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Autumn 2025 - Issue 42



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Braintree Community Diagnostic Centre takes shape

Work is well underway on the new Braintree Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC), with major construction milestones already achieved.

Located on the site of Braintree Community Hospital, the centre is set to open in early 2026. Once up and running, offering around 75,000 additional diagnostic appointments in its first year - helping to reduce waiting times and improve access to vital tests including CT and MRI scans, x-rays, ultrasounds, blood tests, and heart and lung checks.

Local representatives, including Sir James Cleverly, MP for Braintree and Shadow Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, and senior council leaders, were given a first look at the progress during a site visit. Guests saw first-hand how the centre is taking shape and the impact it will have on healthcare in the region.

Julie Smith, Managing Director at Broomfield Hospital, said: "The Braintree Community Diagnostic Centre will be a huge boost for local healthcare. By offering faster access to vital tests and scans, we can speed up diagnosis, reduce anxiety for patients, and help clinicians make quicker decisions about treatment. This is a major investment in the health of our community, and it's exciting to see it starting to take shape."

Sir James Cleverly MP said: "I was proud to attend the groundbreaking of the new Community Diagnostic Centre earlier this year and it's great to see the work progressing well. The investment secured under the last Conservative government is being used well to benefit the local community. I can't wait to attend the opening ceremony."

Councillor Lynette Bowers-Flint, Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing at Braintree District Council, said: "It is encouraging to see real progress being made on the Braintree Diagnostic Centre. Once complete, this facility will offer residents quicker access to vital tests and scans, helping to ease pressure on hospitals and improve early diagnosis."



"The fact that it's on track to open in 2026 is a testament to the dedication of everyone involved."

Braintree CDC is one of four diagnostic centres being developed across mid and south Essex as part of a wider NHS programme. The Thurrock CDC is due to open this month, followed by Southend CDC later this year. The largest of the four, Pitsea CDC, is expected to open in winter 2026/27.

Andrew Finnegan, Senior Project Manager at McLaughlin & Harvey, said: "We're pleased to welcome back local stakeholders to show the construction progress that has been achieved to date on site. The project team knows the difference that the completed Centre will make to the community, and they are committed to delivering for them and the Trust."

Once complete, the Braintree CDC will be open seven days a week, offering a convenient "one-stop shop" for checks, tests, and scans – all under one roof. It's a major step forward in making healthcare more accessible and efficient for local people.

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The Coat of Hopes

The Coat of Hopes is a patchwork coat on an ongoing walking pilgrimage through the UK towards the end of the climate and ecological emergency.

In September 2025 the Coat of Hopes – an ever-evolving, community-created patchwork coat, on a pilgrimage through Britain towards the end of the climate and ecological emergency – completed this part of its journey on foot, of nearly 2000 miles so far, with a walk from Hastings to Newhaven. Newhaven was the place from where the then 'patchless' Coat set out in 2021 on its first continuous nine-week walk to Glasgow for the COP26 climate conference.

Since that very first day in 2021 the Coat of Hopes has continued to walk throughout the land, collecting people's hopes for the places they live in the face of climate and ecological breakdown. The organisers are committed to continuing the Coat's journey, until the climate and ecological situation is no longer an emergency. There is no end in sight.

Barbara Keal from Lewes, instigating artist of the Coat said: "When faced with the enormity of climate and ecological breakdown, I see our

only solution being to recognise our dependence on each other to maintain a world which is liveable.

The energy to change our way of living must come from love and a willingness to act on behalf of others. Walking with the Coat of Hopes is a practice which develops these attributes,



even as we invite strangers throughout the land to put on this Coat of Hopes and 'wear the promise that we all belong together'. Every walking day we lean into an unknown future and find fellow humans who are willing to help us on this impossible journey of witness."

The Coat of Hopes is now in the fourth year of this pilgrimage-without-end and bears well over 700 patches. Everyone is invited to make a patch and, wherever the Coat goes, it carries an invitation to all who are willing, to wear it, hear its song, and stand for a moment in consciousness of our interconnectedness with each other and all life and what that might ask of us in the way we live our lives. Thousands of people have participated in this way.

This is not a funded project, but a free movement of people for hope in our shared future, it can happen only through the goodwill of people who choose to walk, sew, sing with, feed or shelter strangers. All are welcome to join this work in any of those ways and all these things will be needed when the Coat continues its pilgrimage in 2026, heading for Land's End.

More information can be found on the website www.coatofhopes.uk.

Please email yes@coatofhopes.uk if you would like to join us. All are welcome.

Barbara Keal
(instigating artist of the Coat of Hopes)
www.coatofhopes.uk



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“You are joining a force focussed on getting justice for victims of crime.”

That’s the message from our Chief Constable to the 69 new officers who took their oaths in September ready to start keeping your neighbourhood safe.

Chief Constable Ben-Julian Harrington was joined by Mrs Jennifer Tolhurst the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Mrs Julie Fosh, the High Sherrif and the Police, Fire, and Crime Commissioner Roger Hirst, as well as the friends and loved ones of the officers on their way to join Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Commands across the county.

In his speech to the new recruits the Chief outlined the cornerstone of policing: “Fairness, integrity, diligence and impartiality.” He also said the work of every officer will be, rightly, the subject to scrutiny.

On the very same day, officers from the Braintree district attended two separate vehicle fires. They shared the news with residents alongside a safety warning:

“On Friday (5th Sept), officers attended two separate vehicle fires on the A120, just a few hours apart and only yards from each other. Thankfully, no one was injured in either incident, and both were dealt with swiftly.

“We were deeply moved to receive this message from a grateful parent: ‘On Friday you

attended a car fire on the A120, this was my son who was extremely shaken up and was grateful for the support and help you gave him.

‘As his Dad, I just wanted to say a big thank you. Car fires have a bad habit of escalating very quickly and he tells me you got to him very quickly.

‘This type of work goes unseen by the general public... Fortunately, you were very close, things could have been a lot worse.’

“Thank you for your kind words – they mean a lot to our team.”

VEHICLE SAFETY REMINDER

Car fires can happen suddenly and escalate fast. Please take time to regularly check your vehicle:

- Check oil and coolant levels
- Look for fluid leaks under the car
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Braintree Area Foodbank makes urgent call for support this harvest

Braintree Area Foodbank is calling on the community to support people facing hardship in their local community as need remains persistently high.

The Foodbank, with centres in Braintree, Witham, Halstead and Sible Hedingham, is urging people in the Braintree District to support their community this Harvest time, after the charity's end of year stats report revealed that in the past 5 years, there's been a 100% increase in the number of emergency food parcels needed by people in Braintree, with nearly 12,000 emergency food parcels being distributed in 2024/25 alone.

Sarah Dynan, Community Outreach Officer at Braintree Area Foodbank, says: "Any support from local people – whether it's volunteering, donating food or money, or simply raising awareness – can make a huge difference for those who rely on the Foodbank."

She continues: "This Harvest season, we're reaching out to our community to help us ease the burden of isolation faced by those experiencing hardship. No one should feel alone in their struggle."

"For many of the individuals we support, coming to the foodbank may be one of the few social interactions they have all week. We've come to realise that we're not just offering food – we're offering a warm welcome and a sense of connection. With the community's help this Harvest, we can continue tackling hunger and the desperate circumstances some people face."

Braintree Area Foodbank also offers a team of speakers available to share more about their work. They provide tailored resources for schools – from nursery through to secondary – as well as materials adapted to suit different groups or faiths.

Over the last year, Foodbanks in the Trussell community have experienced record levels of need as more people struggle to afford the essentials and it is likely that this situation will only worsen this winter – so this Harvest



is a particularly important time for local communities to support the foodbank.

Locals are urged to help in many ways, including:

- Donating non-perishable goods, such as canned goods, pasta, rice, and hygiene products.
- Financial contributions, which allow the charity to purchase essential items and maintain its operations efficiently.

Emma Revie, chief executive at Trussell says: "We know that many people turn to Foodbanks as a last resort and feel embarrassed that they need to ask for help but Foodbanks across the country are there to offer a warm welcome, provide essential items and help people access services that can lift them out of poverty."

"By coming together and supporting Braintree Area Foodbank this Harvest and through to winter you are not just offering a meal – you are extending a hand of friendship, combating isolation, and helping to provide an environment where everyone is valued."

www.braintreeareafoodbank.org.uk

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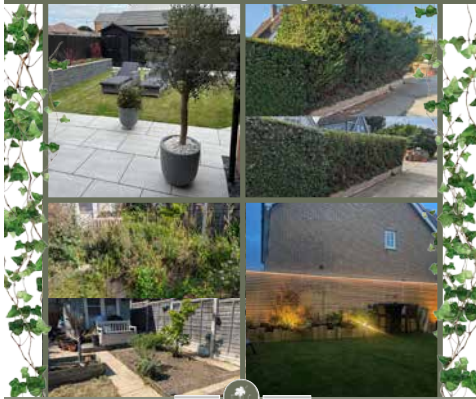
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A Ghastly Guide to Ghouls in Essex

Essex has its fair share of phantoms. In the spirit of Halloween, we share a few of our favourite local ghost stories.

FROM THE PIT TO THE PUB

Along Rayne Road, The Horse & Groom and A1 Braintree have both reported sightings of 'a spectral lady' making her way betwixt the businesses. Perhaps she once worked in the pub and/or lived where the auto parts shop now is, and spends eternity retracing old steps. That's not all she does, though, as staff at the shop have had personal items 'stolen' and thrown about, even bicycle wheels left spinning in rooms no one has entered. One wheel was lifted up off a hook and dropped to the floor – completely unexplainable, they say.

Perhaps the spectral lady doesn't like her new roommates!

THE CASTLE, GREAT LEIGHS

Many pubs boast a long history but The Castle's roots apparently go back to 1171 AD, according to an inscription on one of the interior beams. It's no surprise, then, that it claims to have a haunted room.

It's reported that over 100 people have attempted to spend the night there and experience poltergeist activity – furniture moving on its own, guests' belongings thrown around – as well as disembodied screams keeping them up at night.

These visits took place prior to 1970. Would you dare to book a trip and see if the spirits still linger?

WORKING OVERTIME AT COLCHESTER POLICE STATION

Essex Police Museum has compiled several interesting stories of mysterious occurrences at stations across the county, and Colchester Police Station caught our eye. To read the full document, including many other works, visit www.essex.police.uk and search 'history notebooks'. The following comes from issue 64: 'The (Supposedly) Haunted Police Stations of Essex'.

As one of the most modern police stations in the county, it's "a surprising candidate for one of the most reputedly haunted police stations in the force". However new it may be, it's been chosen as the haunt of a monk.

One resident shared a story from their father, who put no stock in the ghost stories until he experienced something unexplainable.

"Having sorted out the paperwork in his office, he made his way down to custody via the stairs. Just as he took his first step down, all the lights went off. The temperature, he says, literally plummeted. In the very poor light, he saw what he can only describe as a hooded figure which appeared to be floating near to the bottom of the stairs. My Dad being my Dad just said aloud, 'Stop messing me around and put the bloody lights on!' At which point the figure faded and the lights indeed blinked on."

by Nicola Jacobs



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- Step into STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts and Maths)
- TechSheCan – improving the journey of young women into tech careers
- University of Essex resources for students and teachers

Councillor Tony Ball, Cabinet Member for Education Excellence, Lifelong Learning and Employability, said: "Essex is an ambitious and innovative county, but it only thrives when its people thrive. One of our greatest challenges is helping people not currently in education, employment or training.

"Essex residents of all ages should have the opportunity to expand their skills, try something new and follow their passions without barriers. I am therefore very proud to be launching this directory from the Essex Year of Opportunity.

"Much like the hugely successful Essex Year of Reading and Essex Year of Numbers, this campaign opens doors through exciting new projects and partnerships with local businesses. I encourage all residents to make the most of what's on offer and take a look at our new directory."

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This new campaign follows the successful Essex Year of Reading and Essex Year of Numbers.

You can access the new Essex Year of Opportunity directory online at www.essexyearofopportunity.co.uk/project-directory.



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DRESS TO IMPRESS THIS HALLOWEEN

CommunityAd have your back, whatever your style this spooky season.

There's absolutely nothing wrong with hitting up the local fancy dress shop for a pre-packaged kit with an off-brand name (like Dead Parents Hero and Italian Plumber).

However, if you're after something different this year, we've got a few ideas for you.

Low effort

These will do in a pinch or if dressing to the nines as a swashbuckler isn't quite your vibe.

- Damien from Mean Girls – all you really need is a blue pullover hoodie with the hood pulled tight and a pair of sunglasses. Prepare to yell "She doesn't even go here!", or hold a sign with the quote, and you're golden.
- Mime – pop on a black and white striped shirt, black trousers/skirt, and optional beret and white gloves and you're ready for a night pretending to be stuck in a box. It's a great excuse not to talk to that one person at the party, too.
- Ghost – the absolute classic white bed sheet thrown over your head with eye and mouth holes either cut out or drawn. Bonus points if you have a mask or scary makeup on underneath when someone inevitably yanks the sheet off.

Minimal effort

Upcycling everyday items, like cardboard, is an easy way to make the most of what you already have.

- Dice – a square box of a decent size can be turned into a die by simply painting it and drawing some dots on. Cut holes for arms, legs, and a head, and let 'em roll!
- Four-legged friends – so versatile, the humble box works well as a frame for horses, unicorns, centaurs, dragons, dogs, and pretty much anything in between. Applying a similar technique as above, adding some

shoulder straps (so the box sits by the waist), a neck and head (also made from cardboard) will make a surprisingly cool creature!

- Wings and things – get creative! Flatten the boxes out and make wings for Buzz Lightyears and fairies, helmets for spacesuits, horns for Maleficent, etc. The only limit is your own imagination... and probably physics.

Maximum effort

There's still plenty of time to get cracking so why not challenge yourself?

- Fake blood and fancy costume makeup – crafting wounds and transforming into a different species with artistic talent. Not for the faint of heart, or the unsteady of hand.
- Group co-ordination – it's one thing to dress up as a famous character, it's another to recreate the Scooby Doo Crew or Salem Sisters with your friends and family.
- Become unrecognisable – the scariest costumes of all are ones that don't work off pre-existing characters. Just Halloween vibes and a desire to really get under people's skin. Transform yourself into Something Not Yet Seen and you'll catch everybody's eye.

Take inspiration from this article and make this October one to remember, whether you're in it for the apple bobbing or the Fancy Dress Competition. Happy Halloween!

by Nicola Jacobs

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News around Braintree

News from Notley Green Community Association



Notley Green Community Association
Registered Charity No. 1058443

Volunteer Vice Chair & Committee Members Needed

Volunteer VC & Committee Members Needed

Are you passionate about the community?

We're currently looking for enthusiastic, committed, and creative individuals to join our committee!

Why join us?

- Help shape exciting projects and events
- Make a positive difference in your community
- We are looking for people who are...
- Team players with fresh ideas
- Passionate about the community
- Able to attend one meeting per month

Interested? Email thechair@ngca.org.uk

today! Join our Committee – Make a Difference!

Notley Green Community Association

Registered Charity No. 1058443

our residents to connect with employers and explore new career opportunities in the district and across Essex. Whether you're just starting out in your career, looking to change career paths or want to retrain – this event in Witham will be an opportunity to find out more and make the first steps and connections that you need." No booking is necessary and attendees are welcome to turn up on the day.

www.braintree.gov.uk

Over £2,500 raised for charities in Public Sector Challenge



On Friday 5th September, twelve employees from Braintree District Council took part in the Public Sector Challenge, raising £2,573 for Cancer Research UK and the British Heart Foundation. The challenge itself was a demanding hike through the Peak District, with participants tackling either an 8 mile, 18.5 mile route or a more gruelling 26 mile trek, climbing to an ascent of around 5,400 feet. The team at Braintree joined 800 participants from other public sector organisations and businesses, collectively raising nearly £100,000 - bringing the total raised since 2023 to £331,000. The fundraising efforts locally included a raffle, cake sale, silent auction and individual contributions. Corporate sponsors - Profitable Sites, e-shot, Zak Alexander Ltd and Sharpe Pritchard LLP – made generous contributions towards the cost of the entrance fee. Several local businesses, including Chelmsford City Racecourse, East Anglian Railway Museum, The Booking Hall Café, Café Plaza, The Institute Braintree, Something Scrummy, Tesco (Great Notley),

Braintree District Council announces autumn job fair



Braintree
District Council

Braintree District Council in partnership with the Department of Work and Pensions

(DWP) has announced an autumn job fair will take place at Witham Public Hall this October. The job fair will be free to attend and takes place on Tuesday 14th October between 9:30am and 12:30pm in the town centre with nearby parking available at Newlands Drive car park. Anybody looking for local job opportunities, career development, training or qualifications is welcome to attend and speak to stall holders in areas including the Armed Forces, engineering, local government, teaching, care and more. This job fair follows the spring job fair earlier this year held in Braintree which attracted 350 attendees. Cllr Frankie Ricci, Cabinet Member for Economic Growth at Braintree District Council, said: "We are committed to delivering more jobs fairs across the Braintree district to enable

and Hedingham Castle also donated prizes for the raffle. The funds raised will go towards the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer and heart and circulatory diseases.

www.braintree.gov.uk

Meet our inspiring fostering community



Essex urgently needs more foster carers. Every child deserves a safe place to call home. Discover flexible fostering options that fit around your own career and family. As well as local support and award-winning training, you will receive £2,000 for your first year of fostering too. There has never been a better time to foster. Join the drop-in event at the County Hall Hotel in Chelmsford on Saturday 18 October, from 10am to 3:30pm. This in-person event is an opportunity to ask questions, learn more, and meet our foster carers. If this date doesn't work for you, we often run virtual information events too. Visit www.essex.gov.uk/children-young-people-and-families/fostering/events for dates. Our team is here to support you to make a difference.

Are you getting enough Vitamin D?

To keep bones and muscles healthy, everyone should consider taking a daily vitamin D supplement in autumn and winter, when we cannot make enough vitamin D from sunlight. And some people should take them all year round, including children up to the age of 4 and



people who are at risk of not getting enough vitamin D. Just 10 micrograms a day is all you need – it's the same for kids and grown-ups. In these gloomier months, useful sources include: oily fish – such as salmon, sardines, trout, herring or mackerel; red meat; egg yolks; fortified foods – such as some fat spreads and breakfast cereals; liver (avoid liver if you're pregnant). In the UK, cows' milk is generally not a good source of vitamin D because it is not fortified, as it is in some other countries.

For more information, visit

www.nhs.uk/conditions/vitamins-and-minerals/vitamin-d.

LGR Update from BDC

Braintree District Council's Leader has confirmed the council's preferred option for the future of local government in Greater Essex as the 3 unitary council proposal. This follows a constructive debate held at the council's Full Council meeting on Monday 15th September, where councillors shared views on all four proposals developed for Greater Essex – an option for a three unitary model, one for a five unitary model and two proposals for models of four unitary councils. There was a clear preference (65%) from councillors who indicated they favoured the three unitary authority model, a proposal led by Essex County Council, which would group Braintree with Colchester, Tendring and Uttlesford, alongside Essex. Councillors shared views on the proposal, including it would help make services more financially secure, create more opportunities for growth, bring together areas that naturally fit, and build on the strong relationships the council already has with neighbouring councils. For more information visit www.braintree.gov.uk/news.

We want to hear from you!

Here at **CommunityAd**, we're all about keeping the community together.

Have you got any news you're excited to share, local heroes to thank, or opportunities to promote? Get in touch via nicola@community-publishing.org to reach your neighbours



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The latest news from Great Notley Parish Council



As the glorious days of summer give way to autumn it is a relief, for a lot of us, to see the rain that our gardens so desperately need.

Needless to say, we are still seeing a lot of the sunshine and that has lifted our spirits so much over the last few months. I am pleased to report that our internal and external audit of accounts has been successfully passed for 2024/25 thanks to the diligent work of our clerk Elizabeth Winter.

Work continues to keep the village well cared for as the white village gates at the Panners entrance were recently replaced and we updated the shutter doors on the storage units at the back of the Community Centre car park. The new shutters are electrically controlled with safety features now demanded by legislation. As ever, the litter team continue their work in their new vehicle keeping the village spic and span in the areas within our responsibility.

The community Hands sculpture has been undergoing assessment as to its safety and the metal tiles covering it are to be replaced as many have been found to be loose. The assessment of the structure is complete and work is soon to start. Various road closures in the surrounding areas have necessitated re-routing of vehicles, but you will find lots of information on our Parish Facebook page.

There are many other items of interest in our community there too, such as the reorganisation of local councils, free blood pressure monitors at the library, information from the police and fire service, and the Digigo bus service, to name a few.

Plans are already well underway for our Remembrance services and the Christmas Carols & Crafts afternoon. The bugler will play and a wreath will be laid at the Hospital Memorial at 11am, with the main Service at 12 noon, as usual, at the community centre, with refreshments after.

Meetings have already been held with members of WINGS and other volunteers who are willingly giving their skills and time again for the community. The Christmas event will be held indoors at the community centre this year, because of the uncertainty around weather conditions, and there will be activities for children and adults too along with carols and, of course, Father Christmas.

Refreshments will also be available. We hope to see many of you there, keeping our community spirit alive.

Cllr Griffin

Chairman

Great Notley Parish Council



At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them



ALL RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO THE SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

**Sunday 9th November 2025 at
12 Noon**

on the Village Green behind the Notley Green
Community Hall, CM77 7US

Food and drink to be served afterwards in the
Notley Green Community Centre hall, courtesy
of the Notley Green Community Association,
with refreshments provided courtesy of the
Tesco store

Please note that, at the request of some
residents, we are again laying a wreath and
also observing the national silence at 11am at
the American Hospital Memorial on Windermere
Drive.

Residents are welcome to join either or both
gatherings.



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EVENTS@NGCA.ORG.UK

FREE ENTRY

Christmas Tree Festival & Craft Fair

@ THE CHURCH IN GREAT NOTLEY

**Saturday 6th and
Sunday 7th December**

Vote for your favourite tree in
our festival.
Pick up those last minute
Christmas gifts at our Craft Fair.
Listen to our lovely performers
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The Church in Great Notley,
Bridge End Lane, Great Notley CM77 7GN

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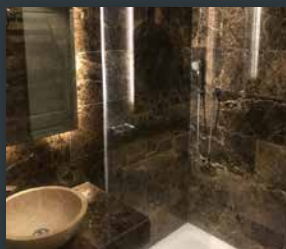
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Blood pressure monitors available in Essex Libraries



Essex County Council

You can now borrow blood pressure monitors for free from our 74 libraries.

The monitors will also be available from two mobile libraries too.

The scheme is available to anyone aged 18 and over in Essex. No GP referral is needed.

Each loan pack includes a monitor, cuff, diary, and guidance leaflet.

Monitors can be borrowed for up to two weeks. No booking is required, monitors are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

As well as take-home monitors, 15 libraries are hosting freestanding monitors for walk-in use. This means you can pop in and check and print your blood pressure readings instantly.

You can reserve a monitor online or pop in to your local library.

THE 15 LIBRARIES HOSTING FREESTANDING MONITORS ARE:

- Braintree
- Colchester (from November when the library reopens) • Chelmsford • Harlow • Rayleigh
- Loughton • Saffron Walden • Brentwood
- Billericay • Maldon • Clacton • Basildon
- Witham • Canvey • South Woodham Ferrers

Essex County Council
www.essex.gov.uk



Hearty Harvest Recipes

Make the most of autumn flavours with plentiful plates.

The shelves at your local farm shops are always stocked with the best seasonal produce. Harvest is a bountiful time with both summer and autumn crops making way for some delicious dishes. Here are some easy recipes to level up your mid-week dinner or stun guests at a Sunday roast.

ROASTED BEETROOT AND APPLE SALAD

For the days where there's a chill in the air when you wake up, but you're sweating through your jumper by noon.



Ingredients (serves four):

- 500g fresh beetroot, peeled and chopped into wedges
- 2 eating apples, cored and sliced
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 100g soft goat's cheese
- 50g walnuts, roughly chopped
- 75g watercress or mixed leaves
- 1 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- Sea salt and black pepper

Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C (fan 180°C) / Gas mark 6.
2. Toss the beetroot with 1 tbsp olive oil, salt, and pepper. Roast in a tray for 30-35 minutes, or until tender.
3. In the last 10 minutes of roasting, add the apple slices to the tray to soften slightly.
4. Toast the walnuts in a dry frying pan for 2-3 minutes, stirring frequently until golden.
5. In a large bowl, mix the watercress with the roasted beetroot and apple. Drizzle over remaining olive oil and balsamic vinegar.

6. Crumble the goat's cheese and sprinkle over the walnuts. Serve warm or at room temperature.

PLUM AND BLACKBERRY CRUMBLE

Is there any greater comfort than a sweet, warm crumble?



Ingredients (serves six):

For the fruit filling

- 400g ripe British plums, halved and stoned
- 200g fresh blackberries
- 75g golden caster sugar
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- Juice of ½ a lemon

For the crumble topping

- 150g plain flour
- 100g unsalted butter, chilled and cubed
- 75g demerara sugar
- 30g rolled oats
- Pinch of salt

Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 190°C (fan 170°C) / Gas mark 5.
2. In a large bowl, toss plums and blackberries with sugar, cinnamon, and lemon juice. Transfer to a baking dish.
3. In a bowl, use your fingers to rub the butter into the flour until it resembles breadcrumbs. Stir in demerara sugar, oats, and a pinch of salt.
4. Scatter the crumble mixture over the fruit and bake for 30-35 minutes until golden and bubbling.
5. Serve warm with custard, cream, or ice cream.

What's on in Braintree

Harvey's Heroes Charity Quiz Night

Friday 10th October, 6pm at St Mary's Court Care Home, Deanery Hill, Braintree CM7 5SR



St Mary's are delighted to host a charity quiz night to support the fundraising efforts of Harvey's Heroes. 17-year-old Essex teenager Harvey, was diagnosed earlier this year with a rare form of bone cancer – Osteosarcoma, following which his family set up Harvey's Heroes to raise awareness, follow Harvey's story and to help raise the money needed for Harvey's ongoing treatment. Contact Gerald, on **07806 767931** or email

Gerald@goldcarehomes.com to book your team. If you can't make it, do spare what you can by donating to the charity's GoFundMe: **www.gofundme.com/f/dfqre-harveys-heroes**.



Farmers Markets

Saturdays 18th October and 20th December, 10am – 2pm at Blake House Craft Centre,

Blake End, Braintree CM7 6SH

At Blake House's Farmers Market, you will find a wide range of speciality artisan food and drink makers offering their produce in addition to our permanent shops here and the cafe. If you are a small food producer, grower or maker and would like a stall, we'd love to hear from you, pitches are currently available. Please email us at: **info@blakehousecraftcentre.co.uk** for information. As always, you can enjoy FREE parking here and entry to the market is free too, so pop the dates in your diary! We look forward to seeing you.



Comedy Night!

Saturday 18th October, 5pm at The Bell Inn, Dunmow Road, Braintree CM7 4SA

Hosted by Danny Andrews. Join The Bell In for an

evening of laughs, pints, and good vibes. Grab your mates, get your seats, and get ready for a night of top-class comedy you won't forget! Venue contact: **01371 782030**.

Halloween Spellbound Trail

25th – 26th October, 10am – 4/6pm at Blake House Craft Centre, Blake End, Braintree CM7 6SH

A spooktacular Halloween Weekend

at Blake House Craft Centre. Feathers, Foolery & Footprints - take the enchanted path with a clue map and discover magical makers - prizes to be won. Children's Workshop – make a magical wand and spell jar. Visit The Grain Shed Banquet Hall for all your favourites plus witches potions and cauldron brews. On Saturday, 10am – 6pm and Sunday, 10am – 4pm.



Halloween at The Hub

27th October – 1st November, 10am – 2pm at Braintree Community Supermarket, 67 High

Street, Braintree CM7 1JX

Join The Braintree Hub for Halloween fun! Puzzles, colouring and much more spooky fun too! All FREE just come in complete activities in the Hub Tea Room and entries will be issued a raffle ticket for a FREE prize draw on Saturday 1st November! We look forward to welcoming you!

Live music with Primal Replay

Friday 31st October, 9pm – 11:45pm at Bull Braintree, Market Place, Braintree CM7 5HJ
This amazing band are back!



What's on in Braintree

Join Bull Braintree for an evening of pop and rock covers! These boys certainly know how to create a fantastic night of music and are not to be missed! Venue contact:

www.facebook.com/BullBraintree |
01376 320551.



Susie Brown does the 80s

**Friday 7th November,
8pm at The White Hart
Hotel, Bocking End,
Braintree CM7 9AB**

Susie Brown Vocalist will be bringing you back to as much of the 80s as you can handle... with

this carefully selected 80s rock fest set and some cheesy cringe pop interspersed. Venue contact:

www.facebook.com/WhiteHartBraintree |
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Essex Christmas Shopping Fair

**14th – 16th November, 10am – 4pm at
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Charlie Owen

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**Saturday 15th
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through to the present day at The Boars Head.

Venue contact: **01376 327643.**

Braintree Christmas Market

**Saturday 22nd November, 9am – 6pm at
Market Place, Braintree CM7 SHJ**



Join BDC and Braintree Markets for the first of
our Christmas markets. Enjoy a bumper market
and shop for unique handmade gifts, local
produce and enjoy delicious street food. Free
entry, dog friendly.



Christmas Light Switch On

**Saturday 22nd November,
12pm – 5:30pm at George Yard
Shopping Centre, 36 George
Yard, Braintree CM7 1RB**

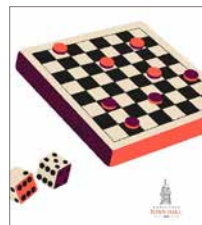
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New 3G football pitch opened at Lift New Rickstones in Witham

A brand-new artificial grass pitch (AGP) to boost grassroots sport in Witham has opened at Lift New Rickstones.



Photo by Braintree District Council

Over £906,000 was invested to deliver the floodlit, all-weather 3G AGP, thanks to funding from The Premier League, the FA and Government's Football Foundation and Section 106 funding secured by Braintree District Council from developers. The pitch, managed by Lift New Rickstones, is available for community and school use, and is already seeing regular bookings.

This forms part of the council's project to deliver four new pitches in Braintree and Witham to significantly improve outdoor sports facilities for existing and new residents, with a £1.2million investment from Section 106 funding. This comes after public feedback asking for more pitches due to increased demand and the growing popularity of casual and small-sided football.

Councillor Gabrielle Spray, Cabinet Member for Planning at Braintree District Council, said: "It's great to see this fantastic new grass pitch open its doors to the community in Witham. This is a brilliant example of how investment from new developments is directly benefiting both new and existing residents, giving everyone greater access to the sport facilities they've told us they want. We are committed to utilising the planning process to bring in as much Section 106 funding as possible, so they can be reinvested in projects like this to benefit our communities."

Lift New Rickstones interim principal Simon Cox, said: "The new 3G pitch is a fantastic addition to our school and wider community.

"It provides our students and community members with a high-quality space to learn, train and compete. This project began many years ago, and I'd like to recognise the late Simon Gibbs, our former principal, whose vision and dedication played such a key role in making it a reality and our lettings manager, Ben Moore, who has been integral to the whole project. The opening of the new pitch reflects our commitment to giving every young person in Witham the very best opportunities to thrive in a safe environment."

Nick Emery, Head of Development and Investment at Essex County FA, said: "Grassroots football plays a vital role in strengthening local communities, and developments like this expand access to playing opportunities, helping more people to enjoy the many benefits of the game. We were delighted to work closely with Braintree District Council to deliver this 3G AGP as part of a wider portfolio of projects across the district. It will make a significant difference to the thriving grassroots football community of Witham, and the surrounding areas."

Robert Sullivan, Chief Executive of the Football Foundation, said: "The Football Foundation is working closely with our partners – the Premier League, The FA and Government – to transform the quality of grassroots facilities in England by delivering projects like this across the country. Good quality playing facilities have a transformative impact on physical and mental health and play an important role in bringing people together and strengthening local communities. We're delighted that the local community in Witham will now be able to enjoy all these benefits thanks to the new facilities at Lift New Rickstones."

People can book the pitch online by visiting www.schoolhire.co.uk/witham/newrickstones.

www.braintree.gov.uk

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Upcoming fixtures at Braintree Town FC

Get these dates in your diary and support The Irons this autumn!

As the Club moves towards becoming a cashless stadium, ALL matchday prices for tickets bought online remain unchanged. However, there is an increase to matchday admission for adults that choose to pay by cash or card in person - which will increase to £22 - to cover the increasing costs associated with banking cash. However, the matchday prices paid by cash for OAPs (at £15), Under 18s (at £10) and Under 12s (at £5) remain unchanged.

A full list of fixtures including updates and results from previous games can be found at www.braintreeownfc.org.uk/results.html.

All information correct at time of print, please check online or with the team before travelling.



DATE	OPPOSITION	VENUE
Saturday 11th Oct	TBA (FAC4Q)	AWAY
Saturday 18th Oct	Solihull Moors	AWAY
Tuesday 21st Oct	WEST BROMWICH A (NLCUP3)	HOME
Saturday 25th Oct	Altrincham	HOME
Saturday 1st Nov	(Date of FAC1)	AWAY
Wednesday 5th Nov	Brackley Town	HOME
Saturday 8th Nov	Wealdstone	AWAY
Saturday 15th Nov	Truro City	HOME
Saturday 22nd Nov	Scunthorpe United	AWAY
Tuesday 25th Nov	WOLVERHAMPTON W (NLCUP4)	HOME
Saturday 29th Nov	Morecambe	HOME
Saturday 6th Dec	FC Halifax Town (Or FAC2)	AWAY
Saturday 13th Dec	TBA (FAT3)	AWAY
Saturday 20th Dec	Hartlepool United	HOME
Friday 26th Dec	Southend United	HOME
Tuesday 30th Dec	Woking	AWAY





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