



OUT AND ABOUT

Westlake Park: A lovely open space, to go for a stroll, walk the dog, stop and chat. The younger children can enjoy the kiddies playground and older ones and adults the exercise machines to help you keep fit. There are free plums to pick in September too!

COFFEE MORNINGS

Come and meet old friends and make new ones at the Benbow Coffee Morning every Friday 10am-12 noon at the Benbow Club Pound Lane. Tea, coffee and cakes all only 50p each.

We look forward to seeing you



Arts and Crafts

at Pound Lane Mission

(on the corner of Osborne Road)

Come along on Mondays between 1.00 and 3.00 pm. Enjoy a chat, good company and try your hand at a variety of crafts.

Christmas services at your local places of worship:

St. Margaret's Church, Church Road:

Sunday 22nd December at 9am Nine Lessons and Carols.

Midnight Mass Tuesday 24th December at 11.30 pm

Pound Lane Mission:

Sunday Service 10.30 am every week

Christmas Service 25th December - 10.30 am

The Benbow Club

New Year's Eve Party

Tuesday 31st December, 2019.

Welcome 2020 in with friends, family and neighbours.

£5.00 Members £7.50 non- Members 7.30 pm onwards

Pay on the door or contact a Committee Member.

USE IT OR LOSE IT!

Do you know? the Travelling Library is parked in Pound Lane, near to the Garden Centre from 11.15 -11.45, every third week. The next visit will be on 10th January 2020

(You can reserve any book you want online and reserve it at the Pitsea Library, Northlands Pavement, Pitsea and pick it up from the library bus on its next visit.)

Bus timetable: the NO. 21 Bus run by Nibs leaves the lower end of Pound Lane on the hour between 7 am and 5 pm every day except Sunday.

The Parish Council is a member of the Bus Transport discussion group and seeks every opportunity to ensure the Parish retain its bus service.

How is the Parish council working on your behalf?

Our bus shelters have been cleaned! Essex county council do not clean the bus Shelters and a window contractor has been engaged to clean our bus shelters along Pound Lane periodically. It will be two cleans a year to start with but could increase to three.

The verges were cut back at the top of Pound Lane in the summer by Basildon Council's Pride Team at the request of residents and now the vegetation encroaching on the foot path on the London Road has been cut back.

The entrance to the park has been swept recently to remove the leaves that were causing it to be slippery. The Parish Council has engaged with residents to take part in Essex County Council Fire and Rescue Speed Watch Project.

Many other issues have been lodged with Essex County council highways. Your Parish Council continue raise the profile of the village to try to improve the neighbourhood and here's one way we can all help by making sure -

You do not put your Rubbish sacks out before 7.30am on the day of collection.

Events to watch out for in 2020

5th July – Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Open Gardens

A district -wide event in aid of St Luke's Hospice

12th July – Picnic-in-the Park

Fun and entertainment for all the family.

Our popular Picnic in the Park Community Event will be on 12th July in 2020 and we hope to make it even bigger. If you would like a stall, are in a band, can sing or are part of a dance troupe we would like to hear from you. Please contact the Parish Clerk by email at: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com for more information.

Christmas Event 2020

The Parish Council is pleased to announce that at the December Parish Council meeting they agreed to take on the Christmas Event which was the idea of Penny Black, a resident, who wanted to bring the community together at this festive time of the year. Penny decided not to move forward with her idea but the Parish Council thought it was such a good idea they agreed to organise the event with Penny at Christmas 2020. Details of the date will be posted on the Parish Council website and Facebook pages early in the New Year.

Christmas and New Year recycling and rubbish collections



Rubbish collection days for the Christmas period are:

Monday 30th December: (Non-Glass collection week)

Monday 6th January: Revised orange/black box collection date

Monday 13th January. (Non-Glass collection week)

Recycle your Christmas tree from Thursday 2nd January 2020

Recycle your Christmas tree! Remove all decorations and leave it out next to your green wheeled bin on your collection day from Thursday 2nd January 2020.

Bowers Bugle



We're on the web – www.essexinfo.net/bgnb-parishcouncil
 Parish Clerk 01268 725236 (M) 07758255621 Email: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com

You can follow us on Twitter @bowers_bugle

See information on Facebook: www.facebook.com/bgnbpc

Moving forward with the Neighbourhood Plan



You will be aware from previous editions of the Bowers Bugle newsletter that the Parish Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Plan for the whole of Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet to get the best deal for new development in our area. Saying "No" to development is not an option!

The Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, which includes both residents and Parish Councillors, are looking at where development can go which will create a vision of "One Village," compliments existing housing and which remains separated from Basildon by our Green Belt instead of Basildon Council deciding for us.

Having fought hard to reduce the numbers of homes for proposed developed in the Parish from 2800 to 1350 Basildon Council's Local Plan now gives the Parish Council and the community, a definite say and control over where these 1350 homes will be built and where infrastructure improvements should be shaped. The Parish Council and Steering Group are working hard on the Neighbourhood Plan to have it ready for the Local Plan examination in the spring/summer of 2020.

Basildon Borough Council is working towards the conclusion of its Local Plan process and as such the Neighbourhood Plan needs to finalise its priorities too.

After a long process which has taken nearly 4 year the Parish Council will be carrying out a series of consultation events on their proposals at the end of January 2020.

These consultations may be the last opportunities, before Basildon Borough Council Local Plan examination, to have your say and air your agreement or your disagreement to the detail being proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The dates will be published early January so please take every opportunity to come along to the drop-in sessions or meetings and give the Parish Council your views.

Welcome to our new Councillors

At the Parish Council meeting in September two new Councillors were co-opted on to the Parish Council to bring the number of Councillors to six with just one vacancy to be filled. The Parish Council works on behalf of you, its community of Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet, to help make the village a better place to live.

Damian Packer of Alpha Close and Claire Morgan of Clarendon Road bring a wealth of skills and experience to the role of Parish Councillor and the Parish Council welcomes them both.

Could you fill the last parish councillor vacancy?

No experience is needed, just an interest in improving the village for all who live and work here.

If you are Interested and would like more information contact The Parish Council Clerk on: Email: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com

Christmas Tree

B R C T P I H G A E H Y Y O S
 E E P N A Q S W M Y Q O M G P
 A T I E P W O N S Y A R P S A
 D A N M E G A R L A N D G T R
 S W E A R I E A N I C H W I K
 F F J N C R N G S A G I Z L L
 A Y F R H A E E N T N H D E E
 X M F O A L H D E K A P T S Z
 T T O C I C Y P L R T R U N K
 I R K R N C A E O S G J Q I V
 H A F A A I D P K P R R L T C
 G C R N T J F C D I C O E C I
 D B E S E L D E E N N O L V F
 T A N G L E S B L U B G R O E
 O N N T L L M S A L N Q I N C

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|------------|----------|------------|
| ANGEL | GARLAND | SPARKLE |
| AROMA | LIGHT | SPRAY SNOW |
| BEADS | NEEDLES | STAR |
| BRANCHES | ORNAMENT | TANGLE |
| BULBS | PAPER | TINSEL |
| CANDY CANE | CHAIN | TRUNK |
| COLORS | PINE | TWINKLE |
| EVERGREEN | POPCORN | WATER |



healthwatch Essex

Information Service

We can help you find out about:

Health and care services near to you

How to access the support and advice you need

What to do if you have a concern or complaint

How to share feedback about services



Call 0300 500 1895

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm for the cost of a local call

healthwatchesessex.org.uk/info

Are you caring for someone with dementia or need help and advice yourself, the following organisation may be able to help:

Essex Care & Respite Association - 01245 353855

Age UK - 01245 423333

Essex Dementia Care - 01245 363789

Providing a sitting service for people living with Dementia.

Action for Family Carers can provide information and support including free counselling sessions, a well-being service and information on accessing local support.

Their website is: www.affc.org.uk/services/adult-carers and they can be contacted on **0300 770 8090**.

Carers FIRST provide support to unpaid carers across Essex. Their website is: www.carersfirst.org.uk/essex/adult-carers-essex.

Once you have registered with them on **0300 303 1555** you can access the various types of localised support.



Dementia UK have a useful telephone number and have a helpline staffed by specialist admiral nurses who are there to support both the person living with dementia as well as their families. An admiral nurse can give ongoing support.

Their helpline number is **0800 888 6678**



AND THE SUN SHONE !



The sun shone on 1st September for Picnic in the Park. The afternoon provided fun and entertainment for all who attended, more people joined us this year. The Bradfield Farm cow was a great success as was their painting competition for the children. Bex of Bex Balloons spent the whole four hours modelling balloon characters for all ages and the Community Police Officers joined in the fun and showed the children what a police car was like in the passenger seat. Stephen Metcalfe, East Basildon and South Thurrock MP came along, together with Ward Councillors Luke McKenzie, Craig Rimmer and ECC Councillor Stephen Hillier.



Visitors enjoyed the stalls and Bouncy Castle. "Splat the Rat" and the "Key Tombola" were a great success, as was the face-painting and the BBQ provided food for those visitors who had just dropped in to enjoy the afternoon.

A **BIG** thank you must go to our band of volunteers who give up their afternoon to look after the various stalls. Without them it would be more difficult to cover the event. A **BIG** thank you too to Micky and Alana of Filthy Gorgeous, who kept everyone entertained with their music during the afternoon: To Terry and Tracey

Rust of Smilers who sponsored Bex Balloons and local businesses, who donated prizes for the raffle, including: Manor Koi Garden Centre: The Gun Public House: Pound Lane Auto Shop: Alton Garden Centre: CineWorld and many others.



The event will move to the earlier date of 12th July next year and the Parish Council hope to make it a bumper event and another resounding success.

Parish Council Meeting dates 2020

Parish Council Meetings are held on the last Wednesday in the month at 7.30 pm

Time at The Benbow Club is set aside during the meeting for you to ask questions.

29th January: 26th February: 25th March: 29th April

ALL ARE WELCOME

GEORGE'S STORY - Living in the plotlands in the 70's



George and Doreen Outen live in Osborne Road as they have done for more than 50 years. George was born in 1934 in Pitseaville Grove, Pitsea but moved away to Rainham after marrying Doreen who lived in Romford at the time. In 1971 they purchased their house in Osborne Road which at the time was called "The Nook" and was one of only five properties in the road. It was originally

built in 1896 by Frances Charlton Whitmore and was part of the North Benfleet Park Estate. The house was later renamed "Woodside" They moved in with their two children of 5 years and 3 years old and put a caravan on the site to live in whilst renovating the bungalow. Like most of the plotland properties of the time it was originally a weekend cottage for people from London and built of timber and rough caste concrete. There was no mains water or electricity supply and the toilet was a bucket. A stand - pipe a few yards along the road provided the water and in the Summer the coal was delivered for the Winter. Pound Lane in the 70's was the main commercial route from Canvey Oil Refinery to the A127. George had no building skills and had to learn quickly and had many disasters whilst trying to rebuild the house for his family to live in. Once he got a £200 grant to build a cesspit in the garden and when he dug deep down the ground was thick yellow clay and when he went to shore-up the sides of the hole the frame collapsed, the hole caved in again and they had to re-dig it. After that he set about rebuilding the house and Doreen went out to Pitsea market and came back to find half the house missing and open to the elements. George would leave his muddy boots at the Mission in Pound Lane to go to work and collect them in the evening on the way home. Doctors would not come out when anyone was sick, so you made sure you were never sick.

However, all in all things have turned out well and he can now sit and watch the many different kinds of birds in his back garden with Doreen from the comfort of his conservatory.

Community speed watch gets off the ground



Community Speed Watch is a scheme to help people reduce speeding traffic through their community. The scheme enables volunteers to work together to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding and to help control the problem locally. Residents have come forward to volunteer to help the Parish Council to reduce the speeding traffic in Pound Lane. The volunteers recently underwent training with Essex County Council Fire and Rescue, who manage the scheme, and are now ready to alert Police to drivers who do not respect the speed limit through the village. If you would like to take part in this project, contact either:

Councillor Terry Potter Tel: (M) 07867615875 or

Chris Barlow, Parish Council Clerk, Tel: 01268 725236 (M 07758255621)

AUDIO BENCH - Westlake Park

The Audio bench (known as the Talking Bench) in Westlake Park, which was installed by the Parish Council in partnership with Essex County Council Records Office and was subsequently vandalised has now been repaired. Visitors to the park can sit down on the bench can once again pass the time of day listening to the stories of those who experienced life living in the parish in a bygone era.



WESTLAKE PARK MEMORIAL TREE



Linda Bates, Chris Barlow (Parish Clerk) Ian King (BBC Parks Supervisor) and Steve Barlow with the planted tree.

The Parish Council have replaced the memorial tree in Westlake Park which died during the summer due to the heat. The original tree was planted in 2017 to commemorate William Gallant, a soldier who lived in Bowers Gifford and served in WW1. The new tree is an **Acer Crimson King**, which when fully grown has deep red leaves and will complement the existing landscape in the park.

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 for the salt and provide proof of your address when collecting when collecting your bags of salt.

Parish Councillors & Parish Clerks contact details

Your Councillors:

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|------------------------------|--------------|
| Robert Smillie (Chair) | 07790 907113 |
| cllr.robertsmillie@gmail.com | |
| Bernard Foster (Vice-Chair) | 07811 838115 |
| cllr.bernardfoster@gmail.com | |
| Terence Potter | 07867 615875 |
| cllr.terrypotter@gmail.com | |
| David Martin | 07786 330369 |
| cllr.davidmartin@gmail.com | |
| Claire Morgan | 07557 142602 |
| cllr.clairemorgan@gmail.com | |
| Damian Packer | 07824 447002 |
| cllr.damianpacker@gmail.com | |

Parish Clerk:

Mrs. Christine Barlow [01268] 725236 (M) 07758 255621

Email: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com
www.essexinfo.net/bgnb-parishcouncil