

BOWERS BUGLE



Bowers Bugle

Spring 2015

Issue 13

We're on the web – Visit us at- www.essex.info/bgnb-parishcouncil

Parish Clerk 01268 725236 (M) 07758255621 Email: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com

Chairman's Letter

Hi everyone and welcome to the first edition of the Bugle for 2015.

The Parish Council have had a relatively quiet start activity wise to 2015, but that is about to change.



Over the next few months we have the 'Parish in Bloom' competition and I'm looking forward to seeing all the entries. There will be an official opening of the Green 'Outdoor' Gym and the other improvements we made to Westlake Park and its access to enable us to thank the sponsors who provided the funding for the work. This event will also include the placing of a plaque on one of the new benches in memory of Councillor Brian Wall, who died suddenly in 2014. Watch out for the details in the next few months. You will read more about a Neighbour-

hood Plan in this issue. This will certainly provide lots for your Councillors and you to think about, as Basildon still has not got its Strategic Core Plan adopted for development in the Borough and we are at risk of lots of unwanted development. If we, as a Parish can implement a Neighbourhood Plan and get it agreed, we can have a real say in what's going to be built in Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet.

We will also be holding some Councillor Surgery's so your issues can be raised face-to-face with the Parish Council.

Thanks again go to our tireless Parish Clerk, who manages the day-to-day business of the Parish Council and the requests and complaints received from you, as a resident, without her the job would not be finished!

I hope to see you all in the next few months.

Councillor Robert Smillie

INCORRECT LOCALTY ADDRESSES.

A number of address in the Parish have been identified as having their locality incorrectly stated and the Parish Council has received requests from residents to support a consultation undertaken by the post office to correct these inaccuracies. The Parish Council is supporting this request and is also in the process of discussing matters with Basildon Council to correct their records.

If you feel the locality in your address is incorrectly stated please contact the Parish Council Clerk.

BOWERS MARSHES PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

On Sunday 19 July, St Margaret's Church are holding a photography exhibition in the church from 12.00 noon 'til 4.00pm. If you would like to exhibit any of your photographs of the marshes or the birds and beasts that live on them, please contact the church wardens on

helenchapmanpsm@aol.com.

There is no charge to exhibit a photo or to come in on the Sunday afternoon.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
WEDNESDAY 29th APRIL 2015
7.00 – 8.15 p.m

THE BENBOW CLUB, POUND LANE
Open meeting for electors to ask questions of their Parish Councillors

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
will follow at 8.15 p.m.

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY
COULD YOU FIT THE BILL
YES!
TURN TO PAGE 3

MEET YOUR COUNCILLOR

Basildon Council does not have a Local Plan and does not have a published timetable for producing an acceptable Plan. Without a Plan developers could argue the case against refusal to build in an area and overturn planning decisions.

In order to safeguard against large scale development where it is not wanted, your Parish Council is proposing to put together a Neighbourhood Plan.

We intend to consult with residents on these proposals and your Councillors would like to meet with you and hear your views on the matter. Two informal drop-in sessions are planned at:

The Pound Lane Mission, Pound Lane (adjacent to Osborne Road) on:

Wednesday 6th May 7.00 – 9.00 pm
Saturday 9th May 10.30 – 12.30 am

For more information see Page 3

A BIG thank you to all the residents who went out litter picking in the Parish recently.

Flooding

As Lead Local Flood Authority, Essex County Council are responsible for overseeing the management of flooding from surface water and watercourses. Ordinary Watercourses are defined as channels through which water can flow and are not part of the Environment Agency Main River network. They include features such as streams and open ditches and play an important role in flood risk management.

It is essential that watercourses are regularly checked and maintained to maximise their storage capacity and ensure that there are no obstructions that could instigate flooding.

Watercourses are the responsibility of the owner of the land through which they pass, which is termed riparian ownership. Riparian landowners have a duty to keep channels clear and free from obstruction under the Land Drainage Act 1991. Essex County Council have permissive powers under the same Act to take enforcement action against those who do not do so and this is considered using an adopted, risk based Enforcement Policy.



Recent flooding in the plotlands

Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet is highly susceptible to flooding from surface water and Essex County Council have received many reports of problems here. Investigations are currently ongoing to identify the causes, map the local drainage and determine whether any watercourse maintenance works are required.

If you wish to learn more about flooding, drainage and riparian responsibilities, or would like to report a problem, then further information can be found on the Essex County Council Flooding webpage by searching for 'riparian ownership Essex', or by contacting the Flood and Water Management Team at

flooding@essex.gov.uk

Tom Palmer - WRE

Have you been flooded?

If you live in Elm Road or other plot land areas and have been affected by flooding into your property or flooded around your property over the last three years the Parish Council would like to hear from you.

For residents who were affected by flooding internally in 2013/2014 there may be funds available via government grants to help install flood defences in the same way as some residents in Osborne Road were supported in 2012. The closing date for this type of help is July 2015 or before, if funding runs out. Don't delay! Contact the Parish Clerk for more information.

PARISH IN BLOOM 2015



An entry from 2014

The Old Rectory



The Old Rectory, Church Road

"J.A. Phillips Holdings acquired the Old Rectory some time ago. The building, which was used as offices, is no longer suitable for this purpose due to the cost and falling demand for premises of this type and we have carefully considered a number of alternative options for the building. The building itself, since purchase, has been retained in a secure and a well-maintained state.

Permission was granted some time ago for a change of use to a single house. While this remains an option and has not been ruled out, the layout is not particularly suitable for modern living.

The property was considered for listing a few months ago but English Heritage found it to be of insufficient quality to merit listing, due to too many alterations and changes. The historic interest of the Old Rectory has also been reduced with

significant changes to the location and the road pattern around it.

The remnants of a moat, identified as damaged and incomplete in the 1950s by which time a swimming pool had been inserted, have been further degraded in previous ownership with the infilling and burial of the pool. Natural silting and tree growth have continued to disfigure previous landforms.

Permission has been granted for demolition with considerations for re-development, the preferred being for high quality residential units, located generally in the same position as the existing building.

At this stage nothing is fixed and the various options are being evaluated. The use of the property as an entertainment venue for weddings has been reconsidered."

*J.A. Phillips Holdings Limited ,
The Old Rectory, Church Road.*

The Parish Council is again holding its "Parish in Bloom" competition this year. Our first last year was enjoyed by all who took part and by the judges who had the pleasure in judging the competition.

Last year's entries showed what a lot of keen gardeners we have in the Parish and we hoped this year's entries will be just as good.

Entry is **FREE** and the closing date is 26th June 2015. Judging will take place 1st week in July 2015

Parish in Bloom 2015

To register either complete the form below or contact the Parish Clerk

Contact details:
The Parish Clerk Tel: 012680 725236
(M) 07758255621 with the details

The categories are:
(Please tick the category you wish to enter)

1. Best front garden
2. Best back garden
3. Best hanging basket or container

FREE to enter
Closing date - 26th June 2015
Judging - 1st week of July 2015

Name:
Address:
Tel: Email:.....

You can enter more than one category.
There will also be a **"Best Overall"** winner judged from the entries received.
clerkbgbnparishcouncil@gmail.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Basildon Council was in the process of producing their Local Plan but like a large number of Councils across the country Basildon has failed to produce an accepted plan. These failures have resulted in approximately 10% of Parishes deciding to produce a Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood planning was introduced in 2011 through the governments Localism Act and the Parish Council has continued review its viability due to our vulnerability to developers.

Your Parish Council is considering taking the step to consult with residents on putting in place a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish.

"What is a Neighbourhood Plan?"

A Neighbourhood Plan is a community led framework for guiding the future development, regeneration and conservation of an area."

Before a plan can become a legal force there are a number of formal procedures that it must go through.

Once the work on a Neighbourhood Plan has been completed it is necessary to gain a 50% plus 'yes' vote of those voting in a public referendum in order to bring a Plan into force.

The next steps:

Councillors hope you will come along to the drop-in sessions on 6th & 9th May to give the Parish Council your views (i) where you want any houses to be built (ii) what type of dwellings are needed to help our existing community develop whilst retaining our independence (iv) what infrastructure and business support we need to achieve this.

The decisions are yours! but we need to know your views before we start.

COULD THIS BE YOU?

Do you have what it takes to make a difference? Do you think you could be a Parish Councillor? Are you passionate about where you live?

The Parish Council has vacancies to co-opt three Parish Councillors to act as your voice on issues that affect you.

If you think you can fill one of these vacancies the Parish Council would like to hear from you!

If you live in or within three miles of the Parish, are currently on the Electoral

Growing Up In Bowers Gifford

George Grice, moved to the village in 1938 as a small boy. He first lived in Pound Lane and then moved to Bowers Court Drive when he got married in 1953 and where he still lives today.

What was life like, George?

"Life was hard but we didn't know anything different. We had no electricity and used gas light. It was my job to light the lamps with a long pole. I went to St Margaret's School with my siblings, and then went to Craylands School. I was a member of the Church Choir at St Margaret's and also went to Sunday school at the Mission. As I got older I joined the Army Cadets. The village had a butchers shop, a green grocers and a post office. During the war when food was rationed we bred Australian White chickens for our eggs and grew our vegetables. Meat was rationed so we caught rabbits in the fields to eat. The fields, fishing ponds and Page Woods were our playground and I went scrumping in the orchards. One day I got caught by a Policeman who gave me a good hiding when I got down from the tree"

What was life like during the Second World War?

"Enemy planes would come up the Thames estuary on their way to bomb London and on the way back they would drop their spent ammunition along the way. My friends and I



would then run to collect the empty shells if we were quick enough before the Home Guard cordoned off the area. I remember there was a searchlight positioned behind the Gun Pub overlooking the Estuary.

We swam, naked in the Tank Traps, which had been built as anti-invasion defences to protect the village against a German invasion that never came, of course. The idea being that the tanks would drive into the traps and be unable to climb out because their exit was blocked by large concrete blocks.

When I was 13 I went to work weekends on a farm at the end of Clarence Road. The farmer was Ted True and he would take me with him when he went out with his horse and cart. His horse was called Ted, as well!

to be continued in next edition

WELL DONE ST MARGARET'S



Congratulations to St. Margaret's School for gaining an excellent OFSTED report which took them out of special measures. Our picture shows children & teachers celebrating their success and releasing balloons to mark the achievement.



TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The Parish Council raises issues on your behalf with Essex County Council Highways and these are some of these issues.

The condition of the chicane in Pound Lane: The condition of the pathways in the Parish: North Benfleet verges: Installation of bollards at the entrance to the underpass at Church Road: The condition of Burnt Mills Road: The damaged Speed sign (Vehicle Activation Sign) in Pound Lane: Parking issues at St. Margaret's School: Flooding

You can also make a complaint by logging on to the Essex County Council website www.essexhighways.org and following or follow the links on the Parish Council website.

www.essexhighways.org

Interested!

Contact: Chris Barlow, The Parish Clerk
01268 725236 (M) 07758255621

email: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com

Out and About

Parish Council meeting dates	
29 th April 2015	7.00 – 8.15 pm
Annual Parish Meeting Followed by Parish Council meeting	
27 th May 2015	7.30 – 9.00 pm
Parish Council Annual Meeting	
24 th June 2015	7.30 – 9.00 p.m
Parish Council Meeting	
29 th July 2015	7.30 – 9.00 p.m.
Parish Council Meeting	
All meeting will be held at The Benbow Club, Pound Lane and take place the last Wednesday in the month. You can find Information on the Parish Council website and in our noticeboards.	

Councillors

Robert Smillie (*Chairman*)

- 07790 907113
- cllr.robertsmillie@gmail.com

Bernie Foster (*Vice Chairman*)

- 07811 838115
- cllr.bernardfoster@gmail.com

Cllr. Nigel Tyler

- 07850 192227
- cllr.nigeltyler@gmail.com

Cllr. George Guenigault

- 07795 981021
- cllr.georgeguenigault@gmail.com

Parish Clerk : Christine Barlow

- c/o: 15 Highlands Road,
Bowers Gifford, SS13 2HR
- 01268 725236
- (M) 07758 255621
- clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com



ECM ESSEX COMMUNITY MESSAGING

Keeping you informed about the kind of crime and policing issues which affect you.

Sign up for free at

www.essex.police.uk/ecm

to receive information on keeping you safe.

Choose to receive information via email, text or voice message.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING DROP –IN SESSION

WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY 7.00 – 9.00 p.m.
SATURDAY 9TH MAY 10.30 – 12.00 noon

POUND LANE MISSION

POUND LANE COFFEE MORNING

Every Tuesday 11am
Pound Lane , Mission,
Pound Lane
Just come along.
All welcome

2015/2016 PRECEPT



There has been a slight increase in the Annual Parish Precept for 2015/16. The Precept, per household, is based on the Tax base for a Band D property and has increased from £16.92 to £17.91 per annum although higher Band properties will be slightly higher and lower Bands less.

This slight increase is due to anticipated higher Parish Council day-to-day running costs for 2015/16.

BASILDON COUNCIL

"CRUNCH" MOBILE TIP SERVICE

This service is Free.

Saturday: 13/06/2015 09:00 to 12:00

Saturday: 12/12/2015 09:00 to 12:00
Household Waste

Westlake Park , Pound Lane , Bowers Gifford

The 'Crunch' is a mobile tip for household and garden waste. It moves to a different location each time it goes out into the borough. The 'Crunch' will accept all large household and garden waste from domestic premises such as; furniture, TVs and electrical appliances, also garden waste including; wood, stones and bricks etc.

The 'Crunch' will NOT accept paint, oil, liquids or hazardous materials (such as batteries or asbestos).

Please use it or we could lose it!

www.basildon.gov.uk/Crunch-Mobile-Tip-Calendar

Refuse sacks Polite notice

Please do not put your black and recycling sacks out on the day of collection before 7.00 a.m.

Please do not leave sacks in view on the front of your property prior to collection day.

The Parish Council is not responsible for the accuracy of any third party content in this newsletter.

CHAT & CRAFTS

Tuesdays 2- 4 p.m

We meet weekly at Pound Lane Mission, to create cards and other paper crafts. We make lots of different styles of cards which include T bag folding, Iris folding, decoupage, layering and matting to name but a few.

Enjoy two hours of fun, chatting and laughing and one or two creations maybe!

If you think this may be for you, come along to see what we do and have a cup of coffee/tea. You will be warmly welcomed.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

16TH DECEMBER

As part of the Christmas festivities the Parish Council has commissioned a Norfolk based theatre company to stage a production of a "Christmas Carol" at St Margaret's School on 16th December.

More information will be given nearer the time but please put this date in your diary, as tickets will be selling fast.

RSPB WILDLIFE GARDEN & VISITOR CENTRE



Come on down and enjoy a friendly welcome at our centre to learn all about nature and take a relaxing walk in our beautiful garden.

Both are located in Wat Tyler Country Park, Station Lane , Pitsea, Basildon, SS16 4UH.

The "Nations' Favourite Wildflower":

As part of celebrations for its 25th anniversary, Plantlife has launched a poll to find the nations' favourite wild flower (also the favourites in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland). Will it be the common poppy, cowslip, more elusive ragged robin or that woodland favourite, the bluebell?

Voters have until 5 June to vote online for their favourite and the results will be announced soon after. log in to

www.plantlife.org.uk to vote



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