

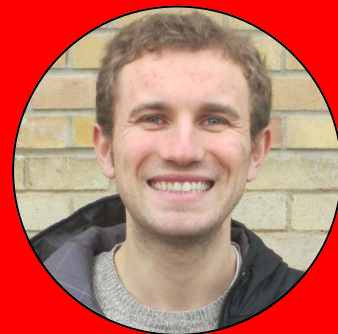


County Council

## Report Back - Castle ward edition 2020

County Councillor **Lee Scordis** reporting back to you

Delivered free by volunteers



Artwork on  
Spurgeon Street

### Thank you all and we will all meet again

As Britain has faced it's greatest crisis since World War Two, we have seen communities come together and amazing acts of kindness. **I want to thank all those who have helped others and all our amazing key workers who have kept the country going.** And thank you to all of you who have made massive sacrifices in your lifestyle. We know many of you have not seen family members for months, while children have been unable to use playparks. Thank you for sticking to the guidance.

In Colchester I have been amazed at how many people have come forward to help. Colchester Foodbank has been inundated with volunteers. Colchester's Anti-Loo Roll Brigade, which started as a Facebook Group, has helped hundreds of vulnerable people. Mo Powell of MunchClub, a scheme to fight holiday hunger, has been feeding 80 families during the crisis, while in New Town, Pepi & Piter who run the Café on the Rec, have been collecting food and donating it weekly to families in need and vulnerable people in isolation, all free of charge.



**Let us never forget** those heroes on the frontline who gave their lives fighting the crisis or trying to keep Britain running. This includes those who bravely came out of retirement to help others, knowing they were putting their lives at risk. Britain has lost nurses, care workers, doctors, bus drivers, cleaners, police officers and many other key workers during this crisis. All of them doing their duty, many of them on low pay.

Arise, Sir Captain Tom Moore, who at the age of 99 raised over £30 million for NHS charities



Local hero, Mo Powell, who runs Colchester MunchClubs.

Mo, despite being in isolation, was feeding over 80 families at the peak of lockdown



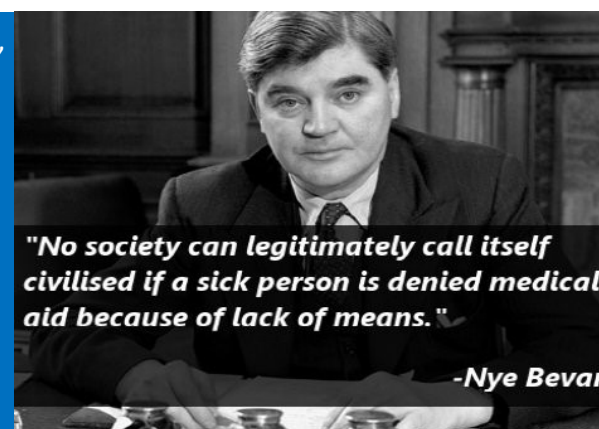
# Our lost heroes

Happy 72<sup>nd</sup>  
Birthday  
to our NHS



This year our NHS is 72 years old, after Nye Bevan, the Labour Health Secretary signed off the plans for a universal health service in 1948. Since then it has helped us all and this year it has stepped up more than ever.

We thank our carers, nurses, doctors, cleaners, ambulance drivers, first responders and all those playing their part.



**Overleaf:** *Alumno, Care homes, Town Centre changes , a new Labour Leader and much more...*

**Labour : Working all year round**



## Petition handed in to stop Alumno development



This July I have handed in a petition with over 700 signatures asking Essex County Council not to remove the covenant on the old bus station. The site currently has planning permission for gated student accommodation (which was refused at Planning Committee but overturned by the government inspector). The covenant on the land states that it should only be lifted to be used for the people of Colchester. A gated community of students does not fit that category. I hope that the leader of Essex County Council considers this decision carefully.

## Labour success on Care Homes

On care homes, our Labour Group met with the cabinet member for social care on this issue with our concerns about the high rate of deaths early on. The NHS was discharging patients into care homes without any form of testing and in Harlow, a care worker died, leaving his child an orphan. The whole scenario was a disgrace.

After Labour intervention, Essex became the first council to commission testing of staff and patients in all care homes.

## Colchester buys back part of the Roman Wall

After working cross-party, Colchester Council has managed to purchase a part of the wall opposite The Octagon, which was previously owned by JCDcaux and was put up for auction. After discussions, the wall was removed from auction and will be sold to Colchester for the original lowest auction price. Cllr Julie Young, Labour Cabinet Member for Heritage and Tourism played a key role in this success.



Colchester for the original lowest auction price. Cllr Julie Young, Labour Cabinet Member for Heritage and Tourism played a key role in this success.

## Town Centre changes during Covid-19



As you will have no doubt seen, Essex County Council has enacted changes across the town centre to enable social distancing. They have closed the High Street to regular traffic and access to and from the Dutch Quarter is now via St Peters Street. These changes have been poorly communicated but the main aim is to look at reducing traffic going through the town centre and increase other modes of transport, primarily walking and cycling. In part of my division I represent New Town, where people still drive in, spending longer in traffic than it would take to walk and paying to park. This is not only bad for congestion but it is bad for the Climate Emergency we all face. I can understand why people locally are upset and I am not happy that I and residents were not consulted on the plans. In fact the plans were so unambitious that Essex Highways lost out on £1 million of funding from government. Fortunately businesses and councillors are now involved in this scheme but we have a long way to go to get this right. There is clearly still more work to do. Please do contact me with improvements and ideas we can move forward with.



## Keir Starmer elected Leader of the Labour Party

Keir Starmer, the former Director of Public Prosecutions, a QC and Human Rights lawyer has been elected leader of the Labour Party.

Keir is the son of a toolmaker and a nurse. His mother, when he was young, was diagnosed with Stills Disease, a disease that slowly shuts down the body. As a young man

he recollects sitting in intensive care many times and seeing nurses save his mother's life more than once. This gave him a passion for social justice. He was the first in his family to go to University (Leeds University) and studied to be a lawyer. He worked tirelessly in the Commonwealth to defend prisoners awaiting the death penalty and helped to abolish the death penalty in many of these countries. He also worked pro-bono for the striking miners in the 80s, on the McLibel case and on the Stephen Lawrence Case. He was knighted for his role in abolishing the death penalty in commonwealth countries.

## Working all year round for the community

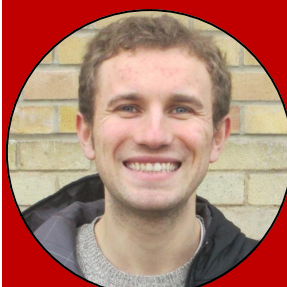


Left to right: Delivering regular food parcels to vulnerable residents, dropping off recycling equipment with stockists closed, collecting donations and cutting back the overgrown hedge on Cowdray Avenue



## Light repaired near Rawstorn Road

After years of lobbying Highways I have finally been able to get this important light between Rawstorn Road and St Albans Rd repaired. The big delay was caused by some of the underground wires being on private property. I am delighted that this streetlight is now repaired to make this alleyway a lot safer.



## How to contact Cllr Lee Scordis

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