

THE NEWSLETTER OF
GREAT BURSTEAD
AND SOUTH GREEN
PARISH COUNCIL

The Mole

CHRISTMAS 2008

Parish Council
2008/2009
Meeting Dates
7.30 pm start

3rd December 2008
7th January 2009
4th February 2009
4th March 2009

**DATES FOR
YOUR DIARY**

**CHRISTMAS
FAYRE AT
ST PETERS
SCHOOL
SUNDAY 7TH
DEC 2-5PM**

THE CRUNCH
WILL BE VISIT-
ING BETWEEN
9.00AM AND
12.00PM.

LITTLE
BURSTEAD CAR
PARK, BILLER-
CAY 29TH
NOVEMBER

RADFORD CRES-
CENT CAR
PARK, BILLE-
RICAY 17TH
JANUARY 2009

LITTLE
BURSTEAD CAR-
PARK,
BILLERICAY
31ST JANUARY

Christmas Greetings From Your Parish Councillors

The members of the Parish Council would like to wish you all, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.



Cllr. Alex Aly-Khan
(Chair)



Cllr. Lynda Kelly
(Vice Chair)



Cllr. Dorothy Cundy



Cllr. John Dear



Cllr. Marie Dear



Cllr. Aisha McConnell



Cllr. Mary Saunderson



Cllr. Martin Wakelin

Community Worker (Part time)

Further to the article in the last edition of The Mole, the Parish Council have progressed with its plans to recruit a Community Worker. Should you be in-

terested in applying for the position full details, with an application form are available to download from the Parish Council website, as detailed below.

The deadline for receipt of applications is Friday 19th December. Interviews will be held week commencing 5th January 2009.

Our web address: www.greatbursteadsouthgreenparishcouncil.gov.uk
Send your e-mails to the clerk: kimbarford@tiscali.co.uk

The History Of South Green Memorial Hall

During the V.E. Day celebrations of 1945, a number of South Green residents met to discuss ways in which to keep alive the memory of those local people who had served and died in World War II. Out of these discussions the idea of the Memorial Hall was born. The residents then formed a fund raising committee.

On the 7th July 1945, over a thousand people attended a fete held to raise funds for the Hall on the green. This was the first such fete held. On Saturday, 25th July 1945 £21 was raised for the Hall from a dance held on the green. By 1948 enough money had been raised to purchase the Hall's site from Mr H.W.Truss.

Plans were drawn up, but because of rising costs building work did not take place until 1955. The Hall was finally completed at a cost of £2,205 and was opened on Saturday 7th July 1956 with a fete and an opening ceremony held by Mr H Bent-Marshall. The first event to be held in the Hall was a whist drive on its opening evening.

The Hall is owned by all residents of South Green and is managed by a voluntary committee of local people. It is a registered charity, and relies on fund raising and monies received from lettings to cover its running costs.

This story and many others can be found in, 'South Green – A Short History And The Story Of Its Memorial Hall', available from Billelicay library.

Below, under club spotlight, are details of some of the clubs / activities at the hall, others include:
Grenfell Pre School
South Green Women's Institute
Karate
Line Dancing
Scrabble Club
Rainbows
Brownies
Guides
Short Mat Bowls
Orchid Group
Yoga
Craft Club
Mill Meadows Society

Club spotlight

LADYBIRDS

The Ladybirds are a friendly, lively group of ladies of all ages who meet every Tuesday at South Green Memorial Hall between 8.30pm and 10.30pm to light-heartedly rehearse songs, dances and comedy sketches which we perform in shows every couple of years. We sing to karaoke backing tracks with microphones which these days means that means we can perform songs from most decades. We have some talented members who make our costumes and design the sets but we are always looking for new ladies to join us to perform or help backstage. If you would like to come and see us either telephone Pam on 01268 462896 or Bettine

on 01277 654447 or alternatively come along one Tuesday evening.]

SOUTH GREEN THURSDAY CLUB

South Green Thursday Club was established in 1953 and meets every Thursday at 1.30pm to 4.00pm at South Green Memorial Hall. At the club one can meet friends for tea and biscuits, enjoy bingo games for money prizes and social evenings with entertainment. The club also provides summer coach outings, an annual dinner and much, much more. It is open to everyone fifty five years old plus and new members are welcome. There is no joining fee. For further details contact the club secretary on 01277 657741.

O-3 CLUB

We are a local Baby and Toddler club which welcomes all mothers/fathers/carers/grandparents and their under 5 year olds to enjoy quality play sessions in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

Children are encouraged to enjoy the use of a wide range of toys, make new friends, learn new skills and feel safe and happy in a large hall setting.

Sessions are held at South Green Memorial Hall on Wednesdays 1- 3 pm and South Green Infant School (Rainbow community room) Fridays 9 - 11am.

Come along or phone for more information.

Mary 01277 659922
Claire 01277 652204

We are planning to provide information on clubs and activities at all the other venues within the Parish, in subsequent issues.

Retailers At South Green

In our last parish newsletter, we published the profiles of B. Curtis Quality Fruiterers, David's Quality Meats and Tops Hair Fashions, retailers at South Green. As part of this continuing series we now look at the estate agent Ridge and Post Office Stores.

Estate Agent – Ridge

At Ridge estate agents I spoke to Dennis Sartain, one of three people who own the business. He and his colleagues have been on Grange Parade since 2006, but the office itself had been there for about four to five years before this. The most popular items with Ridge's customers are bungalows, and Dennis reasoned that this was because of an aging population. Dennis believes bungalows keep their value over regular houses as people buying them tend to be older with greater capital to draw upon. He also suggested

that the popularity of bungalows is problematic, however, as many of them are being converted into properties with stairs. Ridge are the only estate agents in South Green, and this gives the business an advantage. A Wickford branch has been opened and the business may expand when the market improves. Dennis explained to me that the credit crunch has had an impact upon estate agents, and the poorly performing housing market is also affecting allied industries like painting and decorating, plumbing and various other businesses connected with DIY.

Tel. No. 01277 636096

Post Office and General Store – Post Office Stores

According to Mr Prakash, who I spoke to at Post Office Stores, his outlet is reputed to be the oldest post office in Billericay. The shop was once part of the

Mace chain of convenience stores. As the current occupier, he has been providing for our post office needs for the past twelve years. Monday is the busiest day of the week for Post Office Stores, as this is when senior citizens pick up their pensions. Other forms of banking are also popular with his customers, and his is one of the leading post offices in England for the provision of foreign currency. Mr Prakash told me that his branch won a special award for sub-post offices six years ago for this function.

He also informed me that he liked doing business in our parish as he enjoys the challenge and giving local youths work experience, as well as making useful connections. Mr Prakash hopes for the business to expand in the future.

Tel. No. 01277 626498

Your South Green retailer liaison Councillor is Mary Saunderson. Please contact her via the clerk .

Parish history....Zeppelin Crashes In Parish

In 1916, the German naval airship Zeppelin L32 was shot down. It crashed onto fields between Greens Farm Lane and Outwood Common Road at 1.30am on Sunday, 24th September. Because of this event South Green found itself at the centre of national attention and an enormous number of people came to see the wreckage. Such was the size of the crowds that people wishing to collect souvenirs were kept at a distance by a cordon of troops and policemen.

The Zeppelin had been on a bombing raid and was going to drop its payload on London. This was not to be, however, as the L32 was caught in searchlights and was shot down by Second Lieutenant Frederick Sowrey. He did this as he flew a BE2c aircraft from Sutton's Farm Aerodrome in Hornchurch. The bodies of the Zeppelin crew were initially kept overnight in a barn that stood at the top of the hill in Greens Farm Lane. The barn, long since demolished, gained the nickname, 'Dead Man's Barn'.

In the 1960's the crew's remains were buried in the German War Graves Cemetery in Staffordshire, but they were buried for many years before this in the churchyard of St Mary Magdalene church in Great Burstead.

This story and many others can be found in, 'South Green – A Short History And The Story Of Its Memorial Hall', researched and compiled by Brin McPherson, Peter Murdoch, Doreen Webb & June Ward.

Billericay Design Statement Association

The following is an extract from the draft document submitted by Cllr. Wakelin regarding the history of the Parish, for inclusion in the Billericay Design Statement.

'Great Burstead is Saxon in origin. There are records of Roman settlement and brick working. The historic core of the village is around the Church of St Mary Magdalene. Part of the nave is Norman, the rag-stone West tower is C14 with buttresses and a shingled spire above battlements. The rest on the nave is C14 - C15 with some small C19 - C20th extensions. The four separate Crown post roofs are C15 and C16. The wall paintings have been dated 1320-30 and an iron bound, wooden chest is dated C12 - C13. The church has fine stained glass, the most recent 2003 celebrating the churches link with Christopher Martin.

Several early houses cluster around the Church and indicate this was originally the heart of the village. Glass bottle cottage, timber framed and plastered, was originally two cottages. Old maps show two vicarages, the Kings Arms and a Sunday school. A few further houses survive throughout the parish from the C18 and before. Gobions farmhouse and Gatwick House are notable.

The southern boundary of the parish is marked by the, still tiny, River Crouch. Noak Hill road crosses the river as you enter the parish from the south and marks the western boundary of the parish. The northern boundary is marked by a mill mound which was the site of one of two windmills. The eastern boundary is in open countryside towards Ramsden Crays.'



QUIZ CORNER

LOCATION QUIZ

Can you identify the places in the Parish ?

A.



B.



C.



D.



E.



WORDSEARCH

How many parish place names can you find in the grid? You need to look for the following:

Beams Way
Grange Road
Kennel Lane
Kings Way
Linkdale
Maple Mead
Margeth Road
Noak Hill Road
Southend Road
South Green
The Hoe
The Oaks

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

MATCH TRICKS

1. (a) Make the following equation correct by moving ONLY one match:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{X X I I I} \\ \text{-----} = \text{I I} \\ \text{V I I} \end{array}$$

(b) And the Following;

$$\text{V I} = \text{I I}$$

2. Squares and Triangles

Make two squares and four triangles from eight matches, without breaking or bending them.

Answers in the Spring issue