

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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Campaign for the Homeless. Tickets can be purchased by going to www.jacobsbackpackcampaign.co.uk or contact 07852 516010.

■ **USA:** At the November meeting, members welcomed back the lively plantswoman, Jacqueline A Violet. Her talk was entitled "Botanist or Not?" and we learned that many of the garden varieties mentioned by members were named after the Botanist who first discovered them. Jacqueline ended her talk with an invitation for members to browse the large selection of plants she has propagated. December 7 is the Christmas Big Quiz - entry by ticket only. The first speaker of 2019 will be Bryan Thurlow on January 4, his talk is entitled "We'll Meet Again" the story of a Bethnal Green boy evacuated to an East Anglian Farm at the outbreak of WW2.

Chappel

■ **ART EXHIBITION:** Opening Wednesday to Sunday 10am to 5pm until December 5. Peter Kelly NEAC, RBA Paintings: 'Home and Abroad', Chappel Galleries, Colchester Road, Chappel, Essex CO6 2DE. Call 01206 240326 or visit www.chappelgalleries.co.uk for more information.

Danbury

■ **TREE FESTIVAL:** Danbury Parish Church are holding a Christmas Tree Festival on Saturday, December 8, from 10am to 4pm and Sunday, December 9, from 11.30am to 4pm. Come and meet Father Christmas from 2pm on both days, listen to Christmas stories and take part in some flower arranging and decoration making. Refreshments available. All proceeds to Church Funds.

■ CANDLELIGHT

SERVICE: On Wednesday, November 28, at 7pm, St John the Baptist Church are hosting Light Up A Life with Farleigh Hospice. Refreshments will follow in the church meeting room.

■ NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

Drop-in Sessions in the Old Pavilion will be held on Friday, December 7 from noon to 4pm and Saturday, December 8 from 9am to 2pm.

Galleywood

■ **ART CLUB:** Galleywood Art Club meet every Tuesday at Keene Hall, Watchouse Road, Galleywood, between 12.45 and 3.30pm. Membership (from April, 1) is £40 annually or £15 for an associate membership. For more details call secretary Beth Schluter on 01245 630625.

■ MUSICAL RETIREMENT:

Enjoying your retirement? Play a musical instrument? Love to sing? Then Baddow and Galleywood

Youngster's bid to help others have special time at Christmas

By **JULIA BRIGUI**
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A SCHOOL girl has started a campaign to donate Christmas presents to less fortunate children.

Five-year-old Darcey Strutt, of Burnham-on-Crouch, was inspired after her mum Jade explained what a charity was.

The pair researched some local children's charities and decided to support Kids Inspire in Chelmsford and Brainwave in Witham.

In order to spread the word, Jade has started a social media campaign on Facebook called 'Darcey's Christmas Present Appeal'.

They are asking local people and businesses to donate gifts such as toys, games, puzzles, pencils and gift vouchers.

Kelly, of KJ Graphic Design, has designed a leaflet to promote the campaign and Sutherland Print & Design, in Leigh on Sea, has taken care of the printing.

Jade said: "At the Burnham Carnival this year, Darcey asked why people put the money in the buckets as the floats passed by, I explained that the money was for charity, this was what started the conversation about charity and the idea for this campaign."

Local businesses have been really keen to help, including Dream Beams and Bars, Treetops Pre-School, Argosy Toys, Pure Beauty, Essex Alfresco Cinema.

Treetops Pre-school in Dunkirk Road have also agreed to be a drop-off point for donations. People are asked not to wrap the gifts, as the charities would like to organise them according to age groups and therefore donations of gift wrap, tags and gift boxes are also needed.

Darcey will make her first delivery of gifts to Kids Inspire at the beginning of December.

Sue Bell, founder and CEO of Kids Inspire, said: "I am especially touched to hear about Darcey's pledge to our annual Christmas Appeal, it really is a selfless action for such a young lady and one which



should be celebrated.

"We would love to meet Darcey during the gift drop-offs and would welcome her in with our amazing volunteers to wrap and label some of her donated gifts.

"Our Christmas Appeal is getting bigger year on year and truly does touch the heart strings of so many generous people in Essex.

"We have been delighted by the response we have received so far and welcome the offers of support whether it be gifts, volunteering, hampers or wrapping paper - all is welcome.

Galleywood Heritage Centre from 10am to 4pm. All welcome, family history advice available. Whilst free for members a donation of £3 from non members would be appreciated. Refreshments available from tea room.

10.30am Morning session: Essex in London - Ancestral Research in parts of Essex now within London Boroughs by Eric Probert
2pm Afternoon session: Hylands House in the Great War - by Linda Knock

www.esfh.org.uk for more details or contact honsec@esfh.org

■ **HERITAGE CENTRE:** On Sunday, November 18 the Galleywood Heritage Centre are holding a free exhibition "Remembering 1918" 10am to 4pm. Kindly sponsored by

"Last year with the support of so many we gifted over 500 children and over 100 families with a hamper, with one social worker saying how 'amazed she was at the response' and 'that the children receiving presents from the campaign wouldn't be getting anything else that year'.

■ For further information about the services offered by Kids Inspire contact christmasappeal@kidsinspire.org.uk

■ If you would like more details about Darcey's appeal, please search 'Darcey's Christmas Present Appeal' on Facebook.

Galleywood Parish Council. This will cover many aspects of the Great War in 1918 including the battles, the Home Front and much more. Display by the Western Front Association, Essex branch and others. Refreshments available from the tea room.

On Tuesday, November 20 The Heritage Centre are hosting a talk "A-Z of Christmas" by Eric Probert. £3 per person, doors open at 1.30 pm talk starts at 2 pm. Refreshments available from tea room.

On Sunday, November 25 the Galleywood Heritage Centre is holding a Christmas Market from 10am to 4 pm. Entry is Free and just £2.50 to visit Father Christmas from 1pm. There will also be crafts and a small hunt the Elf in the garden. If you

YOUR NEWS

We compile Your Community News pages two weeks in advance of publication. If you want to include a future event please make sure you tell us in plenty of time so our readers can come along

USA music performing group may interest you. Members prepare small ensemble items, rehearsing in each other's homes, then perform them at meetings. They are a very friendly and encouraging group, aiming to improve as they go along. Their main aim is to enjoy making music with

like-minded people. If you feel able to perform with and to others, at any standard, email: piano.greenwood@bopenworld.com

■ **FAMILY HISTORY:** On Saturday, November 17 the Essex Society For Family History are holding their Chelmsford Group Meeting at