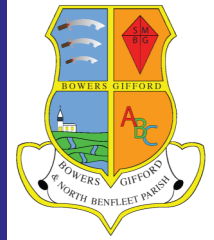


Bowers Bugle



Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Parish Council

ISSUE 4

SUMMER 2011

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The Village Fete can be seen as the first step in raising funds to improve Westlake Park

Royal Wedding & Village Fete

As Chairman of the Parish Council I would like to express my thanks to all the members of the Parish Council, St. Margaret's Church, St. Margaret's School, The Benbow Club and the army of volunteers who came out and put together a fantastic day of celebration.

When we were campaigning for a Parish Council a common complaint was that there was no feeling of community left in the area, well that has definitely changed.

A massive thanks must go out to all those who donated their marquees, gifts and their time.

With over a hundred and twenty children attending the "street party" in the marquee's the atmosphere was fantastic.

Tesco provided all the food for the children's party from their store in Pitsea to show their support for the village.

Lady Mayor and Ward Councillor Mo Larkin came along and opened the Fete and Stephen Metcalfe MP also came along to



show his support, spending lots on the side shows.

The entertainment was very well received and all the dancers

looked fantastic and must have practiced very hard.

Even the weather was very kind to us (eventually) and I expect there were lots of sore shoulders and heads by the end of the day. Certainly the back of the Benbow Club was crowded with lots of very red looking villagers.

As well as providing a celebration for the Royal Wedding we also managed to raise around £700 towards the rejuvenation of Westlake Park. Thanks to everybody who helped and who came along.

Roll on the Diamond Jubilee in 2012. Volunteers will be needed to help with the celebrations planned for next year too.

Robert Smillie, Chairman

Fun Walk

With an opportunity to raise funds for the regeneration of Westlake Park, Councillors Rob Smillie and Bernard Foster took part in John Barons' Fun Walk at Barleylands Farm on 22nd May.

They were joined for the walk by Doug Shaw, from Osborne Road.



The Councillors went door to door asking for sponsorship and raised over £600 and this will enable them to collect a portion of the bonus pot donated by local businesses. The bonus pot will be declared in September.

Councillors are hoping their

efforts will start the ball rolling and can be used to leverage grants and match funding from various bodies and the National Lottery. A funding bid for play equipment in Westlake Park has been submitted to Veola/Cleanaway Trust and will be considered in October.



(l to r) Cllr. Robert Millie, Cllr. Bernard Foster & Doug Shaw

Works carries on at a pace!



Sadlers Hall Bridge reinforced earth abutment

Sadlers Farm Junction Works

Birse Civils have updated the Parish Council on Sadlers Farm Junction Improvements and advised work is progressing well.

A13 traffic was switched in July to allow the commencement of the north and south verges to create an additional two lanes. Drainage and earthworks here will continue until December.

Church Road bridge center pier has been completed and piling has recently been completed for the bridge abutments and the construction of the eastbound slip road is progressing adjacent to the allotment site.

Church Road subway is currently being extended on the north side with reinforced concrete bases and walls to

form a ramp into the subway and work is being undertaken to re-align the old road.

On the A130 the widening required for the new northbound carriageways has progressed well throughout spring and summer and about 30% of the area has been resurfaced.

The Rushbottom Lane subway has been completed and the subway is programmed to re-open in the next month.

Construction of both Sadlers Hall Bridge and Sadlers Farm Bridge is well underway and London Road Bridge construction is almost complete and Birse are currently working with the utilities companies to install ducts over and through the bridge.

The London Road will need to be temporarily closed for a weekend in September to allow contractors to tie-in the new bridge to the existing road and exact dates and times will be notified to residents.



Spray applied waterproofing to London Road Bridge deck

Flood Prevention Scheme

In a previous issue residents were asked to tell the Parish Council if they had been affected by flooding. Some residents did and as a result of discussions with Essex County Council, Bowers Gifford have now been successful in receiving funding for household flood resilience measures for 4 properties in Osborne Road through the Environment Agency's 2011/2012 Property-Level Flood Protection Grant Scheme.

This scheme was open to properties that had suffered internal flooding within the last 10 years. Demand to fund property-level flood protection schemes was very high this year. The Environment Agency had a budget of £2 million and received 185 applications, requesting a total £10.5 million of funding so we're very pleased that they recognized Osborne Road's problems. A portion of the allocated funds is reserved for a survey of the

affected properties to be undertaken. The surveys will put forward a range of appropriate protection measures for each property.

Following agreement between the affected residents and Essex County Council which will state both the Council and residents' responsibilities in delivering the recommendations of the survey, the measures will then need to be in place by April 2012.

Charity begins at home



(l to r) Cllr. Foster, Alex Thurlby, Cllr Smillie and Cllr. Williams

St. Andrews & Clare House

Councillors Smillie, Williams and Foster accepted an invitation from Alex Thurlby, Hospital Director of St. Andrews Healthcare (Essex) to meet and discuss issues raised by villagers regarding Clare House.

Alex said that St. Andrews had learnt hard lessons here particularly by alienating the community and causing bad feeling.

One of the main concerns broached was that of possible building works to raise the level of security to place more dangerous inmates within the village.

Councillors were introduced to both staff and patients and Alex explained the objectives of the St. Andrews charity. She wanted to put the minds of the villagers at rest particularly as they are about to under go a

£5 million refurbishment to improve the 11 year old facility, but **not** she insisted, to increase any level of security.

Alex said "This is only to provide an increased level of comfort and a homely space for our patients to recover in."

Both the councillors and the staff at St. Andrews are hopeful that this might be the first step in the process of integrating with the community here.

Annual Audit

The Parish Council has just undergone its first Annual Audit. It was a very nervous time for our Clerk, Christine Barlow. Since her appointment last September Chris has been hard at work putting in place the systems that are required by law for the Parish Council to function.

The Auditor was very happy with the results and made several comments on the audit thanking Chris for her helpful attitude and complimenting her on the rapid organisation of the Council's files.

Annual Account to 31 March 2011

INCOME	
Precept	12,850.00
IT Grant	1,000.00
Donation	300.00
Advertising	25.00
TOTAL	14,175.00

During the year Chris completed the first stage of training for the CIRCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration)



EXPENDITURE	
Temp (Clerks salary)	1,405.50
Clerks salary (6 mths)	2213.89
Insurance	420.09
Affiliations	492.84
Training	538.00
Publicity/Printing	689.83
Equipment	503.98
Stationary	77.50
Miscellaneous	30.00
Lotteries Licence	40.00
Petty Cash	100.00
VAT on payments	50.72
TOTAL	6,562.35
Balance at 31st March 2011	8,055.59
Less presented cheques	442.94
BALANCE	7,612.65

Councillor Vacancy

Cllr. Claire Coxhead stood down as a Parish Councillor at the end of May. During her year as your Councillor, and previously as a member of the Parish Steering Group, Claire worked tirelessly to help and support improvements to the area and a vote of thanks is given to her. She will be missed on the Parish Council.

Can you fill the vacancy?

Do you have a willingness to get involved, as Claire did, and are a resident and live in the Parish, and want

to help make a difference then write or email in the first instance for more information to: The Parish Clerk, Christine Barlow, c/o 15 Highlands Road, Bowers Gifford, SS13 2HR or email: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com

No formal qualifications are required just a desire to improve the area to the benefit of all who live in the Parish.



Caught Your Eye?

Marketing & Design by Tim Shepherd

07881 942748

www.crispmarketing.co.uk



Your help is needed!

Victim support is an independent Charity that offers a free and confidential service to victims of crime, their family and anyone else affected. They give information, emotional support and practical help. The crime does not have to be reported to the Police.

How can you help?

Volunteers are at the heart of what the Charity does and they are looking for more volunteers.

Whether it's supporting a witness in court, giving emotional support to a victim or just helping fund raise or administration, volunteers are vital to the success of the Charity.

Helping Victim Support is rewarding and can help you develop new skills and offer opportunities and experiences.

If you would like to find out more about volunteering contact Sarah Atkins at sarah.atkins@victim-support.org.uk.

To access support services (victims only) phone 0845 4565 995

Contact your Councillors

Robert Smillie (Chairman)	01268 726745
Cllr.RobertSmillie@gmail.com	
Graham Walker	07545 928489
Cllr.GrahamWalker@gmail.com	
Barbara Williams	07818 876270
Cllr.BarbaraWilliams@gmail.com	
Bernie Foster	07890 109906
Cllr.BernardFoster@gmail.com	
Debbie Ward	07766 987436
Cllr.DebbieWard@gmail.com	
Jamie Huntman (Vice Chair)	07766 711441
Cllr.jamiehuntman@gmail.com	

Contact Parish Clerk : Christine Barlow
c/o 15 Highlands Road, Bowers Gifford, SS13 2HR
01268 725236 07758 255621
clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com

Village Info

75th Years on!

Did you attend St Margaret's School?

St Margaret's School are celebrating their **75th Anniversary** and would like to hear from ex-pupils . They are holding a special event on the morning of **Thursday 15 September** to which former pupils are invited (ticket only) and we would like people to contact them so they can get as many names as possible. They are also looking for stories and memories of the school over the last 75 years for possible publication in a pamphlet. If you would like to attend or have some interesting anecdotes please email Helen Chapman (Vice—Chair of the Governors) at helenchapmanpsm@aol.com



Thursday 29th September The Benbow Club, Pound Lane 10.00 p.m.— 1.00 p.m.

Bowers Gifford Women's Institute are taking part in the 'biggest ever coffee morning' to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer support. Come along and support this worthwhile cause and meet new friends.

The money raised will help Macmillan support so many people in so many ways . More nurses to provide vital support and care, more advisors , and more campaigners to improve cancer care everywhere. Put the date in your diary !



Council Meetings Calendar

Check website for any changes

Date	Day	Meeting at 7:30 pm
24/08/2011	Wednesday	Full Council
21/09/2011	Wednesday	Full Council
26/10/2011	Wednesday	Full Council
23/11/2011	Wednesday	Full Council
14/12/2011	Wednesday	Full Council
18/01/2011	Wednesday	Full Council
22/02/2011	Wednesday	Full Council
28/03/012	Wednesday	Full Council

Council meetings are held at :- The Benbow Club, Pound Lane.

Meetings are open to the public and press to attend and the minutes and agendas of Council meetings are published on the Parish website and local notice boards



In the News Land in Bowers Gifford

It is true that the land in the Parish of Bowers Gifford has been bought by Nottinghamshire County Council Pension Fund. To date no planning applications have been made.

Cllr. Mo Larkin (Basildon Borough Council Lady Mayor and Ward Councillor), Cllr. Anne Blake (Ward Councillor) and Cllr. Tony Ball (Leader of Basildon Council) have all stated that they would fight any attempt to reclassify the land for development.

The Parish Council will be keeping a keen eye on the planning department and will inform the village if anything changes.

If you have any information that may keep us informed, please notify the Parish Clerk (contact details in panel at top of page)

Dale Farm Eviction

As the eviction at Dale Farm draws closer, land owners are reminded to ensure their land is secure.

Basildon Borough Council has issued some emergency numbers for residents.

Normal office hours: 01268 294509

Out of Hours 01268 465151