

The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

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The Parish Council

Little Burstead Parish Council is the local governing body for the parish of Little Burstead. Parish Councils are the third tier of local government, representing the community of Little Burstead at local level on issues that affect the Parish as a whole.

Little Burstead Parish Council consists of elected representatives from within the community, known as Councillors. Local Councillor elections are held every four years when Councillors are required to complete a nomination form for election, signed by a proposer and seconder.

The Council is led by a Chairperson who is elected by the Council Members at the Annual Meeting each year. The Chairperson presides over meetings and represents the Council in an official capacity.

David Clark – Chairperson

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Parish Clerk - Christine Barlow

E: littlebursteadpc@gmail.com



All the Parish Councillors live in Little Burstead.

If you have an issue with which you would appreciate the Parish Council's help, please email it in the first instance to the Parish Clerk who will distribute to all councillors for their attention.

Remember that Parish Councillors are unpaid and give their time and energy freely to help the community so please, if you can, help them to look after the Parish.

Parish Councils have a range of duties and responsibilities aimed at improving the quality of life for their local communities. The key duties typically carried out by a Parish Council are varied but focussed almost entirely on the Parish of Little Burstead alone.

Overall, Parish Councils play a vital role in grassroots governance, directly addressing the needs and concerns of their local communities and enhancing the quality of life for their residents.

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Planning and Development

The Parish Council is consulted on the majority of planning applications that are made to Basildon Borough Council within the parish of Little Burstead and asked to comment.

As a Council we recommend that you, or your Agent, attend the Parish Council meeting ahead of your planning application to gain the Council's feedback and support.

Members of the Parish Council do not want to hinder your enjoyment of your property and understand fully that a house designed in the past, may well need remodelling to suit modern and future use.

However, the Parish Council would like to ensure that your proposed development is respectful of neighbouring properties in terms of scale, design and material choice and that the development, if permitted, will not cause unreasonable nuisance to your neighbours.

Please make the effort to come to a Parish Council meeting and explain your proposal to us, it will almost certainly be of benefit to your application to have our support.

Improving the Village

If you have any ideas that might make Little Burstead a better place for us all to live in, please don't be shy - share them with us, we welcome all (or perhaps almost all) suggestions – please don't be backward in coming forward!

The Tractor Shed

Fancy some rustic food served on an English Farm?

We serve a full farmers breakfast or why not try our super tasty burgers made from our home-reared beef.

Need something lighter? We also serve bacon or sausage and egg rolls. If you have a sweet tooth we have a selection of home made cakes plus tea, speciality coffee, cold drinks and other tasty treats.

Coming soon fresh farm eggs!

Why not pop in, we are sure you won't be disappointed!

We are open:

Friday 10:00 to 16:00

Saturday 10:00 to 16:00

Sunday 10:00 to 16:00

We are easy to find on Noak Hil Road, just south of the junction with Laindon Common Road at:

*Tractor Shed
White Post Farm
Noak Hill Road
CM12 9SY*



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Chat from the Chair

Dear Villagers,

Welcome to the Spring edition of The Little Burstead Times.

Spring is truly here now and our thoughts turn to nature and our gardens after this very long, very wet, cold winter. With this in mind I would like to bring to your attention a couple of early summer events which will be happening and worthy of noting in your diaries.

Two properties in the village are opening their gardens as part of the National Garden Scheme, they are Ivy Cottage with Christabel and Peter Strong, and 1 Brook Cottages with James Slocombe, Benjamin Cooper and Luke. Both gardens will be open on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th June, 12noon-4pm. Importantly all proceeds from admission go to nursing and health charities.

In addition to the above openings, Little Burstead Open Gardens will be held on Saturday 20th June, 12:00 - 16:00. Followed by an evening BBQ at 1 Brook Cottages from 18:00.

For new residents or anyone who is not aware, residents open their gardens for friends and relatives to walk around, view and chat with fellow villagers. This event is organised by the Village Hall Committee, and there is a small fee for visitors wishing to walk around the open gardens with all proceeds again going to charity. The village hall is opened where toilet facilities are available on Saturday 12:00 - 16:00. For full details of the event, please turn to page 21.

Be assured this is not in any way a competition and it does not matter if your garden is 10 square metres or 2 acres your involvement would be very welcome. So, please join in with this very social event. OPEN YOUR GARDEN AND MAKE FRIENDS. The person to contact for further details and tickets is James Slocombe on 07799 44 08 41 or any member of the Village Hall Committee.

The avenue of forty cherry trees was planted along the verge of Clockhouse Road back in January and I'm delighted to report that all survived being planted in the totally waterlogged ground. These will be a beautiful addition to our Village for years to come and there are still some available if you wish to dedicate one to a loved one or friend.

Please remember you are all very welcome to join us at any (or all) of our Parish Council meetings which all start at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on the following dates:

- **Tuesday 19th May 2026 Annual Parish Council Meeting**
- Tuesday 21st July 2026
- Tuesday 15th September 2026
- Tuesday 17th November 2026

David
Chair of Little Burstead Parish Council

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Richard Keith Johnson (1927-2015) – Actor

We thank Ken Porter of the Basildon Borough Heritage Society for this fascinating and informative article about one of Little Burstead's more famous residents.



Richard was undoubtedly one of Britain's finest actors from the 1950s until his death in 2015 at a good old age of 87, his ashes being buried in the family tomb in St Mary's churchyard Little Burstead. Though he was born in Upminster on the 30 July 1927 he lived for a large part of his life when he was not travelling the world at Little Burstead. Little Burstead is a small rather straggly, widespread but pretty village just north of Laindon. St Mary's the Virgin is set in a picturesque, but isolated rural situation at one end of the village on high ground overlooking the Thames Valley. The boundaries of the village have changed over the years, but it has been designated a Green Belt area within the Borough of Basildon and the main part of the village has been created a conservation area. Because of this there has been very little building and the appearance of the village has not altered much since the 1920s.

Before going too deeply into Richard's life I feel we must for once look at his family pedigree. We start with Robert Johnson, Richards great great Grandad, who in the early 1860s purchased Hope House in the small village of Little Burstead. Hope House has a red-bricked front and was built around 1760, the previous house being demolished. It is a Grade 2 listed building.

Robert built a servant's quarter with a turret, then a ballroom and bedrooms, eventually adding a further wing housing a billiard room, entertaining rooms and further bedrooms. This turned the family home into an elegant mansion where three generations of the Johnsons were to live. It was not sold until two years (1929/30) after Richard was born. As you would gather the family were very wealthy, their wealth coming from being Lead Merchants.

The families were very involved in village life in and around Little Burstead and Billericay, they loved to entertain, playing musical instruments and singing. They joined in the village shows, opening their garden for the Nurses Association and were involved with local Hounds.

Richard was the son of Keith Holcombe Johnson and Francis Louisa Olive (nee Tweed). He went to Parkfield Primary School in Somerset then onto Felsted School in Essex. He was not interested in joining the family in the Lead business as he had made up his mind early that he wanted to act. He trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London (RADA) and all though he got a walk on part in John Gielgud's production of Hamlet on stage in Manchester in 1944, the Second World War got in the way, and he was conscripted into the Royal Navy (1945-1948). Then for the next sixty years with his good looks and rich voice captivated audiences around the world. He made his screen debut in an adaptation of *Tusitala* for BBC Sunday-Night Theatre. This followed with his film debut with an uncredited part in *Captain Horatio Hornblower* (1951) and also uncredited in *Calling Bulldog Drummond* (1951). He was at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre from 1952 to 1957 and in 1958 played Romeo with Dorothy Tutin as Juliet. "it was an electric time to be in that company" he later recalled.

In 1957 he married Sheila Sweet, herself a successful actress but they divorced in 1962. They had two children, Sorel who also became an actress and Jervis a tabletop games designer.

He was soon in great demand, in 1958 he appeared in Peter Hall's first production at the Royal Shakespeare theatre, *Cymbeline*, playing alongside Peggy Ashcroft. Raving reviews praised Johnson as 'The finest romantic actor of his generation.' Also, in 1958 he appeared in the title role of *Pericles*; 'Prince of Tyre' followed by 'Twelfth Night'. It was Peter Hall who announced the launch of the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) in 1959, and in London the following year. He said that without Johnson's commitment to the script of John Whiting's 'The Devils of Loudon' (after Aldous Huxley's novel *The Devils of Loudon*), the first new play presented by the RSC at the Aldwych, his artistic policy would have fallen at the first fence.

Due to the excellent stage reviews, MGM offered him a long-term contract in June 1959 at the same time he became an associate artist at the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) from its commencement in 1960, a position he retained until he died.

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His first film role for MGM was that of Captain Danny De Mortimer in *Never so Few* (1959) which also starred Frank Sinatra, Steve McQueen and Gina Lollobrigida. At the time Richard said: 'I never took myself very seriously as a movie star, but it was thrilling to be among the idols I'd worshipped as a kid. I did a test with Gary Cooper, went to a party with Spencer Tracy, made a film with Frank Sinatra.'

If one looks at his career it would appear that at first glance, he would accept virtually anything and he did admit that he did some films for the money but he could be full of surprises. In the early 1960s he was approached by producers Albert Broccoli and Harry Saltzman who asked him at Terence Young's instigation if he would take on the role of James Bond in 'Dr No.' Johnson turned it down, because he was not convinced like many others it would be a hit, also because he was contracted to MGM. He later went on to say: 'Eventually they offered it to Sean Connery, who was completely wrong for the part, but in getting the wrong man they got the right man, because it turned the thing on its head and he made it funny, and that's what propelled it to success'.



Richard with Kim Novak, left and Lille Palmer in *The Amorous Adventures of Moll Flanders* – 1965

In 1965 he appeared in the film *'The Amorous Adventurers of Moll Flanders'* with actress Kim Novak who he married in the same year but divorced in slightly over the year in 1966. They did not have any children but locals and Mike Edmonds (see page 26) who lived in the area believed that they lived for a short time in Stockwell Cottage, Laindon Common, Little Burstead. Soon afterwards he teamed up with Francoise Pascal, also an actress, for the next decade and they had one child, Nicholas.

In 1972 he returned after a break to the theatre appearing at Stratford to play Antony, opposite Janet Suzman's Cleopatra, in one of Trevor Nunn's seasons of Roman plays.

Having helped Peter Hall establish the RSC, he also helped him launch the new National Theatre on the South Bank. A string of major performances between 1976 and 1978 included a suspiciously romantic soldier in Frank Marcus's version of Ferenc Molnár's *'The Guardsman'*, a grown-up sex comedy with Rigg; a powerful Pontius Pilate in Tony Harrison's *'The Mysteries'*; and a mean cuckold with Albert Finney in Hall's one and only Restoration comedy production, Wycherley's scabrous *'The Country Wife'*.

As you can gather during this time the 1960/70/80s he was kept extremely busy appearing in film after film: He played Col. John Stewart in the historical classic *'Khartoum'* (1966) alongside Laurence Olivier and Charlton Heston. *'Deadlier Than the Male'* (1967). In 1968 he appeared in both the aquatic wartime thriller *'A Twist of Sand'* co-starring Honor Blackman, and as Creon in Philip Saville's *'Oedipus the King'* with Christopher Plummer in the title role. He co-produced and appeared in *'The Beloved'* (1971) with Raquel Welch. Played Caius Cassius in Hugh Drummond's *'Julius Caesar'* (1970). *'Antony and Cleopatra'* (1972). In 1976 he starred alongside Malcolm McDowell, Peter Firth, Gielgud, Trevor Howard and Simon Ward in *'Aces High.'* *'Lady Jane'* (1986) playing The Earl of Arundel, to name a few. 1990s seem to be a lean time with only two films but he bounced back in 2000's, and one of his last films being *'The Man Who Knew Infinity'* (2015) where he played the Vice Master of Trinity College –Oh! And we must not forget Tom Browne's low-budget film *'Radiator'*. A film about a couple who had lived for 40 years in a remote decrepit Cumbrian cottage. Johnson appears as Leonard and his wife is played by Gemma Jones. The cottage contains the junk of a lifetime and is overrun with mice. Their middle-aged son Daniel (Daniel Cerqueira) arrives from London determined to create some order from the chaos and confront the difficult decisions about their future. Leonard is blithely determined to carry on and not to give an inch. – Johnson later claimed what he called "the best role of my career" - In total, he appeared in over 50 films.

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In 1982 he married Marie-Louise Norland a Danish model, and they had a daughter, Jennifer, again the marriage ended in divorce seven years later in 1989.

With Albert Finney and others, he founded United British Artists (UBA) in 1982 but, although he stayed as CEO until 1990, the Hollywood-style consortium achieved little. During his time with UBA, he produced a number of films including *'Turtle Diary'* starring Glenda Jackson and Ben Kingsley.

He made over 30 TV appearances including playing Mr Wickham in the TV adaption of *'Pride and Prejudice'* (1952) with Peter Cushing. Played D'Artagnan in another TV adaption of *'The Three Musketeers'* (1952). Played Mark Antony in a TV movie of *'Antony and Cleopatra'* (1974). *'The Four Feathers'* (1978) another TV Movie, *'Tales of the unexpected'* (1980 & 1981), Played Duke of Norfolk in *'A Man for All Season'* (1988) TV movie, *'Midsomer Murders'* (1999 & 2007), His last TV appearance was in *'Silent Witness'* (2013).

There was also his radio work. His last radio series was the comedy hit BBC Radio 4 show *'Bleak Expectations'* (2007-12) which took the irreverent rise out of Charles Dickens and all the Victorian costume drama; Johnson played the main hero of the narrative Sir Philip (Pip) Bin.

He twice worked with director Jonathan Kent at the Almeida Theatre; as a rival East End criminal to Peter Bowles in *'Gangster No 1'* (1995). At the Young Vic in 1996 he was well cast, too, as a good-looking but ruined actor James Tyrone in Laurence Boswell's revival of Eugene O'Neill's *'Long Day's Journey into Night'*, opposite a wistfully demented Penelope Wilton as his wife Mary. His latter stage appearances included a gravely melancholic Dr Dorn in Chekhov's *'The Seagull'* at the Swan at Stratford (where there was a backstage fire on opening night just as one character remarked that it was getting "a bit cold") in 2000; a marvellous, crusty old brothel-chain manager in an MCC tie and tweed jacket in Shaw's *'Mrs Warren's Profession'* at the Strand in 2002 and finally, in 2012, an acclaimed UK tour of *'On Golden Pond'* with Stefanie Powers as his other half in a spryly unsentimental look at the ageing process.

Throughout his career Johnson continued to teach young actors and students. He toured American universities and taught summer schools at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA). He was appointed to the Council of RADA in 2000, and served as a Council Member of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) in the 1970s. Johnson wrote the original story for the 1975 thriller, *"Hennessy"*. He also wrote travel articles regularly for the London mass-circulation newspaper The Mail on Sunday. He kept a blog and teaching website called *'The Shakespeare Masterclass'*.

He was a long-standing environmentalist, co-founding It's a Green World, a compendium of green-friendly hotels, and even ran his own his hotel for a time, the Savernake Forest Hotel, Wiltshire, growing all his own produce for the kitchen on site.

Finally, he married Lynne Gurney on a beach in Goa, India in 1989, following with a discreet civil wedding at Kings Road, Chelsea in 2004.

Richard died on 5 June after a short illness at the Royal Marsden Hospital in Chelsea and as mentioned earlier, his ashes are interred in the family tomb at St Mary the Virgin, Little Burstead. Lynne survived Richard and has since built up her own business career.

What a career, and I have only scratched the service Oh! And by the way Hope House today is four separate houses.



In the garden at Hope House, Little Burstead, 1906.
Standing: Harold Jarvis-Read, RBJ
seated l - r: FEMJ, KHJ, Kate Dawson (cousin)

In this family picture dated 1906 the little boy, aged 10, is Keith Holcombe Johnson, father of the Hollywood actor, Richard Johnson.

His brother, Robert Herbert Jarvis Johnson, was 12 at the time of the picture and had no doubt been packed off to Winchester School. He is also the young man in uniform.

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The "Health and Happiness" picture is the main road through the village, prior to it being tarmacked.



The undated picture of a car, is in the courtyard of what is now Eagle House.



After Winchester, he went on to St John's College, Oxford. Joining the Essex Regiment, he was posted to Belgium in 1915. He was killed by a sniper on March 13th 1915, aged 21. Further details are at www.winchestercollegeatwar.com



The horse drawn carriage is at the entrance to the modern Hope House.

Hope House Carriage 2 George



The ladies relaxing, appear to be in the garden of modern Hope House – the cedar trees still exist.

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Local Government is Changing - But How?

The map of local government in Essex is undergoing its most significant transformation in a generation. As of **late March 2026**, the government has officially confirmed the transition from the current two-tier system to a more streamlined unitary structure.

For residents of Little Burstead and the wider Basildon area, here is the current state of play regarding the reorganisation:

1. The Decision: A New "South West Essex Council"

On **March 25, 2026**, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government announced that the "Five-Unitary" proposal for Greater Essex has been accepted.

Under this plan, **Basildon Borough Council** will be abolished and merged with **Thurrock Council** to form a single, all-purpose authority tentatively named **South West Essex Council**. This new council will take over all services currently split between the Borough and Essex County Council, including:

- Waste collection and disposal
- Planning and highways
- Adult and children's social care
- Education and libraries

2. Impact on Little Burstead Parish Council

While the "principal" authorities (Basildon and Essex County) are being merged, **Little Burstead Parish Council will remain in place**. Current government policy and recent parliamentary statements (January–March 2026) emphasize that parish and town councils are the "democratic voice closest to neighbourhoods" and will be vital during this transition. Key updates for the Parish include:

- **Continued Existence:** The Parish Council will not be abolished; however, its relationship with the "top-tier" will change as it begins dealing with the new South West Essex Council instead of Basildon and Essex County.
- **Potential New Powers:** There are ongoing legislative discussions about extending a "General Power of Competence" to all parish councils, potentially giving Little Burstead more flexibility in how it manages local assets or services.
- **Community Governance Reviews:** The new unitary authority may be required to conduct a review of local governance, which could lead to small adjustments in parish boundaries or responsibilities in the future.

3. Key Dates and Next Steps

The transition is designed to be gradual to prevent service disruption.

Date Milestone

May 2026 **Elections Reinstated:** The scheduled Basildon Borough elections for May 2026 have been officially reinstated following a legal challenge by the Reform party.

May 2027 **Shadow Elections:** Residents will vote for councillors for the new "Shadow" South West Essex Council. These councillors will lead the final year of the transition.

April 2028 **Vesting Day:** The new South West Essex Council becomes fully operational. Basildon Borough Council and Essex County Council (in its current form) will cease to exist.

Summary for Residents

For now, you should continue to contact **Basildon Borough Council** for housing or bin collections and **Essex County Council** for schools or roads. However, after April 2028, all these requests will go to one single office. Little Burstead Parish Council remains your most local point of contact and will continue to meet as usual to represent the village's interests during this merger.

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From Fire to Fingerposts: Tax, Travel and Memory in the Streets of England

The Great Fire of London in 1666 is often remembered for its devastation: four days of flames that destroyed most of the medieval city and left tens of thousands homeless. Less obvious, but no less enduring, were the administrative and physical changes the fire set in motion. It reshaped how the state raised money, how roads were managed, and how authority marked itself on the landscape. Even today, traces of that transformation can be seen in an unexpected place: the fingerposts that still stand beside some modern roads, particularly those topped with iron rings and carved hands.

Fire, Finance and the Coal Duty

Rebuilding London required unprecedented levels of funding. Parliament's solution was a tax that would touch almost everyone in the capital: a duty on coal brought into London by sea. Introduced shortly after the fire, the coal duty became a long-running source of revenue, paying not only for the rebuilding of churches and civic buildings but also for wider infrastructure connected to the capital's growth.

Because the tax applied only within a defined area, it needed to be clearly enforced. The boundary of the "Coal Duty Zone" — which extended well beyond the City of London itself — had to be legible on the ground. This is where roads, posts and markers took on a new fiscal meaning.

Turnpikes, Fingerposts and the Iron Ring

As trade expanded in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, Parliament also reformed England's roads through the creation of Turnpike Trusts. These bodies improved major routes and charged tolls to those who used them. Roads became regulated, measured and monetised in ways they never had been before.



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Fingerposts multiplied along these routes to guide travellers, but some carried additional significance. In several parts of southern England, particularly on approaches to London, fingerposts were topped not just with carved hands but with cast-iron rings. These rings are now understood to have marked locations within the coal duty area. They signalled that goods — especially coal — passing this point were subject to taxation destined for rebuilding and maintaining the capital.

In this context, the fingerpost was more than a navigational aid. The pointing hand directed travellers onward, while the iron ring above it quietly asserted fiscal authority. Together, they marked a landscape shaped by taxation, where movement itself could be measured and charged.

Symbols of Authority on the Road

The carved hands, sometimes colloquially called “paw heads” because of their rounded, glove-like forms, reflected a growing standardisation of public signage. While the hand showed the way, the iron ring represented inclusion within a regulated economic zone. Roads were no longer just local pathways maintained by parishes; they were arteries feeding the capital, governed by law and sustained by tax.

This system linked countryside and city in a new way. Coal dug in the north, shipped by sea and carted along turnpike roads, paid for the stone and brick that replaced London’s timber buildings. The iron ring atop a fingerpost thus became a small but potent symbol of national recovery after catastrophe.

Samuel Pepys and the Human Scale of Loss

While Parliament calculated duties and boundaries, individuals experienced the fire at a far more personal level. Samuel Pepys, whose diary provides one of the most vivid accounts of the Great Fire, recorded both the terror of the flames and the practical decisions they forced upon him.

Fearing looters and further destruction, Pepys buried his most precious possessions in his garden: his wine and his Parmesan cheese. The anecdote is often retold humorously, but it reveals something fundamental. In moments of disaster, value becomes immediate and tangible. What could be saved mattered more than abstract loss.

Pepys’s instinct mirrors the broader national response. Just as he protected what he prized, the state sought to preserve and rebuild the economic heart of the nation. The coal duty, the turnpike system and the marked roads were mechanisms through which that recovery was organised and paid for.

Reading the Past in the Modern Landscape

Today, most drivers pass old fingerposts without a second glance. Few notice the iron rings, and fewer still know what they once signified. Yet these modest features point back to a moment when fire reshaped governance, when taxation became visible in the landscape, and when the road itself became a symbol of national rebuilding.

From Pepys’s buried cheese to the iron-ringed fingerposts on the edge of London’s historic coal zone, the Great Fire left marks that still linger. They remind us that catastrophe does not only destroy — it also redraws boundaries, reforms systems, and leaves its record quietly embedded in wood, iron and stone.

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The Farming Year

Little Burstead nestles amidst many traditional Essex family farms who put food on our plates and act as dedicated custodians of our countryside. Here, courtesy of Tom Buckenham, is what to watch for as you pass the fields around our village.

Favourable Autumn planting conditions has led to well established crops coming out of winter. Much needed rain over the winter has topped up the water table, and the ponds around the area that were nearing empty or empty after last year's drought. The crops may well be relying on their deep root systems if rain does not appear on the horizon soon, any spring crops planted without these roots will be crying out for it. Fingers crossed we won't be in for another dry spring!

Those who keep horses in the area will certainly be hoping to see the hay crops grow well after last year's nationwide hay shortage.



Crops will motor through growth stages if warmth and rain arrive, so the main jobs on farms are to apply crop protection products and fertilisers, prices of which have risen sharply due to the Middle East conflict.

The swallows returned to the stables on the 29th March, a sure sign of spring on the farm. Wildlife has thrived on the farm in recent years with the present of wild bird cover strips and over winter feeding, and I look forward to seeing what new life this spring brings.

It must be remembered though, that wildlife does not need disturbing during this crucial nesting period, so please remember to keep yourself and dogs to the footpaths if walking in the area.

Hopefully, come the Summer, we will have a bounty of crops and new life on the farm.

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Willow Tree CATTERY

A safe, calm and caring home away from home for your cats



🐾 **Our Prices** 🐾

- 1 Cat – £18 per day
- 2 Cats (sharing) – £34 per day
- 3 Cats (sharing) – £42 per day
- 4 Cats (sharing) – £50 per day

✓ Spacious, secure accommodation ✓ Daily care, feeding & attention
✓ Clean, safe and stress-free environment

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We provide a peaceful, caring environment where your cats are treated like family. Whether it's a short stay or a longer holiday, you can relax knowing they are safe, comfortable, and well looked after.



Contact Us

☎ Phone: 07791 568806

✉ Email: Kat@willowtreecattery.com

🌐 Website: www.willowtreecattery.com

📍 Optional: Location / Area served

Booking gets busy during holiday seasons. Book early and pay a deposit to secure your cat's stay!

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Gordon's War World 2 Memories - The Doodlebug

In the last issue of The Little Burstead Times, Gordon mentioned the V-1 flying bomb, commonly known as "The Doodlebug" and it may be of interest to know that there is an intact "Doodlebug" and launch ramp at the Duxford Imperial War Museum. Below are a few photographs of this installation, but we recommend a visit to the museum to see this for yourselves.

The V-1 Technical Specifications:

Top Speed - ~ 640km/h (400 mph)

Operational Range - ~ 240km (150 miles) although late-war versions reached 250 miles

Warhead Weight - 850 kg (1,870 lbs) of Amatol-39 high explosive

Flight Altitude - 600 to 1200m (2,000 to 4,000) feet (typically)

Engine - Argus As 014 Pulsejet

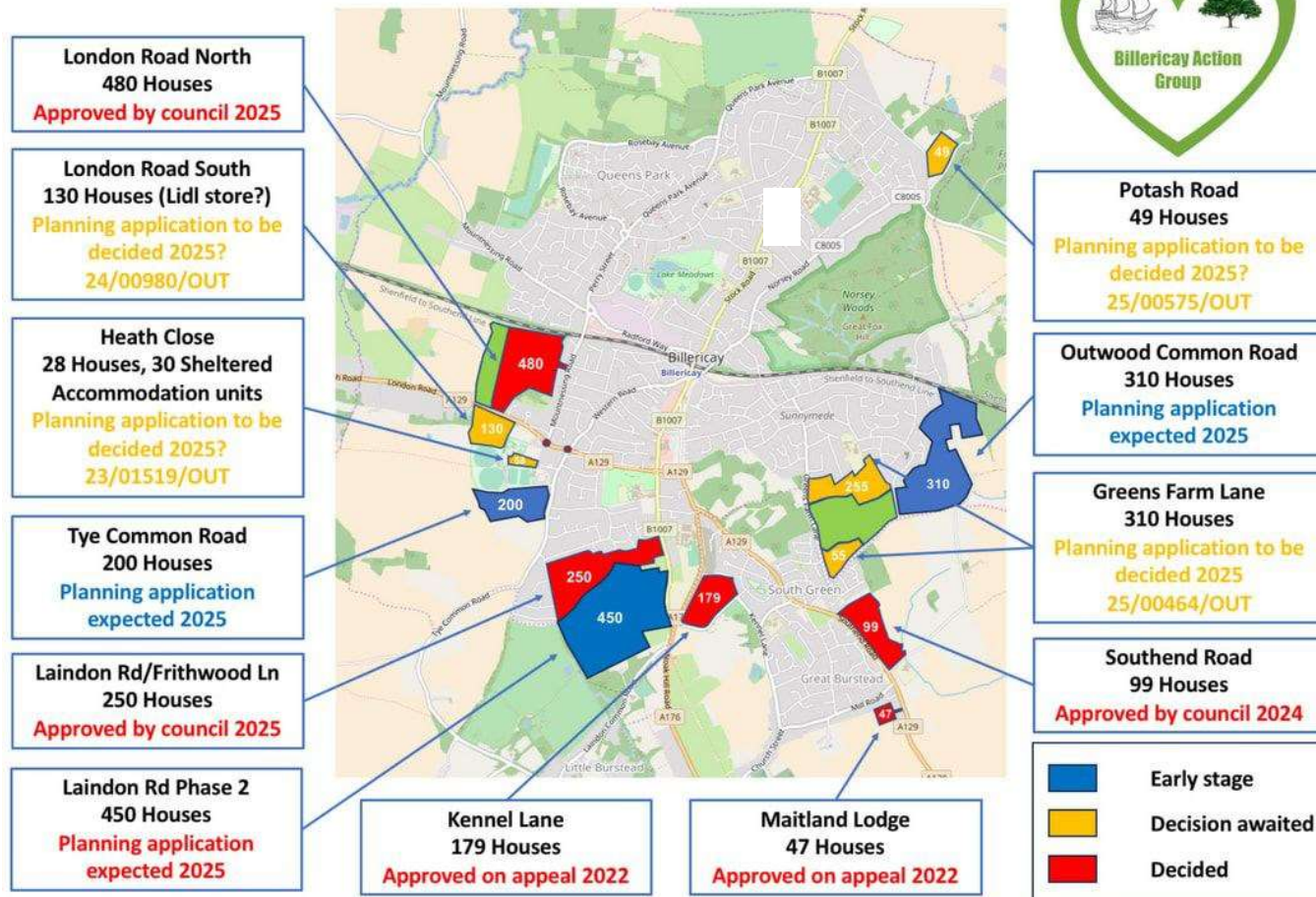


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BILLERICAY NORTH & CENTRE



Local Plan Update

The Basildon Local Plan is currently caught in a complex transition period due to the massive restructuring of Essex's local government. On March 25, 2026, the Government officially confirmed that Basildon Borough Council will be abolished and merged with Thurrock to form a new, single South West Essex Council.

Here is how this impending change affects the Local Plan:

1. The "Race to Adopt"

Basildon is currently pushing to adopt its own Local Plan before the council ceases to exist. The Deadline: Basildon Council's current timetable aims for the formal adoption of the plan in late 2026. The Risk: If the plan isn't finalized and adopted before the transition becomes too advanced, the new South West Essex "Shadow Authority" (which forms in 2027) may have to take over. This could result in Basildon's specific priorities being merged into a wider joint plan with Thurrock, potentially delaying matters for years.

2. Transition to a Unitary Authority

Currently, planning is "two-tier" (Basildon handles housing, while Essex County Council handles the roads and schools that support them).

- **Joined-up Infrastructure:** Under the new South West Essex Council (active April 2028), one single body will handle both housing and the infrastructure.



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- **Strategic Shift:** This change is intended to stop the "silo" planning that has previously stalled Basildon's growth. However, in the short term, it creates administrative friction as teams from Basildon, Thurrock, and Essex County Council begin "disaggregating" and then "aggregating" their planning departments.

3. Impact of the Mayoral Authority

Alongside the new council, a Greater Essex Mayor is expected to be elected in May 2028.

- This Mayor will have devolved powers over strategic planning and "Strategic Planning Zones."

- Even if Basildon adopts its current plan in 2026, a future Mayor could introduce new "Spatial Strategies" that override or adjust local housing targets across the region to meet wider economic goals.

4. Continuity of Existing Work

Despite the reorganisation, the Government has instructed Basildon to continue with its current Local Plan process.

- **Democratic Mandate:** The Secretary of State confirmed in February 2026 that local elections in Basildon will proceed this May. This means the councillors you elect now will be the ones responsible for voting on the final version of the Local Plan this winter.

- **Evidence Base:** Much of the work Basildon has done (like the 2025 Green Belt and Grey Belt studies) will likely be "inherited" by the new South West Essex Council, so the data won't go to waste even if the authority name changes.

Summary Table: The Timeline

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Impact on Local Plan</u>
May 2026	Local Elections	Voters elect the council that will vote on the final Plan.
Winter 2026	Target Adoption	Basildon aims to have its own Plan legally "set in stone."
May 2027	Shadow Authority	A temporary committee begins overseeing the merger with Thurrock.
April 1, 2028	Vesting Day	Basildon Council is abolished; South West Essex Council takes over.

For the resident's of Little Burstead, major planning applications have been made for several major developments which will provide thousands of new homes on our doorstep. These proposals are out for public consultation at the moment all the documentation can be seen on the Basildon Council website, please comment! The proposals closest to our village are:

1. Land North of Kennel Lane

Application Number: 25/01467/VAR (Recent variation for materials and landscaping)

Original/Base Ref: 24/00732/FULL (and related 2024 permissions)

Details: **180** new homes in total (115 private, 65 affordable).

2. Land East of Southend Road

Application Number: 25/00797/SCOPE (Submitted June 2025)

Details: An "EIA Scoping Opinion" for approximately **1,100** homes, including non-residential uses and infrastructure. While not yet a "full" application, this is the formal starting gun for a major masterplan.

3. Tye Common Road Area

Application Number 25/00788/SCREEN

Details: An EIA Screening Opinion for up to **200** homes in the wider Billericay/Burstead area, signaling more large-scale interest from developers.

4. Land West of Laindon Road

Application Number:25/01451/OUT

Details: Outline application for access onto Laindon Road & erection of **420** homes & 500m² of non-residential floorspace

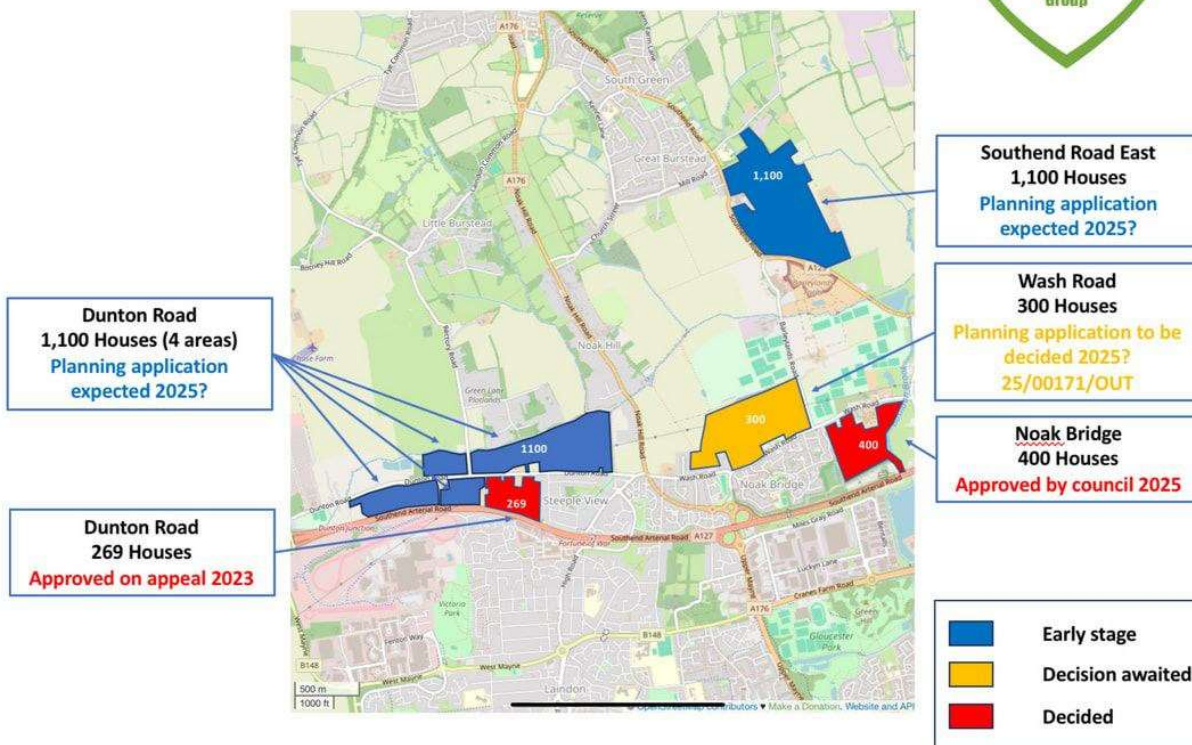


The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

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Little Burstead BUGLE



VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE NEWS

Spring 2026

Issue 34

Charity No 301311

Little Burstead Village Hall Happy Birthday 100 years old.... This Year!

Our village hall is 100 years old this year. The land for our hall was donated by the Johnson family in August 1926 and a village hall was built on its present site through the contributions and hard work of villagers. The hall has doubled in size with many improvements made, the latest to be a new kitchen.



Over the years, the hall has been the central point of village events, a place where young and old mix and share thoughts on both world events and local matters. Many families who still live in our village, passing their homes through generations have memories of good times spent in the hall.....Christmas being one of the highlights, dinner shared with friends and neighbours and at the end of the evening, carols being sung, smiles all around, laughter and a sense of belonging and genuine care for each each other. Good times enjoyed.....and good times to come!

The village hall also rents the field in the centre of the village from a local charity. This provides car parking and a venue for fresh air events. In the past, Firework night was always a big family night out while cricket matches, pancake races and children's parties have been regular and well attended occasions, especially for celebrating National events such as the Queen's Jubilees.

Since its construction, the village hall has always been the centre of village life, keeping alive the spirit of caring and friendship that binds our community.

Just a thought for you to contemplate...."A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out"

The hall will be open to celebrate its centenary on Friday 28th August between 13:00 and 17:00 with lots of memorabilia, tea, coffee good will and the chance to chat about the good times shared by all.

Why not come and join our next Village Hall event?

When visiting the Village Hall, PLEASE park in the Ellis Field opposite "Ashleigh" on Laindon Common Road.

The hall is cared for by the team of friends and trustees below, who are responsible for administering the charity.

Chairperson	Roger Savage	cas21savage@gmail.com - 01268 41 65 20
Treasurer	Angela McCoy	aclark2719@aol.com
Hall Bookings	Carol Savage	cas21savage@gmail.com
Secretary	Chris Hutchings	aabodies@aol.com - 01268 41 22 15
Committee Members	Jan Ellis	01277 65 71 00
	Sheila Wright	01277 65 85 42
	Simon Hirst	simonhirst1970@outlook.com
	James Slocombe	jaslocombe@gmail.com
	Mandy & Rob Moulton Miller	r1912ram@googlemail.com

Website	littleburstead.com
Hall telephone	07865 75 37 64
Hall wifi password	lbvh1234



Little Burstead BUGLE



VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE NEWS

Spring 2026

Issue 34

Charity No 301311

Events for your Diary

MURDER MYSTERY - Saturday 9th May 18:30 for 19:00 start



During a film showing of the musical "The Sound of Music", one of the audience has been murdered! This unusual mystery will include a short showing of the film during which the murder takes place. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, will be to help solve this heinous crime with the help of Chief Inspector Basset of the Yard. The evening will end with the trial of the culprit once apprehended and your vote will decide their fate.

So, magnifying glasses out and deerstalkers on and for only £20, you will have an evening of fun with a delicious fish and chip supper - and you are also invited to wear a costume befitting of the film The Sound of Music for a chance to win a prize as the best dressed Austrian villager.

VILLAGE GARDEN OPENING - Saturday 20th June 12:00 to 16:00

Here is the chance to tour your neighbour's gardens and glean ideas and tips as you see some of the village's very beautiful gardens and meet the people who created them and why not join us for a family firendly barbecue at 1 Brook Cottages afterwards from 18:00 - 21:30?

MUSIC IN THE MEADOW - Sunday 12th July - Gates open at 13:00 for 14:00 start

An enchanting way to spend Sunday afternoon with friends and neighbours. Join us in the village field to the wonderful sound of well loved songs and music with Sarah and a surprise group of singers and fireworks as well!

All this for only £10 and children are free!



SCARECROW COMPETITION - Sunday 27th September

Release your inner Worzel Gummidge! Thinking caps on to create the best scarecrow and enter this popular annual event!

VILLAGE HALL BAZAAR - Saturday 28th November 09:30 to 14:30

Save your selves a trip to Bluewater with plenty to browse and buy for home and family!

CHRISTMAS DINNER - Saturday 12th December

For the meagre sum of £25, join us for our celebrated Christmas Dinner. Plenty of good food, good laughs, good company and great fun for all.



REGULAR EVENTS - the hall is used by many other groups such as:

Yoga - classes for all ages and abilities

WI - Held at 14:00 on the second Thursday of every month, for more details, contact any club member

Art, Painting and a Chat - The title says it all! Meeting twice every month on a Thursday 10:00 to 13:00

Laindon Conservators - Contact any team member

LIGHTING THE BEACON & REMEMBRANCE PLAQUES - By arrangement

If you would like the beacon lit or a remembrance plaque on one of our trees, please contact

Roger Savage at cas21savage@gmail.com



The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

Little Burstead Open Gardens – Summer 2025

Thank you to each of you who visited and/or opened your garden for the Little Burstead 'Open Gardens' event last year on Sunday 22 June 2025. Your willingness to open your garden, and hard work getting it to look so beautiful, contributed to a hugely successful day that was enjoyed by all who attended. Combined with openings at 1 Brook Cottage and the National Garden Scheme, the village collectively raised £1319.80 for NGS charities (namely: Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and The Queen's Nursing Institute) and £287.21 for Little Burstead Village Hall. Thank you so much.



Open Gardens - Summer 2026

Beyond funds raised for charity, involvement in open garden events allows us all to meet with friends; admire their peonies, pansies and periwinkle; and helps keep Little Burstead village looking delightfully pretty, colourful and welcoming to visitors. The care we take with our gardens, and our pride at showing them off, is a great example of village community life - coming together to share our collective efforts and appreciate nature in its blooming glory.

Nationally, two village gardens (Ivy Cottage and 1 Brook Cottages) are participating in the 2026 NGS scheme this year. More details by following their links on www.ngs.org.uk.

Locally, the 'Little Burstead Open Gardens' event is scheduled for Saturday 20 June 2026, and we would love to see your garden be a part of it. Your involvement is what makes the event a success, no matter how big or small your garden, how well-stocked or well-mown it is, we hope that everyone will consider participating in 2026. There is not much to it, and you don't even need to be home; you do need to be willing to let visitors access and roam your garden to admire your petunias.



All members of the Village Hall committee are very grateful for your participation.

Please contact jaslocombe@gmail.com for further details, and/or to be included.

The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

St Mary the Virgin

Rectory Road
Little Burstead
Billericay CM12 9TR
billericaychurches.org/smv/index.html

WHO GOES THERE...?

I expect you have probably often wandered past the end of the lane that goes to our lovely little church, on the bend in the road, just a short walk from the village common.

But have you ever wondered who goes there?
Well, the answer is - all different kinds of people.
And we would love one of them to be you!



Are You an Explorer?

We are right on top of the well-trodden Little Burstead Circular walking route which is about 3 1/2 miles in total, starting at Laindon common and following old footpaths which farm labourers once used on their way to work. It's no surprise that many walkers take the short detour up the little lane to take a closer look at the church, explore the churchyard or take a rest on the bench outside. It's certainly a lovely stop for a snack from your backpack. We've even had curious visitors venturing inside on a Sunday morning during our service, but most of them scuttle back outside when they see all the worshippers! But we really wish they wouldn't. Wanderers, wonderers and all kinds of explorers would be very welcome, either to join in or simply sit a while and listen.....

Of course we would love it if people were able to come in and look around whenever they like, but because we are in such an isolated spot, it's really not possible to leave the building unlocked. We are working on opportunities to open the church more often though, so watch this space!

Are You a Nature Lover?



We just mentioned our churchyard and we are in fact the only church in our parish to have one! So, you know what that means: a peaceful spot to have a potter around with plenty of opportunity to drink in the sounds and sights of nature. It really comes into its own during the spring and the summer and we have plenty of visitors who come to check it out. Every year we take part in the Big Garden Bird Watch to keep track of our feathered guests. And as for our feast of flowers, did you see the avenue of daffodils along our lane that the Parish Council donated to us this year? Of course, plenty of flowers means plenty of pollen for the bees and other insects. We took part in the Big Butterfly Count and Love your Burial Ground/Churches Count on Nature last year. Last year bees even took up residence in the church and we had to evacuate for a while. Sadly (for the bees) their queen deserted them so they did not survive for long and we got our church back..... always expect the unexpected in an old country church.

The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

Are You a History Buff?

As you have probably realised our church is pretty old! And when we say old we mean OLD! Much of the building dates back to Norman times, with several bits and pieces added and adapted through the years. Some of this, including our lovely stained glass, can only be seen from the inside, which is another reason why we would like it to be open for you more often. Its advanced age is the real reason for it being so far from the village and for the door of the church apparently being on the wrong side. We haven't turned our backs on you! Back in the day, there were several manor houses and other large dwellings here and there out towards Dunton, which were much older than most of today's village and now no longer in existence. So, in those days the church looked out towards the little community it served - and that's how it stayed. Please don't let that put you off. Just follow the path, past the bench and round to the front door. You can read more about the history of the church on our website (see details below).



Would you like to know more ?

We really hope that at least one of those sounds like you! If you would like to dip your toe in the water and find out what we are all about, why not.....

Come to a service. Every 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sunday at **10:30**

Help us fundraise. Our loos need refurbishing! Which I'm sure you will agree is of utmost importance, especially if we are to welcome visitors more often. But we need to raise a bit of money to do this.

We host **QUIZ NIGHTS** in conjunction with our sister church, St John the Divine at their church in Outward Common Road, Billericay. The last was at 7.00pm on Saturday 25th April £8 per person entry. Teams of up to 8 people are welcome. Please contact Mari Flack on 01277 624571 if you'd like to enter a team yourself or even come along and make up the numbers.




Or why not come to hear a concert from **TWO LADS AND A LAPTOP** a cello and piano/electronics duo who produce music videos and give live performances to spread joy through music. They will be performing at Emmanuel Church, Laindon Road, Billericay at 7.30 pm on Saturday 23rd May. Tickets are £15. More details to follow soon so keep an eye on our website and social media.

We'd also love you to help us **update our website** with pictures of the church, past or present, inside or out. If you have any photographs that you would be happy for us to use then please do get in touch.

✉ stmvchurch@gmail.com

🌐 www.billericaychurches.org/smv or <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6189/>

Follow us on  Facebook (St Mary the Virgin Little Burstead)

 Instagram (stmvchurch)

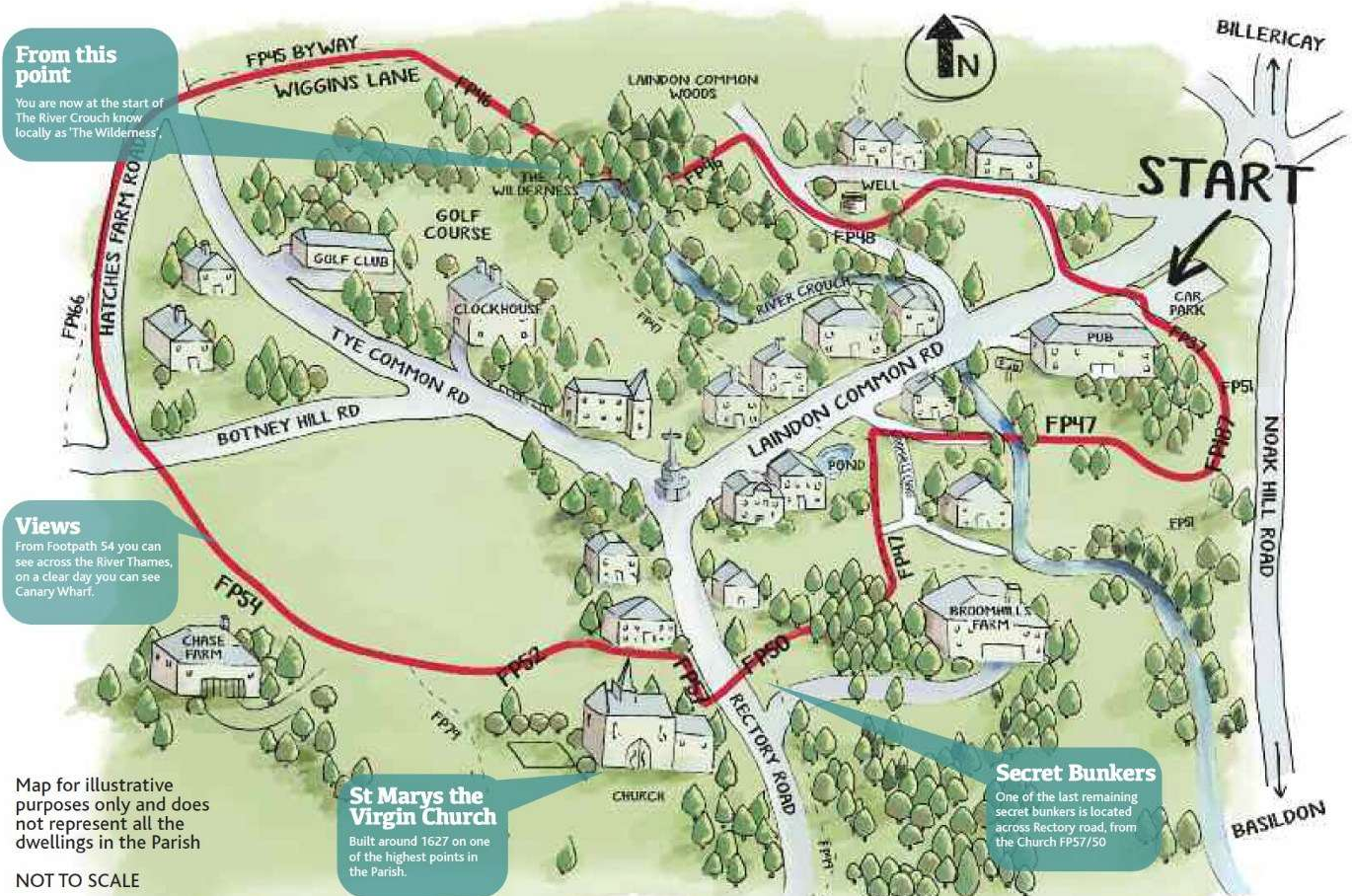
The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

Little Burstead Circular Walk

Fancy a stroll? If you have about 90 minutes to spare and fancy walking for 6.5km, start at the car park at the Noak Hill end of Laindon Common Road and follow the route highlighted in red below to see the village on foot – you'll love it!



1. From the car park, cross Laindon Common Road, follow the way marker signs turning left towards Laindon Common. By Frith Cottage turn left, then after a short distance turn right onto the grassland, past the Well.
2. Follow the way marker signs towards the woodland of Laindon Common and then join Bridleway 48, turning right.
3. Carry on until a sign to turn left. You will cross a bridge over a stream (the River Crouch) onto Footpath 46 and the Golf Course. The remains of a hedge on the right, rich in plant and animal life, is estimated to be at least 600 years old!
4. Follow on until you cross the stream to the other side of the hedge.
5. Continue until you reach the centre of the Golf Course where there is a lake enclosed by trees (The Wilderness), including rare wildlife.
6. Turn right following the way marker signs across to Wiggins Lane.
7. At the junction with Wiggins Lane, you will notice large Sycamore trees facing you. Once a roadway between Tye Common and Hatches Farm Road, Wiggins Lane is now a green lane used as a bridleway for access to fields.
8. At the end of Wiggins Lane, carefully cross the road, to Little Burstead Common, following the way marker signs. You can now walk down the side of the road or on the verge where possible. Please be careful especially during peak hours as the traffic can be particularly busy. In drier months it may be possible to walk through the Common, but this is usually marshy for much of the year.
9. At the junction with Botney Hill Road, carefully cross the road and turn left on the verge, then turn right onto Chase Farm (Footpath 52). You'll see a fine view ahead of South Essex.

The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

9. At the junction with Botney Hill Road, carefully cross the road and turn left on the verge, then turn right onto Chase Farm (Footpath 52). You'll see a fine view ahead of South Essex.
10. Continue across the fields and over a small bridge, following the way marker signs until you have reached a right turn. At this point you can go either way. Turn right to carry on the footpath or turn left to take a slightly shorter route via a permissive path, and then meet up again with Footpath 52.
11. Following the signs, continue in an easterly direction towards Little Burstead Village past a copse to the right and then up to the South boundary of The Rectory.
12. Upon reaching Rectory Road, turn right walking parallel to the road at the edge of the field Footpath 57.
13. Halfway along this stretch of the route continue either on the footpath, across the corner of field, or take the permissive path along the edge of the field for the final stretch towards St Marys the Virgin Church.
14. From the Church, cross Rectory Road before the corner, taking care to cross safely.
15. Walk through the gap in the hedge, turn right and over the bridge beneath the next hedge. Facing Broomhills Farm, turn left onto Footpath 49 towards Broomhills Chase.
16. Upon reaching Broomhills Chase (private residential estate) turn right, then left, and right again where signposted.
17. Carry on down into a small valley to the River Crouch. Take care the path is rather steep and slippery in wet weather, although there is a handrail. Go across the bridge and up the other bank into the fields.
18. With trees and hedgerow to the right, go on up across until you turn to the left, Footpath 187, behind the gardens of Noak Hill Road properties.
19. Continue following way marker signs into small woodland, with a sports ground to the right.
20. Upon reaching Laindon Common Road turn right taking the natural roadside path to return to the car park.

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The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

Then and Now



Coopers Cottages are truly remarkable because they are a rare surviving example of a late 14th or early 15th-century "Wealden" hall house. They are one of only about 30 known Wealden houses in all of Essex, featuring a substantially intact timber frame and a rare "single-bay hall" design that has survived for over 600 years. While now a pair of cottages with a brick facade, they still retain high-quality medieval carpentry inside, including a crown post roof and the original "jettied" wings that once overhung the ground floor. This is a Grade II listed landmark that acts as a quiet anchor for the village's historic conservation area. As you can see, the cottages have changed significantly since the photograph above was taken.



The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

The Oldest Records of Little Burstead



The earliest known record of Little Burstead is found in the Domesday Book of 1086, where it is listed as "Bordesteda". This entry provides a snapshot of the village's status shortly after the Norman Conquest.

Domesday Entry for Little Burstead (Bordesteda)

Location:	Bordesteda is situated in the Hundred of Barstable, within the county of Essex.
Population:	The settlement comprises 9 households, which is considered quite small. Land Ownership
Before 1066:	Held by Godwin of Benfield, an Anglo-Saxon Lord.
After 1066:	Transferred to the Bishop of London, a Norman ecclesiastical figure.
Resources:	Notes the presence of meadowland and woodland, indicating agricultural and pastoral activities.
Taxation:	The manor was assessed at 1.5 hides, a unit of tax assessment based on the land's productive capacity
Latin Original:	The original Latin text from the Domesday Book reads "Bordesteda. Godwin held it before 1066. The Bishop of London holds it now. It was assessed at 1.5 hides. There are 9 households. There is meadow and woodland.
Significance:	This early record highlights Little Burstead's modest size and agricultural nature in the late 11th century. The change in land ownership from an Anglo-Saxon lord to a Norman bishop reflects the broader shifts in landholding patterns following the Norman Conquest of 1066.

If you wish to investigate this further or would like to explore other Domesday entries, you can visit the [Open Domesday](#) website, which provides searchable access to the full text and associated data.

What is a "hide"?

A hide represented the amount of land sufficient to support one household or family. It was roughly considered to be about 120 acres, but this could vary widely depending on the quality and productivity of the land. A point to notice is that applying this to Little Burstead implies that there were about 225 acres to feed 9 households, only 25 acres of land to sustain each family for a year.

The hide wasn't a fixed area—it was more of a unit of value or productivity than strict acreage and was used as a basis for calculating taxes (geld) and obligations like providing soldiers or labour to the lord or king.

Why was it important to record hides in the Domesday Book?

The Domesday survey recorded hides to standardize tax assessments across the kingdom. By noting how many hides a manor had, officials could determine how much tax was owed or what military service was due.

It helped William the Conqueror understand and control land resources after the Norman Conquest.

So in summary, a hide was a variable but crucial unit in medieval England, roughly the land needed to support a household and used for taxation and military purposes. In the Domesday Book, it was a key measure to evaluate the wealth and obligations of a manor or village.

And now, we have Rachel Reeves from whom many would wish to "hide"!

The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

Welcome to Little Burstead: A New Resident's Guide

Welcome to Little Burstead! We're delighted to have you as part of our community. This guide is designed to help you settle in and make the most of living in our beautiful parish.

Getting to Know Your Community

Introduce Yourself:

- Take a moment to introduce yourself to your neighbours. A friendly “hello” can go a long way in building good relationships.

Local Amenities:

- Village Hall: The heart of community activities, offering various events and meeting spaces and to rent the hall or join in with the events, make contact with Carol Savage at cas21savage@gmail.com.

- Local Shops and Services: Discover the nearby grocery stores, post office, and other essential services – a wide variety of shops are available close to Billericay High Street while Basildon is surrounded by many large supermarkets. However, if you need somewhere to “nip” to quickly with easy parking, why not try South Green? It’s really a handy place to know about.

Community Groups and Activities:

- Little Burstead Parish Council: Attend council meetings to stay informed and involved in local decisions.

- Clubs and Societies: Join local clubs to meet new people and engage in community life.

Essential Information

1. Waste and Recycling:

- Collection Days: Waste and recycling are collected on specific days. Check the council website at basildon.gov.uk/article/4784/Waste-and-recycling or load the council app “OurStreets – Basildon Council” for your schedule and much more useful information.

- Recycling Centres: The nearest recycling centre is at Barleylands Recycling Centre, Barleylands Road, Billericay CM11 2U. This is free but will only accept recyclable waste and for more general waste, you will need to make an appointment for the Pitsea Recycling Centre, Pitsea Hall Lane, Pitsea, Basildon SS16 4UH.
- The Crunch: Periodically, Basildon Council will send out a waste collection service which normally takes place in the car park at the junction of Laindon Common Road and Noak Hill Road. This is your chance to turn up and drop your rubbish locally but the service is currently under review and may be suspended again.

2. Public Transport:

- None, nada, zip, zilch—if you do not have a car, then catch a lift, walk, ride a bike or call Uber. However, a new bus service is now promised to serve the deluge of new homes that are about to submerge us in commuting traffic as we become the region’s favourite rat run.

- Train Stations: The nearest train station is in Billericay which offers a good connection to London’s Liverpool Street Station. There is a car park which serves the station, but this is chargeable. Some commuters elect to drive to West Horndon and catch a train to Fenchurch Street which offers savings both in ticket and parking costs.

3. Healthcare:

- Local GP Practices: Register with a local GP for healthcare services. The closest medical facilities are listed on the NHS website at nhs.uk/nhs-services/services-near-you/.

Accident and Emergency: - We are fortunate to have Basildon University Hospital at SS16 5NL on our doorstep. This offers a full Accident and Emergency service but it is worth bearing in mind that for minor injuries, a trip to the Minor Injuries Unit in Orsett hospital at RM16 3EU may save a long wait for treatment. [find-an-accident-and-emergency-service](#).

The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

Check on the best facilities to use at nhs.uk/service-search/find-an-accident-and-emergency-service.

Defibrillators: Little Burstead has 4 defibrillators at the following locations:

AEC, Unit 3, Carvers Farm, Dunton Road, Little Burstead CM12 9TY

The Burstead Gold Club, Tye Common Road, Little Burstead CM12 9SS

The Dukes Head, Laindon Common Road, Little Burstead CM12 9TA

Little Burstead Village Hall, Laindon Common Road, Little Burstead CM12 9TJ

Locations of defibrillators may change, so it's worth occasionally checking on bhf.org.uk/how-you-can-help/how-to-save-a-life/defibrillators/understanding-defibrillators-what-they-are-and-how-to-use-them for the latest advice and locations.

We hope you never have need of one, but below are the British Heart Foundation instructions—they're well worth reading and at least if you have read them, you will have a small head start in an emergency.

Anyone can use a defibrillator, but you need to phone 999 for the code to open the door and retrieve the unit. You do not need training. Once you turn it on, it will give clear step-by-step voice instructions. Many defibrillators also have visual prompts and images showing how to use them. The device checks the person's heart rhythm and will only tell you to give them a shock if it's needed. You cannot shock yourself or someone else accidentally.

Steps to using a defibrillator

Step 1: Press the green button to switch on the defibrillator and follow the instructions.

Step 2: Remove the person's clothing above the waist. You might have to remove a person's bra by slipping the straps down or cutting it off. Most defibrillator packs have tools like scissors to help you to do this. It might feel odd or embarrassing but do not let that stop you. Remember, this is a life-or-death situation.

Step 3: Peel off the sticky pads and attach them to the person's bare skin. Put one pad on each side of the chest as shown in the picture on the defibrillator.

Step 4: Once you have attached the pads, stop CPR and do not touch the person. The defibrillator will then check the person's heart rhythm.

Step 5: The defibrillator will decide whether a shock is needed. If so, it will tell you to press the 'shock' button. An automatic defibrillator will shock the person without you needing to do anything. Do not touch the person while they're being shocked.

Step 6: The defibrillator will tell you when the shock has been given and whether you need to continue CPR.

Step 7: If the defibrillator tells you to continue to do CPR, continue with chest compressions until the person shows signs of life, or the defibrillator tells you to stop so it can analyse the heartbeat again.

Pharmacies: Find nearby pharmacies for your prescriptions and health needs – again the NHS app will help you find what you need in this respect, please visit nhs.uk/service-search/pharmacy/find-a-pharmacy.

4. Utilities: - Water and Sewerage: Services are provided by Essex & Suffolk Water. Contact them 03457 820111 for new connections or issues.

- Electricity and Gas: Choose from a range of providers. Visit comparison websites to find the best deals.

5. Internet and Communications: - Broadband Providers: Several providers offer services in Little Burstead, but for most of the Parish, County Broadband (01376 562002) appear to be the only supplier of full fibre Broadband. Should County Broadband not be able to serve your property, the only viable alternative presently available appears to be to install a Starlink Satellite system which is available from space.com. It may also be possible to obtain Broadband connection through a Satellite service provider such as Sky, but you will need to check availability and choose the best option for your needs. There is also the option of fitting a mobile SIM based unit, but this will only be as good as the mobile signal available at your home although if you have 5G, this is a viable alternative that shouldn't be dismissed without further thought.

- Postal Services: The local post office provides postal and banking services. The main Post Office is at 103C High Street, Billericay but there's also a service in South Green and at in the convenience store at the junction of Mountnessing Road and Perry Street.

The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

Community Etiquette

Noise Levels:

- Be mindful of your noise levels, especially during early mornings and late evenings.
- Inform neighbours in advance if you plan to have a party or any event that might be loud. Parking:
- Park considerately, ensuring that driveways and pathways are not blocked. Follow local parking regulations.

Pet Ownership: - Ensure pets are well-behaved and do not cause a nuisance.

- Are your pets intimidating your neighbours? Dogs especially are territorial and may appear to be aggressive to others in defence of your property.
- Ultimately, you will be responsible for your dog's behaviour and under Section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, if any dog is dangerously out of control in any place, including all private property, the owner or person for the time being in charge of the dog is guilty of a summary offence - if your dog bites your neighbour, you are the criminal!
- Please respect the farm land around us. Keep your dogs on a lead, especially near farm animals and please stick to the footpaths.
- For smaller pets such as cats or dogs, defecation or urination can lead to unwanted smells, especially in hot weather. Please be aware that pets may not appreciate land ownership boundaries and for example, your neighbour may not be pleased to find your dog's excrement deposited neatly in the middle of their lawn. On this subject, which utter morons think it appropriate to pick up their dog's excrement in "poo" bags and then throw the filled bags into hedges and trees? This is plain stupid. So if your dog defecates in a public place, pick it up with a "poo" bag, take it home and dispose of it properly. Nobody has the right to denigrate other people's enjoyment of nature and the countryside just because they are too lazy to behave in a decent and civilised way.
- Noise, again dogs are probably the biggest cause of problems. Dogs will bark to defend you and your property and they tend to perform this task well – sometimes too well and in doing so, do they cause a nuisance to your neighbours?
- Before buying a pet, be confident in your ability to train it properly and if necessary, seek professional help.
- Be aware that exotic pets may require a licence.

Generally

"Do unto others as you would have others do unto you" and by following these guidelines, you can foster positive relationships with your neighbours and contribute to a harmonious living environment.

Getting Involved

1. Volunteer Opportunities: Contribute to the community by volunteering for local projects, events, or the parish council.
2. Community Events: Attend community events such as fairs, markets, and seasonal celebrations to meet residents and enjoy local culture.

Useful Contacts

1. Borough Council Office: Contact Basildon Borough Council for any local governance issues, planning applications, and community services.
2. Emergency Services: Police, Fire, Ambulance: Dial 999 for emergencies. For non-emergencies, contact the local police station.

The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

3. Local Representatives: - Get in touch with your local councillors for any concerns or to discuss community matters. The Parish Council sits beneath both Basildon Borough (basildon.gov.uk) and Essex County Council (essex.gov.uk).

Your elected Councillors for Basildon Borough Council are:

- Cllr. Andrew Baggott - Andrew.Baggott@members.basildon.gov.uk
- Cllr. Richard Moore - richard.moore@members.basildon.gov.uk
- Cllr. Kevin Blake - kevin.blake@members.basildon.gov.uk

Basildon Borough Council should be contacted for matters relating to:

- Animal Control & Licensing
- Building Control
- Council Tax & Benefits
- Environmental Health
- Housing, Rent & Homelessness
- Planning
- Parking
- Street Scene Services
- Waste & Recycling

Your Essex County Council elected representatives are:

Cllr Anthony Hedley - cllr.anthony.hedley@essex.gov.uk Dr Richard Moore - cllr.richard.moore@essex.gov.uk

Essex County Council should be contacted on for matters relating to:

- Adult Social Care & Health
- Births, Ceremonies & Deaths
- Business Licences
- Children, Young People & Families
- Heritage, Local History & Archives
- Libraries
- Roads, Streets & Transport
- Trading Standards
- Blue Badge
- Disabled parking bays
- School transport

Please note that both Basildon Borough Council and Essex County Council operate online reporting facilities which they claim, will be much quicker to use than telephoning. Ho hum.

For matters concerning roads, streets and transport such as to report a highways problem, get updates on travel, transport and roadworks, please refer to Essex Highways (essexhighways.org) where you will be able to:

- report or track a problem with a road or pavement
- get live traffic and travel updates
- apply for something including skips and scaffolding licenses, dropped kerbs etc.
- get bus information
- apply for an older or disabled persons bus pass
- pay or challenge a bus lane or gate Penalty Charge Notice (PCN)
- view highway improvement schemes
- get around in Essex
- view a public rights of way map

The Little Burstead Times



Your Parish Council News

You will also find information about:

- Blue Badges
- Disabled parking bays
- School transport
- View highway improvement schemes
- Get around in Essex
- View a public rights of way map

Environmental Stewardship

1. Biodiversity: Participate in local initiatives to protect and enhance our natural environment. Join planting events and support conservation efforts.
2. Sustainable Living: Adopt eco-friendly practices such as recycling, composting, and reducing energy consumption to contribute to a sustainable community.

Conclusion

We hope this guide helps you settle into Little Burstead and enjoy all that our Parish has to offer. Above all, welcome to the community, and we look forward to getting to know you!

Almost Lastly

We've done our best to make sure that the contents of the Little Burstead Times are true and correct, but we're human and so please accept, as we do ourselves, that we are capable of making mistakes. If you see something that is wrong, that needs correction, that should be said in addition, that has been omitted—then please say and we will do our utmost to bring it to people's attention in the next issue—reader input is welcome because discussion is healthy!

- If you have any ideas for content or would like to submit a report about personal, group or other activities even if only vaguely associated with Little Burstead, we would love to hear from you.
- If you have any ideas for improvements, big or small, that would make Little Burstead a better place to live, please share them with us.
- If you have knowledge of local history or an old village photographs that might interest others, please send it in.
- If you can spare an evening occasionally to join us and see how Parish Council affairs are run, would love to see you at our regular meetings
- If you are a local business offering local services and would like to advertise in The Times, please contact one of the councillors listed. Our rates are very reasonable since we seek merely to cover the printing costs and additionally, we restrict the number of advertisements to a minimum, we offer our advertisers a degree of exclusivity.

Please send your emails to littlebursteadpc@gmail.com

A closing thought for you

We asked AI to write a short poem about living in Little Burstead and it produced this:

In the quiet lean of the Essex hills, where the cricket bat's chime meets the buzz of the bee, Little Burstead rests in a patchwork of green, anchored by the stone of St. Mary's. Here, the morning mist hangs low over the common and the oak trees stand as ancient sentinels along the winding lanes, far from the frantic pulse of the town. Life moves with the slow, steady rhythm of the seasons—a soft-spoken peace found in the smell of damp earth and the shared nod of a neighbor, where the simple grace of the village remains tucked away, timeless and still.

Wordsworth it isn't, but your thoughts?