



Little Baddow Newsletter

ISSUED BY LITTLE BADDOW PARISH COUNCIL

Little Baddow by Karen Latham

Spring 2014



Exhibition & Open Parish Forum

**Come and meet your Councillors, Council Officers
and representatives of village organisations**

**Little Baddow Parish Assembly
Wednesday 16th April 2014 at 6.30pm
Free Tea and Coffee - Licensed Bar available**

LITTLE BADDOW PARISH COUNCIL

EXHIBITION & OPEN PARISH FORUM

AT THE MEMORIAL VILLAGE HALL

NORTH HILL, LITTLE BADDOW CM3 4TA

After the success of last year's new arrangements for the Annual Parish Assembly this year's event will be similar.

All parishioners are invited to attend this special event

There will be plenty to see and hear plus your opportunity to ask questions during Public Question Time.

Free Refreshments available throughout

EVENT AGENDA

6.30pm - 7.30pm

7.30pm - 8pm

(the formal part)

Exhibition opened by the Chairman.

1. Apologies for Absence
2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Report by the Chairman
5. Financial Report 2012/13
6. Presentation of Charity Report
7. City Councillor Report
8. County Councillor Report
9. Public Question Time

9pm

Chairman to close the event

Parish, City and County Councillors

Parish Councillors

Rod Barrett

rodbarrett276@aol.com 226246

Mary Buckley

mary.buckley@btinternet.com 07818-296957

Nic Cooper

redholmenicooper@aol.com 224436

Keith Ferguson

keith.ferguson@kferg.co.uk 07941-181992

Peter Irvine

peterirvine264@btinternet.com 07850-610929

Martyn Richmond

richardm@philipmorant.essex.sch.uk 225036

John Robinson

johninhollywood@talktalk.net 224858

Bob Shepherd MBE (Chair)

chasecottage@yahoo.co.uk 223709

Peter Willington

pkwillington@hotmail.com 224060

City Councillors

Christopher Kingsley

Christopher.Kingsley@chelmsford.gov.uk 223744

Bob Shepherd MBE

b.shepherd@chelmsford.gov.uk 223709

Ian Wright

i.wright@chelmsford.gov.uk 226289

County Councillor

John Spence OBE

Cllr.john.spence@essex.gov.uk 465108

Parish Clerk

Roger Upward

01376-619506

littlebaddow@yahoo.co.uk

Memorial Hall Caretaker

Mrs. Jackie Rymill 227816

The New Councillor

I have been asked to write this piece as the "new boy" of the Council, which at the age of 58 I find quite amusing. But everything in life is relative! I have lived in Little Baddow, with my wife and daughter for 13 years, 12 of which have been shared with my son, who was born at the Little Baddow Maternity Hospital, a.k.a.our house.

During that time I have done everything. Drank beer in the two pubs, walked the lanes and woods, viewed beautiful gardens, attended classic car displays, enjoyed the village fete, voted in the Memorial Hall, watched "British" films,(sometimes even matching the dialogue to the actors' lip movements). I have played golf - in my own unique style, going from tee to green, without touching the fairway-on the local golf course (technically Woodham Walter). I have walked the canal tow path, tried to drive my car through the floods at the bridge, skidded on the ice of the untreated road of North Hill, dug my car out of the snow in Jarvis Field. In short, I have done just about everything.

Or have I?

When I joined the Council, I realised just how much more there is to do. Just how many clubs and societies there are that I didn't even know about. Behind the quiet, unassuming facade that is Little Baddow, lies a hive of activity. There is virtually something for everyone (no bowls club though). So my advice is: go out and get involved, enjoy the village: it has much to offer.

Martyn Richmond



Footpaths and Traffic

Footpaths - All those using our footpath network have enjoyed some glorious weather this year and thanks to the vast majority of the landowners have been able to walk paths without difficulty. A number of problems have been dealt with such as a horse taking a dislike to people walking in his field, wobbly stiles and extremely boggy paths. A big thank you to landowners Essex Wildlife Trust and to the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) for resolving these issues quickly. A new 'All Abilities' Bridge has been built from the Spring Close end into Holybred Wood; at the time of writing it is not quite completed as one end needs a small ramp. I have chased PRoW and they have assured me it will be completed as soon as possible.

Could I politely remind dog walkers, walkers and runners using public footpaths and roads the importance of wearing something reflective so that you can be seen in poor light.

Let's hope the seasons in 2014 are as good as the last so that we can all enjoy our walking. Take Care.

Traffic Update - This year I have submitted several ideas and followed up complaints by residents in order to improve things on our roads in the village. Three of the main projects submitted via The Highways Panel for consideration were (1) to improve the flooding problems at Hammonds Road and its river crossing, (2) to reduce the problems associated with the flooding at Paper Mill Lock Bridge and (3) to reduce the parking problems and obstruction caused by vehicles, especially during the summer months, either side and on the bridge at Paper Mill. I am pleased to say that monies have now been allocated for feasibility studies into these matters.

Community Speed Watch headed by Councillor Willington goes from strength to strength. We are carrying out an average of five sessions a month in the village trying to make our roads safer by reducing speed. We check a hundred vehicles in a session with an average of 7% of them being reported to the police for excess speed. Thank you to all our volunteers for their contribution. If any person would like to help please contact me and I can arrange some training for you. Remember as I see it you could help prevent serious injury or even save a life.

Rod Barrett



National Trust Work in Little Baddow

Extensive work is being undertaken by the National Trust particularly in Blakes Wood by further coppicing about 2 hectares especially in some areas where honeysuckle and brambles dominate to the detriment of bluebells and other species. Bridges are being replaced by culverts thereby allowing access to some difficult to reach areas in order to manage those better. Some paths and rides are to be reinstated due to leaf litter build up and previous workings by scraping back to hard standing and moving mud aside.

The car park in Riffhams Chase is also to be looked at to see if puddles can be dealt with and a smoother finish achieved. Finally across the whole county new signs will start to appear with up to date information about the various sites and contact details of the ranger team. A final message is that the initial works will leave the areas messy in the short term but with a difference for the long term and the National Trust ask people to bear with them.

The local National Trust team is: Stuart Banks (Head Ranger) David Williams (Danbury).



Peter Irvine

Photographic Competition

At the Parish Assembly 2013 there were 24 photos displayed out of a total of 46 entries during the year. The competition was won by Karen Latham.

This year we have only had 16 entries to date and 10 photos have been displayed on the website. I would be interested in some feedback in whether the photographers would like to be able to submit holiday photos or family photos etc. Obviously the rules would have to be changed to do that and I would appreciate as much feedback as possible. It is your competition and we would like as many entries as possible.



War Memorial

The War Memorial Steering Committee presented a proposal at the December meeting to the Parish Council for a Memorial Stone at the Memorial Arch; this was agreed, in principle. The Steering Committee have now requested an architect to supply drawings for the Parish Council to consider. The Steering Committee wish to use the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War as a catalyst for donations and grants subject to Parish Council approval of the drawings.

Memorial Hall

We were delighted this year to be able to undertake the extension at the back of the Hall for furniture and equipment storage. This will make it much easier for anyone to set up the Hall for their event as they want it, and will overcome the problems caused by equipment and furniture stored on the stage. Enormous thanks are due once again to all those who contributed an amazing £14000 towards the cost, a figure that was critical in securing the grant funding for the remainder.

We now have one of the best village halls around. It is ideally located, easily accessible from all parts of the County, has a great

kitchen, a smart bar area, a separate room for hire for smaller events or meetings, and a very large car park.

We are frustrated – as we are sure are Hall users - by the constant reappearance of potholes in the car park, and we are exploring solutions that will make it more robust. Don't worry, though – we're not just about to start yet another fundraising campaign!

We are also looking at options for increasing use of the Hall at times that would otherwise be quiet. We offered a special deal for children's parties in the Spring, and others may follow, so do consider the Hall as a venue for your event, whatever that may be!

Please feel free to contact caretaker Jackie Rymill or myself, as Chairman of the Hall Management Group if you wish to be shown around.

Nic Cooper

Our New Hall Extension



Roger Upward our Parish Clerk extreme left with the Chairman third from left and two of our building team

Chairman's Report

Our new assembly format last year allowed our voluntary services to be on display and we were delighted to welcome the Mayor and Mayoress of Chelmsford City Council Councillor Christopher Kingsley and Mrs Kingsley. The Mayor kindly presented certificates of thanks to members of our Parish. Those awarded personal certificates were:

Malcolm Breeze, Victoria Briggs, Felicity Coxhead, Margaret Martin, Simon Johnson, Elizabeth Willington.

In addition the President of the WI, Mrs Susan Sparrow, was presented with a certificate in recognition of their 30th Anniversary.

My thanks also to our 'Brownies' who assisted us to ensure that the evening ran so smoothly.

Essex County Council

Peter Martin MBE stood down in 2013 as our County Councillor after representing the Parish for 24 years, and Leader of the Council for the last three and a half years. We all thanked him and wished him a happy and peaceful retirement.

County Councillor John Spence OBE was elected to represent the Parish in his place.

Village Organisations

In June, the Council hosted an informal supper for representatives of the many clubs and societies. This was a way of saying 'thank-you' to all our volunteers for the way in which they serve our community. Our churches supplied excellent refreshments and we explored ways how we can best maintain the focus of all our volunteers in the Parish. A newly designed Welcome Pack for new residents was suggested and agreed. It was also suggested that Little Baddow News which is delivered to around 450 houses in the village could be an important community vehicle for communication. The Churches are looking at a re-appraisal of the magazine and they have said as a first step they would welcome more contributions from village groups. Other ways of looking at increasing the News' circulation would be investigated during 2014.



Planning

We continue to be heavily involved in planning matters and we are extremely fortunate that Keith Ferguson with his computer skills guides us in a manner which we can all understand. The rules of planning are becoming more complex and are continually changing. The City Council has now amended the Core Strategy to conform to the National Planning Policy Framework introduced by the Government.

Affordable Housing

Working closely with our Housing Agency and with the City Planning officers we are now hoping to identify possible locations in the Parish for a small scheme.

Community Care

We are extremely fortunate to have such an excellent well run organisation headed by Joan Atkinson (second on the right). Our thanks go to all our caring groups in the village who selflessly do so much to help our senior residents cope with the stresses and strains of a modern day life. I know how very much our residents enjoy the lunches supplied and the chance to talk to each other. We are also very grateful for those who offer their services to transport our parishioners to events and appointments. One of my highlights was to attend the 'Community Care' Christmas Lunch where helpers and guests could relax and enjoy each other's company.



Memorial Hall

The Hall's extension is now up and running and we held a reception to thank our donors. However there is a shortfall in this Hall's Income and Expenditure Account which we are currently addressing. Please consider using our venue - which is suitable for children's parties, anniversaries and weddings. Our hall is recognised as one of the best locally - with excellent facilities. But we do need the income to balance our books.

Neighbourhood Watch

We are fortunate in having little crime in Little Baddow and Councillor Barrett has an excellent relationship with our local police. I regularly sit on the Neighbourhood Action Panel where current crime trends are discussed.

Computer and Internet Training

Lessons for those who are somewhat 'hesitant' in using a computer can now be arranged on a one - to - one basis in the Library of the United Reform Church (by courtesy of the Elders). Please contact Councillor Keith Ferguson in the first instance.



Power Cuts in the Village

Different parts of the village were cut off for varying lengths of time due to the severity of the 'St. Jude' storm. On November 27th we held a meeting at the Memorial Hall with some 52 residents and representatives of UK Power Networks where the major concerns identified were:

- (a) The inability to get any up-to-date information
- (b) Being given wrong information
- (c) Inadequate support for people on the Priority Service Register
- (d) Slow responses to applications for compensation

The company accepted these criticisms and were working to improve their response to the points raised.

Film Nights

My continued thanks to Elizabeth Willington, and Michael Klaber and their team who have done much to ensure that we regularly watch the most recent films in the comfort of our own Village Hall - thank you team.

My grateful thanks to our Parish Clerk Roger Upward who keeps us on the right track; our excellent Caretaker Jackie Rymill who always manages to have the hall in a pristine condition; and our Parish Correspondent Gill Houghton who gives up her time to ensure that meeting reports appear in the local press. I also take this opportunity to thank all our Councillors who give their valuable time to help others in the Parish.

We truly have a lot to be thankful for.

Bob Shepherd

Youth Facilities and Youth Council in Little Baddow

There are facilities in Little Baddow to cater for the elderly and the young but for many years there has been little or no provision for the youth of the village, particularly teenagers. We are constantly told that the country does not provide enough facilities for young people particularly teenagers and Little Baddow was no exception. It has been felt for some time that this situation must be addressed but the question arose of how do we contact the youth of the village? To this end contact was made with Sandon School who were enthusiastic to help and they identified some of the young people who come from our village and go to school there, arrangement was made with the assistance of the Deputy Head at Sandon, Jacqueline Beavis. Initially we met 7 young people during the lunch period to discuss what they felt was lacking for young people within the village this resulted in one or two positive suggestions such as a Youth club, computer centre, and a meeting area where the youth could congregate.

At the same time Ryan Sirmons, Pastor at Little Baddow Chapel had a vision of creating a Youth Council that could get together to advise the voluntary groups in the village how to best support the youth in the 12-18 age group and met the Parish Council to ask what they could provide to support any youth activities.

This resulted in us combining our resources to set up a meeting of the youth of the village which was held in St Andrews Hall on 16th September, at this stage they formed a Youth committee and officers to discuss subjects of interest. A second meeting was then arranged for October where they would then decide what they felt was important to them so that this could be put before the Parish Council and discussed.

This will no doubt take time and a great deal of discussion before any decisions are made.

John Robinson



Citizenship

The annual Litter Pick was well supported this year. The refreshments in the hall afterwards were very welcome and gave us a chance to meet and compare our experiences and unusual 'finds'. A date has not yet been agreed for the 2014 Litter Pick but will be on a Saturday in April. Look out for further information in the New Year. Please support this event and help to keep our village litter free.

We are still getting complaints about the 31a Saturday morning bus service to Maldon and return, operated by Regal. The bus is often late and sometimes does not turn up at all! Complaints have been registered at the County Council Bus Services Meetings and the service is now being monitored. So please report any instances of lateness or absent buses to any member of the Parish Council, quoting dates and times.

The new GPS tracking system for Essex buses was introduced in June 2013. When fully implemented this will allow 'up to the minute' information to be displayed on all electronic notice boards. It is dependent on the necessary GPS tracking machinery being installed on all the county buses. All contract bus companies are being encouraged to install these systems in their buses, with some financial incentives being provided. It is anticipated that the larger bus companies will comply with the requirements but the costs involved may be too high for smaller companies who operate on a tighter budget. Where no tracking is possible only set timetable information will be available.



Mary Buckley

Finance Report

As has been reported earlier, the main finance topic has been funding for the Memorial Hall extension for the storage of tables, chairs and other items. This has been a great success; through the generosity of village residents, fundraising exercises and grants, the money was raised before the building work started. Total cost was £44626.43 and was accounted for separately from current costs. We are indebted to all those who kindly gave their support for this important project. Hall users will benefit for years to come.

The year end results for 2012/13 were very much in line with those reported at the Annual Assembly in April 2013. The headline figures are given below.

On the day to day running of the Hall for the current year, income and expenditure were matched at the half year at the end of September. However, with the Hall being out of action whilst the building work took place, revenue for the full year to the end of March 2014 is likely to be below budget. Costs are rising, particularly heating bills, and we have taken the decision to raise Hall hire prices by 5% this year and a further 5% for next year. We are also reviewing the precept which has been unchanged for some time. With these actions and with a careful eye on the gas bills, we hope that the Hall will return to a breakeven position in 2014-15.



Figures below show income & expenditure for 2012/13 and our projection for 2013/14.

	2012/13		2013/14 projected year end	
	Income:	Expenditure:	Income:	Expenditure:
Precept	37555		37555	
Hall	18734	21003	15000	25555*
Sports	7148	10303	6720	6236
Central		16655		16602
Other	<u>878</u>	<u>16354</u>	<u>578</u>	<u>11460</u>
Total	<u>64315</u>	<u>64315</u>	<u>59853</u>	<u>59853</u>

* Including some capital expenditure elements'

Peter Willington

Development In and Around Little Baddow

You will probably be aware that the Government has substantially relaxed planning constraints on development. Little Baddow was the only Council to be represented at the Inspection Hearing when the City Council's policy changes were being considered. In particular we have been fighting to avoid a situation where all the smaller properties are extended or replaced with larger ones, making it difficult for younger families to live here. We are currently considering what possibilities exist for Affordable Housing.

Maldon has recently brought forward a new Development Framework proposing substantial amounts of additional housing to the West and North of the town. We have raised concerns regarding the impact on the A414 through Danbury, the additional pressure that will arise at the Boreham Interchange, and the risk of "rat runs" developing through our country lanes.

We have expressed concerns regarding pressures on Boreham Interchange arising from the development of housing and a rail station at Springfield. We have objected to the proposed development of a triathlon facility at the Reservoir between Little Baddow and Boreham, which we believe will lead to cycles racing on Colam Lane, North Hill and Holybred Lane. And we have objected to the proposal to lower the minimum height of controlled airspace by 1000 feet being proposed by Southend Airport, where commercial traffic is projected to triple from last year's levels by 2020.

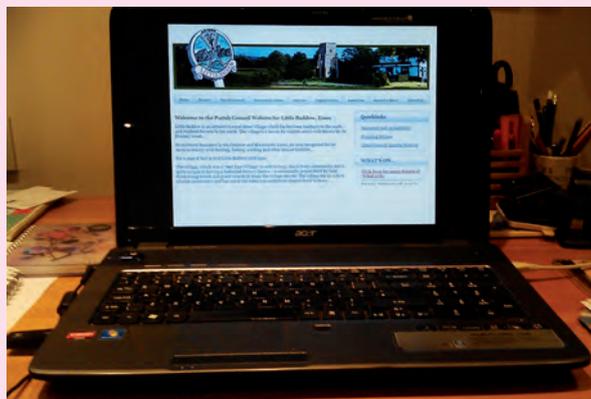
We live in a very special, beautiful Parish, and your Council is doing everything it can to keep it that way.

Did you know that on the Little Baddow Parish website.....?

- You can view the latest list of "What's On" in the Village
- You can view the Parish Footpath map (look under "Amenities")
- You can see a list of all the Clubs and Societies we know about, and if you click on one, you can see what it does, when it meets and who to contact
- You can check the bus timetable
- You can find links to all sorts of other sites offering local services
- You can see all planning applications currently being considered
- You can see contact details for all the Councillors
- And much more!

Why not take a look?

The website is at www.littlebaddow.org.uk



The Little Baddow Website – Did You Know?

Keith Ferguson

LITTLE BADDOW DIRECTORY

Almshouses

Clerk to the Trust
Margaret Martin-223624

Bell Ringers

Wendy Godden-223873

Bridge Clubs

Heather Hills
Monday evenings
David Belshaw-222762
Memorial Hall

Brownies

Contact: Girl Guides Essex
Tele: 01376-570464
E-mail:
office@girlguidingessexne.org.uk

Churches

St Mary the Virgin
John Wheeldon-221352
Lynda Ferguson-222575
Roman Catholic Church
Fr. Niall Harrington-324138
United Reform Church
Brenda Hooson-222836

Community Bus

Colin Budgey-225434
Eddie Wright-225509

Community Care

Joan Atkinson-226241
Lunch for the Elderly
Tuesday 12.15pm
St. Andrews Rooms

Conservation Society

Brian Luscombe-222246

Cricket Club

Martin Higgins-222933

Drama Club

Sally Lowe-223733

Edward Bear Club & Eden Cafe

Ann Poulard-224221
2nd Friday 10am
St. Andrews Room

Essex Wildlife Trust

01621-862960

Historical Society

Judith Johnston-223662

History Centre

Andy Coppell-224896
Mary Klaber-222910

Holybred Wood Warden

Peter Hodgson-226085

Horticultural Society

Jenny Shaw
01621-843459

Memorial Hall Caretaker

Jackie Rymill-227816

Monday Club

Doreen Shepherd-223709

National Trust Warden

Dave Williams
07801-591662

Neighbourhood Watch

Rod Barrett-226246

Open Gardens

Peter Martin-223624

Open Group

Julie Nisbett-226315

Parish Clerk

Roger Upward 01376-619506

Prayer Fellowship Ecumenical

Elizabeth Bourn-223183
Ann Poulard-224221
Wednesdays 2pm
St. Andrews Room

Ridge Runners

Andrew Ritchings
01621-828056

Scottish Country Dancing

Jan Yule-222117

Scouts, Cubs, Beavers

Clive Pretty-225209

Slimming World

Emma Chapman
01621-853889
Wednesdays 10am
Memorial Hall

Sunday Lunch Club

Jan Yule-222117
2nd Sunday
Memorial Hall

WEA

Carol Stevens-496300

WI

Susan Sparrow-226892

Walkers

John McCrindle-225270

Willington/Klaber Film Shows

Elizabeth Willington-224060
Memorial Hall

**Little Baddow Open
Gardens
10th May 2014**

**Little Baddow Parish
Council
www.littlebaddow.org.uk**

**Little Baddow
Memorial Hall
Jackie Rymill
01245-227816**