

Parish Council
2008/2009
Meeting Dates
7.30 pm start

3rd September 2008
1st October 2008
5th November 2008
3rd December 2008
7th January 2009
4th February 2009
4th March 2009

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THE CRUNCH
WILL BE VISIT-
ING BETWEEN
9:00AM AND
12:00PM:

LITTLE
BURSTEAD CAR
PARK, BILLER-
CAY:

2ND AUGUST

RADFORD CRES-
CENT CAR
PARK, BILLE-
RICAY:

6TH SEPTEMBER

Chair's Report

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to our new and exciting newsletter, "The Mole", a title we are using for the first time. Parish Councilors chose the title unanimously. We hope that in future issues, we will have more local contributors with stories and articles about our past, present and suggestions for the future.

I have lived in this beautiful and picturesque Parish since 1976. Our children went to South Green Infant and Junior School with its dedicated staff. Our grandchildren now attend the school. People in the Parish are friendly and have a unique community spirit.

Like any other Parish Council, we are entrusted with rate-payers' money and we must spend it wisely. The contract for the Christmas lights will come to an end after Decem-

ber 2008, so we have lights for this year. Then, as is standard practice, the Parish Council will discuss alternatives and invite suggestions from you.

As you will notice, the hanging baskets are now in place, the Parish Council invited quotations from a number of traders and Billericay Nurseries have once again supplied and are maintaining the baskets for us during the summer months. Many positive comments have been received and I think you will agree they look very good.

It is my firm belief that our 'retailers' are the backbone of our community, where residents exchange ideas and have a rapport with our shopkeepers. "Good morning, how are you today?" goes a long way in establishing a solid thriving community. In today's world personal service and personal



Recently, a presentation was given by new Chair Alex Aly-Khan for retiring Chair Mohamed Javed. He served from 1997 until April of this year.

contact has long gone, but here, I am pleased to say, it still exists. The Parish Council will strive to maintain and do their utmost to enhance the outlook of our shopping parade. I hope, in the coming months with your help and co-operation, WE will achieve this.

Please rest assured that your Parish Council is here to represent you. I hope, during my Chairmanship, to improve the local environment for the benefit off all.

Councillor Aly-Khan

Your Parish Council

The Parish Council meets on the first Wednesday of every month with the exception of August each year at Langham Hall, Langham Crescent, Billericay, CM12 9RE.. Members of the Public are always very welcome at the meetings and each year an Annual Parish Meeting is held, an additional opportunity for those living or working

within the Parish to ask questions and pass comment..

Between meetings parishioners are able to contact Parish Councillors or the Clerk, with contact details on the Parish notice board opposite the shops at South Green or on the Parish Council website.

The Parish Council comprises of

8 members, elections are held every 4 years. In the case of there being insufficient members following an election, as happened this year, vacancies are advertised, eligible candidates apply and they can then be co-opted to join the Parish Council. In the case of there being more applicants than vacancies, members vote to appoint the most suitable candidate.



Proposed Community Worker

To further improve the range of facilities and activities within the community for all ages the Parish Council are planning to recruit a part-time Community Worker.

The role will encompass the running of the youth club at Langham Hall in Langham Crescent, to con-

tinue and build upon the existing activities for the elderly with clubs and outings and to hopefully set up holiday activities and after school clubs for the young.

Obviously a large remit for the new post holder, but we anticipate that the Community Development

Worker will be able to access the large amount of possible funding that is available to assist in this endeavour, to enhance and give new opportunities to community.

If you have any views and suggestions about the Community Worker please contact The Clerk.

This edition of **The Mole** has been put together for you by Councillor John Dear, Councillor Martin Wakelin and the Parish Clerk.

COMPETITION!

Are you 8-11 years old? Then why not enter **The Mole's** competition? We want you to design a logo for your Parish Council newsletter. The winner will have their design on the front of **The Mole**, so get drawing! Send your entries with your name, address and age to the Parish Clerk.

DESERVING CITIZEN

Do you think someone in our community deserves an item about them in the **Mole**?

If so, please contact our Clerk for further information.

Fun Facts About South Green & Great Burstead

1) South Green was originally known as Southwoode Greene and the village green is clearly shown on the oldest surviving map of Billericay of 1593, although it was properly established hundreds of years prior to this date.

2) Christopher Martin (born 1582) was one of forty-one Pilgrims who signed the Mayflower Compact on 11th November, 1620, during the trip from England to North America. Martin was from what was then the small settlement of

Billericay, which was two miles from what was at the time the local administration centre of Great Burstead.

More fun facts in the next newsletter.

Things To Do In Our Parish

Activities at Langham Hall:

- Aerobics class
- Pensioners club
- PCSO surgery
- South Green Youths
- Mums with little ones
- Sugar craft
- Scrapbook club
- Contemporary dance company

Contact Mrs McConnell for more details 01277 631973.

Activities at South Green Memorial Hall:

Monday: Pre-School/ Guides/Line Dancing
Tuesday: Pre-School/ Karate/Ladybirds Drama Club
Wednesday: Pre-School/0-3 Club/Karate/ Scrabble Club (last in month)

Thursday: Pre-School/ Thursday Club/

Rainbows/Karate/W.I. (3rd in month)

Friday: Pre-School/ Yoga (Essex CC)/ Karate/Brownies/Bowls

Saturday: Orchid Club (2nd in month, Sept-June)

Contact Booking Secretary for more details 07804 969330

Retailers At South Green

South Green parade of shops Hairdressers

provides customers with a wide range of quality goods and services. In the following we provide three of the shops and provide a useful list of all the retailers at South Green.

Tops Hair Fashions is one of a pair of salons, the other is at Steeple View. There's been a salon here for forty years. The current owner has been trading for three years. Graduated bobs are popular with customers. The owner thinks South Green has an excellent range of shops and her large window onto the green gives a great view of the world going by. The salon is to be refurbished and will be opening on Mondays from 18th August.

Tel: 01277 653785

Greengrocers

B. Curtis has been the local greengrocers in South Green since 1962. It provides the village with a wide range of products including fresh fruit and vegetables, in addition to pet foods and plants. Ben Curtis, the owner, feels the lack of parking is a problem for retailers on the parade. He also believes South Green is a pleasant local community where he gets to know his customers well and it's a good environment.

Tel: 01277 622170

Butchers

David Belcher has traded as David's Quality Meats for the last thirty-seven years. As well as an extensive variety of meats it also offers customers frozen fish and delicatessen products. Steak and chicken are customers' favourites. David likes the friendly atmosphere and people of the village.

Tel: 01277 622321

South Green Retailers - A Handy List

B Curtis	Greengrocer
David's Quality Meats	Butcher
Dr. M Safraz & Dr N Safraz	Doctor's Surgery
Firmeroft Ltd	Pharmacy
Fresh & Tasty!	Baker
JB's Florist	Florist
Martin's	Newsagent
One Stop	Supermarket
Post Office Stores	Post Office and General Store
Ridge Team	Estate Agent
The Godfather	Fish & Chip Shop
The Local	Off Licence
The Original Touch Of Glass	Dry Cleaner
Tops Hair Fashions	Hairdresser
William Hill	Betting Shop

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

More Activities In Our Parish

Activities at Great Burstead Church Hall:

Monday -Friday: Little Achievers Pre-School. Debra Perkins 01277 627422

Monday: Bridge Club. Alan Bremerman 01277 654740

2nd Tuesday of the month: People Enjoying Pensions. Ted Bush 01277 622183

Tuesdays: Keep Fit. Mrs Denning 01277 624455

Wednesday: Cubs & Scouts Mrs Potts 01245 400106

1st Thursday of the month: Mothers' Union. Mrs Dickson 01277 652701

Thursdays: Brownies. Mrs Bird 01277 654015

Billericay Art Club. Alan Gwinnell 01277 654100

Friday: Cubs. Mrs Potts 01245 400106.

Branching Out in South Green

Most people love trees and appreciate their beauty, and their amazing form and structure.

We keep being told how they store carbon and offset some of the effects of global warming. We learnt at school how plants take in carbon dioxide (CO₂) and give off oxygen. In trees the carbon is locked up in the wood and is taken out of the Carbon Cycle. On average one tree absorbs about 1 ton of CO₂ in its lifetime. The carbon returns to the atmosphere if timber is burnt or rots so it's in our interest to keep them healthy or use the timber in buildings.

Trees are also very good at providing shade. In Mediterranean climates trees are pruned and trained to provide canopies over public and private spaces. Conveniently deciduous trees provide shade in summer but let the light through in winter when we need it.

Trees have been shown to be very good at absorbing dust and other particulates in the atmosphere. They act like big combs cleaning the air and are much more effective than other plants because of their size.

Older trees particularly create rich habitats for wildlife, birds, bats and beneficial insects. Oak trees can be home to some 400 species of insects and fungi that, in turn, attracts a wide variety of feeding birds and are



complete habitats in themselves.

As they live much longer than most human beings, older trees are also a window on history. The Woodland Trust is currently carrying a country-wide search. They say 'Ancient trees are living relics of incredible age that inspire in us feelings of awe and mystery. They have helped shape our history, and will help shape our future if we let them.' The oaks that line Grange road and Southend Road probably indicate the line of old hedge rows predating all the houses.

One of the oldest trees in the parish is the yew tree at St Mary Magdalene – see the internet link below.

<http://www.ancient-yew.org/treelInfo.php?link=476>

Other internet links that may be of interest regarding trees are:

<http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/>

<http://www.favouritetrees.org/>

Trees can cause problems as well. We begin to worry about them when they get too close to our property. They can cast too much shade, drop leaves and twigs and might, one day, fall particularly if we don't look after them.

We do need to look after the trees we have, and to plant new ones for future generations. You may have noticed recently the Parish Council with help from Essex County and Basildon District Council have recently planted some new trees on South Green and on Noak Hill Road.

Many parish councils have tree strategies. Please contact the parish clerk if you would like to get involved in helping develop one for South Green and Great Burstead.

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