

News & Views

July 2025

Issue No. 121

Toot Hill Village Show – 2 August 12pm

The traditional country show is back on 2 August and there is fun for everyone this year, including your dog! The Little Nippers Terrier Race invites you to bring your own dogs to have a go at the obstacle course and there's also a chance of a rosette at the Dog Show. There's plenty of entertainment on offer with a falconry display, ferret racing, craft tent, classic cars and much more. It's also time to work on your entries for the Toot Hill Show. The competition marquee is open to everyone, no need to be local. This is your chance to show off all those handicrafts you have been working on over the winter and wow the judges with your gardening prowess or baking skills. There are lots of classes for children of all ages to enter – plenty to keep them busy with arts and handicrafts. The full schedule of classes is now on the new look website, so start planning what to enter now! Don't forget there are lots of other opportunities to participate – with craft and exhibitors stalls still up for grabs. For all the show details visit www.toothillshow.co.uk - Gates open 12pm.

CLASSIC CARS

Admire beautifully preserved vintage & classic cars showcased by proud owners from across the region

MARKET STALLS

Browse handcrafted goods, local produce, and unique gifts from a diverse range of quality vendors

COMPETITIONS

Test your skills in the horticulture competitions from vegetable growing to baking & crafts

DOG SHOW

Bring your four-legged friends to participate in the fun dog show with categories for all breeds & sizes.

LITTLE NIPPERS RACING



BBQ & FOOD

Savor delicious food from our BBQ & various stalls offering tasty country treats.

ANIMAL SHOWS

High-Speed Hounds & Soaring Raptors, Action-Packed Racing & Falconry Thrills at the Toot Hill Show!

RIDGESIDE FALCONRY



Adults £4 & Children £3
free parking for all visitors

Is There A Need For New Homes For Local People?

Many of you know that if your growing children want to move out and buy a home in either Stanford Rivers or Toot Hill, or if you yourself are looking to downsize but want to stay in the parish, it is simply impossible as you are priced out of the market. We are conducting a survey to find out if there is a need for an alternative type of housing in the parish – housing which remains in perpetuity for people with a strong local connection, whether through family or employment. **Rural Affordable Housing** is provided in rural parishes for local people, who would otherwise be unable to find an affordable place to live locally through the general housing market. Included with this edition of News and Views is a short survey which we are asking every household in the Parish to complete. We have teamed up with the Rural Community Council of Essex who are running the survey, which comes with a pre-paid envelope, and all information remains **entirely confidential** with the RCCE. Alternatively you can complete the survey online (full details are included in the covering letter). The survey will enable the RCCE to determine if a Rural Affordable Housing scheme is needed in the Parish, and if so how many homes are required. It will provide valuable evidence to show that as a Parish we have taken steps to determine our own future, and help support local people who want to *stay local*.

PLEASE DO COMPLETE AND RETURN THE SURVEY



Dear Resident,

Affordable housing for local people in Stanford Rivers

It is widely recognised that people living in rural communities often face real challenges when trying to find a home of their own in the village where they grew up or work. That's why the Rural Housing Enabler from the Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) works with parish councils, local authorities, housing associations, and local residents to understand housing needs and support people in staying close to their families, jobs, and schools.

Stanford Rivers Parish Council has partnered with RCCE to carry out a Housing Needs Survey to determine whether there is a need for alternative housing within the parish. This is particularly relevant for those looking to take their first step onto the housing ladder or those wishing to who have had to move away due to a lack of suitable housing but would like to return. Please find free to share the survey with anyone it may apply to.

All personal information will remain confidential to RCCE. Only anonymised, aggregated results will be shared with the Parish Council.

What is Affordable Housing?

The government defines affordable housing as homes for sale or rent provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the open market. This survey aims to identify whether there are people in the village—or with a strong local connection—who are in need of such housing.



Changes To Recycling Bins

Hopefully by now, each household in the Parish would have received their new blue-lidded recycling bin. But this isn't the only change residents will see. From April 2026, Epping Forest District Council (EFDC) is expected to introduce a waste collection service that collects food and garden waste separately, with residents having to pay an annual subscription if they wish for their garden waste to continue to be collected. Epping Forest is the only Essex local authority that does not collect food and garden waste separately, and has stated that it can no longer financially support a free garden waste collection. In addition, by 31 March 2026 all local authorities must offer weekly food waste collections, with EFDC stating that these changes will enable them to reduce, reuse, and recycle more of the waste, ensuring it can maintain and appropriately manage its statutory duties around domestic waste collection, including the changes required by 'Simpler Recycling'. Whilst EFDC is not prohibited from continuing with a joint collection, the cost of doing so is becoming increasingly more expensive as it falls on the local authority to ensure that co-collection does not compromise the quality of recycling or treatment processes, and using expensive anaerobic digestion facilities that can process both food and garden waste together. EFDC is not legally obligated to collect garden waste free of charge, with the current legislation enabling the Council to apply a charge for collection. Whilst the actual charge is still to be agreed, it is expected to be around £60 per year, and with an estimated 40% take up in the service, this will create an additional income of £1,104,000 per year. So what does this mean for residents, and what can you put in each bin:

Blue Bin – June 2025



Items that can be recycled in the blue-lidded bin are the same materials that went in your clear recycling sack and blue box:

- Glass bottles and jars – lids can be kept on
- Food tins and drink cans
- Clean paper, card and shredded paper
- Plastic household bottles, food trays, containers and tubs
- Aluminium foil and foil containers
- Aerosol cans
- Tetra Paks™ and other food cartons

The blue bin is collected once a fortnight. If you have cardboard that is too large to fit in your recycling sack, flat pack it and place it next to your recycling sacks. No polystyrene or plastic packaging should be in these boxes when packed flat. Placing your recycling items loose in the bin, rather than in bags, allows for more items to fit in. A 240 litre wheeled bin will take the equivalent of up to 6 recycling sacks as long as the materials are loose and plastic bottles and tins are crushed down. If you keep ending up with more recycling than you can get into your bin, let EFDC know after September and they will give you a larger bin.

Food Caddies – possibly Apr 2026



Items that are *expected* to be included in your food waste caddy include:

- fruit and vegetable peelings
- cooked and uncooked food
- meat and bones
- plate scrapings and leftovers
- eggshells
- teabags and coffee grounds
- dead house plants / flowers
- food stained paper and card such as pizza boxes and fish & chip paper

Waste will be collected once per week.

Things that you cannot put in your food waste caddy include:

- dry recycling, non-recycling, plastic / degradable bags, garden waste, glass, tin cans and foil.

Garden Waste Only – possibly Apr 2026



It is *expected* that from April 2026, garden waste will only be collected if you have paid an annual fee for collection. Things that it is expected you will be able to put in your garden waste bin include:

- Hedge cuttings
- Grass clippings
- Leaves
- Plants, flowers and weeds
- Prunings and twigs
- Dead houseplants
- Small branches up to 3 inches/7cm in diameter
- Shrub cuttings

To read the full report about the proposals, visit the EFDC website at www.Eppingforestdc.gov.uk, and view the agenda for the 21st July 2025 cabinet meeting. We will continue to keep you updated with any agreements reached by EFDC.

So Many Solar Farms

As reported in the last edition, Epping Forest District Council recently granted permission for a Solar Farm covering 26.4 hectares of what is currently open agricultural land at Nickerlands along Berwick Lane. Since this time, another application has been received for a solar farm on two large fields to the east of Tawney Common, both of which are in arable use and total approximately 38 hectares in size. Whilst this site is outside our Parish, it lies just on the border in the Parish of Stapleford Tawney, with both solar farms abutting one another as can be seen from the rough drawing below. The planning application for the new Thrift Solar Farm (EPF/1216/25) is for a "solar Farm (30MW) and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (30MW) with ancillary infrastructure including access, landscape and ecology improvements." Whilst the need for renewable energy is understood, there have been 9 such farms proposed in our District in the last few years, some approved, some refused, some withdrawn, some still to be decided, and one the subject of a planning challenge. Whatever your view, what is clear is that the location of these farms must be right, and should not cause any detriment to residents in the locality in which it is set. Some of the main concerns regarding the location of these two farms are the impact the construction traffic will have on the rural roads, the impact on the countryside / green belt, and taking so much agricultural land out of use for over 40 years. In the Government's publication entitled "Solar Roadmap", they indicate they *'do not believe that increased solar deployment poses a threat to food security'*, however this is contradicted by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England's statement on Solar Energy dated 2022 which states the *"location of choice for solar developments has become valuable farmland, ignoring the 250,000 hectares of south-facing commercial roof space (enough to meet half the UK's electricity demand)"*. Whilst not in our parish, the Parish Council has still written to EFDC to express its serious concerns at the proposed routing of the construction traffic for Thrift Solar Farm, namely coming off the A113, up Church Road, School Road, onto Epping Road, then onto Tawney Lane. These rural roads are simply not designed for two 16.5m articulated lorries to safely pass each other, which will undoubtedly cause damage to the verges, ditches, and the road surface itself. Full details of the application can be found by googling **EPF/1216/25**, and looking at the proposals.



Any Local Carpenters Out There?



The Parish Council is looking for someone to create and install a bespoke village sign on Jubilee Green, Stanford Rivers, similar to the one in this picture. Are you a local carpenter and think you might be able to create such a sign? Or do you know a carpenter or company with the necessary skills? If so, please do get in touch. The main purpose of the sign is to give a visual indication to drivers along the A113 that they are travelling through a village, and should ensure they are not travelling above the maximum speed limit, but it will also help to create a sense of community and pride in both Hare Street and Little End. If you think you may be able to help, please contact the Parish Clerk on clerk@stanfordrivers-pc.gov.uk

Brazen Fly Tip, Toot Hill Road

Yet again, the Parish has been the subject of some brazen fly tipping in Toot Hill Road, just near the Village Hall. Thanks to the power of social media, CCTV was obtained of the culprit, full details of which have been sent to the Local Authority for investigation. Fly-tipping is the illegal dumping of waste, and whilst EFDC do not clear fly-tipping from private land, they ask that you report all fly-tipping incidents regardless of what land it is on, so they can investigate who is responsible. You can do this by calling 01992 564000, and letting them know the date, time and place, the type and size of the fly-tip, and if possible a description of the person and the registration and description of the vehicle. They also suggest that if you see somebody in the act, you do not approach them as they may react badly to being challenged. Also, do not touch the waste or open containers as they may contain hazardous material. You can also report fly tipping online by visiting www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk, and clicking on the Report It link.



Celebrating VE Day

On 8th May, members of the Parish Community joined together to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day, which included light refreshments on Sharps Green Toot Hill, poignant music and commentary, and finally the lighting of the beacon. The event was very well attended after perhaps a slow start, with ECC Cllr McIvor giving a short address before the community joined the nation in singing 'I vow to Thee, my Country'. 15th August marks Victory in Japan and the official end of the war (VJ Day), and whilst the Parish won't be holding any specific event, the Royal British Legion, in partnership with the Government, will hold a National Commemorative Event at the National Memorial Arboretum which will be broadcast live on BBC.



Average Speed Cameras On The A113 London Road

Essex County Council has announced that as part of the A113 Safer Roads Scheme there are plans to implement an average speed limit along the stretch of the A113 between Ongar and Abridge, along with changes to the speed limit itself. The A113 is a strategic 18km of A-road which links Greater London / Woodford Bridge to Chigwell, Abridge, Stapleford Tawney and Little End where it then terminates at Marden Ash meeting the A128 at Chipping Ongar. The road is near to the M11 and is a key road for commuters. The road runs solely through the Epping Forest District and has a key function in the Essex Road Hierarchy listed as a PR1 (Priority 1 Road). The Department for Transport (DfT) identifies the 50 most dangerous stretches of road in England on an annual basis through the Road Safety Foundation, with the A113 being one of the stretches of roads identified. Improvements are then targeted with funding through the DfT Safer Roads Fund. The scheme involves the implementation of an average speed camera system to encourage compliance with existing and new, proposed speed limits. The aim of the A113 Safer Roads Scheme is to provide a safer road environment for all road users through consistent, compliant user speeds throughout both the urban and rural environments. The visual aspect of the highway will be altered, thereby bringing about a change in terms of how road users perceive, interact and travel along the A113. The proposed scheme is expected to result in significant reductions in fatal and serious collisions. The current design is at preliminary design stage which is subject to the ongoing legal orders processes for the proposed speed limit changes and Traffic Regulation Orders, environmental assessments and statutory undertakers' electrical connections to cameras. From the plans that have been published, the average speed limit stretch would start just as you exit Ongar driving towards Little End, with the speed of that particular section of A113 being reduced to 50MPH. The 30MPH limit would remain in place between Bridge Farm and 147 London Road as currently, but would then be 50MPH from that point through to # Bridge. Based on the published information, the average speed limit checks would be in place through both the 50MPH and 30MPH zones, including through Stanford Rivers. The published timescale suggests that Essex County Council is currently at their 'Engagement' phase, which will be followed by a 'Detailed Design' phase between September 2025 and Winter 2026, with the Traffic Regulation Order coming into effect Winter 2026. The date for the tender award and construction works for the average speed check system is still to be confirmed. For further details, including preliminary maps and design which show exactly how this will work, visit www.essexhighways.org/a113-safer-roads-scheme





Your main NHW coordinator is
John Adams
Tel 01277 362194

Summer Safety Tips

If you are lucky enough to be going away this summer, you may want to think about protecting your home. Our advice is to think **WIDEN** - run through this quick checklist before you go away or leave your home. If you have all these covered, then you'll have the best possible protection against burglary. The acronym stands for:

W – windows – Are they shut and locked?

I - interior – Put your interior lights on a timer

D - doors – Are the closed and locked / deadlocked?

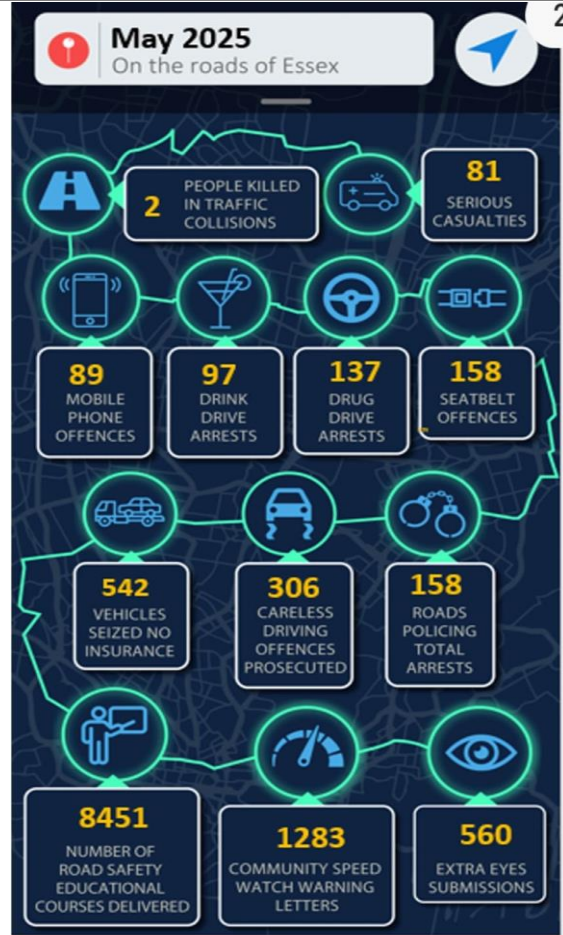
E – exterior – Put your exterior lights on sensor / hide ladders, etc

N – Neighbours – Ask them to keep an eye out

Prevention is always best. Don't let a crime ruin your well-earned break. We know it can be busy, and sometimes stressful, trying to get ready to go away, but it really is worth taking the time to keep your home secure. For more information, visit

www.ourwatch.org.uk/burglary-WIDEN

If you haven't already joined our Facebook Group, visit www.facebook.com/groups/stanforddriversneighbourhoodwatch and request to join. Or email JA@stanforddrivers-pc.gov.uk with your name and mobile number to be added to the Stanford Rivers Neighbourhood Watch WhatsApp Group.



Planning In My Village

Following a recent major planning application in Toot Hill for 10 homes, a number of residents have expressed concern that they were not made aware of the proposals, and without social media they would have had no idea what was being suggested. It is the responsibility of the Local Planning Authority – LPA (Epping Forest District Council) under the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 to publicise planning applications, however how this is done depends on the type of application. For major developments (10 or more homes), EFDC must:

- Display a site notice near the land for at least 21 days
- Publish a notice in a local newspaper circulating in the area
- Publish details on the council's planning website, including site address and description, deadline for public comments, how and where to inspect the application, and how to submit representations

For minor applications (typically developments involving fewer than 10 homes or small-scale changes) the legal publicity requirements are slightly less extensive. The LPA must choose **one** of the following methods:

- Site notice displayed near the land for at least 21 days
- Notification to adjoining owners or occupiers (usually by letter)

In addition, LPA must publish the application on their planning website. While not legally required, many councils will also send notification letters to adjoining owners or occupiers regardless of the application, and include details of the application on their weekly planning list which is published on the District Councils website. However, residents should not rely on this method of communication as it is not a statutory requirement. The Parish Council has agreed that it will publish on its Facebook Page and Website every Friday afternoon details of any planning applications for this parish, i.e. covering Toot Hill and Stanford Rivers. It is hoped this will help with raising public awareness.

Hire Toot Hill Village Hall

The hall is available to hire for Parties – Weddings – Community Events – Social Occasions

To find out more, and view the hall fees, visit

www.stanforddrivers-pc.gov.uk

Or contact clerk@stanforddrivers-pc.gov.uk

Or phone 077 377 36365



Reach & Wash

Window Cleaning Specialists Patio Power Washing & Repointing



t: 01277 330098

m: 07932 015963

Local Government Reform / Devolution

We reported in the last edition of News and Views about future changes to how local Government will run, including Devolution (the transfer of powers and funding from UK government to local authority level) and Local Government Reform (simpler council structures making it clear who is responsible for services). As a reminder, final proposals for how the local authorities in Essex are going to be structured must be sent to Government by 26 September 2025, with the timelines that follows being:

- Mayoral Elections in May 2026
- Shadow Unitary elections in May 2027
- New Unitary Councils going live in 2028

Essex County Council has revealed the map of its preferred three brand-new unitary councils which would replace the 15 current local authorities across Greater Essex. This would mean the abolition of all the existing councils, and instead there being three unitary authorities as follows:

1. South Essex Unitary: Southend, Rochford, Castle Point, Basildon, Thurrock
2. **Central Essex Unitary: Chelmsford, Brentwood, Epping Forest, Harlow, Maldon**
3. North Essex Unitary: Colchester, Tendring, Braintree, Uttlesford

Each new council would take full control of local services, including everything from schools and roads, to social care and bin collections. The move is designed to simplify governance, save money and deliver better outcomes for residents. The recommendation by Essex County Council follows months of detailed analysis, with the council working alongside partners to explore multiple options. The proposal will be published in full later this summer. It is based on evidence, financial modelling and the Government's criteria for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). Essex County Council Councillor Kevin Bentley, said: "We've painstakingly weighed up the options and have concluded this model delivers the best



possible value and outcomes for Essex. Three councils offers the simplicity, strength, and stability our great county is crying out for and which the status quo does not offer. It is also 100% based on solid evidence. If Greater Essex is to achieve its full potential, and be a place where communities and the economy can thrive, I firmly believe it is the best available option." The recommendation will now be included in a formal business case.

But what does this mean for local people? There are differing opinions as to benefits of these changes on local residents – changes which will undoubtedly widen the gap between residents on the ground and those who make the decisions, and the issue of staff and councillors who have no knowledge of the Epping Forest District making decisions about its future. All that is clear is that the future is uncertain. The proposed three Unitary model will be submitted to government by 26 September 2025. If you want to keep updated with proposals, visit www.essex.gov.uk/about-council/plans-and-strategies/our-vision-essex

Scam Warning Parking Fines

EFDC has been made aware of a scam asking residents to pay parking penalty charge notices (PCN) via a text message. The message looks genuine and includes references to the Government website GOV.UK. Epping Forest District Council **does not send text messages about parking fines** to residents. Parking fines are issued by civil enforcement officers via a PCN on the vehicle dashboard, or by post to the address of the vehicle's registered keeper.

If a message makes you suspicious....**STOP!**

- ! Don't click on any links, or use any numbers or addresses in the message
- ! Contact the organisation directly - Go online and use the details on their official website
- ! Report the suspicious message to Action Fraud - Call 0300 123 2040 or report it www.actionfraud.police.uk/
- ! Go with your gut - If something feels off, it probably is. You can hang up, delete, or walk away from a suspicious situation
- ! Never share personal information - be cautious about sharing personal or financial information. Legitimate organisations will never ask for sensitive information through unsolicited communications



Adult Programme

Walking Football

FREE



- Adults 45+
- Every Tuesday
- 11.30am – 12.30pm
- Town Mead Football Pitches, Waltham Abbey EN9 1JH
- 07789 372196 kmurray@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

A slow paced version of the beautiful game, aimed at getting players back into the sport.

Let's Get Together

FREE



- Adults 18+
- Epping, Loughton, Chigwell & Waltham Abbey
- 01992 564226

- Every Monday 10.30am – 12.30pm
- The Cutting Crew Hair Salon, 5 Hill House, Waltham Abbey EN9 3EL
- mpickett@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

- Every Wednesday 9.30am – 11.30am
- The Limes Centre, Limes Avenue, Chigwell IG7 5LP
- rlewis@eppingforestdc.gov.uk or call 07928 511454

- Every Tuesday 2.30pm – 4.30pm
- The Epping Community Hub, Civic Offices, 323 High Street, Epping CM16 4BZ
- kmurray@eppingforestdc.gov.uk or call 07789 372196

- Every Wednesday 12.30pm – 2.30pm
- The Oakwood Hill Community Hub, Longcroft Rise, Loughton IG10 3NB
- clevans@eppingforestdc.gov.uk or call 07763 218593

These free sessions are run by Epping Forest District Council's Community Development and Wellbeing team and are open to the whole community. Come along and get to know others in your local area. Learn a new skill, play a few games or just relax and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat.

NO NEED TO BOOK – JUST TURN UP

Countrycare – Mad about Moths



FREE

- Everyone 5+
- Friday 19 September
- 8.00pm – 10.00pm
- Weald Common, North Weald CM16 6BU (limited parking next to North Weald Village Hall)
- Countrycare 01992 564226 eppingforestdc.bookinglive.com

Local Markets

Thornwood Market, Thornwood Village Hall - 1st Saturday of the month. 9.30am - 1pm

Matching Tye Market, Matching Village Hall - 3rd Saturday of the month 10am - noon

Roydon Market, Roydon Village Hall - 2nd Saturday of the month 9.30am - 1pm

Ongar Farmers and Craft Market, Library Car Park - 1st Sunday of the month 10am – 2pm

Waltham Abbey Craft Market - Waltham Abbey Town Hall - 1st Tues of the month 10am – 2pm

Summer Play in the Park

FREE








 Open to all ages
 Thursday 24 July – Friday 29 August





Play in the Park is an inclusive session and all about playing games and having fun outdoors. No need to book, just drop in at any time. This is a great opportunity for parents and carers to socialize with other families and even bring a picnic whilst the children safely play. The Play in the Park team will bring a range of sports equipment and arts & crafts resources for children and their parents/carers to enjoy together*. The team will be there to help organise activities and games. **All totally free of charge!**
NO NEED TO BOOK – JUST TURN UP. *Children must be accompanied by an adult.

DR BIKE Dr Bike will be in attendance offering FREE bike checks

 Friday 25 July **DR BIKE**
 1.30pm – 3.30pm
 Willingale Cricket Club,
18 The Street, Willingale
CM5 0SJ
 sheet.petty.green

 Monday 28 July **DR BIKE**
 10.00am – 12.00pm
 Shelley Park,
St Peters Avenue,
Ongar CM5 0BT
 parade.trip.wires


 Monday 28 July **DR BIKE**
 1.30pm – 3.30pm
 Abridge Village Hall
Field, 39 Ongar Road,
Abridge RM4 1UH
 clocks.applies.united

 Thurs 31 July **DR BIKE**
 10.00am – 12.00pm
 Memorial Playing Field,
Queens Hall,
North Weald CM16 6EY
 gosh.works.coats

 Thurs 31 July **DR BIKE**
 1.30pm – 3.30pm
 Love Lane Playing Fields
Love Lane, Ongar
CM5 9BL
 names.grand.swim

 Friday 8 August **DR BIKE**
 10.00am – 12.00pm
 Shelley Park,
St Peters Avenue,
Ongar CM5 0BT
 parade.trip.wires

 Friday 8 August **DR BIKE**
 1.30pm – 3.30pm
 Abridge Village Hall
Field, 39 Ongar Road,
Abridge RM4 1UH
 clocks.applies.united

 Friday 22 August
 10.00am – 12.00pm
 Shelley Park,
St Peters Avenue,
Ongar CM5 0BT
 parade.trip.wires

 Thursday 14 August
 1.30pm – 3.30pm
 Love Lane Playing Fields
Love Lane, Ongar
CM5 9BL
 names.grand.swim

Musical in 2 Days – Shrek

£56.00

Fabulous performers required to show off your singing, dancing and acting skills in a mini version of Shrek, the musical. Working with our professional choreographer, you'll recreate scenes and musical numbers to musical theatre tracks from the hit film; then show them to your family and friends in a performance at the end of day two.

To book and pay visit eppingforestdc.bookinglive.com