

## November Report for Parish Councils regarding Essex County Council - Cllr Penny Channer, Maldon Division, ECC.

Essex County Council's (ECC) flagship property development was officially unveiled on 24 October 2018.

Goldlay Square, a 32 unit development in Chelmsford, is part of a wider £42 million project to help tackle Essex's housing shortage.

The development was the site of ECC's former library headquarters before it became surplus to requirements in 2015. It is now an exceptional residential development that offers much needed housing. The development has recently been shortlisted in the 'Inside Housing Development Awards 2018' for the 'Best Development (under 70 units) Award'.

Comprising of 23 apartments for private sale and 9 affordable units, the site consists of three buildings which face onto a central garden area incorporating artwork from renowned artist Les Bicknell.

The completion of Goldlay Square represents a real milestone in our mission to tackle the county's housing shortage."

It is an exceptional development, built on surplus brownfield land at the heart of the city. With the launch of these homes, Essex Housing have not only created much needed housing, they have transformed a previously underutilised site.

Essex Housing was set up to help tackle the housing shortage by redeveloping surplus buildings and land at risk of lying empty and drifting into disrepair. The council recognises the importance housing plays in enabling a broad range of positive outcomes for the residents of Essex.

Working with local councils and other public sector bodies like the NHS, ECC is spending £42 million to speed up the supply of much-needed housing.

The innovative approach by Essex Housing is attracting significant interest nationally. It is already bringing forward a total of 605 homes on

a range of sites across the county, 266 of which already have planning permission secured.

The in house developer has recently started work on 26 new homes at Moulsham Lodge in Chelmsford and has just completed 6 affordable units which will be sold to a registered provider, in Norton Road, Brentwood.

Meanwhile, feasibility studies are complete or underway for another 27 potential development sites.

[Superfast Essex and Girlguiding Anglia have launched a challenge badge which aims to inspire young people to help older relatives and friends do more online and be more confident with digital tasks and applications.](#)

The Super Sam Digital Challenge Badge, fronted by the Essex County Council broadband programme's mascot Super Sam, is open to all Essex members of Girlguiding Anglia to complete between now and 31st January 2019.

To achieve the Super Sam Digital Challenge Badge, members of Rainbows (age five to seven years), Brownies (age seven to 10 years), Guides (age 10 to 14 years) and Rangers (age 14 to 18 years), from within the three Essex county regions of Girlguiding Anglia (Essex North East, Essex South East and Essex West) must complete a selection of compulsory tasks followed by other age appropriate digital tasks.

It is one of a number of initiatives being supported by Superfast Essex and Essex County Council to help encourage people to do more digitally and raise awareness of the possibilities of what can be achieved online as public and private services are increasingly being transformed to digital platforms.

One of these is the Essex-wide Digital Boomers initiative which is aiming to help older people in Essex live more independently with the help of digital applications and assistive technology so that by 2021, older people in Essex are the most tech confident in the world.

As superfast broadband coverage is increasing across the county, driven by the Superfast Essex programme's subsidised rollout, Essex

County Council wants to encourage the county's residents to subscribe to the upgraded internet services and benefit from the opportunities offered by faster connectivity.

We want to make sure people make the most of the new infrastructure we are building and also help to highlight the opportunities and capabilities that come with digital access.

As public and consumer services are increasingly becoming digitised it is important we don't leave anyone behind and help now to avoid social isolation due to lack of digital skills or confidence.

A selection of Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers from across the region came together with their parents, grandparents and great grandparents at Chelmsford Library at to mark the launch of the badge and start the challenge.

It gives the young members the opportunity to take part in an important project to support older people to go digital. Digital partnerships like this may also encourage girls to develop new technology skills which inspire them into STEM careers such as computer programming or engineering

All Girlguides who complete Super Sam's Digital Challenge Badge will receive a badge for their achievement.

To find out more about Super Sam and the Digital Challenge Badge visit: [www.superfastessex.org/supersam](http://www.superfastessex.org/supersam) and view the Digital Challenge pack on the Girlguiding Anglia website.

## [Essex Record Office December Talks](#)

Bookings for the December Essex History talks on the Port of London are now open!

### [The history of the Port of London](#)

[Speaker: Peter Stone](#)

In the 1930s London was the largest port in the world, with ships connecting every part of the globe. A third of the nation's trade passed through London's docks and riverside wharves. Despite enemy bombing

during the Second World War and much destruction, a new peak was reached in the 1960s. Yet, as Peter Stone explains in his recently-published book 'The History of the Port of London', within two decades most of the port lay idle. In this talk the author will take us through a brief history of the port, from the Romans to the modern Docklands. Copies of Peter's book will be for sale (cash only), which he will be happy to sign.

[Please book in advance then pay the £3 admission fee on the door.](#)

[Tuesday 4 December, 10.30am-12.00noon](#)

[Tuesday 11 December, 10.30am-12.00noon](#)

Bookings can be made via the [Essex Record Events Website](#).

## [Essex Libraries News](#)

Reading Ideas

Book of the Month

[The Taxidermist's Daughter](#) by [Kate Mosse](#)

A gripping gothic novel from the bestselling author of *The Labyrinth*, this atmospheric thriller is a real page-turner. Set in Sussex in 1912, the mysterious estuary marshes are the scene of some grisly murders.

You can go on the website to reserve a copy or watch the trailer.

## [Coming Home](#)

As the end of the war arrives in 1918 the exhausted troops look forward to life back home, but what sort of welcome awaits them and how will they adapt to civilian life? Have a look at our First World War inspired reads.

## [Amazing Women](#)

It's been 100 years since the actions of the Suffragettes gave at least some women the right to vote. Celebrate their achievements and those of other amazing women with our recommended reads for children.

[Theory Test Pro](#) - If you or anyone in your family is preparing for their driving test, did you know that you can practise for the theory part of the test in the library or at home? Theory Test Pro is free and easy to use. The sample questions are all set out just like the test so when you do the real thing you'll know what to expect!

### [Sensory Walls](#)

Have you discovered our Sensory Walls yet? If not watch the short video to find out more. Sensory walls have a range of benefits and can appeal to children of all ages. As well as being great fun they're ideal for improving fine and large motor skills, encouraging communication and can also support children and adults with specific needs, such as learning disabilities or sensory impairment.

Find our walls at Basildon, Chelmsford, Loughton and Colchester libraries and check out our website for details of Sensory Wall events.

### [Family History](#)

Calling fans of the popular BBC series 'Who Do You Think You Are?'. Get started on researching your own family history with the easy to use websites Ancestry and Find My Past. They're free to use in any Essex library.

### [Crafty Christmas Preparations](#)

Enjoy some quality "you time" and relax by flicking through a craft magazine. Or get ahead and make some Christmas cards or decorations. Remember, all e-magazines are free with membership of Essex Libraries.

### [Essex Trading Standards \(ETS\)](#)

Essex Trading Standards has licenced over 200 premises for the sale of fireworks for this year's season.

Unless they are licenced for all year round selling, retailers are permitted to sell fireworks from 15th October until 10th November, on the day of

Diwali, the 26th to the 31st December, Chinese New Year and the 3 days immediately after.

Essex Trading Standards continued resource into this area is largely to ensure that retailers manage the risk associated with fireworks in terms of storage and sale.

In terms of storage there are very strict requirements and in the weeks leading up to the main selling period officers visited 100% of new licence applications as well as those where ETS have had cause to issue non-compliance notices to in previous years. ETS have responded to complaints and monitored social media for reports in particular areas of young people using fireworks for ASB and that helps ETS direct the inspections to the right areas.

In terms of ensuring a robust approach around restricting the sale of fireworks to under 18's – ETS do carry out a series of test purchases every year and can report that ETS have had 100% compliance in the areas tested this year.

## Allergens

ETS Officers have been delivering some excellent training to food businesses across Essex during October and November.

The training aim is to assist and support food businesses with allergen labelling and controls within the workplace

The workshops have covered:

Legal requirements

Practical solutions for providing consumer information

Producing and delivering allergen safe food

We've received very positive feedback, so if you know a food business that you think might benefit from this workshop, then please advise them to register an interest for any future training by emailing [trading.standards@essex.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@essex.gov.uk)

## Rogue Trader Warning!

Trading Standards has been receiving increased intelligence reports from consumers being approached by cold callers pointing out that there are tiles missing from their roofs.

Upon inspection they are shown tiles lying in the garden to support this and it appears that in some cases residents are recalling noises during the night where we suspect these individuals may have been climbing onto people's roofs and damaging them in order to engage the resident with offers of remedial work.

This is extremely concerning and in the first instance any disturbance at the property followed up by cold calls of this nature must be reported to Essex Police on 101 - Do not engage with these traders at the door, further advice and guidance can be gained by calling the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 03454 040506. If rectification work is required then go on strict recommendation or use Buy With Confidence

### [Celebrating our county's diversity](#)

It's Inter Faith Week (11 -18 November 2018) and we're celebrating the ways in which people around the county are working to increase inter faith understanding and cooperation.

Inter Faith Week encourages new initiatives and shines a light on the major contribution that faith communities make to society through volunteering and social action programmes.

The Week also offers a high-profile platform to speak out against hate crime and prejudice and to highlight the powerful message that we 'stand together' as people of all faiths and none, united in our commitment to a just and harmonious society, rooted in values that we share.

### [Join an Essex Inter Faith event near you](#)

Events will be taking place across Essex between 11-18 November to mark Inter Faith Week, involving faith communities, inter faith organisations, public agencies and local authorities, youth organisations, schools, higher and further education institutions, chaplaincies, sports clubs, businesses, charities and many more.

Registered activities are listed at [www.interfaithweek.org/map](http://www.interfaithweek.org/map) and include a quiz and curry night by Anglia Ruskin University and Chelmsford Cathedral, Village Friends get together in [Tollesbury](#), Believing in Communities workshop in Braintree, A Code of Honour Exhibition in Basildon, as well as debates, talks, open days and community walks.

The Week is a fantastic opportunity for people of all faiths and beliefs to mix and learn; visit places of worship; get past stereotypes and misunderstandings and increase religious literacy; celebrate; and volunteer together to help your local community.