



THE MOLE

Great Burstead & South Green Village Council

Winter 2010
Issue 7

Village Council Meetings Winter 2010/11

1 December 2010
5 January 2011
2 February 2011
7.30pm @ South Green
Memorial Hall

Contact details

Kim Barford,
Clerk to the Village Council
Email: kimbarford@tiscali.co.uk

www.greatbursteadsouthgreenparishcouncil.gov.uk



Christmas Sing Song

Christmas 2009 was the first year and following its success it is planned to repeat the event on Thursday, 9th December 2010 again outside the shops at South Green. Do please come along at 5pm and sing along to your favourite Christmas songs and carols encouraged by The Ladybirds and the children from South Green Schools. Last year the tombola, which was generously supported by local traders, raised funds which were donated to St. Luke's Hospice. We would welcome assistance on the day please contact our clerk if you like to join in, we feel sure it will get you into the Christmas swing!!

Christmas message from the Chair of the Village Council

As a Village Council we form the foundation of democracy in this country. As councillors we must represent and respond to the views of local people in what we do or say. We are currently pursuing a few ideas and it would be helpful to get people's response to these, so if you are bored this Christmas please send us an email or scribble us a letter.

Church Bells are, or should be, a part of Christmas. The bells at our parish church are silent at present as they are broken and unsafe to ring. The Village Council is exploring with the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, that actually made some of the original bells in 16th century, whether it's possible to make them sound again. It's likely to be difficult and expensive, but if it can be achieved it would be great to hear them again, particularly at this time of year.

.....as Kirsty MacColl used to sing,
And the bells were ringing out
For Christmas day

The Village Council and I wish you a very Merry Christmas.
Have a great time!



Look inside to find: Christmas events, Community Report, South Green Improvements update, Club Spotlight, Crunch dates/locations, Langham Hall, Living Landscapes, Local news **and more**

Community Development

We are regularly being told that our society is fractured, broken, and that we don't have a sense of community anymore. What can we do to put this right? Lots of people are struggling to do their own thing when often people down the street are having a similar hard time, but if they worked together they could achieve so much more. Here are some initial ideas....

Garden Share – At this time of year, is anyone in our village, looking out at their garden and wondering how they are going to look after it all again when the spring comes? Are there people with tiny gardens who wish they had more? There are schemes where gardens are shared so that the able bodied support the less able or lazier, sharing space and produce. Would this be a good idea here? Is anybody doing it already?

Allotments - The Village Council, following an article in the local press, is actively trying to source available land to meet local demand. Do contact us should you also wish to be added to the growing list or know of available land. Funding is available to assist and allotments would be a vital community asset to have within our village.

Woodshare – It is sustainable to burn wood. Wood produces the same amount of carbon dioxide as it is burnt as it does when it rots so burning wood is a carbon neutral form of heating, whereas using gas or electricity is not. In Essex, there is a tradition of coppice management of woodlands, regular cutting which keeps the woods healthy and supports biodiversity. Growing timber for fuel is nothing new. Wood cut in Epping Forest used to fuel the bread ovens of London until they started to use coal. Essex Wildlife, local councils and private owners can't keep up with managing the woodland they own and are willing to allow organized groups to help, in return for wood. Harvesting and using at a local level makes a lot of sense if you have wood to get rid of or need some, let us know.

Litter Collection – People regularly complain about litter and the answer is in our own hands. Several people locally do go out and pick it up which is much more satisfying than grumbling. We cleared a section of Kennel Lane a while ago picking up quite quickly a black sack full. It was amazing how much better the lane looked for a long time afterwards. Great if people could do this in a coordinated way.

Being active gets us out in the open air and brings people together. Anyone with ideas please or wanting to get involved please contact Martin Wakelin at townleywakelin@mac.com or the Clerk, tel. no. 01277 652057 or at kimbarford@tiscali.co.uk.

Martin Wakelin, Chair of the Village Council

Tell us what you would like the Village Council to do in our parish of Great Burstead and South Green.

Members would welcome your comments on the following matters.....

We already provide flowers and Christmas lights, is this good use of your money?

Do you think the Village should be aiming to provide allotments?

Should the Village Council renew the litter bins near the shops?

Might a bin be in the shape of a penguin to encourage children and adults to use it?

Would you like us to promote a Summer Fayre on the green next year?

What might it be like?

Would you like us to put on other events?

Would you be prepared to volunteer to assist with those or other village activities?

Should we help with the restoration of the church bells?

What's really important to you about this village and where you live ?

MEMBER VACANCY

Applications are invited from members of the public to become a Great Burstead & South Green Village Councillor.

Applicants must be an elector, 18 or over, be a British, Commonwealth or Euronational subject who has resided or worked within Great Burstead and South, or lived within 3 miles of its boundary for the 12 months preceding application.

Should you require any further information or to obtain an application pack with full details of qualifying status please contact the clerk.

VACANCY— PART TIME CLERK

Working from home with some evening work
Please contact Kim Barford, Clerk to the Village Council for further information.

Tel: 01277 652057

email: kimbarford@tiscali.co.uk

South Green Improvements

2009/10 saw the offer again, of funding / budget allocation from the Community Initiatives Fund (Highways). The Village Council applied and were fortunate earlier this year, to be awarded partial funding for improvements to the Highways at South Green. In the coming months works will be undertaken to re-position existing bollards (to improve parking), installation of kerbing, installation of wooden bollards roadside to the 'green', blister parking to better define crossing points and improvements to existing damaged verges. Damaged railing are also to be replaced and the Village Council has plans for future to renovate / replace existing bins.

The Village Council is most concerned for pedestrian safety at the shops and the property management company for the freeholder of Andree House, Grange Parade has also been approached and it is hoped improvements to the ramp and step pedestrian access, which is privately owned will take place in the near future.

Club spotlight - Billericay Scrabble Club

by John Dear

Billericay Scrabble Club meets each Wednesday at 7:00pm at the Rose Hall in Chapel Street. The venue changes for the last Wednesday of the month – with the exception of August and December – when the club meets at South Green Memorial Hall on the Southend Road at 7:00pm. The club has been active for 28 years during which time the club's membership has expanded and contracted and currently stands at 27. Anyone who is interested in playing Scrabble, no matter what their ability, is welcome to join them.

Members pay £2 per evening and this includes tea and biscuits. There is also a yearly membership fee of £5. In addition to weekly Scrabble meetings, the club offers a yearly garden party, regular matches against the Romford club and a Christmas dinner. The yearly garden party takes place in the summer and is held in a member's house, where participants play Scrabble, chat and have a dinner. The matches against the Romford club provide members with a chance to meet new people who are also interested in playing the game. A festive time is had at the Christmas meal where the year's trophies are presented. If you are interested in joining the club, then pop along on a Wednesday night or phone club secretary Terry Corps on 01277 623869.



To make you laugh.....

What's the most popular wine at Christmas?

I DON'T LIKE SPROUTS!!!

How does Jack Frost travel to work?

BY ICICLE!!!

Crunch times (free mobile tip)

Saturday, 11 December

9am—12 noon

Radford Crescent Car Park,
Billericay

For more information on other dates

telephone 01268 294949

Mobile library - Fortnightly 30 min visits

Next visit 10 December 2010

Carvers Wood 9am-9.30am

Hickstars Lane 9.35am-10.05am

Greens Farm Lane 10.20am-10.40am

Allington Court 10.45am-11.15am

Roman Way 11.20am-11.50am

PLANS TO RE-OPEN LANGHAM HALL

Plans are in hand to save Langham Hall and return it to community use.

As well as local community groups, Billericay Children's Centre plans to use the hall to offer services, such as speech therapy, baby clinics and mother and toddler groups to local children and families. The Village Council is strongly behind the proposal to redevelop the hall and has pledged £8,000 towards the project.

The group co-ordinating the plan is looking for local residents to help in fundraising, to establish a management committee and to give ideas about what activities and groups they would like to see happening at the hall.

If you can help please ring 07847 484896.

Calendar of WINTER EVENTS

There are a number of events happening within the parish and locally within Essex, for all ages, during the festive season, here are details of just a few which may be of interest:

Christmas Sing Song—

Come and sing along to favourite christmas songs and carols— Thursday, 9th December 5pm at South Green Essex Records Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford, CM2 6Y

A Taste of Christmas— a FREE event Saturday, 4 December 2010 10am—3pm - Join food historian Monica Askey as she cooks traditional, yet sometimes surprising, Christmas treats. No need to book.

Essex Wildlife Trust-Langdon Visitor Centre, Lower Dunton Road, Basildon, SS16 6EB

Carols @The Haven—3 sessions available between 7 and 9pm, £6 each, Friday 10 December @ — Christmas carols at the Haven plotlands museum, lit by candle light and log fire. Enjoy mulled wine & a mince pie at the centre

Christmas Crafts— 12th or 19th December 2010, 10am to 3pm, a donation of £1 for each craft item made.

Telephone 10268 419103 for further information or to make a booking.

Mill Meadows Society

Conservation Work Party—Saturday 11 December 2010, meet at the Scouts Hall, Greens Farm Lane, 10.30am to 12noon followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

South Green Baptist Church

Carols by Candlelight—Sunday 19 December 2010, 4pm at South Green Junior School, Hickstars Lane

Christmas Day Service—Saturday, 25 December 2010, 10.30am at South Green Junior School, Hickstars Lane

St Mary Magdalene Church

Mother's Union—Monday, 6th December 8pm an evening of carols and readings in Great Burstead Hall

Church services—December, 19th - 6.30pm Nine lessons and carols, 24th - Christingle, 3pm and 5pm, Mid night Mass, 11.30pm, Christmas Day, Said Communion 8am and a second service with carols at an earlier than usual time of 10am.

Living Landscapes – a vision for the future of Essex

Living Landscapes are large areas which are being restored for the benefit of wildlife and the people. The initiative to improve tracts of land beyond the protected but isolated nature reserves. It is widely supported and promoted by Essex Wildlife Trust which has identified 80 Living Landscape Areas in The County.

Protected sites can become fragments without the habitat in-between which encourages the free movement of wildlife species which is essential if populations are to be stable and increase.

Ramsden Heath and Woods (Area 34) is a diverse mix which includes Norsey Wood, Mill Meadows, Laindon Common, and Queens Park are protected and safe. These areas need to be joined together with 'wildlife corridors' to maintain the populations of key species.

The Vision Document for the area describes what we want to achieve and sets objectives for now and the future. It lists the wildlife species that we want to conserve, targets improvements for those species and suggests plans for general improvements that can be made.

But Living Landscapes is not just about wildlife. The Vision includes targets for people and the community and also looks at how we can bring economic benefits, for example by encouraging more landowners to take advantage of funded schemes, and to promote the recreational, food and other products of the area.

The Vision Document is only the beginning. Some projects are already underway: woodlands and hedgerows are being improved. Local "Green Walks", and a network of renewed and new ponds, are being planned.

Can you help?

Almost anyone can make a contribution. These are long-term projects. Researching, talking to a school or landowner about an idea for use of their land, writing promotional material or doing surveys, as well as the physical tasks in work parties. If you want to get involved please do contact me – details are below.

Neil Sumner

EWT Volunteer and Mill Meadows Society Chairman

NeilSumner123@aol.com Tel: 01277 630849

Neighbourhood Policing

Non-urgent local issues 07969 365610

Report non-emergency crime and incidents 0300 333 4444 ext 45827

A warning from the Burstead Neighbourhood Police Team...

Beware Bogus Scrap Metal Dealers and Leaflet Deliverers Taking Property

The Police have warned that residents should be on their guard for bogus scrap metal dealers operating in the area. To collect scrap, dealers need to have a *Waste Carriers Licence* and a *Waste Management Licence*. If you suspect scrap dealers are unauthorized please call the Police on: 0300 333 4444. Also, the Police warn that some people delivering takeaway restaurant flyers have been stealing such items as toys and bikes from front gardens and driveways.