

Visitors plant 2,500 bulbs for loved ones



■ Canon Ivy Crawford and churchwarden Terry Reed, at Broxted Church.

Picture: SUBMITTED

More than 60 people gathered at St Mary's Church in Broxted to plant daffodil bulbs in memory of a loved one.

Visitors were treated to coffee, cake and home-

made soup at the event, held on Saturday, where 2,500 bulbs were planted.

Churchwarden Terry Reed said: "We really had no idea just how many people would come and we

were overwhelmed and were enormously encouraged by the response."

The church is holding a General Knowledge Quiz at Broxted Village Hall on Saturday, November 22.

Elderly population to soar over next 20 years

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The number of elderly people in Uttlesford is forecast to rocket by 162 per cent from 2001 to 2033 – a jump in the population which would create the need for thousands more care home rooms, sheltered housing and other older living accommodation.

It is an issue the leader of Uttlesford District Council (UDC) said the authority had to be "alert" to and was currently putting together a strategy to deal with an additional 6,000 people over the age of 75 living in the district by 2033.

The figures were revealed in a report published by the council. It was part of a wider study which looked at housing requirements for older residents between 2001 and

2033, identifying that an extra 2,500 accommodation places, in the form of extra care, enhanced sheltered, dementia and leasehold scheme for the elderly, could be needed to cope with the growth and people's needs.

But some have reservations about whether this provision will be in place in time.

Chairman of Uttlesford's Health & Wellbeing Board, Professor Peter Fentem, said: "I think Uttlesford has registered the problem, and that leads to plans. The question of will they deliver these plans is a question that can't be answered right now."

UDC has said proposals are already in place to tackle the issue, with care facilities earmarked for building that include a total of 480 beds, and requirements for bungalows suitable for older people to be included in planning applications

for large scale housing.

The council also has about 400 sheltered properties across 16 locations and is currently in the process of redeveloping these facilities as appropriate to bring them up to modern standards.

Leader of UDC Howard Rolfe said: "It is an issue we are aware of and we have to be planning for it. We should remember we are not going to get 6,000 extra elderly people next year, this is over time and a number of them will live at home."

"The number of care home places in Uttlesford will increase substantially over the next five to 10 years. If you look at developments in the area, there are quite a number of schemes to account for future needs. This is one benefit of building houses as the supporting infrastructure goes with it."

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