

## ESSEX VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2017 IS ANNOUNCED!



Essex Villages have been celebrated in the annual Essex Village of the Year competition organised by Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE). The competition is sponsored by Essex & Suffolk Water and Inkpen Downie Architecture & Design Ltd and supported by Essex Life.

The winners were announced at RCCE's AGM on Wednesday 5th July at Chelmsford City Racecourse. The RCCE had a fantastic response, with 37 villages putting themselves forward to be judged. The calibre of applicants were particularly high, with most having a variety of events and facilities for their residents and communities. The eventual overall winner was declared as **Terling** which is in the Braintree District. In second place is **Earls Colne** (Braintree District) followed by **Wickham St Pauls** (Braintree District) and **Berden** (Uttlesford District).

The winner receives £500 and the Essex and Suffolk Water Shield with other winners receiving £200, £100 and £50 respectively. The focus of the competition is on the work of communities and the efforts of local people to strengthen and sustain community life.

Please [click here](#) for the full article

[Click here](#) to view the full list of winners of the Essex Village of the Year and Best Kept Churchyard competitions.

## SHOPPERS 'IN THE DARK' ABOUT BREXIT EFFECT



UK shoppers are "completely in the dark" about the effect Brexit will have on their weekly shop, a former Sainsbury's boss has told BBC Panorama.

Justin King, who ran the supermarket for a decade, said the "last thing" any current supermarket boss would reveal was their intention to put up prices. But he added it was "very clear" shoppers would face "higher prices, less choice and poorer quality". The main supermarkets declined to speak to BBC Panorama.

Mr King, who ran Sainsbury's until 2014, said: "Brexit, almost in whatever version it is, will introduce barriers.

"That makes it less efficient which means all three of those benefits - prices, quality and choice - go backwards."

Food and farming combined are the UK's biggest manufacturing sector and the EU is involved all along the chain - from what grows in British fields to the labels in shops. Ex-Sainsbury's boss warns Brexit will impact our weekly shop. The EU also guarantees free trade across the continent and Mr King - who supported Remain - said this frictionless movement kept food prices down.

Mr King, who has said the weaker pound will push up prices, added that EU membership helped retailers find the best suppliers and markets throughout Europe. He also said the EU had driven up standards and enabled the UK to get out-of-season vegetables all year round.

But manufacturing boss and Leave campaigner John Mills believes the EU keeps prices artificially high for the shopper. He said: "Food prices inside the EU vary from food product to food product, but the average is something like 20% higher than they are in the rest of the world - so there is very substantial scope for food prices coming down if we switch sources of supply outside the EU."

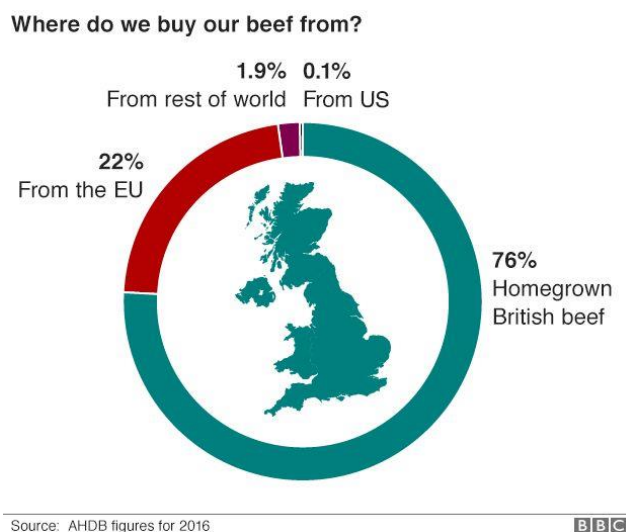
Mr Mills, chairman of consumer goods firm JML, said cheaper prices may not mean lower standards.

He said: "The reason why food prices are higher inside the EU is because they have got tariffs which keep the prices up. "It's not anything to do with quality - it's due to the institutional arrangements which means the food prices are kept much higher to increase farmers' incomes."

'Scared of imports' - Some British farmers fear that a bad Brexit deal - which does not protect them - could drive them out of business.

John Davies, a livestock farmer from Powys in Wales, told Panorama: "I'm really scared of imports - produced to completely different standards [with] hormones, you know, feedlot beef, you know - we're based on green and pleasant land, high environmental standards. We really are proud of that."

Feedlots - places where cattle are fattened for slaughter - are common in the US, which is the world's largest beef producer. It supplies one fifth of the beef eaten around the world.



But in the UK, less than 1% of the fresh and frozen beef bought last year came from the US, according to the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB). Possibly the most controversial difference in livestock farming either side of the Atlantic is the American use of growth hormones, which is banned in the EU.

The UK is largely self-sufficient when it comes to beef - with home-grown British beef accounting for 76% of purchases last year. Brexit could change that.

To continue reading BBC News report please [click here](#)

Source BBC News article 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017

## RURAL CRIME UPDATE



As we look across the many Barley and Wheat fields in Essex we can see how golden they are turning. Whilst we have enjoyed the lovely weather that has contributed to this we also need to bear in mind that a couple of rural problems follow the upcoming harvest. One of these problems is 'Hare Coursing'.

Hare Coursing is an activity that was outlawed by the Hunting Act in 2004. It involves dogs chasing a Hare and the dog owners betting on the outcome. Not only is this sport a cruel wildlife crime, it also involves damage to gates, fences, crops and sometimes is accompanied by threats to farmers, their families and employees. Whilst Hare Coursing is a national problem, it is more prevalent here in East Anglia due to our flat arable land. We, and neighbouring forces, run an operation to tackle Hare Coursing called 'Operation Galileo'. This operation targets those involved in the activity and engages with those in rural areas to ask for their help in reporting such offences. You are our eyes and ears so we need you to help us. Sir Robert Peel, former Prime Minister and founder of the modern Police Service, once said "The police are the public and the public are the police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence". That still remains true today.



*Next month I will talk about another problem that follows the harvest – 'Nighthawking'*

If you wish to discuss this or any other Rural crime concerns please feel free to contact me on 101 ext 435003 or by email [Andrew.long@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Andrew.long@essex.pnn.police.uk) or on Twitter @PcAndyLong. If you want to report crime dial 101 or in an emergency 999.

## STOP SIDELINING RURAL ISSUES, MINISTERS TOLD

Urgent action is needed to tackle the impact of austerity on local services, a coalition of 12 national organisations has warned. Unless the government acts, rural areas risk becoming enclaves of the affluent, said the Rural Coalition. The coalition – which includes the Rural Services Network – is urging ministers to 'up their rural proofing game' on Brexit and other key public policy areas. It says the government must deliver a fairer deal for the over nine million people in danger of being 'left behind' in rural areas. The coalition issued the warning in the form of a statement identifying the key principles, policies and actions which it says the government must apply to secure a 'living, working countryside'. Coalition chairman Margaret Clark said: "The government must recognise that rural England is not just about farming and the environment."

Ministers should address the very real challenges facing those who live and work in our smaller towns and villages, she added. "For too long, rural people and businesses have been left behind and sidelined in the national political debate. "It is time for government departments to up their rural proofing game to achieve a Brexit deal and domestic policy agenda that works for rural communities."

[Click here](#) for full article

## DO YOU LIVE IN A RURAL AREA?



Rural England are keen to find out what the key issues are that matter to people in rural areas. Supported by the Rural Services Network (RSN), Rural England have commissioned a short survey with CCRI. RSN are fighting for a fair deal for rural communities to maintain their social and economic viability for the benefit of the nation as a whole. Rural England is a Community Interest Company whose mission is to build the strength and resilience of rural England by helping to inform and engender better rural policy making. Their core activities are independent research, networking and information exchange, it is vitally important to hear your opinions and experience of life in rural England so that we can start to shape a new agenda for the countryside.

To complete the survey please [click here](#)

## ARTS COUNCIL'S 'AMBITIOUS' RURAL INVESTMENT



Rural communities will benefit from a share of £170m invested by Arts Council England outside London between 2018 and 2022. Over the next four years, the council will invest on average an annual £50.1m in 142 organisations based in rural areas. It says the move will strengthen the cultural sector in rural England. The funding will narrow the gap in funding between urban and rural areas. It will increase the council's investment in its National Portfolio Organisations based in rural areas by 12% – compared to an 11% increase for the portfolio as a whole.

The national portfolio includes organisations across England of all sizes and scales, with museums and libraries coming into the portfolio for the first time. Describing it as an ambitious investment, the council said the funding would offer art and culture to more people and more places than ever before.

Arts Council England chairman Sir Nicholas Serota said: “Everyone deserves the chance to experience the sheer enjoyment, creativity and new horizons that culture can bring.

“We set out to deliver a significant increase in our investment outside London. We’ve done that, without detriment to the internationally renowned cultural offer of the capital.

“Alongside continuing support for our great national companies, we’ve funded inventive, pioneering arts organisations and a new range of museums across the country. “We’ve also included libraries producing high quality cultural programmes.

“Working together these organisations will inspire a broader range of young people and audiences across England than ever before.”

To read the full article please [click here](#)

## QUEEN'S SPEECH 'MUST DELIVER RURAL HOMES'



CAMPAIGNERS are calling on the government to "unlock" land to provide more affordable rural homes. The Hastoe Group, which owns and manages over 7,500 homes across southern England, wants ministers to bring forward a Housing Bill to boost the number of homes in rural communities. It made the plea ahead of the Queen's Speech on Wednesday (21 June). Hastoe Group chief executive Sue Chalkley said: "Government must use this opportunity to empower rural communities to build more homes and ensure the continued sustainability of their communities.

"This may mean incentivising rural landowners to bring forward more land through simplifying the interplay of taxes when land is made available for affordable housing, but it should also be coupled with support for landowners as they work with their local communities. Hastoe says years of experience have shown that the most successful developments are those conceived and delivered in close consultation with the local community. It says these sorts of homes produced are a source of pride to all involved.

Full article please [click here](#)

## 'FIRST CLASS' FARM AT THAXTED SETS STANDARD AFTER BECOMING CONSERVATION DEMONSTRATION SITE



LEAF Integrated Farm Management (IFM) manager Alice Midmer said: "E W Davies Farms Ltd was selected as a LEAF Demonstration Farm for its adherence and commitment to the principles of Integrated Farm Management. The farm is an excellent example of how to combine commercial farming with sensitive landscape and nature conservation and showcasing the benefits of IFM to farmers, consumers and industry audiences."

LEAF chairman Stephen Fell, who also attended the launch added: "Our industry has much to be proud of. For over 25 years, LEAF's nationwide network of Demonstration Farms has been leading the way in promoting best practice in sustainable farming to other farmers as well as bridging the gap between farmers and the public.

"E W Davies Farms Ltd deserve their place amongst them. They are first class examples of how the principles of IFM can be implemented and play an important role in not only inspiring others in the food and farming industry, but helping to raise awareness amongst the public about sustainable food production."

For the full article please [click here](#)

## ESSEX COUNTY HARVEST FESTIVAL



**Chelmsford Cathedral      1st October 2017      11.15am**

At this year's Harvest Festival donations of hand-tools are welcome for:  
Tools With A Mission (TWAM)

TWAM produces trade kits for vocational training centres and community workshops around the world. They have a team of volunteers who collect and refurbish tools. The charity distributes the tools to projects that aim to transform lives and communities.

Tools for the following trades will be welcomed on the day:

Blacksmiths, builders, carpenters, dress-makers, electricians, gardeners, masons, painters and decorators, plumbers and mechanics.

For further details please contact Revd Janet Nicholls, Rural Adviser and Agricultural Chaplain

[jnicholls@chelmsford.anglican.org](mailto:jnicholls@chelmsford.anglican.org)



## FULL ERP FUTURE MEETING DATES 2017

**Date:** Monday 25th September 2017

**Time:** 2pm – 5pm

**Location:** Essex Young Farmers Conference Centre, Whitbreads Farm Lane, Chelmsford CM3 3LQ



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