

ESSEX CLERKS' ASSOCIATION UPDATE – MAY 2026a

Well, silly me! I missed out some key information about our forthcoming Networking Lunch from our last Newsletter, including the important topic that our Guest Speaker, Pam Langmead, will be explaining. Sorry!!

1. Annual Networking Lunch – our Clerks' Conference

This is a **FINAL REMINDER** that our 2026 Annual Clerks' Conference and Networking Lunch will be held at Little Channels on **TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2026** from 9.30am until after an excellent lunch [which is included].- approx.. 2.00pm.

The focus of the workshop is **“The Clerk’s role in the new Ofsted framework”** *Effective governance is back with a vengeance in the renewed Ofsted framework introduced in November 2025. The workshop focuses on the changes to Ofsted inspection and, in particular, what Clerks can do to support their governing bodies and ensure that they are inspection ready.*

During the session there will be plenty of chance for discussion and sharing good practice – Clerks are asked to bring a set of minutes, to exchange ideas about minuting challenge and how we can demonstrate good governance.

An updated flyer for the day is attached. As always, first come...first served!!

Please use the appropriate link on the [NEW!!] attached flyer to book a place by Friday 22 May 2026 at the very latest. If you have already reserved your place there is no need to take any further action.

2. Annual General Meeting

We had an excellent “virtual” attendance at our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 15 April 2026 when our Annual Accounts for 2025/2026 were presented, and updates to the ECA Constitution approved.

We said a sad – but extremely grateful - “THANK YOU” to our long-serving Secretary, Sue Leek, and also to Iwona Bainbridge-Dyer, who has delivered our Information Updates over recent years. It was reported that we will also need a new Membership Secretary during the year.

Wendy Newton has kindly agreed to take on the role of Secretary as a temporary measure, and we are pleased to report that Pam Langmead will provide our Information Updates.

3. Clerks' Information Updates

Details of future Clerks' Information Updates for the new Academic Year from September 2026 will be circulated later this term.

4. ECA Website

Our website - www.essexclerks.org - appears to be used by many people, but we're always keen to know how useful and easy it is to use, and how effective it is for finding

the documents or information you need – and how we can improve it. Do you have any suggestions for useful documents that you would like to see there?

Please let us know how we can improve the website by contacting our Communications Officer, Angela Fuller on hello@essexclerks.org. Thanks.

5. Essex Clerks' Association

The latest membership of the ECA Executive Committee is shown below. We are all volunteers and are always pleased to welcome “new blood” to the group, particularly as some may be “retiring” soon! Please feel free to contact Wendy Newton, our Secretary, if you wish to volunteer.

Chair & Treasurer	Marion Myers	treasurer@essexclerks.org
Minutes Secretary	Wendy Newton	secretary@essexclerks.org
Membership Secretary	Peter Bates ***	membership@essexclerks.org
Communications Officer	Angela Fuller	hello@essexclerks.org
Members	Lorraine Cross	Laura Patterson
	Charmaine Scott	Emma Simmons
	Carolyn Thomas	
ECA Briefings	Pam Langmead	

*** [standing down]

We are grateful to those schools that subscribe to ECA to enable us to provide support to all Clerks throughout the geographical area of Essex, including free attendance for Clerks at our events. A newly introduced subscription category enables Clerks to subscribe personally to ECA, rather than through a school or Trust.

If you or your schools have not yet subscribed to the Essex Clerks Association for this academic or financial year please check and if you wish to contribute the £15 membership we would be very grateful. This small annual fee allows us to continue to offer our termly briefings and the yearly networking lunch together with our ongoing support for all Clerks. Any questions about subscriptions should be forwarded to Treasurer@essexclerks.org

If you would like to support the work of the Association please let our Treasurer, Marion Myers, know on treasurer@essexclerks.org: the subscription is currently just £15 p.a. per school, with the membership year from 1 April. Please encourage your school(s) to subscribe, so that we can continue to support you in your important role.

Please note: We will no longer accept cheques for subscription payments because of charges being imposed by our bank. We therefore request that all subscriptions are made via bank transfer. If you have any questions or require assistance please contact our Treasurer at treasurer@essexclerks.org

Keep us up to date: If your e-mail address changes or you no longer wish to receive our newsletters please let the Membership Secretary know on membership@essexclerks.org. We don't know, unless you tell us!!

Also: If you know of a Clerk in geographical Essex (including Southend, Thurrock or the London Boroughs bordering Essex and/or have an Essex postcode) who would like to be added to our distribution list; please let our Membership Secretary (Peter Bates) know on membership@essexclerks.org. Thanks!

Don't forget that you can find the latest governance news, plus many useful documents on the ECA website: www.essexclerks.org

Peter Bates - Membership Secretary, Essex Clerks' Association
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