

## Essex County Council Youth Bus



On three occasions in October, working in partnership with Essex County Council Youth Workers, the Parish Council brought the ECC Youth Bus to Westlake Park, Pound Lane, with a view to engaging with younger members of the Parish.

The Drop – In sessions for teenagers, aged between 13-16 years, were a success and the Council propose to continue the project on alternate Thursdays. The next one will be the 4th December in Westlake Park, Pound Lane behind Wilton's Pet Shop from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Bus gives the young people the opportunity to meet friends, chat, have a coffee, watch videos and play video games and other activities in safety.

### CAN YOU HELP WITH THIS PROJECT?

Volunteers are needed to help support the project. Full training will be given including:

- Free DBS checks
- Health & Safety guidance
- An opportunity to learn new skills
- Safeguarding Training
- Access to a variety of accreditations and awards.

If you are interested in working with young people and are able to give 2-3 hours of your time each fortnight, on a rotational basis, this is an opportunity not to be missed. Please contact: Chris Barlow, The Parish Clerk, on 01268 725236 or Email: [clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com)

## Get rid of your unwanted household rubbish, FREE

Basildon Council's Crunch Service will be in: Westlake Park, Pound Lane on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December. Between 9.00 – 12.00 midday

The "Crunch" is a mobile tip for household waste and will accept all large household waste from domestic premises e.g Furniture, TV and electrical appliances, old carpets but does NOT accept oil, paint, liquids or hazardous materials (such as batteries or asbestos)

## SEE inside who's NEW to the Parish Council

### Where Does Water Go!

The Parish Council has been invited to take part in Essex Flood & Water Project "Where Water Does Water Go?"

The purpose of the project is to map ordinary watercourses such as culverts and ditches to find out where they go. Ordinary watercourses play an important part in reducing local flood risk and are often missing from maps and over time are forgotten. By understanding where they are a better understanding can be gained of the local drainage network. Local knowledge plays a vital part in obtaining this information. The project is running until April 2016.

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

If you are interested and would like to volunteer to take part in this project by walking the local area and identifying on a map where water courses are located contact the Parish Council Clerk on email: [clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com) or Tel: 01268 725236 (M) 07758 255621.

Training sessions will take place towards the end of November and all volunteers will be given information on what the project is about and how to complete the maps.

## Theatre Comes to Bowers Gifford!



The Parish Council has teamed up with the Keepers Daughter a theatrical group of young actors to bring theatre to the Parish. The production is an adaptation of the well-known ~Christmas Carol~ story by Charles Dickens.

The play is aimed at children over 5 years and for families to enjoy a taste of West End theatre.

The production will be held at St Margaret's School, London Road, Bowers Gifford on 16th December. Doors will open at 5.45 p.m. Performance starts at 6.15pm.

Tickets will be on sale from 16th November from the school reception up to the night of the performance or until 12th December by telephoning the Parish Council Clerk on 01268 725236 or by email [clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com).

Tickets cost Adults £3.00 (single) Family £5.00 Children Free. Concessions available.



## Hello !

The Parish Council says **"Hello and Welcome"** to **Matthew Phillips** who joined the Council as a new Councillor in June after only living in the Parish for a year. In his own words this is why he joined the Parish Council

*"I am keen to play a part in ensuring the open and green spaces in the area are protected for future generations to enjoy. Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet needs to be sustainable and attract younger families who will inject revenue into the local economy but this needs careful planning and thought and I hope to play my part in achieving this"*

If you agree with Matt we need more Councillors to achieve these aims and objectives.

The Parish Council has two councillor vacancies could you fill one of them? See enclosed flyer.

## Picnic in the Park

Rain threatened to dampen the Picnic in the Park Event in August but the afternoon was a success for many reasons. The Parish Council were able to thank Veolia Thames Trust, Essex County Council and Basildon Council who between them contributed £80,500 to improve Westlake Park car park, the access road beside Wilton's Pet shop and the installation of the Outdoor Gym in the Park.



Those resident who braved the day and stayed to eat their picnic lunch were entertained by live music from the Phil Ball Band and had a musical afternoon to remember. In 2016 the Parish Council will hold the Picnic in the Park Event again focusing on local bands and singers. We also hope to feature the Phil Ball Band again.

If there are any local bands or singers, out there, who would like to take part in "Picnic in the Park 2016" please email the Parish Council at [clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com)

## Special Achievement Award



At the recent Essex Association of Local Councils Conference and AGM the Parish Council was awarded a Special Achievement Award for their fund raising efforts in raising over £84,000 in 2014/15 to fund projects and community events. The award was presented by Councillor John Jowers, Present of the Essex Association and in addition

the Council also received a £200 cheque from A & J Lighting who sponsored the award.

Picture: Councillor Bernard Foster , Councillor John Jowers ( Centre) and Christine Barlow ( Parish Clerk)



## Bus Shelter Clean

Despite numerous requests to Essex County Council the Parish Council was advised that County Council did not have a contract in place to clean the bus shelters although the shelters belong to them.

Your Councillors, together with two willing residents Sharon Archer and Karen Watts, both of Highlands Road, set about the task of cleaning the village bus shelter in September.



Our picture shows Councillors Smillie , Guenigault and Tyler hard at work.

## WINTER SALT COLLECTION

Once again the Parish Council is taking part in Essex County Council's Winter Salt Scheme. One tonne of salt in 25 kg bags has been given to the Parish Council and is **FREE** to residents in the Parish.

**The Salt is not for personal use.** However , if you would like to volunteer to spread the salt in your road or any road in the village which is not covered by Essex County Council gritters during icy and snowy conditions and you are able bodied to carry out this task **please contact the Parish Clerk, Christine Barlow.**

You will then be able to collect the salt from **245 Pound Lane.** Collection is on a first come first served basis.



# What is the LHP?

by Councillor Bernie Foster

What is the LHP? by Councillor Bernie Foster

As part of the Localism Act in 2011 and following the pre-tenure of diversifying power Essex County Council set up Local Highways Panels (LHP's) in all 12 Essex Council districts in 2012.

Some districts embraced the challenge by establishing a group of County, Local and Parish Councillors fully participating at all levels Basildon Council chose not to do so. Their first meeting in May 2012 was a closed meeting and by the end of that first year despite their remarkable depth of knowledge the allocated budget for small works was underspent and the money went back to County Hall. In 2014/15 this has changed and the budget has been spent.

Currently Highways has a £1million budget and from this £130,000 is taken per District /Borough to cover small works across the County that make a huge difference to the appearance of the area. What it does not cover, however, is road maintenance schemes or parking schemes.

In 2014 I was elected as the Association of Basildon Local Councils observer on the Panel. Although I don't have a vote I can make suggestion and comments and I have taken the opportunity to comment on issues for many Parishes as well as the problems for our Parish at Sadlers Farm, dumping in Old Church Road and the need for a footpath near the bus stop in North Benfleet. As a result, subject to a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) being implemented, £4, 000 has been allocated to install bollards in Old Church Road and the sum of £55,000 has been allotted to install the path in North Benfleet.



# Flooding

Grants to help protect your property against further surface water flooding are now available for residents to apply for. Application can be found on the Essex County Council website: [www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk) or residents can email [Essex@aquobex.com](mailto:Essex@aquobex.com) or contact **0844 798 1261** to find out if you are eligible for a Property Level Protection grant of up to £5,000.

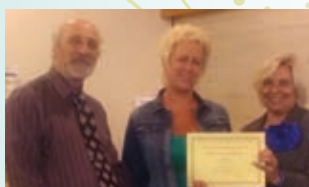
Eligible grant recipients will be residential homeowners who have been flooded internally from ordinary watercourse; groundwater and surface water flooding and can provide demonstrable evidence of the impact of the flooding event.

In 2012 The Parish Council managed to obtain grants of this type for some residents living in Osborne Road. If you feel you might be eligible to obtain funding give Essex County Council a call.

Please report any flooding matters by clicking on to the Essex County Council website Report a Problem [www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk) or calling **03330 136739**.

Your complaint will be redirected to the Flood & Water Management Team who will investigate. You can also report any issues to the Parish Council Clerk who may also be able to help with information. Recently there have been some alleged incidents of landowners, as riparian owners, being responsible for flooding and these matters are being investigated.

## Parish in Bloom



Mrs Karen Watts (centre) the overall winner with Mrs Mo Larkin and Councillor Bernard Foster.

Once again the Parish Council held it's Parish in Bloom Competition in July. Each entry was scored on initial impact, use of colour, overall design and appearance. The entries were of a very high standard and the Judges were Mrs Mo Larkin, Deputy Lieutenant of Essex and Councillor Bernard Foster.



### The results

#### Best Front Garden

- Gold:** Nicola Lander, Highlands Road
- Silver:** Mrs Pauline Meekings, Highlands Road
- Bronze:** Mrs Jean Billington, Highlands Road

#### Best Container/Basket

- Gold:** Mrs Karen Watts, Highlands Road
- Silver:** Mrs Nicola Launder, Highlands Road
- Bronze:** Mrs Pauline Meetings

#### Best Back Garden

- Gold:** Mrs Karen Watts, Highlands Road
- Joint Silver:** Mr John Spooner, Una Road
- Joint Silver:** Mrs Nicola Launder, Highlands Road
- Bronze:** Mrs Sharon Archer, Highlands Road

#### The overall winner was:

Mrs Karen Watts

# Out and About

## Parish Council meetings

Parish Council meetings are held on the last Wednesday in the month except in December. Below are the dates of each forthcoming meeting.

**25<sup>th</sup> November 2015**  
**9<sup>th</sup> December 2015**  
**27<sup>th</sup> January 2016**  
**24<sup>th</sup> February 2016**  
**30<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

All Parish Council meetings are held at The Benbow Club, Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford from 7.30 p.m.

Residents and press are welcome to attend and time is set aside for questions to be asked of your Parish Council.

Your Parish Council endeavours to report issues in connection with many issues including flooding, potholes, pavements, roads and verges but it needs residents to report these issues as well. Together we can make a difference.

### Report issues in connection with

**Pavements, Roads, Potholes:**  
Essex County Council Highways website  
[www.essex.gov.uk](http://www.essex.gov.uk)

**Leaks or Floods:**  
Essex & Suffolk Water  
**0800 526 337**  
[www.eswater.co.uk](http://www.eswater.co.uk)

Basildon Borough Council Streetcare:  
**01268 294949**  
[www.basildon.gov.uk/street-scene-reporting](http://www.basildon.gov.uk/street-scene-reporting)

### Your Councillors

**Robert Smillie (Chairman)** 07790 907113  
[cllr.robertsmillie@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.robertsmillie@gmail.com)  
**Bernie Foster (Vice Chairman)** 07811 838115  
[cllr.bernardfoster@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.bernardfoster@gmail.com)  
**Cllr. Nigel Tyler** 07850 192227  
[cllr.nigeltyler@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.nigeltyler@gmail.com)  
**Cllr. George Guenigault** 07795 981021  
[cllr.georgeguenigault@gmail.com](mailto:cllr.georgeguenigault@gmail.com)  
**Cllr. Matthew Phillips** via Parish Clerk  
[mattphillips@gmail.com](mailto:mattphillips@gmail.com)

### Parish Clerk :

**Christine Barlow** c/o 15 Highlands Road,  
Bowers Gifford, SS13 2HR  
01268 725236 (M) 07758 255621

**The Parish Council is not responsible for the factual content of this newsletter provided by third parties.**

## Christmas Fayre

**St Margaret's School, London Road**  
**26th November 3.00 p.m.**

### Meet Santa in his grotto

Lots of stalls and fun games  
Refreshments and burgers  
Bumper Raffle

All welcome

Parking in The Gun Public House car park - at the far end only.

Please park sensibly

### Pound Lane Mission, Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford. Mondays - Card making Club

All sorts of different card creations and styles.

An afternoon of fun, chatting and making one or two cards maybe!

Every Monday afternoon: 1.45 – 4.00 p.m.

### \*\*\*\*\* Tuesdays – Coffee Morning

Every Tuesday morning : 11.00 -1.00 p.m.  
Drop in for a chat and coffee.

### All Welcome

## Christmas Service

St Margaret's Church, Church Road,  
Bowers Gifford

## Midnight Mass

24<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at 11.30 p.m.

## Quiz Night

Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Residents Association are holding a Quiz Night on 28<sup>th</sup> November at the Benbow Club, Pound Lane 7 pm for a 7.30 start. Tables of 4. Proceeds for the evening go to **PageWoods campaign**

To book a table contact : **0780 804 1825**

**A Christmas Carol**  
**16<sup>th</sup> December 2015**  
St Margaret's School,  
London Road.  
**Performance : 6.15 p.m.**

## Bowers Gifford U3A

Meets in The Benbow Club, Pound Lane on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in the month from 2pm – 4pm

Guest £2.00 including refreshments

Membership is open to all retired and semi-retired people men and women. There is a range of interest groups from local history, book club, creative writing, walking.

## Bits & Bobs

Gifford House Care Home, London Road is looking for old guttering and drain pipes for the little shops they have erected for residents in their grounds. If you have no use for the lengths left over from when carryout any building works they have a use for them.

They are also looking for Wool, Buttons, Artificial Flowers and any unused and unwanted gifts for their raffles.

They would also like to contact any Bridge or Scrabble groups in the area. For further information call Jacqui on 01268-554330 or call into the Care Home on the London Road.

## Missing Signs / New Ones

Are there any missing street plates or worn out ones. The Parish Council would like to hear from you.

Following requests from residents the Parish Council intends to ask Essex County Council for a sign indicating where Westlake Park is.

[derkbgbnparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:derkbgbnparishcouncil@gmail.com)

## Take steps to reunite you with your treasured possessions.

Essex Police have introduced Object ID cards, designed for recording valuables such as medals, heirlooms, memorabilia, art as well as jewellery and other valuable. The card is photographed next to your valuables to provide a handy scale reference as well as a colour chart. The photograph is then used as a record of your personal possessions. The card also offers tips on how to keep your property safe. The photograph can then be used by police to help them trace your possessions. **For more information call Essex Police on 101.**

