ISSUE 90 – OCT 2026

UPDATE

THE NORTHAW AND CUFFLEY PARISH COUNCIL MAGAZINE

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE – CHAIRMAN

by Cllr Ben Roberts

What is that smell?

Over the summer, many residents will have noticed an unwelcome return of what has become known, rather unflatteringly, as the "Cuffley stink".

This is not an entirely new problem. Complaints about unpleasant odours in and around Cuffley go back a number of years, and there may be several possible sources. More recently, residents have also reported a quite different acrid or burning smell, suggesting that we should not assume every incident necessarily has the same cause.

What has been particularly noticeable this summer is the scale of the problem. During one 24-hour period alone, Borough Councillor Brian Seeger received more than 50 reports from residents, with the total subsequently approaching 100. The issue has since attracted coverage from BBC local news and radio.

While the Parish Council does not have the statutory powers to investigate the source of these odours ourselves, we will continue to monitor the situation closely, support residents and make sure their concerns are heard. We will also hold the responsible authorities to account where necessary.

Cllr David Sive and I recently met Cllr Seeger to discuss the problem, and we have been really pleased with the way Brian has taken this up. He has been working with the Borough Council, which is investigating the complaints and has issued nuisance packs to some residents to help record incidents. Brian has also involved our MP, Sir Oliver Dowden, who is pursuing the matter with the Environment Agency.

There has already been some progress in relation to the more recent burning smell. Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service attended a field fire after receiving several calls about a smell of burning in the Cuffley area. However, this does not necessarily explain the other odours residents have experienced over a much longer period, and work continues to establish their source.

Residents have an important part to play. Brian has asked that incidents continue to be reported directly to **Reg.Services@welhat.gov.uk**, copying him (**brian.seeger@welhat.gov.uk**) into reports if you wish. The more reports the authorities receive, the better the evidence available to them.

We will continue to support Brian's efforts and keep a close eye on the response from the responsible authorities. If appropriate action isn't forthcoming, we will not be shy about asking why.

The Chairman's Cup

In August, I was pleased to visit Northaw and Cuffley Bowling Club to present the cup and medals to the winners of their annual Chairman's Cup. This popular event, sponsored by the Parish Council, has been running since 1991.

My thanks to the club members who patiently shared their knowledge and taught this complete beginner a little about the game! It was a particularly hot and sunny day, so I was also very grateful for the shade provided by the club's brand-new gazebo. The Parish Council previously awarded the club a grant towards its construction, and it was great to see the finished gazebo in use — and to benefit from it personally!

The Bowling Club is always keen to welcome new members. They are a fantastically friendly and welcoming group, and I would personally encourage anyone interested to get in touch and find out more.



A fresh look for Maynard Place car park

Good news for regular users of the Maynard Place public car park!

Following requests from local residents, the Council arranged for the faded road markings and directional arrows to be refreshed, with the work completed on 18th August.

The worn arrows had caused a little confusion, with some vehicles taking the wrong way around the car park. With everything now clearly marked again, we're hoping the one-way system will be easier to follow and make things a little smoother for everyone.

So, next time you're parking at Maynard Place, keep an eye out for the new arrows — and please follow the one-way route. It all helps keep the car park moving safely and smoothly!

URGENT SEE PAGE 2 FOR LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION NEWS

NORTHAW AND CUFFLEY: THIS IS OUR MOMENT TO SPEAK UP

1,442 homes are proposed across nine sites in our parish. Now, before the plan goes to independent examination, residents have one final formal opportunity to question what is being proposed — and to put their concerns on the record.

There are times when a community needs to pay attention, and for Northaw and Cuffley, this is one of them.

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council has published its Proposed Submission Local Plan, setting out how development across the Borough is intended to be managed through to 2043.

The Regulation 19 consultation opened on 23 September 2026 and closes at 6pm on 5 November 2026.

Consultation website: **https://welwynhatfieldlocalplan.commonplace.is/**

Local Plan website: **https://www.welhat.gov.uk/ourlocalplan**

This is an important distinction: this is not simply another public consultation where residents are being asked what they think. Regulation 19 is the formal stage at which people can make representations on whether the proposed plan is legally compliant and sound, before it is submitted for independent examination.

And for Northaw and Cuffley, the implications are substantial.

THE NUMBERS THAT SHOULD MAKE US STOP AND LOOK

The current proposals identify nine development sites in Northaw and Cuffley, with capacity for around 1,442 homes.

Approximately 221 of these homes relate to sites included in earlier proposals, while around 1,221 homes are associated with newly proposed sites. Two of those sites alone account for approximately 630 homes.

The resulting increase in housing would be significant for a parish of this size.

This isn't simply about how many houses can physically be fitted onto a map.

It is about what happens when thousands of additional residents need to travel, park, attend school, see a doctor, use public transport, connect to utilities and access the services that already support the community.

It is about whether the infrastructure arrives with the development — rather than years afterwards.

And it is about whether the character and environmental setting of Northaw and Cuffley can withstand development on this scale.

"The question isn't whether Northaw and Cuffley should ever change. It's whether this scale of change is properly planned, properly evidenced and genuinely sustainable."

BEING A TIER 2 SETTLEMENT DOESN'T END THE DEBATE

One of the reasons Cuffley is being considered for substantial growth is its status within the borough's settlement hierarchy.

Cuffley is classified as a Tier 2 settlement, alongside Brookmans Park, Welham Green, Welwyn and Little Heath.

The council identifies Tier 2 settlements as a focus for housing and economic growth because of their existing services, facilities and transport connections.

Cuffley's railway station is clearly an important asset, but a railway station is not an infrastructure solution in itself.

A sustainable community requires much more: roads, schools, healthcare, drainage, water supply, electricity, public transport, footpaths, green infrastructure and community facilities.

The council's own emerging strategy recognises the need for development to be accompanied by the co-ordinated and timely provision of infrastructure.

That raises an obvious question:

Can the infrastructure required for this scale of growth actually be delivered at the same time as the homes?

That is a question residents have every right to ask — and the Regulation 19 process provides the opportunity to do so.

Five things you need to know

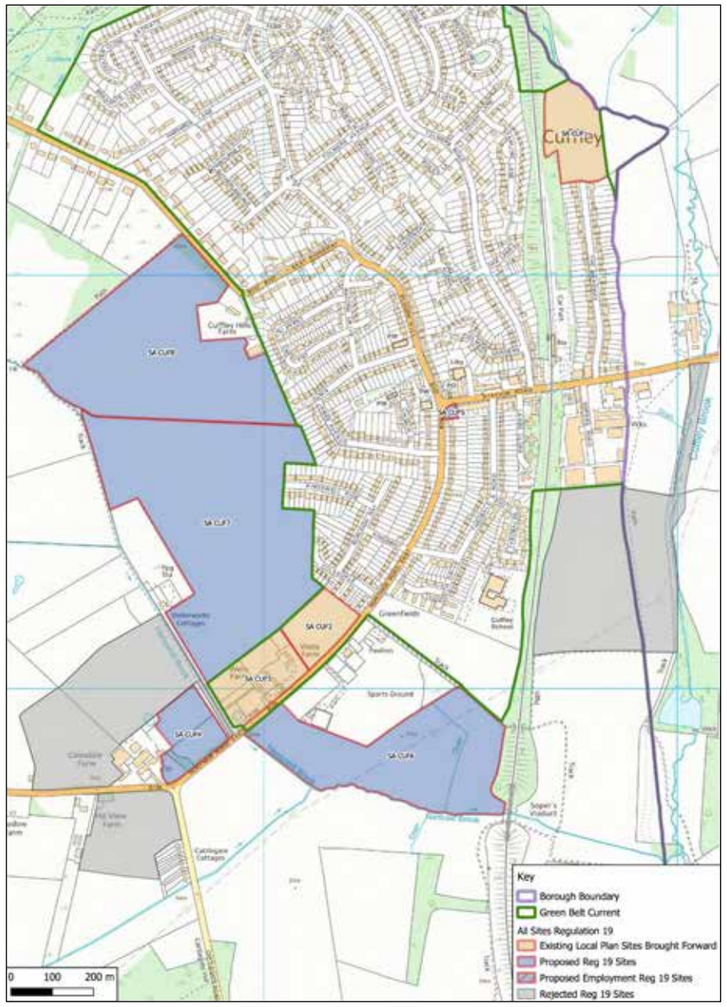
1. This is the Regulation 19 consultation
This is the proposed version of the Local Plan before it is submitted for independent examination.

2. The deadline is 6pm on 5 November 2026
Late representations may not be accepted, so don't leave it until the final day.

3. You need to address the planning tests
At this stage, the key questions are whether the plan is legally compliant and sound.

4. Be specific
Identify the particular site, policy or section of the plan you are commenting on and explain what you think should change — supported by evidence where possible.

5. You can make your own representation
You don't need to be a planning expert. You can read the proposals, identify the issues that concern you and make your views formally known.



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What kind of place are we planning for?

Northaw and Cuffley are not blank spaces on a development map.

They are established communities with their own identities, landscapes, heritage and infrastructure.

The council's own stated approach recognises that village settlements should retain their individual identity while respecting their landscape setting, heritage significance and environmental assets.

That principle deserves to be tested against what is now being proposed.

Many of the proposed sites are on land currently within the Green Belt, while some are close to woodland and wildlife interests.

The issue is not simply whether every individual field should remain untouched.

The question is whether the cumulative effect of the proposed developments is compatible with the character and environmental setting of the parish.

Once land has been developed, it cannot simply be put back.

That makes getting the planning decisions right particularly important.

"Once the fields, gaps and landscapes that define a community have been built on, there is no going back."

What does "sound" actually mean?

This is perhaps the most important thing for residents to understand. Simply saying "I don't want these houses" is unlikely to address the tests being applied at Regulation 19.

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out four tests of soundness.

POSITIVELY PREPARED
Is the plan meeting identified development needs and supporting sustainable development?

JUSTIFIED
Is it based on proportionate evidence? Have reasonable alternatives been properly considered?

EFFECTIVE
Can the policies and development allocations actually be delivered? Are infrastructure and cross-boundary issues properly addressed?

CONSISTENT WITH NATIONAL POLICY
Does the plan accord with national planning policy?

These tests provide residents with a framework for making meaningful representations.

For example:

Is there sufficient evidence that the infrastructure can support the proposed growth?

Have alternative locations been properly considered?

Can the proposed sites be delivered without unacceptable environmental consequences?

Is the necessary infrastructure deliverable within the same timeframe as the housing?

Does the scale of development respect the landscape, heritage and environmental assets of the parish?

These are not simply objections to development.

They are questions about whether the plan meets the standards it is required to meet.

This is not about saying "NO" to everything

It is important to be clear about this.

Northaw and Cuffley will change. New homes are needed. Families need somewhere to live, and communities need to evolve.

But responsible planning is about more than achieving a housing number.

It is about where homes are built, how many are built, what infrastructure accompanies them, and whether the environmental and social consequences have been properly considered.

That is why this consultation matters. Residents don't need to argue that nothing should ever change. They can instead ask whether the proposed change is justified, deliverable and sustainable.

And if they believe it isn't, they should explain why.

Potters Bar, Cuffley and the bigger picture

The relationship between Cuffley, Northaw and nearby settlements such as Potters Bar also matters.

Development doesn't stop at a parish boundary.

People travel between settlements for work, education, healthcare, shopping and leisure. Roads, public transport, water infrastructure and other services operate across administrative boundaries.

That means the cumulative impact of growth needs to be understood.

Northaw and Cuffley remain their own parish, with their own community identity and their own infrastructure pressures.

The question is whether those pressures have been properly taken into account when deciding how much development this community should accommodate.

This is where you come in

It can be tempting to assume that somebody else will deal with it.

- Perhaps the Parish Council will respond.
- Perhaps local groups will respond.
- Perhaps other residents will respond.

They may. But your representation is your opportunity to put your own concerns formally on the record.

- You don't have to write pages and pages.
- You don't need to be a planning professional.
- Read the relevant proposal. Identify the site or policy that concerns you. Explain the issue clearly. Refer to evidence where you can.
- And submit it.

The council provides an online Local Plan Portal for representations, as well as alternative ways to respond.

How to respond before 5th November

STEP 1 — READ THE PROPOSALS

Review the Proposed Submission Local Plan and the sites affecting Northaw and Cuffley.

Look beyond the headline numbers. Examine the policies, site allocations, infrastructure evidence and environmental assessments.

STEP 2 — IDENTIFY WHAT CONCERNS YOU

Is it:

- traffic and road capacity?
- schools?
- healthcare?
- parking?
- water and drainage?
- public transport?
- Green Belt?
- wildlife and biodiversity?
- ancient woodland?
- landscape and village character?
- the cumulative impact of multiple sites?
- whether the proposed infrastructure can actually be delivered?

STEP 3 — RELATE YOUR CONCERN TO THE TESTS

Ask whether the proposal is:

- Positively prepared?
- Justified?
- Effective?
- Consistent with national policy?

STEP 4 — BE SPECIFIC

State which policy, site allocation or section you are commenting on.

Explain what you believe should be changed and why.

Supporting evidence can make a representation stronger.

STEP 5 — SUBMIT IT

The quickest route is the council's Local Plan consultation portal: **welwynhatfieldlocalplan.commonplace.is**

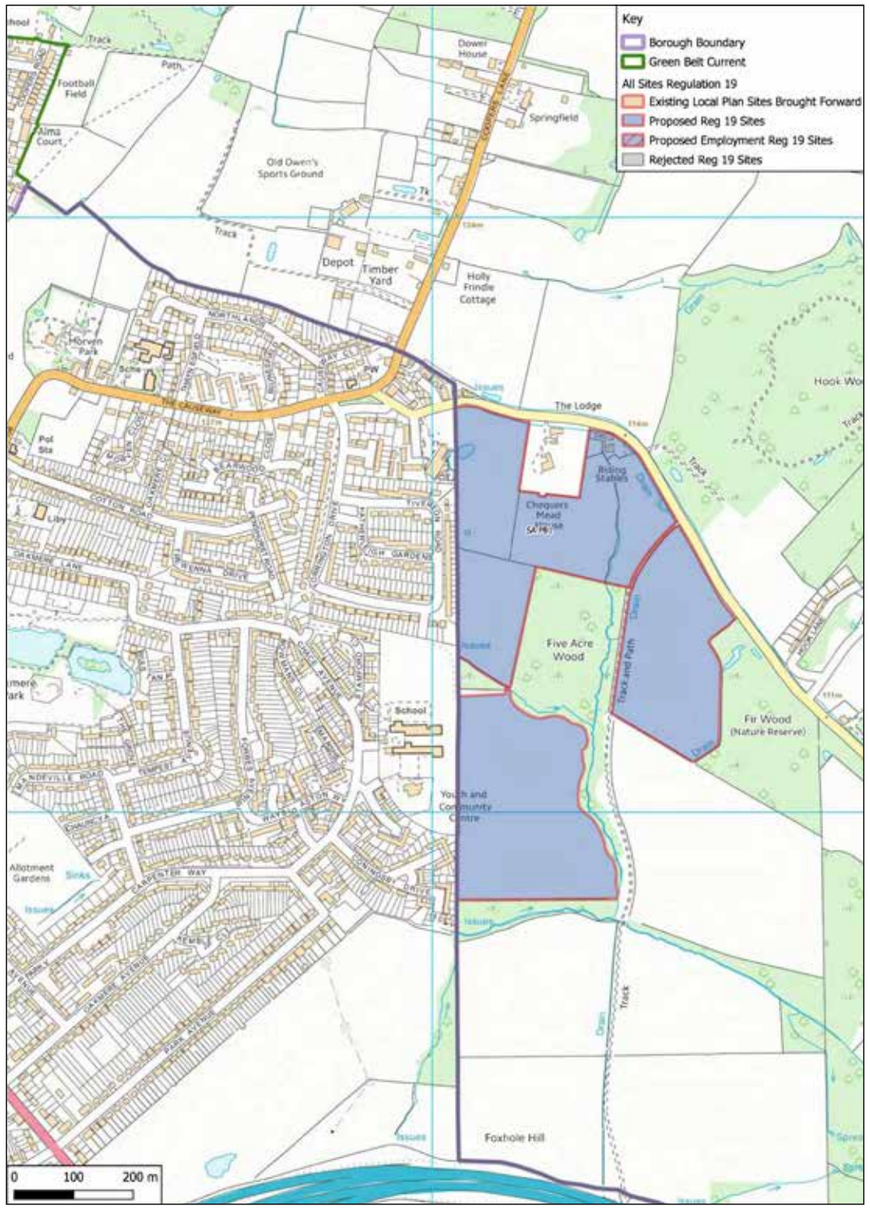
You can also respond by email or post using the council's representation form.

Remember: a separate form should be completed for each policy, site or specific part of the plan you are commenting on.

THE DEADLINE - 6PM, 5th NOVEMBER 2026

Don't assume there will be another chance to make these points.

This is the formal opportunity to challenge the plan before it moves forward to independent examination.



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Our Community. Our Future. Our Voice.

The debate about development in Northaw and Cuffley is not going to disappear.

The question is whether residents are prepared to engage with it.

This is not about panic. It is not about opposing every new home. And it is not about refusing to accept that communities need to evolve.

It is about asking whether 1,442 homes across nine sites is the right scale for this parish, whether the evidence supports that decision, whether the infrastructure can keep pace, and whether the environmental and community consequences have been properly considered.

Those questions deserve answers.

And right now, residents have a formal opportunity to ask them.

Read the plan. Check the evidence. Ask questions. Make a representation.

Because once the consultation closes, the process moves on.

5 November 2026 is the deadline.

If you care about what Northaw and Cuffley looks like — and how it functions — for the next generation, this is the time to stand up and take part.

KEEPING AN EYE ON OAK PROCESSIONARY MOTH AT KGV

Earlier this summer, Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) nests were discovered in Oak trees at KGV. These nests have now been safely removed — and we're taking steps to help reduce the risk of future outbreaks.

When OPM nests were identified at KGV at the end of July, the affected trees were immediately cordoned off and warning signs were placed around the site. The sighting was also reported to the Forestry Commission through TreeAlert (**Submission ID: 132777**).

Because the affected trees were on the public playing field and close to the playground, the Parish Council appointed Maydencroft Ltd, an Arboriculture Association recommended company, to carry out the removal.

The specialist team worked between 14 and 25 August, safely removing, containing and disposing of the nests. In total, 341 nests were removed from 16 trees.

WHAT ARE OAK PROCESSIONARY MOTHS?

The Oak Processionary Moth is a relatively recent arrival to the UK, first identified in London in 2006. The moths lay their eggs high in Oak trees, making early infestations difficult to spot.





Pictures ©Joel Streater



©Henry Kuppen (www.forestresearch.gov.uk)

The caterpillars emerge between late March and May and feed on Oak leaves. As they grow, they move down the trees and form distinctive nests. They are particularly easy to recognise because of their habit of moving in nose-to-tail processions — hence their name.

The nests can range in size from a 50p piece to a melon. Initially white and silk-like, they become darker and discoloured as the summer progresses. On the tree, they can look rather like a large, brown teabag — only this one is full of caterpillars!

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

OPM can weaken Oak trees, but it is also important because the caterpillars have tiny, toxic, barbed hairs. These can cause skin irritation, eye irritation, sore throats and breathing difficulties if touched or inhaled.

The hairs can also be shed when the caterpillars are disturbed and may be carried by the wind onto clothing, grass and surrounding vegetation.

If you spot OPM caterpillars or nests, please do not touch them or attempt to remove them yourself.

GIVING NATURE A HELPING HAND

There is no way to completely eliminate the risk of OPM returning. Adult moths can travel considerable distances, while their eggs are laid high in the tree canopy where they can be difficult to detect.

However, nature can lend us a helping hand. OPM has a number of natural predators, including ladybirds, spiders and some wasps. Blue Tits and Great Tits are particularly valuable during the nesting season, with an adult Great Tit able to eat hundreds of OPM caterpillars in a day while feeding its young.



©Max Blake (www.forestresearch.gov.uk)

With this in mind, the Parish Council will be installing 16 bird boxes at KGV, providing additional nesting opportunities for these helpful little predators.

We hope this simple, natural approach will encourage more Blue Tits and Great Tits to make their homes at KGV and, in doing so, help us keep OPM numbers under control.

Thank you to everyone who followed the temporary restrictions and signage while the removal work was taking place. We're pleased that KGV is once again fully accessible — and we look forward to welcoming some new feathered residents to the site!

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.

Spring was a busy time in the Orchard. We completed the winter pruning of hedges, apple and pear trees and finally managed to get in to mow after a wet winter. The dry weather then meant lots of watering young trees and mulching with last year's hay. We had a successful Blossom Day event in May with a self-guided tour and Wise Words posted in a tree! Thanks to those who came along. We look forward to seeing you at our next event.

Orchard Fayre
Sunday 26th July 1-5pm
Come and celebrate our wonderful community in the heart of Northaw

Community groups, plants, BBQ and Pimms, activities for all and much more

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 2pm-4.30pm (check website for dates) – tools, tea, coffee and cake provided!

Find the Orchard between **No. 47 and 49 Northaw Road West** (access road to the Scouts) or use entrance in Church Lane (by the bungalows). Parking available.

For more information visit our website **www.northaworchard.com** or email **northaworchard@gmail.com**.





Jolly helpers

HILS Health & Independent Living Support | Community Activities

Cuffley Day Centre

70 Station Rd, Cuffley, Potters Bar, EN6 4EY

Open Monday to Friday, 10am-2pm, our Cuffley Day Centre is a warm and inviting space where older and disabled members of the community can enjoy a variety of activities, entertainment, and a two course lunch.

Activities include:

- Sing-alongs
- Bingo
- Quizzes
- Arts and crafts
- Live music
- Chair-based exercise
- Day trips
- and much more!

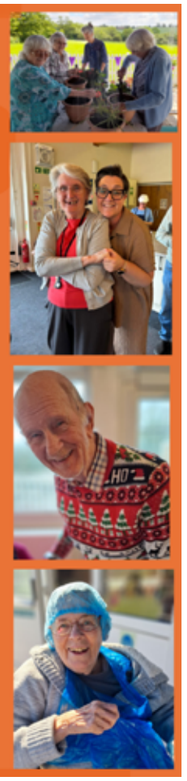
We asked our Cuffley clients what they enjoy about coming to our Hub..

"I like that I can keep my independence.... I don't want to be looked after"

"The company - having someone else to talk to and not yourself."

Call: 01707 876616
Call: 0330 2000 103

Email: Cuffley@hils-uk.org
Visit: www.hils-uk.org



REMEMBERING CAPTAIN WILLIAM LEEFE ROBINSON VC

110 years after a young Royal Flying Corps pilot made history in the skies above Cuffley, the community came together to remember his remarkable courage and service.

On 3 September, Northaw and Cuffley Parish Council hosted the rededication of the Captain William Leefe Robinson VC memorial in Cuffley's Millennium Gardens, following recent remedial work to both the gardens and the memorial.

The occasion brought together representatives of the local community and guests with a personal connection to Robinson, including Mark Bretton MBE TD DL, Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire; Cllr Michal Siewniak, Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield; Christopher Irwin, Great Nephew of Captain Robinson VC; and representatives of local organisations.

A NIGHT THAT CHANGED CUFFLEY'S HISTORY

The rededication marked 110 years since the extraordinary events of the night of 2–3 September 1916, when



Image: *From left to right – Cllr Michal Siewniak, Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield; Mark Bretton MBE TD DL, Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire; David Sive, Chair of Northaw and Cuffley Parish Council; Christopher Irwin, great-nephew of Captain Robinson VC.*



Image: *John Higgs Collection: Lt. WL Robinson*

War Office,
5th September, 1916.

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to award the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned Officer:—

Lt. William Leefe Robinson, Worc. R. and R.F.C.

For most conspicuous bravery. He attacked an enemy airship under circumstances of great difficulty and danger, and sent it crashing to the ground as a flaming wreck.

He had been in the air for more than two hours, and had previously attacked another airship during his flight.

VC Citation: *London Gazette, 5th September 1916*

Lieutenant William Leefe Robinson of the Royal Flying Corps took to the skies in defence of London and the communities surrounding it.

In the early hours of 3 September, Robinson intercepted the German airship SL11. After a determined engagement, he succeeded in setting the airship ablaze. It descended from the night sky in flames, crashing to the ground at Cuffley.

The dramatic event captured the imagination of the nation. Robinson was awarded the Victoria Cross, Britain's highest military decoration for valour, and was subsequently promoted to Flight Commander and temporary Captain.

But perhaps one of the most striking aspects of his story is just how young he was.

Robinson entered Sandhurst at only 19 years of age. He gained his Royal Flying Corps wings at 20. And when his actions over Cuffley made him a national hero, he was just 21 years old.

Behind the famous name and the Victoria Cross was, therefore, an exceptionally young man who found himself at the centre of one of the most remarkable episodes of Britain's First World War history.

Today, his memorial in Millennium Gardens provides a tangible link between Cuffley's past and present. It commemorates Robinson's courage, determination, duty and service, while also reminding us of the young man behind the medal — and of the many other people whose lives and sacrifices form part of the story of our community.

BRINGING THE STORY TO LIFE

The rededication began at Cuffley Library, where volunteers welcomed guests with light refreshments and an opportunity to preview a special exhibition prepared by Paola Munns, Chair of the library volunteers.

The exhibition brought together a fascinating collection of material relating to Robinson's life and the story of the Cuffley airship, alongside displays of memorabilia that helped bring this extraordinary chapter of local history to life.

Following the arrival of the dignitaries, local historian Peter



Image: *Entry display at Cuffley Library.*



Image: *Paola Munns and Christopher Irwin enjoying the exhibition.*

Dace gave a presentation exploring the background to the events of 2–3 September 1916.

Through his talk, Peter brought the story vividly to life — setting the events of that September night within the wider context of the First World War and explaining how a dramatic encounter in the skies above Hertfordshire would become part of both national and local history.

REMEMBERING ROBINSON

Guests then made their way from the library to Millennium Gardens for the formal rededication of the memorial.





Images: *Peter Dace with guests during his presentation.*



Images: *Mark Bretton MBE TD DL, Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, rededicating the VC memorial.*

Speeches and reflections were given by the Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, the Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield, and Parish Council Chair, David Sive, before wreaths were laid on behalf of the local community.

The ceremony concluded with a two-minute silence, providing a quiet moment of reflection in the gardens where Robinson's extraordinary story remains such an important part of Cuffley's heritage.

A LEGACY PRESERVED

Following the ceremony, guests returned to Cuffley Library, where members of the public joined them for further refreshments and another opportunity to explore the exhibition and its collection of historical material.

The recent restoration and remedial work will help ensure that Robinson's memorial continues to be respectfully cared for and



Image: *Guests gathered in Millennium Gardens.*

remains an enduring feature of Millennium Gardens.

More than a century after that remarkable night, the memorial stands as a reminder of a moment when a young pilot took to the skies and changed the course of Cuffley's history.

We are immensely grateful to everyone who contributed to the restoration work, to those who helped organise the rededication, and to the volunteers and historians who continue to share Robinson's story.





Images: *Speeches by Cllr Michal Siewniak, Mayor of Welwyn Hatfield and Cllr David Sieve, Chair of Northaw and Cuffley Parish Council*





Images: *Captain W. L. Robinson VC memorial.*

By preserving the memorial, we preserve the memory — and by telling the story, we ensure that future generations will continue to remember Captain William Leefe Robinson VC.

All photographs courtesy of Julia Walters, Fairy Tale Wedding Photos.

A summer of fun at your local library.
What's going on during autumn?

It's Winnie-the-Pooh! Yes, he turned up for our Open Day in June, much to the delight of young and old who enjoyed a teddy bears' picnic, games and crafting for Winnie's 100th birthday. And on a uncharacteristically wet Saturday morning in August, with the help of Dannielle and Kaden from Oaks Funeral Directors, here seen with volunteers, Keith and Paola Munns and Jane, the shop manager, we delivered two van loads of toys to the children's charity, The Toy Project in Archway, all of which were donated by the children of Cuffley and Northaw.



Looking forward to Autumn, we have a packed programme of events. Baby Rhyme Time recommences on Monday mornings. In October, we have a children's storytelling trail to celebrate the release of Gruffalo Granny. During half-term, don't forget to sign up early for our popular, Hallowe'en-themed, children's crafting session on 26 October. We have our quarterly visit by the PCSOs to advise on security and safety on 28 October. And we are really looking forward to Chris Foster's evening talk on the Regeneration of King's Cross " Wasteland to Wonderland" on 4 November. We're still looking for volunteers. Contact us at: **cuffleylibraryvolunteers@outlook.com** for more details or pop in and talk to a volunteer.



Update on St Thomas A Becket Church, Northaw

by Rev'd Chris Kilgour, Vicar to the Parish of Northaw & Cuffley

You will almost certainly have seen safety fences going up in Northaw. These are most obvious around Judges, following the terrible fire at the beginning of August. But fences have also appeared up around part of the church. Why are they there?

Over the last few years, we have been carefully monitoring some movement in the west wall of the church - you may have seen the cracks that cross the window from top to bottom. The hot and dry weather over the summer has moved the building quite significantly over the last three months. This has affected the whole building: as you walk around the inside, you may feel the changes in the floor level. It has particularly affected the window and the gaps in the panes are increasing. This has put the window at risk of falling out.

For safety, there is now an area fenced off outside the church, and a restricted area inside. To protect and preserve the window, we will be removing and storing it. Ultimately, there will need to be extensive, and expensive, work to stop the building from further structural damage and failure.

If you have any questions or concerns, please be in touch with the vicar, Chris (**vicar@norcuff.com**).



Image ©Chris Kilgour

Northaw & Cuffley Residents Association – working for our community

Harry - Chair, Northaw & Cuffley Residents Association

It has been a busy few months for the Northaw & Cuffley Residents Association, and we continue to work on behalf of residents across both villages on the issues that matter to our community.

Like many residents, we have been disappointed by the extent and duration of the summer roadworks. Cuffley Hill — again, and again, and again — has been subject to repeated disruption, while works on Northaw Road East have caused further congestion and diversionary traffic. The consequences have been felt well beyond the immediate works, including at least one reported collision on Theobalds Road, where diverted traffic was being funnelled through. Why these works appear to be so prolonged and, at times, poorly coordinated is something that leaves many of us scratching our heads. And, no doubt, just as we think the disruption is behind us, those familiar temporary traffic lights on Cuffley Hill will make another appearance! We will be making enquiries and seeking answers.

Alongside campaigning on local issues, we have continued to build relationships and support initiatives that benefit our community. We have been involved with Valley View Surgery, with two of our committee members volunteering at the flu clinic on 3 October. We were also pleased to support the Orchard Fayre, continue our book supply at Cuffley Station, and arrange a 10% discount at Mazi Restaurant on Mondays and Wednesdays for NCRA members. We are grateful to the local businesses and organisations that are willing to work with us and help strengthen community life.

We have also been bringing together community leaders to explore how we can better connect the various organisations, groups and initiatives operating across Northaw and Cuffley. There is enormous goodwill locally, and we believe there is real value in working more closely together. Our regular email newsletters will continue to keep members informed about local developments, events, consultations and opportunities to get involved.

We have also contributed to the campaign concerning Tesco parking, supporting the extension of the free parking allowance to 30 minutes. This is particularly important for our senior and disabled residents, for whom short visits to the store should not unnecessarily become a parking or financial concern.

Looking ahead, please stay tuned and, importantly, stay engaged. We are going to need residents' input as proposals for significant new development come forward, including development on land that was formerly designated as Green Belt. These changes have the potential to affect our roads, infrastructure, services, environment and the character of our villages for years to come.

Every voice counts. We will continue to keep residents informed, but we can only be effective if residents make their voices heard too.





Cuffley Art Society

Our ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION at Cuffley Hall will be taking place on Saturday 31st October from 10.30 till 3.30pm. We will be selling our original paintings and cards as well as tea, coffee and homemade cakes all day. From 1 til 2 we will be serving homemade soup and a roll. ENTRY IS FREE. You can vote for your favourite painting and there will be a raffle. Come along and meet our friendly group of artists.

If you're interested in joining us on Monday afternoons, where we meet to paint in Cuffley Small Hall from 1.45 til 4pm, phone Jan on **01707874672**.





A message from your local PCSO

It's important to think about your home security as we approach winter because the darker evenings and longer nights provide more opportunities for burglars.

Whilst patrols will be increased in the area, it's wise to take precautions to make your home a less appealing target. Always ensure that doors and windows are securely locked and consider using timer switches on lights to give the impression that someone is in. Investing in a doorbell camera is a great security investment.

Sheds and garages can be an easier target for thieves, and they will look out for expensive power tools and sports equipment left in them. Always lock your shed, preferably with two 'hasp and staple' locks (one near the top and one near the bottom of the door) or use or an alarmed padlock. Secure your rear garden by locking entry gates with a padlock.

Remember, burglars can use garden tools to break in, so make sure you securely lock away any tools after use. By taking these steps, you will help protect your home from being burgled. If you spot suspicious activity and believe a burglary is in progress, please call 999.

PCSO Jo Woods

Scouts
1st Cuffley
NEWS

Since the last Update, our young people have enjoyed camps, activities and meetings in some of the hottest conditions anyone can remember providing additional challenges for our leaders. There were several evenings spent at Tolmers Activity Centre kayaking and raft building (and inevitably swimming), navigating the orienteering course and a nature scavenger hunt.

We have made good use of the KGV playing fields for team games including football and rounders and an evening learning lacrosse.

Many badges have been earned and congratulations go to our



Beavers and Cubs who completed the Chief Scout Bronze and Silver Awards.

Over the holidays we undertook some necessary housekeeping and maintenance including an equipment overhaul, repairs to our outside camp fire area and replacing some strip lights with new LED fittings.

As another Term starts for us at 1st Cuffley, we are pleased to welcome new members and some new leader volunteers; it is great to see more help with the Sections. Our AGM was held early in September and the Group continues to progress thanks to a dedicated Trustee Board and Leadership Team.

We will be holding our Wreath Making Workshop on Saturday 21st November at our Scout HQ off Church Close. Details available on our website cuffley-scouts.org.uk

2027 marks 100 years since Cubs and Scouts started in Cuffley. We will be celebrating with a Group Camp and some other special events. If you were a leader, committee member, supporter or member and have any memorabilia, memories or information about the Group we would really like to hear from you. Please contact **cuffleyscoutgroup@gmail.com** or leave us a message at **07784 861218**

And if you're thinking about volunteering we have opportunities not just for leaders but for helping with fundraising, maintenance and administration. Want to know more? We'd love to hear from you - use the enquiry form on our website **https://cuffley-scouts.org.uk/join-us-enquiry/** or call **07784 861218** and leave a message.

Help with technology, day trips and more with communities 1st!

Communities 1st offers a wide range of support services and regular engaging activities for the community in and around Potters Bar.

Our weekly Computers and a Cuppa/Mobiles Made Easy sessions offer a fantastic opportunity for anyone who struggles with technology. Our friendly digital cham pions can help you with setting up an email, online shopping, banking or accessing other services that will make your life easier! They are also a great place to meet new people with friendly conversation and a cuppa. You don't need to sign up or pay. Just stop by Wyllyotts Centre where we run these sessions every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month between 10:30am and 12:30pm.

We also offer day trips where, for a small fee, we can pick you up from your home, take you to a fun location for a few hours and bring you back! These outings are ideal for older residents and those who find it difficult to get out and about. Recently, our much-loved Day Trippers service has been to the Dutch Marketplace, St Albans Cathedral and Notcutts Garden Centre. Whether you want a day out shopping, or to visit one of the many fascinating historical sites across Hertfordshire, there is something for everyone!

To learn more about these services, the other ways Communities 1st and other local groups can support you, or local volunteering opportunities, our



Better Days Hub is the perfect place to visit. Find us at the Wyllyotts Centre between 10am and 2pm every Thursday where we can chat and point you in the right direction. For more information you can also visit our website or reach us by email or telephone.

Website: **www.communities1st.org.uk/**

Email address: **us@communities1st.org.uk**

Phone number: **01727 649900**



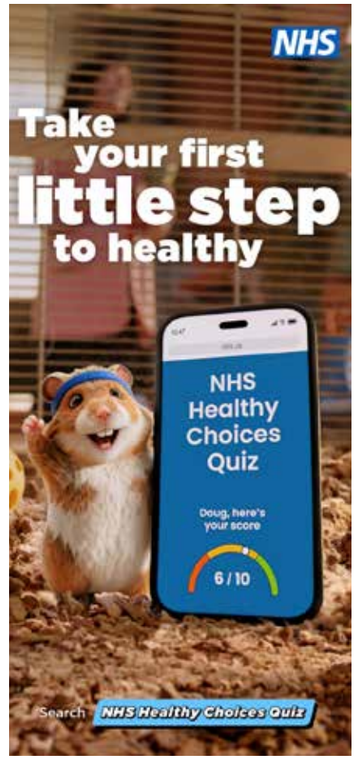
The Players
THE CUFFLEY PLAYERS

The Cuffley Players is a local drama company based primarily in Cuffley Hall, Maynard Place EN6 4JA.
We are a friendly, welcoming group committed to bringing good quality theatre to the residents of Northaw and Cuffley and the surrounding areas. We also have an active social programme. New members, whatever their level of expertise and experience are always welcome. If you are interested in participating in local theatre and making new friends, then contact Fran, our secretary, on **07811 437791** or by email at **info@cuffleyplayers.co.uk**.

Our next production 8pm , 25th – 28th November
Matinee performance 3pm Saturday 28th

SPITFIRE GIRLS
By Katherine Senior
Reaching for the sky

A poignant tale of determination, courage, love, loss and hope set in war-torn Britain 1943.
At Cuffley Hall EN6 4JA All tickets only £13
BOOK NOW AT **www.cuffleyplayers.co.uk**







The digital phone switchover – don't panic!

You may have heard about the Digital Phone Switchover and wondered whether another bit of modern technology is about to make life more complicated. The reassuring answer is: probably not!

The UK's traditional analogue telephone network is being replaced by a digital, or IP (Internet Protocol), system. In simple terms, telephone calls will increasingly travel over a broadband connection, rather like other internet data.

The change is already under way and, for most of us, should be straightforward. You will not lose your landline or your existing telephone number, and in most cases your current telephone handset will continue to work. Depending on your provider, you may simply need to plug the phone into your broadband router rather than the old telephone socket.

A couple of important checks

If you or someone in your household uses a care alarm, telecare device, health pendant, personal alarm or other equipment that connects through the telephone line, tell both your landline provider and the equipment supplier before your service is changed. Some devices may need adjusting or replacing, and your provider can help make sure there is a safe solution before the switchover takes place.

The same applies if you are buying a new alarm or telecare device – check with the supplier first that it will work with a digital landline.

Digital landlines also normally need mains electricity, so they may not work during a power cut. If you rely on your landline and do not have a working mobile phone or a reliable mobile signal, tell your provider. They must make sure you can contact the emergency services during a power cut and, where necessary, provide a suitable back-up solution free of charge.

For most people, a charged mobile phone is a useful alternative during a power cut. If your own mobile network has no signal, a 999 call will use another available mobile network where one is able to connect.

Finally, if you are elderly, disabled, have a health condition, limited mobility or simply need extra help, let your telephone provider know before the change. They should assess your needs and provide appropriate support, including help with installation where necessary.

So, there is no need to panic. For most households, this will be a simple change of technology. Just make sure that any important alarms or equipment are checked beforehand, and let your provider know if you need extra support.

The technology may be changing, but the important bit remains exactly the same: pick up the phone and say hello!

Northaw & Cuffley Parish Council

Ever wondered what your Parish Council does?

Come along to a meeting and find out!

• Upcoming meetings:
- 11 November 2026
- 13 January 2027
- 17 March 2027
- 12 May 2027

• Cuffley Hall, Maynard Place
• 7pm

Everyone is welcome!

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US

Northaw and Cuffley Parish Council, 7 Maynard Place, Cuffley, EN6 4JA

The Parish Office is open for your queries Tues-Fri 10:00 – 14:00/10am - 2pm.

These hours are dependent on staff availability, so please see notices in the office window for weekly updates.

Councillors can be contacted using the Council Members page on our website: **https://northawcuffley-pc.gov.uk/contact_us/**

Our Office Manager, Sally Griffiths, will be happy to assist with any general enquiries and can be contacted on **01707 875 825** or **office.manager@northawcuffley-pc.gov.uk**

Our Clerk, Lisa Peters, can be reached on **07375 962 772** or **clerk@northawcuffley-pc.gov.uk**

You can also find useful information, both on the Council and on Local Resources, at our website **www.northawcuffley-pc.gov.uk**