

## Drink-driver charged after Elsenham van crash



A man has been charged with drink-driving and obstructing a police officer in the execution of his duty following an accident in Elsenham on Friday evening (February 7).

Anton Avery, 58, of Hazel End, Farnham, was due to appear at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court on Monday (Feb 10).

A spokeswoman for Essex Police said: "We were called around 5.45pm with reports that a white Vauxhall Vivaro van had left the road, coming to a stop on its side on a nearby golf course.

"Officers attended and the driver was arrested on suspicion of drink-driving. No serious injuries were reported."

Detailing the incident on Essex Police Uttlesford's Facebook page, police said: "Despite the male's continued attempts to get out of the vehicle whilst officers were transporting him to the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow on the M11, professionalism and good teamwork has ensured this male has now received a nice evening stay at one of our finer establishments."

Officers thanked members of the public who stopped to assist them at the scene of the accident.

## Bed in shed application gets rejected

An application to turn a shed which is currently occupied as a house into a two-storey dwelling has baffled councillors.

The scheme to develop a tiny plot of land to the rear of a property in Silver Street was previously granted permission in 2012. Uttlesford District Council had also granted a certificate of lawfulness for the wooden hut to be lived in – a move which parish councillors found extraordinary.

Cllr Ayub Khan likened it to the problem of substandard 'beds in sheds' which had sprung up all over London. "How has this been allowed?" he said.

The council objected on the grounds that it was over-development and failed to meet parking standards.

## Why Spanish help from a dog is far from barking mad...



Fred gets comfy for a Spanish lesson with Year 1 pupils at Stansted's Magna Carta Primary Academy

**A teacher's dog is inspiring pupils at Stansted's Magna Carta Primary Academy to learn – starting with Spanish lessons!**

Fred the therapy dog is attending classes with his owner, Spanish teacher Ann Clausen, as a way of engaging the children in learning.

**The Year 1 students have been speaking to Fred in Spanish and have written him notes to introduce themselves.**

The Jack Russell, aged eight, has had a calming influence on everyone. Headteacher Marios Solomonides said: "Year 1 have been learning about animals, so members of staff and

parents have been bringing their pets in to visit. We've had visits from a chicken, a cat and a dog.

"Their Spanish teacher has a therapy dog who goes into a dementia home to work with residents. We thought it would be a lovely way to encourage children in their lessons.

"Fred brought instant calm to the room; children and adults alike felt instantly calm with him around. He will be coming in regularly to act as a motivator to the children's learning."

■ Pupils are running a Mile a Day with a weekly reward to the child runs the furthest.

# Students plan 'walk-out' over council climate policy

**Hollie Ryder**  
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Students across Uttlesford will walk out of lessons on Friday in a planned 'strike' aimed at putting pressure on the authorities to take tougher action on climate change.

More than 100 young adults are expected to descend on Saffron Walden's Market Square from 12.30pm on Valentine's Day (February 14) as they join in the nationwide 'Strike for Solutions' event.

Sixth formers from Saffron Walden County High, Newport's Joyce Franklin School, Forest Hall School in Stansted, Helena Romanes in Dunmow and Felsted School are all expected to down pens and march

through the town calling upon Uttlesford District Council to rethink its climate crisis strategy.

They believe the authority has dampened down its original plans and are demanding that it reverts to taking a tougher stance as well as pledging to focus on renewable energy projects and committing to a ban on diesel and petrol.

In an open letter to the Indie, the students said: "We will take to the streets in solidarity to support our united appeal that Uttlesford District Council must act upon its declared emergency swiftly and effectively.

"The unobstructive and passive strike will be recognised by many, but unlike various strikes before this one, our community won't suffer the inconvenience of road

**"We will take to the streets in solidarity to support our united appeal that Uttlesford District Council must act upon its declared emergency swiftly and effectively"**

closures or exposure to the negativity surrounding strikes. We aim to demonstrate that peace will make the difference."

They cited the "removal of the environmental road map that would feature clearly defined actions,

timelines, development and costings within defined, costed and clear milestones that would have to be met by December 2020 and maintained until 2023" as an example of the council back-tracking.

A spokesman for Uttlesford said it had declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency in July last year. "The Working Group was set up in August and agreed by cabinet in September and the group is currently developing a new climate strategy and action plan to drive this agenda forward. The Greens are very much part of that group."

Saffron Walden Action on Climate Change is supporting the students. It said: "We have been blown away by the organisation and determination of the students involved."