

Bradwell with Pattiswick Parish Council

Annual Parish Assembly 9th May 2016

The Annual Parish Assembly for Bradwell and Pattiswick was held at 6 o'clock on 9th May. The event was reasonably well attended by villagers who took the opportunity to talk with Councillors about many topics of interest, visit the various exhibitor displays and enjoy some cheerful singing from *A Choir to Remember* from Stisted Hall.

A Choir to Remember has become a favourite visitor to Bradwell Village Hall. They entertained in two sessions singing some of the old "sing-a-long" tunes of years gone by. The enthusiasm shown by residents and staff from Stisted Hall is catching and soon had the audience toe-tapping, clapping and singing along (and even a few hips swaying in time with the music). They were superbly accompanied by Ray Sams on the guitar.

Exhibitors included:

Environment Agency who provided advice and guidance on flood warning codes, practical advice on what to do before, during and after a flood, among other things. They were able to look at the revised Community Emergency Plan that is nearing completion by the Parish Clerk and offer their opinion – which was a resounding 10 out of 10 and considered "excellent". Once the Plan has been finalised, it will be fully publicised on the Parish Council's website.

Essex County Council Environment and Economy – flood water management team who gave information about an Essex project entitled "Where the Water Goes" which is about mapping watercourses, underground streams, culverts and drains to prepare an accurate map which will aid planning and help in identifying issues that might be related to collapsed drains or garden flooding. The Parish Council will be arranging for the project team to spend some time explaining this further and putting in place a formal Parish Council project to undertake this work. Volunteers from Bradwell and Pattiswick who would like to get involved will be most welcome. Let the Parish Clerk know (clerktohppc@outlook.com) and you will be contacted to attend once the meeting has been arranged.

Essex Fire and Police Services attended to encourage residents to become more aware about personal safety, security and home fire safety. They also brought along information about how residents can become Parish Safety Volunteers. Essex County Fire & Rescue Service and Essex Police are working together to launch a brand new volunteering scheme! They are looking to recruit two Parish Safety Volunteers per Parish in Essex, who, after full training, will be able to deliver crucial fire and crime prevention advice, provide an extensive knowledge of local support services and signpost people to them and fit smoke detectors. If that isn't tempting enough, volunteers also get a uniform and all equipment required to carry out the role. If you would like to find out more, get in touch with the Parish Clerk who will be able to refer you to the appropriate person. Email to clerktohppc@outlook.com

Farleigh Hospice provided a lot of information about their wide ranging services and their plans for the future. They do a lot more than you would expect; craft sessions, counselling for adults and children, advice services, workshops and much more. They are always looking for volunteers to help in their Units, in the kitchen, on reception, in the office, in the shops and with fundraising events. You can even get involved in direct fundraising through opening your garden to visitors or taking part in running or cycling events. Their website is www.farleighhospice.org and they'd love to hear from you. One of their fundraising activities will be a stand at the ever-popular Bradwell Dog Show in September – their volunteers are busy knitting coats for all shapes and sizes of dog!

Parish Council had displays of the results of the recent information gathering for the Parish Plan, detailed Income and Expenditure Budget Statement for 2016-17 and an explanation of Cash Book variances for the year 2015-16 in advance of the Internal Audit and Annual Return which are currently being undertaken. Another display entitled "Village Life Actions" detailed work undertaken by the Parish Council itemised against their Manifesto Pledges given at the time of their election in 2015. This also gave an indication of some of their plans for the current year.

The opportunity was taken to display some hints and tips for drone users. These focussed on being safe and legal when using one. If you want to know more about your responsibilities and the use of drones, have a look at the website: www.caa.co.uk/dronewaware.

Bradwell with Pattiswick Parish Council welcome the attendance and participation of residents from Bradwell and Pattiswick. Notices of meetings are publicised on the noticeboard in each village as well as on the website: www.essexinfo.net/bradwell.

If you want further information about anything contained in this article, contact the Parish Clerk, Christine Marshall, by email on clerktobppc@outlook.com.

Be sure to make a note of next year's event, provisionally scheduled for Monday 8th May 2017.