaths Working Group. Chris can be contacted on **cllr.omand@northawcuffley-pc.gov.uk**.

We'd love your help in brightening up our new website

Our homepage is looking a little plain right now, and we'd love your help to add some local charm.

Do you have a photo of local scenery, landmarks, or a community event that you'd be happy to share? If so, please reach out to us via **office.manager@northawcuffley-pc.gov.uk**.

When submitting your photo, make sure it's unpublished and that you have the rights to share it. If there are people in the image, please ensure you have their permission for publication.

We'll do our best to showcase as many of your photos as we can throughout the year, depending on the number we receive!

Cuffley Community Library are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help out on Saturday mornings!

Why volunteer?

- Make a difference in your community.
- Gain valuable experience
- Meet new people and make friends

For more information contact **cuffleylibraryvolunteers@outlook.com**
www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

COMMUNITY NEWS

1st Cuffley Scout Group News

The year has got off to a flying start after a busy Christmas period visiting pantomimes, enjoying parties and the Beavers attending a special Christmas event at Morven in Potters Bar, with Sections working on cooking skills, making bird feeders and investigating Space. We are planning for another active year with various camps including our biennial Group Camp in the summer while the Explorers are preparing for some Expeditions towards the King's Scout and Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

The Group continues to flourish and the recent Annual Scout Census has shown a small increase in youth membership. However, our Leadership numbers have stayed static and we are actively working to recruit new adult volunteers to support our growing sections.

In early December, an enhanced version of our book 'Songs, Verse, Yells and Stunts' was published and is available from Amazon. It features more songs and verse along with ideas for cooking around a campfire and illustrations contributed by some of our young members. Profits from sales of the book are going to our Minibus fund.

Volunteering is good for you! It helps your wellbeing, gives you new opportunities and a chance to learn more skills plus it looks great on a CV.

We have opportunities for volunteering as Leaders and Helpers, but also in support roles working with our Site and Premises Team, assisting with Administration or Facilities Management and with our Fundraising Team. These are roles in the background with no regular weekly commitments and adaptable to fit in with busy lives. Interested? Then please get in touch on **07784 861218** or use the enquiry form on our website **https://cuffley-scouts.org.uk/join-us-enquiry/**

Join Northaw and Cuffley Bowling Club – Open Days for All!

Location: King George V Playing Field, Northaw Road East, Cuffley, Herts EN6 4RD
Website: www.nandcbowlingclub.co.uk

Northaw and Cuffley Bowling Club is a friendly and welcoming sports club, and we'd love to invite local residents of all ages to try their hand at bowls! Come along to one of our open days to receive free coaching and an introduction to the club.

Our first open days will be on Saturday, April 19th and Sunday, April 20th. After that, we'll have four additional weekend sessions, all led by our qualified coaches. No experience is required, and we'll provide all the necessary equipment. Just bring yourself and wear flat shoes or trainers.

When:

- Saturdays and Sundays
- 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (Please arrive by 9:50 am.)

If you have any questions or can't make it on the listed dates, feel free to contact one of our coaches for more information:

- Roy Blunden: **07757 256796**
- Jane Harwood: 0**7956 582032**
- Annie Lucas: **07738 156114**

We look forward to welcoming you!

Safety Initiatives at Cuffley School

Have you noticed some new faces outside Cuffley School at drop-off and collection times?

"Jess", "Liam" and "Naomi" (shown) are the school's recently acquired safety bollards.

These bollards are a much-needed new initiative, designed to improve pedestrian safety and assist with the regulation of traffic outside the school during these busy periods.

Theobalds Road has long struggled with road safety related issues, specifically relating to vehicles parking on corners, on double yellow lines and within the Zig-Zag areas prior to and during the school runs. Hopefully this new initiative will reduce the incidences of dangerous parking, creating a safer environment for the children and parents walking to and from Cuffley School.

Residents are reminded, when using Theobalds Road during these busy periods, that drivers need to:

- Respect the residents who live there, and their driveways.
- Avoid stopping near the school gates, as this creates extreme congestion and severely reduces the line of sight for pedestrians trying to cross the road.

The Highway Code states that you must not park opposite, or within 10 meters of, a junction. This includes blue badge holders. If these regulations are adhered to it would make the junction outside the school much safer, by improving visibility for children and parents attempting to cross the road at the school gates.

Speaking of new faces…
Please meet Bear, Cuffley's new School Patrol Officer.

After retiring from a diverse and interesting career, Bear decided to keep active and give back to the community.

Give him a wave if you spot him as you can't miss his bright new uniform.

Story and photographs courtesy of Chris Omand

Cuffley Station - Station Partnership volunteer Nathaniel Dodd

Cuffley Station has served as a vital community gateway since its opening in 1910 by the Great Northern Railway (GNR). Located just 13 miles and 17 chains (21.26 km) from the bustling King's Cross Station in London, it has seen a variety of trains over the years, from steam locomotives carrying passenger carriages until 1960, to diesel multiple units, and now, electric multiple units since 1976. The station remains an important hub for commuters traveling to and from London, while also welcoming visitors keen to explore the picturesque hills surrounding the area.

Next time you are at the station you may see Nathaniel Dodd, who has recently joined Govia Great Northern as a Station Partnership volunteer. In this new role, Nathaniel aims to:

- Collaborate with local youth groups to promote the railway as a safe and sustainable way to explore the UK.
- Increase passenger traffic on the Hertford Loop Line and at Cuffley Station.
- Enhance the station's appearance by expanding flower beds and organizing regular litter picks.
- Work alongside Govia Great Northern to boost the number of rail services stopping at Cuffley Station and, when possible, improve connections for onward rail and bus travel.
- Partner with local organizations to display artwork at the station, showcasing the community's value.
- Preserve the station's rich heritage and explore new uses for its unused buildings.
- Grow the number of Station Partners volunteering to support Cuffley Station.

If you're interested in contributing, whether by donating gardening tools, volunteering your time for station clean-ups, or offering ideas for improvements, please contact Nathaniel at **njparkmore@yahoo.co.uk**.

Stay up to date on the latest news by following the Friends of Cuffley Station Facebook page.

Cuffley Community Library: Upcoming events

This year marks a couple of significant anniversaries for our library.

On 28th February 2025 we celebrate **100 years of the Hertfordshire Library Service** by hosting a travelling exhibition and details of activities and events at the 46 libraries in the library family. In addition, we invite all our members and visitors, young and old, to comment on their reading and library experiences in a commemorative scrapbook in our library.

And during the week of 8th May 2025, we commemorate the **80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day**. There will be an exhibition in our library which will include details of how local residents played their part in World War 2. If you have photos, letters or would like to share your memories or family members' activities and/or war service please contact me at: **cuffleylibraryvolunteers@outlook.com**

Our **Open Day** this spring focuses on the local communities of Cuffley and Northaw and the groups, clubs and sporting activities available in our area. If you would like to have a stall on the day please contact me by email or pop into the library and speak to a volunteer. Full details available in the library or on our social media pages on Facebook and Twitter (X).

'Hublets' have arrived! These are handheld devices which further extend your accessibility to our library services, Apps and facilities. You'll be able to not only access thousands of audio and ebooks, but also magazines and newspapers that are available worldwide.
You can browse the internet, use ancestry.com and findmypast.com, completely free and play games and puzzles too. Available to children and adults with a Hertfordshire library membership. Please ask a volunteer for a demonstration.

And finally, we are booking for **Children's Easter Holiday Crafting**. Available for children aged 5 years and over, our crafting sessions will be held on the Mondays of the 14th and 28th April from 3.00pm to 4.30pm. We look forward to seeing you but please ensure you book in the library to avoid disappointment.

Paola Munns
Chair, Cuffley Community Library

Northaw & Cuffley

Church 60th Anniversary 1965 - 2025

Fund Raising Concert

All-ages musical concert
£10 per adult and £5 under 16
to include refreshments
All proceeds to go towards a new heating system at St Andrew's
To book tickets call **07768 903025**

Saturday 17 May 2025 at 7.00 pm
St Andrew's Church
Cuffley EN6 4DR

Fun for all the family

Stalls, Games, Competitions,
Refreshments and much more

Saturday 21 June 2025
2.00 pm to 5.00 pm
St Andrew's Church Garden
(inside the Church if raining)
Cuffley EN6 4DR

This year is the 60th Anniversary of the Dedication of St Andrew's Church in Cuffley. St Andrew's Church was built to replace the small church, affectionately named the 'Tin Church' which had served the Parish of Cuffley since 1910.

Due to the expansion of the population of Cuffley, the Vicar Rev. Max Bryant realised the community needed a larger building. Local people raised the magnificent sum of £63,000 (around £1.6m today) and a local architect, Clifford Culper, was commissioned to design the striking A framed building, which architecturally caused quite a stir in 1965. Building commenced In August 1964 and the new church was consecrated on St Andrew's Day, 30th November 1965, by the Bishop of St Albans. The large cross in the apex of the east wall is illuminated, and at night time shines down on the centre of the village, and has become a much-loved landmark.

Upon entering the church, the simplicity of the design is warmed by the use of stained Oregon pine for the ceiling lining, pulpit, lectern and the Bishop's Throne. The stunning vivid glass windows were made by a unique process, and includes The Tree of Life in recognition of the life and work of the Rev. Max Bryant during the years of his Cuffley Ministry from 1951 to 1979. The imposing sculpture above the altar is by renowned sculptor, Angela Connor, and represents the open arms of God embracing His people on earth. St Andrew's Church houses many more commemorative items of interest as well as providing a warm welcome and release from the stresses and worries of our world today.

Church services are held every Sunday at 10.30 am, and every Wednesday there is a short service at 10.00 am followed by the coffee shop at 10.30 am. Everyone is most welcome.

Information based on earlier works written by Ann and Peter Robinson, and Chris Hollings, Wendy Keeling Taylor and Julian Taylor

NORTHAW COMMUNITY ORCHARD
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The Community Orchard is a public green space in the heart of Northaw for all in the parish to enjoy. We aim to provide opportunities for education, conservation and healthy living. Run and managed entirely by volunteers, the Orchard is open all day, every day, for the benefit of our community.

BASKETRY WORKSHOP
Mon Mar 31st
with willow artist Deb Hart.
https://debhart.co.uk/

It's our 10th Anniversary Year!

We can't believe it is 10 year s since the trees were planted in the Community Orchard. In that time, they have matured, the meadows have developed, and we have had a lot of fun hosting events for our community. From Family Forest School to moth identification, and yoga to hay making there's been something for everyone along the way.

We send a big **Thank You** to all who have supported us over the years and continue to do so. We have plenty of events lined up this year including, a **Basketry Workshop** in March, **Blossom Day** in April, a **Community Picnic** and a **Wyldedges Permaculture Course** in July plus the ever-popular **Apple Day** in October and a final get together in November at Northaw Village Hall (check out our **website Events page** for details). We hope to see you there!

We couldn't do all this without the regular help of our volunteers so please do come along and join us!

Find the Orchard between No. 47 and 49 Northaw Road West (access road to the Scouts) or use the entrance in Church Lane (by the bungalows). For more information visit our website **www.northaworchard.com** or email **northaworchard@gmail.com**. If you would like to get involved with running the Orchard, do contact us.

Join our help-out sessions for gentle exercise in the fresh air! First Saturday in the month 10.30am to 1pm and a middle Thursday in the month 2-4.30pm (check website for dates)

www.northaworchard.com

Cuffley Day Centre

Based at the Youth and Community Centre at 70 Station Road, Cuffley Day Centre is a warm and inviting space where older and vulnerable members of the community can enjoy a variety of activities, entertainment and a 2 course freshly cooked lunch.

Days: Monday to Friday
Time: 10am to 2pm

Proposed activities during March include a Wildlife Day, Chair Exercises, Quizzes,

Arts & Crafts Pancake Day, a Live Singer & Live Band, Chair Cricket & Curling, Making Calendars plus St Patrick's Day themed activities

If that isn't enough to convince you, everyday is a BINGO day with prizes to be won!

If you or someone you know would be interested in spending time at the Day Centre, please get in touch to find out more: Call: **01707 876616** (Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm) or email: **cuffley@hils-uk.org**

HILS Health & Independent Living Support
www.hils-uk.org

Find us on Facebook
Cuffley Day Centre Community HUB-HILS

A message from your local PCSO

There's been lots of change since you last heard from me as we have a new Chief Constable!

We welcomed Chief Constable Andrew Prophet to the constabulary in January 2025 following Charlie Hall's retirement, and we are looking forward to seeing his vision for policing in Hertfordshire.

In Cuffley and Northaw, we sadly saw a rise in vehicle crime at the beginning of the year. I would like to take this opportunity to remind motorists of the steps you can take to keep your vehicle secure.

- Firstly, make sure you lock it! We found that suspects were trying car door handles and they managed to get into vehicles which had been left unlocked. Please lock your vehicle even if you are just popping back inside your home for a second.
- Do not leave valuables on display in your vehicle either.
- If you have a keyless car look into getting a signal blocking pouch. You can purchase one of these on the 'Secured by Design' website.

There is lots more advice on our website at **herts.police.uk/crimeprevention** so please do take a look on there too.

PCSO Jo Woods

Northaw and Cuffley Residents Association

Some positive news, it appears that we may be soon obtaining approval for a crossing to be installed on Plough Hill near the junction of Station Road. Hopefully we will hear soon if this much needed safety measure will go ahead. Thereafter, we will be pressing for something similar at the crossing by The Meadway and Sopers Road. We are also hearing about discussions over planning for King George V Playing Fields and how the allotted funds will be spent to upgrade the space.

To follow up on what residents have been saying, we will continue to focus on the following, but do get in touch if there's anything you are passionate about.

1. How often have we seen temporary traffic lights on Station Road, Northaw Road East and Cuffley Hill? There must be better communication and planning so that the inconvenience can be limited to infrequent, coordinated works by the utility companies.
2. Everyone is frustrated with the booking system used by Cuffley medical centre and Valley View Surgery. It should not be so challenging to get a doctor's appointment. The excuse has been that they're locked into a phone system, but it's not right that residents cannot get appointments, there must be another way. I will pursue this and report back.
3. Residents are frustrated by the parking chaos outside both Cuffley and Northaw Primary schools.
4. There are concerns over stationary heavy goods vehicles on Coopers Lane causing traffic jams when accessing the waste management centre.
5. Residents feel they're playing Russian roulette, when they attempt to pull onto Cattlegate Road from Coopers Lane Road.
6. Residents feel the amenities in the park opposite Northaw Primary School are in need of an upgrade.
7. Cuffley village's mix of retail is underwhelming, and somewhat repetitive.
8. To ensure that developments are in keeping with the local area, and a requirement for developers to invest in the area's wider infrastructure when they undertake construction projects.
9. The local bus services do not adequately support the local senior community.
10. There are very limited activities for children in the area aged 11+ - could a youth centre type facility provide social opportunities for our young people?

If you're interested in getting involved in any of the above issues, raising a concern, or supporting the planning of community events, please don't hesitate to reach out. Your involvement helps us to make Northaw & Cuffley a better place for everyone. You can contact us at **info@ncragb.uk** or through our website **www.ncragb.uk**.

Warm regards,
Harry Spencer
Chair, Northaw & Cuffley Residents Association

Cuffley Art Society

Our friendly group of artists of all abilities meet every Monday afternoon in Cuffley Hall from 2 til 4 to paint together and socialise for a relaxing two hours. If you would like to join us, you will find a warm welcome. Phone Jan **01707874672** for more information.

On Saturday 31st May 2025 we will be holding our Annual Art Exhibition in Cuffley Hall where our paintings and hand painted cards will be for sale. We will open from 11am until 4pm. Entrance is FREE. Tea, coffee and homemade cakes will be served all day and homemade soup and rolls will be available from 12.30 till 2pm. We would love to see you.

STEP 2 SKILLS
PREPARE FOR SUCCESS IN HERTS
now part of
HERTFORDSHIRE FUTURES

STEP2SKILLS JOINS HERTFORDSHIRE FUTURES: A New Chapter in Adult Learning and Employment Support

Step2Skills, Hertfordshire's premier adult community learning and employment support service, is now part of Hertfordshire Futures.

Step2Skills has a long-standing reputation for helping individuals overcome barriers to education and employment, including low skills, learning or physical disabilities, and mental health challenges. By integrating with Hertfordshire Futures, the aim is to enhance the services and reach even more residents in need of support.

Under Hertfordshire Futures, Step2Skills will continue to offer a wide range of courses and employment support services designed to empower individuals and improve their quality of life. The integration will also enhance additional resources and expertise, ensuring that all programmes remain innovative and effective.

https://events.hertfordshire.gov.uk/step2skills

The Players
THE CUFFLEY PLAYERS

A scene from our last production "It Could Be Any One of Us"

The Cuffley Players – A Local Drama Group

The Cuffley Players are a small, community-focused drama group based in Cuffley, with members from Goff's Oak, Northaw, Cheshunt, and beyond. The group is always happy to welcome new members to participate in its productions, whether on stage or behind the scenes—there's something for everyone!

The group stages two productions each year and rehearses on Monday and Thursday evenings at Cuffley Hall, starting at 7:45 pm.

Whether you're looking to rekindle an old passion or explore new challenges, The Cuffley Players could be just what you're looking for. To learn more, visit the website or contact the friendly secretary at **07811 437791**.

You're also warmly invited to attend the next production, Theft by Eric Chappell, which will be performed at Cuffley Hall. The show runs from Wednesday, 7th May to Saturday, 10th May at 8 pm, with a matinee performance at 3 pm on Saturday, 10th May. Tickets are just £12 and can be purchased online at **www.cuffleyplayers.co.uk** or by calling the box office at **07857 841930**.

2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II

Do you have photographs, stories, or mementos from relatives that you'd be willing to share with us?

As we approach the 80th anniversaries of VE Day on May 8th and VJ Day on August 15th, we would love to hear from those who lived in Northaw and Cuffley during this time. Whether you grew up here during the war, have stories of relatives stationed here for wartime work, or memories of those who were sent away to serve— whether overseas or on the home front —we would love to hear your experiences.

In collaboration with volunteers from Cuffley Library, we're putting together a special feature for the June Update edition to honour our local community members who "did their bit" between 1939 and 1945.

Cuffley Floral Art Club

Cuffley Floral Art Club is the monthly venue for you if you would like to learn more about flowers, flower arranging and see expert demonstrators in action.and join our occasional workshops.

We meet at Cuffley Hall, Maynards Place, Station Road, Cuffley EN6 4JA on the 2nd Tuesday of every month (except January and August). Doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. During the evening you will enjoy watching a professional floral demonstrator who creates floral exhibits to be raffled at the end of the evening. We are a friendly club so please come and join us and enjoy the evening. For further information please contact **01707 889447**. We look forward to welcoming you.

JOINT STATEMENT:

10 councils in Hertfordshire release update on local government reform

On the 16th December the government issued the English Devolution White Paper. Amongst other goals, the English Devolution White Paper sets out a government aim to produce a single tier of higher local authority, or "Unitary Council", which would manage all the services currently maintained by either the County or local Borough Council as one single entity. Currently, Parish Councils would remain as an independent entity but would be likely to take over responsibility for some additional local services as part of this reorganisation.

In a joint statement, issued on 20th December 2024, 10 District and Borough councils within Hertfordshire, including our own Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, have stated their opposition to the creation of a single unitary council for Hertfordshire.

JOINT STATEMENT

"Following the publication of the Devolution White Paper, and subsequent statements by the leader of Hertfordshire County Council, we would like to make it clear that we do not support the creation of one unitary council for Hertfordshire.

"Our county is diverse and made up of over 1.2 million residents across urban, suburban, and rural areas. Any reform of local government in Hertfordshire should follow a period of proper consultation with residents, businesses, elected representatives and stakeholders. Looking at the evidence, we should decide collectively what is best for our area. A single unitary council for the county risks diminishing local representation, with decision-making that is remote from the communities we serve.

"We do not support postponing the county council elections scheduled for May 2025. The government has indicated that this will only happen in priority areas who have clear and agreed plans. This is not the case in Hertfordshire, so we cannot be in the first phase of these reforms.

"We recognise that the government's white paper sets a clear direction of travel. As Hertfordshire's district and borough council leaders, we want to work collaboratively with others to agree how we respond to this. Any changes must be carefully considered, transparent, and inclusive, ensuring that residents and businesses are fully engaged in shaping the future governance of Hertfordshire.

"Our objective must be to get this right for our residents and businesses. That cannot be achieved if we make rushed decisions that have not been given the serious consideration that they deserve."

Statement agreed by the following leaders:

- Councillor Mark Mills-Bishop, Leader of Broxbourne Borough Council
- Councillor Adrian England, Leader of Dacorum Borough Council
- Councillor Ben Crystal, Leader of East Herts District Council
- Councillor Jeremy Newmark, Leader of Hertsmere Borough Council
- Councillor Daniel Allen, Leader of North Hertfordshire Council
- Councillor Paul de Kort, Leader of St Albans City and District Council
- Councillor Richard Henry, Leader of Stevenage Borough Council
- Councillor Stephen Giles-Medhurst, Leader of Three Rivers District Council
- Peter Taylor, Elected Mayor of Watford (Watford Borough Council)
- Councillor Max Holloway, Leader of Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council