

Accused of drug dealing

A MAN will appear in court, charged with possessing Class A drugs with intent to supply.

Andrew Burt, 34, of Vicarage Avenue, White Notley, is accused of having crack cocaine and diamorphine in his car when it was stopped in Panfield Lane, Braintree, on May 22.

Burt is also charged with driving his Nissan Micra without a licence or insurance.

He is due to appear at Chelmsford Crown Court on December 12.

Quirky old stuff at fair

A QUIRKY vintage and antique fair is coming to Bures.

This will be the second time the Quirky and Collectable company runs such a fair in the village.

Antique, vintage and refurbished furniture will be on sale, along with vintage handbags, clothes and fabrics, kitchen items and china.

Admission to the event, in Bures Community Centre, Nayland Road, Bures, on Saturday, October 17, will be 50p, with proceeds going to Cancer Research UK.

To see, or not to see...

DRAMA fans have a chance to watch Benedict Cumberbatch starring in the title role of Hamlet when the National Theatre production Shakespeare's greatest tragedy is beamed live into Clacton's Century cinema next week.

The Stage to Screen show starts at 7pm on Thursday, October 15.

Tickets are £11 and available by calling 01255 429850.

Charity lots at auction

ALMOST 300 lots will go under the hammer at a charity auction in Clacton this weekend.

Clacton Lions are staging the event at the United Reformed Church hall, in Carnarvon Road on Saturday from 10am.

Entry is by £1 programme.

A QUIZ evening is being held in aid of Halstead in Bloom. It starts at Halstead Conservative Club, in the High Street, Halstead, on Friday October 16 at 7pm. Entry is £5 per person, with a maximum team size of six.

Councillor claims traffic warden comment set a bad example

Lib Dem: I shopped

Tory rival over tweet

By CHAD NUGENT
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A LIB Dem councillor has been revealed as the person who reported a Tory rival over an "abusive" post on Twitter about parking wardens.

Mile End Tory member Ben Locker is being hauled before the committee which rules on councillors' conduct about a furious tweet he made after his broken-down Triumph Herald was given a parking ticket.

The agenda for the disciplinary hearing has revealed it was fellow Mile End councillor, Lib Dem Dominic Graham who reported Mr Locker for referring to parking wardens as "heartless b*****s".

Mr Graham complained to the council's governance manager Andrew Weavers, claiming the post gave the impression it was acceptable to abuse council staff.



Complaint - Lib Dem councillor Dominic Graham, left and Tory Ben Locker, right

He is effectively encouraging residents to abuse the civil enforcement officers



His email says: "I'm especially unhappy that he is setting the example that publicly abusing council staff is OK."

"He is effectively encouraging residents to abuse the civil enforcement officers. To my mind this sort of behaviour is totally inappropriate for a councillor."

"Our staff receive enough abuse while carrying out their jobs. This will do nothing but worsen their experience."

"Perhaps you could arrange for councillor Locker to be reminded of his responsibilities."

Mr Graham later told the Gazette: "All the council's staff do a brilliant job, but unfortunately those who enforce parking regulations are regularly subjected to unpleasant and unwarranted abuse."

"It is inappropriate for a councillor to criticise any council staff in the manner councillor

Locker did. His tweet was a poor example to set."

Mr Locker has paid a barrister to prepare a case against the complaint, which stresses his tweet was not aimed at any individual.

He argues he did nothing wrong because he was tweeting from a personal account and not in his role as a borough councillor.

The defence statement also says he believes Mr Graham's complaint may have been politically motivated.

The offending tweet, which Mr Locker later deleted, read "Thank you North East Essex Parking Partnership. You heartless, target driver b*****s #Colchester".

He also apologised to county councillor Robert Mitchell, chairman of the parking partnership.

The council's governance committee will rule whether the tweet breached Colchester Council's code of conduct after the hearing, on Tuesday, October 13.

ST TERESA'S NEWEST PUPILS POSE FOR THE CAMERA



THESE are the newest pupils to start at St Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Colchester. An error meant this picture was not included in our First Days at School supplement. We apologise for this.

Heritage tour leader's fears for old sites

COLCHESTER'S many heritage sites are being neglected according to one of the town's historians.

Heritage buff Jess Jephcott says the town has 45 ancient monuments - more than places such as York - yet many are unappreciated and lack proper promotion.

He says neglected sites include the Gosbecks Iron Age site and the site of the town's former

Roman Circus chariot-racing track.

He explained: "We have a tremendous number of scheduled ancient monuments, but the council thinks retail is more important. In places such as York, the town revolves around its heritage, but we don't here."

"Not enough is being done to promote our heritage or bring tourists into the town."

A council spokesman denied this was the case and said a great deal of effort had gone into making the town's heritage accessible to all.

This included Colchester Castle's recent £4.3million revamp and the Fixing the Link project, which will celebrate the history of Colchester along a route between North Station and the High Street.

Borough councillor responsible for culture Tim Young, added: "The huge amount of work which has gone into promoting our heritage recently is testament to the importance we place on celebrating the best our unique past has to offer."

"It is a significant reason why people continue to visit the borough in such significant numbers."