

Bowers Bugle

We're on the web: <https://e-voice.org.uk/bgnb-parishcouncil>
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You can follow us on Twitter @bowers_bugle See information on Facebook: www.facebook.com/bgnbpc



POUND LANE MISSION Christmas Carol Service

ALL WELCOME TO JOIN US ON

Sunday 18th December
at 10:30 am

WE ARE CLOSED ON

Sunday 25th December
& Sunday 1st January 2023

NORMAL SERVICES RESUME

Sunday 8th January 2023

ngs gardens open for charity



Charity Garden Opening with Christmas Lights

At 14 Una Road
Bowers Gifford SS13 2HU

Open every evening from

Thursday 15th December until

Tuesday 20th December

4.30 – 7.30pm

Refreshments available
Suggested donation - £4 adult
Children free



THE BENBOW CLUB POUND LANE

COFFEE MORNING
FRIDAYS 10.00 - 12.00

POUND LANE MISSION CRAFT CLUB

Tuesday 1.30 - 4pm
Come along have a chat
and a fun afternoon.

St Margaret's Church, Church Road

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 18th December

Fourth Sunday in Advent Service of Holy Communion 9.00am

Sunday 18th December

Carols by Candlelight.

Traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols 4.00pm

Saturday, 24th December

Midnight Mass at 11.30pm



OUT AND ABOUT JOHN COLE HEAD STONE



The John Cole Head Stone, which was severely damaged by vandals in 2020, has been renewed and is back in its rightful place at All Saints Church at the top of North Benfleet Hall Road. The original stone wording has been inscribed on the new granite stone plaque now bears the emblem of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Foot Guards in which John Cole served.

The Parish Council consulted with Major John Hathaway-White, a serving member of the Grenadier Guards, to make sure of the details. A **BIG** thank you goes to Martin Rees of M & J Memorial who replaced the stone free of charge. www.mjmemorials.com



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Event

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Event on 5th June was very successful despite the overcast weather. The Event was a well-supported by residents and our visitors.

We would like to thank all who donated prizes for the raffle and gave items for our tombola. Two of our residents even donated 250 bottles of water! These were very welcome.

A **BIG THANK YOU** goes to everyone, although there are too many to mention, but here are some of the businesses who supported us: Hair & Beauty of Manor Koi Garden Centre: The Gun Public House, London Road: Alton Garden Centre: Cineworld Cinema: Carter Remy - Estate Agents [who provided the advertising boards for the event]: Fantaie Fazies- Face Painting: Hayley Johnson of haleyscentscensofhappiness.scentsy.co.uk: South Eastern Vintage & Classic Vehicle Club

We also thank all the volunteers without whom the event would not have been possible. A special thank you goes to the residents who helped on the Saturday morning prior to the event to clear Westlake Park of the long grass on the field.

Entertainment and music was provided by: Alana Conner of Filthy Gorgeous and Maddie Keeling of the Green Barn: Joe Green - Saxophonist: Infinity Circus Workshop: Trevor Cline - Magician: Photography by Eduard Pisteia



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Merry Christmas
from the Parish Council

BACK TO THE FUTURE - UPDATE

A message from the Chairman

You may recall in our summer issue "Back to the Future" I explained the reasons for the Parish Councils change of direction from working towards a Neighbourhood Plan to Neighbourhood Development Orders as we believe most of the village would prefer limited development.

The £96,500 we managed to obtain to fund the NDO Feasibility Study has been allocated to various experts who are producing the documents needed to support our case. As a result, if successful, we will have effectively reduced development in the village from 3500 dwellings to less than 500.

The findings of the studies completed so far are being discussed with the Parish Council Steering Group, comprises of Parish Councillors and Residents who have been with us throughout the Neighbourhood Plan process and continue this journey with Neighbourhood Development Orders process. The Parish Council have met with Basildon Council to determine the level of support we can expect from them.

The main aim of Neighbourhood Development Orders is to create a safer and healthier environment in the plotlands for those who want it and we will be looking to talk to all interested parties, for and against, regarding our proposals. In addition, there will also be some limited other areas of development within the village to help with sustainability and infrastructure needs, as well as trying to give some bias to local resident purchases. We are also looking to try and create green passages to connect the village safely.

As the Feasibility Study starts to evolve, we will consult with residents on progress and ask for your comments in the same way as we did with the Neighbourhood Plan.

Our aim will be to retain the rural aspect of the village, protect against future large-scale development and continue to challenge traffic concerns, although this outcome will lie with Essex County Council. More information will be in future Parish Council newsletters.

Councillor Bernard Foster, Chairman

WELCOME TO OUR NEW COUNCILLOR

At our Parish Council Meeting on 26th June, two new Parish Councillors were co-opted to the Parish Council. Unfortunately, our second Councillor has had to step down due to illness, but we hope to welcome her back one day.

We welcome Susan Moore, of Ilfracombe Avenue, who has slipped easily into the role and brings new skills to the table.

Why not join the Parish Council, we have two vacancies waiting for you?

Why become a Parish Councillor? See inside for the answer!

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES

25th January: 22nd February: 30th March

Parish Council Meetings are held on the last Wednesday in the month at 7.30 pm in the Benbow Club, 77 Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford. Time is set aside during the meeting for the community to ask questions and raise any issues.

CHURCH ROAD SUBWAY TO GET NEW LIGHTS



After nearly four years of raising the issue of the poor condition of the subway some minor works were completed last year. We have now been notified by Essex County Council that more refurbishment works are due to be undertaken in Spring 2023. The subway will be closed for the duration of the works and a diversion route will be in place for pedestrians and equestrians. Refurbishment works will consist of:

- Concrete repairs to reinstate the fire damaged internal surfaces of the subway.
- Cleaning and painting of all internal subway surfaces.
- The existing damaged lighting system will be replaced.
- Concrete bollards will be installed at each end of the subway to prevent future vehicle ingress.

INSIDE & BACK PAGES

- Children's christmas word search
- New play equipment for Westlake Park
- Why become a parish councillor
- Changes to rubbish & recycling collection in 2023
- Platinum jubilee event photos
- Charity garden details

FREE WINTER SALT

The Parish Council is again taking part in Essex County Council's Winter Salt Scheme.

The collection point to pick up the rock salt is **The Green Barn on the A130** between Sadlers Farm and the Fairglen Interchange.

The Salt is in 25kg bags and **FREE** to residents who live in Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet who are able bodied and can spread on the roads and other areas not covered by Essex County Council gritters.

Please note - The salt is not for personal use.

Please ask the shop assistant at The Green Barn for the salt and provide proof of your address when collecting your bags of salt

PARKING ON THE PAVEMENT

There is not much room on Pound Lane or the roads of the parish to park but be aware that taking up too much room on the pavement is not only illegal it is also dangerous for members of the public who have to go around your vehicle and into the road.

If you must park on the pavement leave enough room for a pushchair/buggy or mobility scooter to pass. **Don't use all the pavement leave room to pass and park sensibly!**

SAVE LIVES, SLOW DOWN

The speed of traffic in Pound Lane and many of the side roads in the village is increasing. Keep our roads safe and **SLOW DOWN** you will still get to where you want to go in good time and in one piece.

RECYCLING AND RUBBISH COLLECTION

Changes to the Borough's Recycling & Rubbish Collection Service came into effect on 3rd October 2022 with separate collections for food and garden waste.

The smaller 25ltr Green Waste Bin is for all Food Waste, Black sacks are for household rubbish, pink sacks for recycled materials. The Large Green Bin is for Garden Waste but not food waste. Garden Waste and glass are collected fortnightly. Food waste is collected weekly via your green caddy.

Don't forget to put your property number or identity on the green food waste container to avoid getting it mixed-up with your neighbour's bin. If your large Green Waste bin is broken it can be replaced - free-of-charge.

MORE CHANGES TO COME

Basildon Council's Cabinet met on Tuesday 6th December and agreed improvements to the way they will collect waste and recycling in future to make the service more sustainable and environmentally friendly, A wheeled bin service for black sack waste, plus two reusable sacks - one for paper and card and one for plastics and materials will be introduced. The improvements will help the Council to meet the Environment Act, reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by around 20%, and increase the amount recycled to help reach the target of a 65% recycling rate by 2035. It is proposed to bring the changes in late 2023. For more information about Rubbish & Recycling collections and the Christmas Collection Service visit: www.basildon.gov.uk/foodandgarden



COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH SCHEME IN SPRING 2023

The Parish Council is looking to revive the Community Speed Watch (CSW). This is a scheme to allow volunteers to monitor the speed of passing vehicles using a hand-held speed detection device.

SPEEDING THREATENS LIVES

Volunteers record the details of vehicles which are exceeding the speed limit by around 10%. It is designed to alert drivers of the perils of speeding with the use of camera guns. The Parish Council can't operate the CSW scheme on its own, it needs volunteers to help. THE it can make all the difference to having safer roads.

To volunteer contact: Chris Barlow, Parish Council Clerk by email: clerkbgnparishcouncil@gmail.com or text: (m) 07758 255621

THE PARISH COUNCIL YEAR

2022 has again been a very busy year for the Parish Council, the easing of lockdown has meant we are now able to hold Parish Council Meetings in public again and all are welcome to attend and we continue to be the voice of the community and raise your concerns with Basildon & Essex County Council.

Footpaths, potholes, parking and speeding are always on the top of the agenda for discussion. At every opportunity, the Parish Council seeks to raise concerns about the condition of our footpaths, roads and speeding traffic with Ward Councillors and Essex County Councillors to pressure Essex County Council. With the support of our Ward Councillors, potholes have been filled in and some footpaths repaired but there is still a long way to go.



Our part-time Handyman Service has flourished with areas not covered by Basildon or Essex County Council tidied up or improved. The Handyman Service project and equipment was funded by a grant from the Essex Association of Local Councils Community Initiatives Fund. The community has also played their part in helping and providing wheelie bins for the green waste to be recycled. Areas which were dumping grounds have been tidied and shrubs pruned and grass cut but to continue with the service the Parish Council will need to seek more funding or it will have to be discontinued.

Another four planters were installed on London Road this year funded by resources acquired by Luke Makenzie, our Essex County Councillor. Geraniums provided a splash of colour in the summer months and Wallflowers and Bellis will provide Spring colour next year.

Our two Defibrillators have been installed outside The Benbow Club and The Mission this year thanks to the generosity of the community and fundraising. However, we hope they will never be used but if they are they will save lives.

Our Parish in Bloom Event in August was cancelled due to the hot weather, but we hope the weather will be kind to our gardeners in 2023

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Event on 5th June was a great success despite the overcast weather and each child who attended the event was given a souvenir to remember the day.



A date for your diary in 2023 - Bank Holiday Monday 8th May - Celebrate with us - King Charles III Coronation

CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH SANTA'S REINDEERS

A	P	B	B	L	I	T	Z	E	N	D	Y
S	R	H	C	H	R	I	F	A	E	A	N
C	A	E	P	I	D	V	I	X	E	N	V
P	N	A	I	L	V	O	B	X	T	C	I
A	C	U	B	N	B	S	S	D	F	E	N
D	E	Q	W	E	D	A	S	H	E	R	T
R	R	T	Y	U	I	E	P	L	K	J	D
H	G	F	D	S	R	A	E	W	E	R	O
C	U	P	I	D	R	U	N	R	E	V	N
U	O	O	E	F	C	R	D	T	S	O	N
P	A	M	F	R	R	E	U	O	T	L	E
Z	H	I	E	U	E	R	P	D	L	E	R
E	S	A	N	T	A	S	P	N	C	P	S
N	O	D	S	T	N	T	S	E	N	C	H
SANTAS REINDEERS DASHER DANCER			PRANCER VIXEN COMET CUPID			DONNER BLITZEN RUDOLPH					

PARISH COUNCIL COUNCILLORS CONTACT DETAILS

Bernard Foster	07811 838115 cllr.bernardfoster@gmail.com
Sheelagh Pegg	07885 758989 cllr.sheelaghpegg@gmail.com
Colin Morris	07860 634022 cllr.colinmorris@gmail.com
Susan Moore	07740 781301 cllr.susanmoore@gmail.com

PARISH CLERK

Christine Barlow	07758 255621 clerkbgnparishcouncil@gmail.com
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HAVE YOU RECENTLY MOVED INTO THE VILLAGE?



If you have moved into the village over the past year or eighteen months, the Parish Council would love to hear from you.

Why did you choose to live in the village?

What do you like about it?

What don't you like?

Send your reply to Chris Barlow, the Parish Council Clerk
Email: clerkbgnparishcouncil@gmail.com

Continued from front page... WHAT IS A PARISH COUNCILLOR AND WHY BECOME ONE?

By Councillor Sheelagh Pegg

First and foremost, the Parish Council (PC) no longer has anything to do with the Church, an Act of Parliament in 1894 separated Parish Councils from the Church.

The Parish Council is the third tier of local government. The role is non-political and is voluntary. The power you have is that of an influencer.

Our village of Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet (BGNB) is very diverse. I have lived in the North Benfleet plotlands for 23 years and I, like most people that move here, don't ever want to leave.

I am passionate about our village and want to do my part to ensure that I, along with many others, help make it a better place to live.

When you walk or drive through the village, do you get mad if there are potholes, lights are out, someone has fly-tipped their rubbish or trees blocking the footpaths?

What about when you see that Basildon Council wants to put over a thousand homes in our village, without addressing the infrastructure? How do you feel when the roads flood time and again?

Are you still dreaming of a time when you see the Plotlands supported with a clear Development Plan?

Do you enjoy our Annual Picnic- in- the- Park? In-fact do you enjoy our very own park, Westlake Park in Pound Lane?

If you find yourself answering **YES** to any of the above come and do your part and get involved.

Join us, and together we can make our village a better place to live and work. These are things you can influence and why you should become a Parish Councillor!

Interested and want more information about becoming a Parish Councillor contact: Chris Barlow, Parish Council Clerk
Email: clerkbgnparishcouncil@gmail.com

NEWS IN BRIEF

NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT FOR WESTLAKE PARK

New play equipment is to be installed in Westlake Park. We listened to the suggestions from our younger residents and with the help of Councillor Craig Rimmer, our Ward Councillor, we secured funding for a Zip Wire and a Pirates Lair for children of all ages and a ground level Trampoline in the junior play area.

The installation is due to take place in early February 2022.

