

Spring Newsletter 2026



Chair's Corner
Website details
What does CCA actually do?
Banking Details
Subscriptions
Planning
Health Walk
Advertise your local Trade
Quiz corner

The Committee would like to invite you to the

CCA's AGM 20th May 2026 at 7.45pm

At the Windhill Churches Centre, Windhill.

We hope to invite your local Cllrs along to answer any questions you may have.

Light refreshments will be served before the start of the meeting.

Chair's Corner

I am delighted to report that at long last we have finally got our Website up and running, alongside a Facebook Page. This is all thanks to our new Cttee Members Frazer Clark and Lisa Pini who were very keen to get us in to new style communications with you. (See more contact details further on). I would like to extend my thanks to another newcomer Sue Piper who has taken on the role of Minute Taking for our Meetings. Unfortunately we do have a downside though the Cttee were very disappointed with the response we had to the request for donations last September. We had not collected for 3 years , but by now our funds have depleted somewhat. As reported in last year's letter the Cttee decided to try and make it easier for our collectors not to have to knock on doors by setting up arrangements with our Bank for

you to pay direct to them. I have to say the response was poor, we received just about enough to cover this year's costs (details will be given by our Treasurer at the AGM on the 20th May 2026). If we continue like this, this Association will probably fold within the next two years which would be rather sad as it has been going since 1976. We have been asked in the past what is the point of the CCA. Our Treasurer has written in the following item a summary of what the CCA is about. The Cttee felt it might useful to you all to know what we are trying to achieve. Also hopefully for new people to our area to join. There is a reminder of our Bank Details at the end of Richard's item as well as on the Website and Facebook. We are continuing to try raising funds by offering to Advertise your local Trade in this newsletter please look at the Web site for details. The Cttee are

Visit our website at chantrycommunityassociation.org.uk
Or email us on: info@chantrycommunityassociation.org.uk

looking forward to hopefully meeting some of you at the AGM on May 20th at the Windhill Centre, Windhill. and to join us in a glass of wine before the short meeting starts. Last year's meeting proved to be very interesting with our local Cllrs listening and answering your varied questions. So do please put the date in your diaries.

Anthea Wyatt

Website Details

We are thrilled to announce that our new website is officially live at <https://chantrycommunityassociation.org.uk/> to explore a cleaner, faster, and more user-friendly experience designed to serve you better. We will be publishing local news, updates and pictures from the Chantry area. Please let us know your thoughts on the website and if you have anything you would like to add and suggestions you would like via info@chantrycommunityassociation.org.uk

So what does the Chantry Community Association (CCA) actually do?

Over 50 years ago, the Chantry Community Association (CCA) was formed with three main objectives:

- 1. To represent the interests of its members**
- 2. To present residents' views to the appropriate authorities on matters affecting the general welfare of the community**
- 3. To preserve, maintain and improve local amenities**

These objectives remain the same today. But how does the CCA achieve them, and what does it actually do?

With over 1,600 households in the CCA area, one of our key roles is keeping residents informed about developments affecting the community. Traditionally this has been done through twice-yearly newsletters delivered to every household. More recently,

communication has been expanded through our Facebook page and website. The committee meets every two months to review local developments and determine how best to respond on behalf of residents. We also work to ensure households have ways to raise concerns or suggestions, including contacting the relevant local authorities and advocating for residents when issues arise.

Recent activities have included:

- Supporting the installation of new road crossings (for example on Rye Street)
- Helping update street and parking signage
- Promoting the Herts Connected initiative
- Advising residents about Stansted Airport set-down changes
- Challenging issues such as parking on pavements An ongoing priority is to monitor planning applications within the area, particularly those that may have a detrimental impact on the neighbourhood.

Each year we also hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM). This provides an opportunity for residents to meet one another and to ask questions directly to local councillors from the Town, District and County councils.

In addition, we now offer local businesses the opportunity to promote their services through our communication channels.

We encourage voluntary donations, currently suggested at £3 per year, to support our work. These funds help cover the costs of newsletters, AGM meetings, insurance, and our contribution to the Stortford Civic Federation. This Federation works to improve the town's environment, open spaces and overall quality of enjoyment of these spaces for residents. It acts as a focal point for the town's community and residents' associations when responding to development opportunities and pressures. Anthea Wyatt represents the CCA as a

Trustee of this Federation and attends its meetings on behalf of our Chantry Community Association

Richard Barrett

Bank Details

Account Name : Chantry Community Association

Sort Code : 60 02 36

Account No: 67922759

Reference: First line of your address

Subscriptions

As has been mentioned in the treasurer's report, we did not receive enough money last autumn to cover our costs. We obviously still have reserves but need to address how we collect donations. In the past, donations have mainly been collected door to door when the deliverers bring the newsletter. We have a great band of deliverers but many of them are not prepared to do this, so we are hoping that bank transfer will provide an easier way for everyone. We shall be asking for donations in the autumn. At present we have 34 deliverers and we are very grateful for their help. We are missing a deliverer for Meadowlands and I would be grateful to hear if anyone would be prepared to do this small round.

Susan Haddock

Planning

There has been a lull in planning applications since Christmas.

Regarding other local projects, the River Stort Restoration at Grange Paddocks continues. Phase 1: the Feasibility Study and Phase 2: the Detailed Design are being completed for section of the river upstream of the weir to enhance the habitat for water voles. Phase 3: Construction will involve gradually lowering the weir by cutting another notch in March and another in June which will widen the previous notch ahead of the full removal of the weir in September. Pre-planted coir rolls will be installed in a

small number of areas to provide a gutter between the riverbank, and the coir rolls to protect against riverbank erosion and provide a natural habitat for water voles, birds and insects.

Margaret Fitch

Health Walks

I was reminded about Hertfordshire Health Walks (HHW) recently and decided to sign up. I'm familiar with the Town Park and the area and frequently walk the paths but always on my own so this could be a different experience. It's very easy and straightforward to sign up via the council website but you can always turn up for a walk a little early and sign up with the guide, you only need to sign up once. There are various setting off points around the town to choose from and the walks are graded 1 – 5 depending on how much of a challenge you're up for and any age can join in. There's always a leader and another HHW volunteer walking at the back of the group and the walk is at a pace that will suit everyone. I chose the Town Park walk on Fridays, the easier of the two (Grade 1) setting off from the car park at 11am with a slightly longer walk starting at midday. What a lovely way to spend 45 minutes or so. A small friendly and welcoming group, keeping to the footpaths, the halfway point of the circular walk at Grange Paddocks (with loos available should you need) and then finishing back at the car park where close by is the Terrace Café for refreshments if you choose. It's lovely to see how well used and enjoyed the park is. The route is quite flat with no steps so easy for buggies or wheelchairs.

On our route we chat about everything and nothing, exchange greetings with other walkers and their dogs and enjoy seeing nature springing into life after winter. I'm now a regular and I've made it a weekly event for me.

Sue Piper

Footpath Grailands – Westfield Road

In February this path adjoining the school playing field was given a fine tarmac surface which makes it a pleasure to use. Some residents find that the ramp at the Grailands end is rather steep and difficult for the elderly or disabled to manage. One or two are considering or have made a request to the council for installation of a handrail alongside the ramp on the open side. If you are of a like mind it is easy to contact HCC online

at <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/contact-us/contact-highways.aspx#> or by phone on 0300 123 4047.

Herts Connected

For regular alerts from Neighbourhood Watch and Police, sign up to Herts Connected at <https://hertsconnected.co.uk/> This system replaced the Online Watch Link ("OWL") two years ago.

Richard Owen

Advertise your local trade – support the Chantry Community Association

The CCA is looking to raise funds to help cover the running costs of our **website** and **newsletter**. To do this, we're offering local **independent tradespeople** the chance to **sponsor the CCA** by advertising their services to the local community.

For **£100 per year** (payable up front), you'll receive a **3-line advert** in our newsletter, delivered to **every household** in the Chantry area **twice a year**.

Your advert feature on our **Facebook group** and **CCA website**.

Important: The CCA will not be liable for any services provided, nor will we be recommending any advertiser. All

advertisers will be vetted to ensure they are genuine tradespeople offering real services. References from at least **two completed** jobs will be required.

Chantry Quiz Corner

Question in Autumn 2025 Newsletter

Where in our area will be the site of the first blue plaques planned by the local History Society?

Answer. The sign, the first of ten planned by the history society, will commemorate the birthplace of Sir Walter Gilbey (1831-1914). The history society told the council: "He was a wine and spirit merchant, a horse breeder and philanthropist who contributed greatly to the development of Bishop's Stortford. "He was born at 11 Windhill and it has been agreed to celebrate his achievements by installing a blue plaque on the exterior of this property."

Question for Spring 2026 Newsletter. What activities were carried out in recent decades at the Northgate End building which is now a barber's shop? Answer in Autumn 2026 Newsletter

Richard Owen

Committee Members

Office	Holder	Telephone
Chair	Anthea Wyatt	655251
Newsletter/ Donations	Susan Haddock	
Membership Secretary	Sue Piper	
Treasurer	Richard Barrett	07881951854
Committee Members	Margaret Fitch Gary Jones Sue&Dave Loney Frazer Clark Lisa Pini	655084 07734 036403