

Autumn Newsletter 2026



Chair's Corner
Facebook
Treasurer's Report
Is 20 Plenty?
Planning
Newsletter Delivery
Advertise your local Trade
Quiz corner

Chair's Corner

I do hope you all enjoyed your summer despite the heat spikes, and that those of you that have gardens haven't lost too many plants due to the drought. I am very impressed how the Council workers have managed to keep the flowers so well along the Causeway in town they have made a lovely show.

We had a reasonably successful AGM in May with several of our Councillors in attendance to answer questions from the attending residents though the numbers of members were rather disappointingly low. It appeared that the main concerns in our area are the state of our roads i.e. potholes, the number of diversions and traffic build ups leading to numerous delays and frustration especially around school times. Blocked drains were another issue raised especially in Chantry Road We have followed up this issue with our Cllrs, who have spoken to Highways Dept and have reported that work has been scheduled to be done for in Sept. We live in hope!

Our Treasurer, Richard, has been very proactive in researching into ways of saving costs but as you will see in his report we still need to collect donations this Sept. to keep our heads above water for the future. Lisa has been busy maintaining our Facebook page but would like to have more feedback from residents. Margaret and Mick have also been checking up on the numerous Planning Applications for our area and sending in comments to the Planning Office should they be needed. We are hopefully being successful with the revamping of our Website with Frazer's expertise but again we would appreciate more input from residents. I would just like to thank the Cttee and Richard Owen for their help and support for producing this Newsletter and their continued work to keep the Committee running smoothly. My thanks also to our loyal newsletter distributors.

Anthea Wyatt.

Join the Chantry Community Association on Facebook!

In addition to the upcoming and revamped website, the Chantry Community Association (CCA) now has an official **Facebook page** – a place to keep up to date with local news, events, and issues that matter to our community. The FB page will run in alignment with content on the website. We'd love for you to:

1. **Follow the page** for updates.
2. **Share it** with your friends and neighbours so we can reach as many residents as possible.

Search for "**Chantry Community Association**" on Facebook.

Opening Up for Discussion – Volunteers Needed!

Up to now, our Facebook page has been a one-way channel for information only. This was to protect it from spam, scams, and unsuitable comments. However, we know many residents would like the opportunity to **comment, ask questions, and discuss local matters online** – and we want to make that happen. To do so, we need **volunteer moderators and admins** to help keep the page a safe, friendly, and respectful space for all. If you can spare a small amount of time each week,

- Are confident using Facebook, and
- Care about fostering positive community engagement,

...then we'd love to hear from you.

Please message us via Facebook or email info@chantrycommunityassociation.org.uk if you'd like to volunteer. The more moderators we have, the quicker we can open up the page for community discussion.

Let's make the CCA Facebook page a hub for useful information, friendly conversation, and community spirit.

Treasurer's Report

A very big 'Thank You' to everyone who has donated to the CCA over the last few months.

We started the financial year in April with not a little concern about the state of our bank

Balance which had been treading water for some time and the Association facing rising costs. However, the introduction of our ability to accept donations directly to our bank

together with a new PayPal link on our website and the continued acceptance by some of our deliverers has meant that donations totalled just over £ 1,800. We are particularly grateful to one resident who wishes to remain anonymous and who supported our work with an exceptionally generous sum.

Our expenditure has been just over £390.00 with printing, insurance and administrative costs being the main items.

Looking ahead we anticipate rising costs associated with our communications and further development of our website so if you can help suggested amounts to donate are from £3.00 to £5.00 but of course any amounts are most welcome.

Richard Barrett

NatWest Bank Details

Account Name: Chantry Community Association

Sort Code: 60 02 36

Account No: 67922759

Reference: First line of your address

Is 20 Plenty? – please let us have your views

Over recent months, many Chantry residents have voiced concerns about vehicle speeds on Rye Street and Hadham Road — two of the main roads leading in and out of the town centre. These are busy routes used not only by motorists, but also by pedestrians, schoolchildren, cyclists, and bus passengers. At peak times, crossing and cycling can be daunting, and for those living along these roads, noise and vibration are also daily issues.

One proposal being discussed is to campaign for a **20mph speed limit** on these key stretches, as part of the national **"20 is Plenty"** initiative. While 20mph limits have traditionally been applied to residential side streets, more and more UK towns are extending them to key urban corridors where people live, shop, walk, and cycle.

Why consider 20mph here?

- **Safety for all road users:** Department for Transport data shows that a person hit at 20mph has a much higher survival rate than at 30mph (97% vs 80%). Slower speeds also mean shorter stopping distances.
- **Reducing collisions:** In Portsmouth and Edinburgh, introducing 20mph limits on main roads as well as residential streets led to a noticeable fall in casualties.
- **Supporting active travel:** Lower speeds make walking and cycling feel safer, encouraging people to choose these options for short trips.
- **Legal context:** Under the *Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984*, councils can introduce lower limits where they improve road safety or quality of life. In *R v. Bannister* [2009] EWCA Crim 1571, the courts reaffirmed that drivers must drive at a safe speed for the conditions, even if that's below the posted limit

Please see the Facebook page for more detailed information

Your input matters!

Before any campaign is launched, we need to understand whether local people support a 20mph limit for *Rye Street* and *Hadham Road*.

Would you back a "20 is Plenty" campaign for these roads? Please share your views, questions, or concerns with **the committee by email**

info@chantrycommunityassociation.org.uk or **responding on the Facebook page**. This will help us decide whether to take the idea forward to Hertfordshire County Council for consideration.

Planning

There do not seem to have been many building applications this spring and summer.

The other main local project is the weir and included is the Environment Agency program for the removal of the weir. Details below:-

Over the coming months, we will be delivering the largest phase of works undertaken so far, including removal of the weir, targeted riverbank improvements and the creation of a tiered riverside terrace adjacent to the weir's current location.

What's happening next?

24th August Site set-up, ecological checks and environmental protection measures commence.

From 2nd September Removal of the remainder of the weir begins, followed by the creation of a new tiered riverside terrace adjacent to the former structure.

September – October As operations around the weir are completed and reopened, works will progress upstream with riverbank restoration and the installation of new habitat features.

November Construction complete and the River Stort begins its next chapter.

Key Construction Phases

- 1 24th August Site Preparation
- 2 2nd September Weir Removal
- 3 September Terrace Creation
- 4 October Bank Protection
- 5 November Habitat work/ Completion

Footpath Grailands - Westfield Road

In the Spring Edition we included a brief note about the resurfaced footway adjoining the school playing field. The suggestion made then about having a handrail alongside the ramp at the Grailands end of the path was taken up by your committee and with support by Cllr Swainston using her locality budget there was a successful outcome. The new rail installed during July has made a positive difference for those who find the ramp rather steep.

Margaret Fitch

Newsletter delivery

Firstly, I would like to express my thanks to the team of people who deliver the newsletters.

We are very grateful for their support.

A few years ago we asked our membership how many would be happy to only receive it electronically and received very little positive response. We therefore continue to deliver a paper copy to about 1600 households. Most delivery rounds comprise 20 - 40 houses and there are two newsletters a year. If there is anyone out there who would be able to do a round I should be very grateful to hear from you.

Susan Haddock

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**.

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

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

See how well you know the Chantry area. The answer will be given in the Spring 2027 Newsletter.

Question:

Where in Rye Street is there an old milestone and what is unusual about the distance shown?

Answer to the Spring newsletter 2026 question:

What activities were carried out in recent decades at the Northgate End building which is now a barber's shop?

Before the premises became a barber's shop an ironing business traded on the ground floor under the name of The Ironing Maiden. Previously a sub post office was there for many years, as evidenced by the painted sign which remains over the entrance. A report from the *News Shopper* website which is shown below indicates that the sub post office closed some time in 2003.

Post office facing closure

19th March 2003

The Northgate End post office in Bishop's Stortford could be closed by the summer under

a new national modernisation programme.

The Post Office feels Bishop's Stortford has too many outlets competing for too little business, and increased running costs and concerns about future income have meant some of the town's sub-postmasters no longer have viable businesses.

Northgate End sub-postmaster Mike Talbot, who has run the branch for 19 years, said: "Unfortunately we're losing customers, and changes to the way benefits, allowances and pensions are paid will mean we will lose even more. I volunteered to take closure because it's no longer a viable proposition. I also get the chance to take early retirement. Of course the closure will cause an inconvenience to some people, but by and large I think most of my customers respect my decision."

It is hoped shutting his branch will help secure and improve the long-term prospects of other branches in the town, including those in South Street and Hockerill Street.

<https://www.newsshopper.co.uk/news/6259017.post-office-facing-closure/>

Richard Owen

Committee Members

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