



# LITTLE BADDOW PARISH COUNCIL

## Annual Report & Newsletter 2005

### From the Chairman...

*During the summer the Committee was very sad to lose Maurice Hurrell who died after a valiant fight against illness. Maurice had been a very long and loyal councillor who had also served the community well and will be sadly missed by all. We now welcome Tim Clayton who has just recently been co-opted to the Council.*

#### **Congratulations**

In the Autumn our Parish Clerk, Bob Shepherd, was elected as a Borough Councillor representing Little Baddow, Danbury and Sandon. We wish him every success in this role!

#### **Village Design Statement**

The Village Design Statement has been adopted by the Parish Council and will hopefully be adopted by the Borough in early 2005.

#### **Parish Website**

The Little Baddow website is being launched as we go to press and this will promote and inform on village activities. Our thanks go to all those who have worked very hard on this project.

#### **Our sincere thanks**

Although it may look as though this last paragraph does not change much each year, I do most sincerely thank and value those who have supported me in my role as Chairman, especially Bob Shepherd, Parish Clerk and all the Parish Councillors. Thanks go to John Sheriff, caretaker of the Memorial Hall, Mrs Jarvis for her ever

continuing vigilance of the Spring Close Play Area and Kenneth Stebbings, Parish Correspondent. Thanks also to all those in Little Baddow who help and care for the village and especially to those who have helped with the clearing at the ford in Hurrells Lane in the continual battle there.



**Tim Thorogood, Chairman, Little Baddow Parish Council welcomes Tim Clayton to the Parish Council**

### Memorial Hall

*The hall has now been redecorated following completion of the building works. Curtains screen the coats from view at the front of the hall and net curtains in the newly named 'Berridge Room' give more privacy for daytime activities such as exercise classes, without losing any light.*



The tariff has been simplified and new booking procedures came into use in January 2005. In some cases there will be a reduction in booking fees.

An inaugural "User Group Meeting" was held in September which proved very fruitful, with feedback and new ideas for improvements to the hall amenities. Where possible, within budget constraints, these suggestions are being implemented, and the Hall Sub-Committee is very grateful to the representatives who came along for the positive support and helpful suggestions they gave us.

After a recent spate of cup breakages it became a priority to replace the hall crockery. One hundred place settings have been purchased in a new range of crockery, plus an additional 20 cups to allow for breakages, at a total cost of £1,000.

#### LITTLE BADDOW MEMORIAL HALL

##### **For Hire at Reasonable Rates**

*Large Hall with stage and polished floor*

*Bar and well equipped kitchen*

*Smaller room can be hired separately if required*

*On site parking*

*Discounts for Little Baddow Residents*

**Enquiries to the Caretaker - 01245 223444**

Clearer signs have been put on the outside of the building. There is a new "welcome" sign above the entrance door.

Investigations are underway into a **quiet** heating system.

Future projects planned include new chairs for the hall and treatment for the hall floor. These will be completed as soon as money becomes available.

**Little Baddow's Annual Report and Newsletter 2004 won a "Highly Commended" award in the Essex Association of Local Councils Annual Report Competition.**

## Councillors and Responsibilities

<b>Tim Thorogood</b>	Chairman/Amenities/Planning/Sports Club
<b>John Robinson</b>	Vice Chairman/Sports Field/Planning
<b>Tim Clayton</b>	ACD-Parish Councils/Transport
<b>Mike Fenn</b>	Amenities/Chelmer Valley Association/Public Rights of Way/Spring ClosePlay Area
<b>Keith Ferguson</b>	Finance/Hall
<b>Mary Buckley</b>	Hall/Neighbourhood Watch
<b>Margaret Martin</b>	Planning/Butler Educational Trust/Pledger Trust
<b>Harriet Middelboe</b>	Community Care/EALC/Hall//Home & Safety/North Essex Health Authority
<b>Jane Rigler</b>	Emergency Planning/Holybred Wood/Spring Close Play Area
<b>Bob Shepherd</b>	Clerk to the Parish Council (227275) and Borough Councillor

## Parish Council Meetings 2005/2006

2nd June  
14th July  
1st September  
6th October  
3rd November  
1st December  
5th January  
2nd February  
2nd March  
6th April

*Members of the public are welcome to attend  
All enquiries to the Parish Clerk,  
Mr R J Shepherd, M.B.E., Tel: 227275*

# Parish Council Reports

## Planning

The Parish Council has become increasingly concerned over the year with the manner in which Chelmsford Borough Council is determining planning applications. Planning law seems to be interpreted in an arbitrary and inconsistent manner and the Council is requesting an opportunity to have more detailed discussions with the Borough Planning Authority on issues arising.

The Parish Council considered sixty planning applications during 2004, six for new dwellings and the remainder for extensions and alterations to existing properties. The Council raised objections to twenty-four of these applications. The Borough Council has so far granted thirty-six and refused eleven, the other decisions being outstanding.

Tree Preservation Orders have been placed in fifteen areas. Four planning appeals have been lodged, of which one has been upheld. Residential Design Guidance Notes have been received on roofs and side extensions. These have been helpful although it is not known how much influence these guidance notes will have on planning policy. Comments were also made on the proposed gravel extraction at Old Hall Farm, Boreham that will affect the North West side of the village.

## Butler Educational

The trustees have met three times during the year and continued to make small educational grants to young people in Little Baddow and Boreham. More information and application forms are available from Pat Breeze, Deborah Burt, Wendy Godden and Margaret Martin.

## Sports Club

Following a visit to the Sports Ground by the Town Planning Services of Chelmsford Borough Council a number of trees have had Tree Preservation Orders placed on them.

The Cricket Club celebrated their Centenary in 2004 and a number of activities were organised in celebration. This included the erection of a Marquee to deal with the guests and catering arrangements. The climax was a match against an MCC XI played on the Sports Ground.

Once again the Sports Ground received a Class 1 award from the Essex Playing Fields Association for the cricket pitch and this year they also received a £500 award to be used for improvements to the ground. Our thanks go to Tom Suthery and the members of the Cricket Club for all their hard work maintaining the ground.

We have had a proposal from the Little Baddow Tennis Club who wish to join the Sports Club on the Sports Ground and this is being considered by the Committee and the Parish Council.

Some remedial work on the interior of the Pavilion has taken place with the kitchen area being re-decorated. Further refurbishment and estimates are being sought for the changing rooms which will be re-decorated in the new year.

## Amenities

Little Baddow has many miles of footpaths and bridleways that may be enjoyed by local residents and visitors to our village.

Many in our community make regular use of them, and whether on horseback, walking the dog or just out for an afternoon stroll our public rights-of-way give much enjoyment to all who take advantage of them.

The Parish Council does all it can to maintain this valuable amenity, and welcomes any information from users if problems arise such as broken stiles, fallen trees, damaged signposts or obstacles on the pathways.

The national tree database scheme was introduced in 2004. This aims to promote the importance of trees in our landscape. In order to help facilitate this a tree warden scheme has been set up on a national basis with each borough or parish nominating its own dedicated warden/s to monitor trees in their area. The Parish Council has advertised for such a person/s but to date has been unsuccessful.

If anyone is interested in this worthwhile pastime, please contact Mike Fenn, (01245 227925). It needn't be just one person, a small group might be the best approach.

## Finance

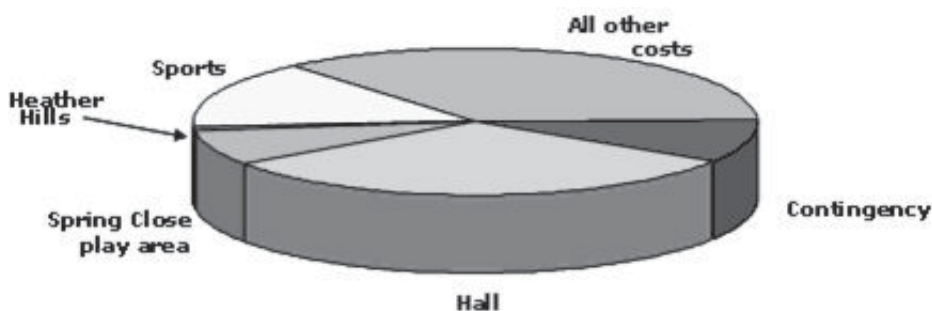
Little Baddow Parish Council is financially responsible for the Memorial Hall, the Spring Close play area, the Sports Field and Pavilion, Holybred Wood, Heather Hills, and certain other activities like grass-cutting of communal areas.

In the year 2005-6, we anticipate that our costs and non-precept income will be quite similar to 2004-5. Accordingly, we are proposing to keep the precept at the same level – there will be no increase in the Parish Council element of the Council tax bill.

The largest asset and income-earner is the Memorial Hall – one of the key Village social hubs. The improvements made to the Hall have been well received, and as finances permit we shall continue with further improvements to the facilities it offers. It is an exceptionally good Village Hall, unusually with a large car park, and in the months to come we shall be promoting greater use of it. Village residents and local organisations are entitled to substantial discounts making it even more attractive as a venue.

We are also making forward provisions against the need to undertake improvements to the Spring Close play area.

Holybred Wood is maintained from funds arising from the original appeal, and so is excluded from the figures below. Excluding also loan repayments and capital items, the Council's budgeted *net* expenditure in the coming year will be split as follows –



## Financial Statement 2003-4

2002 - 3	INCOME	2003 - 4
25000	Precept	25000
801	Interest	666
9653	Hall *	9054
1355	Sports	1189
231	Other	1122
37040	Total	37031
	EXPENDITURE	
17007	Hall	17772
2703	Spring Close Play Area and Sports Facilities	3646
5547	Capital items*	250
12927	Other	10385
38184	Total	32053

\*Excludes one-off grant & loan income re Hall improvements, and the associated expenditure.

Table also excludes Holybred Wood, which is separately accounted.

## Parish Council Website

The Parish Council Website will be launched in early 2005. It has been designed to provide residents and visitors with a comprehensive guide to Little Baddow and the surrounding area. It is hoped that it will become a "first stop" for those with access to the Internet who are seeking local information. It will also

allow the Parish Council to satisfy the Freedom of Information Act providing information regarding all Parish Council meetings on the web.

Visit the Parish council website at

[www.littlebaddow.org.uk](http://www.littlebaddow.org.uk)

## Almshouses

Mrs Suzy Opie was welcomed as a trustee in April 2004. Sadly, the death of Councillor Maurice Hurrell in July has created a vacancy for a trustee.

A new beneficiary was appointed in December but there have been no other changes and the programme of routine maintenance has continued.

## Spring Close

Following serious concerns expressed by the Parish Council for the safety of children playing in and around the semi-derelict garages adjacent to the Spring Close play area, the Director of Operations of Chelmer Housing Partnership attended the council meeting in September. The CHP is reviewing all garages that they own within the Chelmsford area. Two of the garages are privately owned and some difficulty was being experienced in tracing the owner of one of them. This would cause some legal difficulties should CHP decide to demolish the garages. Once enquiries have been made, CHP will consult with the Parish Council on the best way forward.

**All Little Baddow Residents are invited to attend the**

## PARISH ASSEMBLY

on Monday 25th April 2005 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

**Our invited speaker, County Councillor Peter Martin will give an update on the**

## "East of England Plan"

**which is the Regional Authority's response to Government proposals that include the expansion of Stansted Airport and the building of 33,500 new houses in Chelmsford, Colchester and Maldon**

# *Borough & County*

## *Robert Shepherd MBE, Borough Councillor*

*A huge gap had been left in the representation of our villages following the untimely death of Maurice Hurrell who was respected by representatives of all political parties. I am most honored to have been elected in his place and I promise to do my utmost to promote the local issues in Danbury, Little Baddow and Sandon so that our voice is heard – our villages are important to us all.*

### **Road Works**

Having been elected as your Councillor on 11th November I find when writing this article (on 17th December) that there is not an awful lot that I can impart to you at this time.

The road improvements through Danbury have not affected us as yet but will cause us some concern next year when the road is closed completely. Traffic will meander its way through our small lanes and cause at times congestion – which we are not used to in the Parish!

All through traffic will be diverted clear of the centre of Danbury, using appropriate A and B roads. At the end of the day, however, for Danbury to have improved lighting, pavements, new mains facilities etc and the resurfacing of a tired worn out road can only be to our benefit.

### **Refuse Collections**

The Borough is now looking at the collection of plastics and cardboard. Chelmsford Borough Council is

now in the Top 30 Councils in the country in recycling.

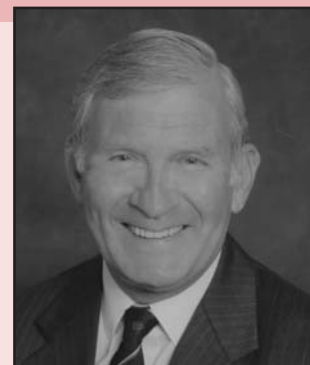
### **Transport**

The old bus station is now being demolished and the 'Park and Ride' scheme has been approved by the Planning Committee. Consent is now awaited from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

### **Planning**

The Planning Committee has a most unenviable task – trying to balance the needs of residents and developers whilst maintaining in our parishes a rural and unspoilt outlook. We have a beautiful village which is a pleasure to live in and I am most pleased that the Village Design Statement will shortly be adopted – congratulations to that Committee who have worked extremely hard to achieve their objective.

I am well aware of the demands on both the Parish Council and Borough Council and will do all I can to protect the unique interests of the residents of all three parishes.



## *Peter Martin, County Councillor*

*Two of the key issues which are affecting Little Baddow at present are the East of England Plan and the Road Maintenance Programme along the A414 in Danbury.*

The East of England Plan (EoEP) has been in preparation by the East of England Regional Assembly (EERA) for the last 18 months or so. The EoEP will have a huge impact on Essex as its purpose is to set out how the Region as a whole including Essex will be developed over the Plan period which is the 20 years to 2021.

The headline figure is that the Government are insisting that some 124,000 houses will be built in Essex at a rate of 6200 each year – this will mean an increase in the population of some 400,000 people. Chelmsford's share of the housing figure is 14,000.

The Essex County Council (ECC) has been fighting the Plan hard over the last 18 months as we believe that the Plan is unsustainable for a number of reasons. First many of the houses will have to be built on greenfield sites including the Green Belt; second the plan assumes that 116,000 new jobs will be created in Essex which in our view is unrealistic; third this number of houses will require a huge investment in infrastructure including roads, rail, hospitals, schools etc which will not be forthcoming from

the Government; fourth although the ECC fully supports the need for more affordable housing it does not accept the 50,000 houses included in the plan for inward migration into Essex rather than meeting the needs of the existing population.

The period of public consultation on the EoEP finishes on 16 March. If you want to make any comments on the Plan please contact me.

The second issue of the A414 will also impact on Little Baddow residents. The roadworks are needed to repair the carriageway which is substandard, replace streetlights with new ones which will provide more light and less glare, repair the pavements and put in a new drains sewer whilst the road is being dug up. The roadworks have nothing to do with any proposed housing developments.

There will be serious disruption until August but I will do what I can to ensure that this is reduced to a minimum and that Little Baddow residents are kept informed.



# A busy year for Little Baddow Conservation Society

**The year began at our AGM with an excellent talk by Jo Roberts on the Wilderness Trust.**

Socially - on 12th June members of the Society visited the gardens of Little Bentley. What an excellent day we had until the 'rains' came down! On 25th September Martin Gregory led us on a most enjoyable 'Fungus Walk' and on 27th October Mr. Dudley Courtman of the Chelmer Canal Trust addressed us on the development and the problems of the canal. We were delighted that so many members turned up to listen. My thanks to all who organised these social occasions.

The Executive Committee of the Society meets regularly to consider all planning applications and if the Committee believes that an application would be detrimental to the area we lodge a formal objection. A fine balance has to be achieved between necessary development, and the protection of our beautiful village.

The Society requires members to serve on this Committee, which meets every six weeks for about 2 hours. Please telephone the Secretary, Helen Hardwicke

(225950) if you are interested in helping us in this way.

The Society are most pleased that the Village Design Statement will be adopted in the near future. This will assist all concerned on the planning criteria that will be adopted by the Parish Council and the Planning Department of the Borough Council.

Personally, having been elected to the Borough Council on 11th November, I was advised that if I remained a member of the Conservation Society I would have a personal and prejudicial interest if I wished to speak on planning matters as a Borough Councillor. I would not be allowed to speak at a Planning Committee meeting where the Society had objected. In the wider interest of Danbury, Little Baddow & Sandon I regretfully resigned my membership of the Conservation Society as at 19th November.

My thanks to all members for supporting me as Chairman, and to the Executive Committee members who gave up their valuable time during the year to ensure that we still have an unspoilt village.

Since the last Parish Newsletter, success was finally achieved when we became a Registered Charity.

One of our Secretaries, Yvonne Welch, stood down from the Committee as she and her husband were moving from the village. Our best wishes went with them and we hope they will be as happy in their new house as they were in Little Baddow.

The Society would hope to continue in all that it has done in the past, and to acquire any land in the village that may become available for the benefit of the public. The acquisition of such land would prevent any future development and would retain the natural beauty of the village.

Our Executive Committee meets regularly, approximately once every six weeks, to consider planning applications and to discuss any other topics of interest and concern to the area. My own thanks to our hard-working Secretary, Helen Hardwicke, and to my Committee members, who give up their valuable time during the year.

*Bob Shepherd*



## Village Design Statement nears completion

**The village Design Statement has been formally adopted by Little Baddow Parish Council and it is hoped that it will now be adopted by**

**the Borough Council as Supplementary Planning Guidance.**

A further consultation session was held on 22nd January for residents to view the draft document and add their comments.

A formal launch of the VDS will be held in late spring/early summer and a copy of the document will be distributed to each dwelling in the village.

The VDS reflects the views and opinions of all those who participated on future development in the village. The Village Design Statement Association is very grateful to everyone who has assisted in producing this document.

## History Centre update

**The History Centre was formally opened and dedicated following the Thomas Hooker Service in July.**

A joint exhibition of Village and Church History and the Living Churchyard Scheme was held in October. The Management Committee, formed from members of various village organisations, is in the process of arranging a programme of exhibitions and events for the forthcoming year.

When the task of moving the village archives from their present location in the Manse is completed, the Centre will be opened on a regular weekly basis for research purposes and access to the parish archives.

With regard to fundraising there has been great support from within the Village with the Village Appeal and the special events run by various village organisations raising just under £40,000. This brings to £80,000 the money raised to date. Work is proceeding to raise the balance still needed from appeals to the Business Community, friends in America and various grant making bodies.

### PROGRAMME 2005

Thursday 10th March  
8pm, St Andrew's Room

**"Gallows Humour"**  
featuring William Calcraft and others  
by Fred Feather

Monday 2nd May (7.30am - 6pm)  
**Sailing Barge History Cruise on the River Blackwater**  
£40 each including meals

Thursday 9th June 8pm at The History Centre

**"The History of Little Baddow Chapel"**  
by Ronald Bond



**New Members welcome**

**further details from Ann Greenslade - 224261**

# St John's Church of England Primary School Gold Award for Sporting Excellence

**St John's C of E Primary School was recently presented with the Active Mark Gold Award for sporting excellence. An extensive review and reorganisation of the provision of physical education, both curricular and extra curricular, has been undertaken by the PE coordinator and the award is welcome recognition for the excellent variety and quality of sporting activity at the school.**

We are proud of the links with the community through football competitions, coaching initiatives and curriculum development through Great Baddow Sports College, Chelmsford Rugby Club and Essex Cricket Club. Many clubs are run at the school including football, netball, hockey, and athletics and they include all children regardless of ability as well as promoting excellence and extending the ability of able children.

The award was presented to the school at a special ceremony at Hylands School in December 2004 by Paralympic 800m gold medallist Danny Crates. Representing the pupils were Ben Ashton, Katie Prior and Gemma Wass.

Last year a very successful Lunchtime Chess Club was organised for years 5 & 6. Twenty four of the children entered the British Land UK Chess Challenge. We were just one of over 2000 schools and clubs in the UK that participated in the tournament (71,000 children in total were involved). We played seven rounds during Tuesday lunchtime Chess Club Sessions and nine of our best players qualified for the Essex Mega Final where they all competed to a very high standard and were a credit to the school. We are looking forward to the competitions this year.

Other activities last year included a very successful CD recording which included all the children; the cover and title were designed by children and boasts 27 tracks of singing and recorder playing. The recorder club has also maintained its strong links with the community and



*Pupils of St John's School receiving the Gold Award*

played for the Heather Hills Club and at St John's Church Summer Fayre. We have continued to support national charities during the year and raised significant sums. Our own Christmas Productions were well received by parents and friends.

All in all 2004 has been a busy and successful year for us and we are looking forward to the opportunities that 2005 will undoubtedly offer.

**Mrs Liz Maycock**

## Neighbourhood Watch



Whilst writing this, Neighbourhood Watch is firmly "touching wood" because this year has been very quiet since PC Battersby, with NW assistance, arrested a car thief in the village in March. There have been one or two incidents since then, but on-the-whole, "quiet" is the best description.

PC Mick Battersby has moved on to pastures new and his position has been taken over by PC Julian Stuart. We also have two Support Officers for our area that you may see patrolling on foot or in their Smart Car. We now have Street Co-ordinators for Hammonds Road and Spring Close which just leaves Spring Elms Lane without cover.

**Simon Johnson, 01245 227338 or 07890 664886**

## Holybred Wood

**Two small areas of Holybred Wood will be coppiced in the autumn of 2005.**

This technique allows some trees to be left as mature standards, while the underwood of hornbeam is cut to ground level. These coppiced trees will then regrow vigorously and live much longer than they would otherwise. Full regrowth will probably take about 10 years. Coppicing also allows a diversity of conditions from light to heavily shaded, which in turn supports a greater range of plants and animals. The areas selected for coppicing are the "wet" areas where it is



likely that woodland flowers like primroses which can lie dormant for many years will regenerate once the light is let back in.

A rustic timber-framed sign has been chosen and is now at the design stage. If the notice board can be obtained in time, it is hoped that it will be formally unveiled by Mrs Pyman on the Easter Monday walk - this will be confirmed nearer the time.

Many thanks to John Hooson, Volunteer Warden for all his work, and to the team of walkers who patrol the wood on a regular basis.

**LITTLE BADDOW  
CONSERVATION SOCIETY**

**A.G.M.**

**Monday 14th March 2005  
7.45pm at the Memorial Hall**

*with invited speaker  
**Andy May**  
on the subject of  
**"Coastal Defences"***

**All welcome**

## Essex Wildlife Trust

### Heather Hills

In the five years this lovely area has been in the care of Essex Wildlife Trust, work has been concentrated on raising general management standards. This is for the benefit of both people and wildlife. Access for the public has progressively been improved throughout the footpath network, boundaries re-established, and much needed safety work carried out. The presence of Sycamore suppressing native species proved to be a particular problem, but measures taken have at least limited its rapid spread. Extensive sections of valley slope have now been cleared of Bracken prior to sowing with Ling Heather. The first seeding trials have been very successful – young plants flowering by the second season. The Trust Warden, Steve Funnell is



building up a full species list – a vital task for on-going management. Another necessity for the future of Heather Hills is the provision of a

comprehensive management plan. This is under preparation by the Trust and is scheduled to reach final draft stage early in 2005.

### Poors Piece

This small woodland reserve (8 acres) has been looked after for the Parish by Essex Wildlife Trust since 1966. It comprises a varied mixture of habitats including high woodland, coppice regrowth, dense scrub and marsh. However, the most notable feature is the presence of many ancient pollards and coppice stools. Currently the area containing the bulk of these old trees is being opened up to save them from deterioration. New pollards are being created to maintain the tradition for future generations. Poors Piece has recently become part of the new Danbury Ridge Reserve Complex – eight reserves, nearly all contiguous, totalling nearly 200 acres. It will still retain its unique character while having the advantage of being part of a comprehensive plan. For example, the southern marsh now forms an extension of the Twitty Fee wildlife corridor to enhance the flora and fauna.

We are fortunate to have a very experienced honorary warden in Chris Romer to whom we must extend our thanks for his splendid efforts.

## Mother, Baby & Toddler Group...

**...meets every Tuesday morning, including school holidays, from 10am -11am at St Andrew's Room during the winter and in the Manse garden in the summer. Mums, Dads, Grannies and Nannies are welcome to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee in an informal setting while the children play - and all for only £1 (and a £5 annual family membership). Further details from Sian Appleton on 227118.**

## Little Baddow Women's Institute Memories of 2004.

We have had another good year thanks to our President and her committee, and continue to thrive and enjoy the many benefits that the Women's Institute organisation offers.

Throughout this year there has been the opportunity to go on four outings arranged by our Essex Federation: The Tower of London in March, Bletchley Park in May, Hever Castle in June and Sandringham in August. This list of excellent outings culminated with a gourmet tour entitled "Food Glorious Food" in September, which included a shopping opportunity at Fortnum and Mason.

Our own Outings Organiser arranged for us to see the Shell Seekers at the Cliffs Pavillion in March and in July arranged an outing to Althorpe. In November a Christmas shopping outing to Bluewater was arranged. This was a huge success and may well be considered as an annual event.

Our Garden Meeting at the home of Susan Sparrow started off in sunshine with the threat of rain and yes, yet again it managed to rain. Fortunately we had all but finished eating and all 60 of us managed to cram into Susan's to finish off our fruit salad and cream.

Our Charity this year was the History Resource Centre and this fund raising event took place in the garden of Betty Willis, where we managed to avoid rain and to raise £217.72.

In August our President and her committee invited all past Presidents to lunch in her garden. The weather was kind and an excellent lunch was served. We are fortunate to have so many past Presidents still active and involved with our organisation.



We were also fortunate in receiving an Awards for All Lottery grant for a sound and loop system plus hi-fi equipment. This has proved invaluable, although as yet we have to get the loop system working successfully and are dependent on our supplier for this help but we will get there.

As well as all of this our Programme Secretary made every meeting worth attending with excellent speakers.

In November Lesley Atkinson was re-elected as President and along with the committee hosted our Christmas lunch. Another successful event to close our year. These are just a few memories of our year and if you want to see the many other things on offer, you will just have to join us on the first Thursday in every month, 2 pm at the Memorial Hall. You will be made very welcome.

# DIRECTORY

**Bell Ringers**

Wendy Godden - 223873

**Bridge Circle (Danbury)**Yvonne Dagwell - 224675  
(Weds 1.25pm)**Brownies**Jo Mackin - 01245 382809  
(Mon, 6pm, St Andrew's)**Carpet Bowls Club**

Ted Grace - 223018

**Church Embroidery Group**Jean Markham - 223308  
(alt Tues 2-4pm)**Cricket Club**

Paul Churchouse - 227426

**Community Bus**

Colin Budgey - 225434

**Community Care**Joan Atkinson - 226241  
(Tues 12.15pm St Andrew's -  
lunch for the elderly)**Conservation Society**

Helen Hardwicke - 225950

**Essex Wildlife Trust**Geoff Ford - 222328  
(monthly mtgs, Sept - Apr)**Edward Bear Club  
& Eden Cafe**Ann Poulard - 224221  
*ann@poulard.org.uk*  
(2nd Fri, 9.15am St Andrew's)**Historical Society**

Ann Greenslade - 224261

**Horticultural Society**

Julie Gilligan - 224751

**Memorial Hall**John Sheriff (Caretaker)  
01245 223444**Mobile Library***Mondays only:*  
Memorial Hall 14.10 - 14.25pm  
Spring Close 14.30 - 14.45pm**Mother, Toddler & Baby**Hillary Bufton - 223379  
(Tues, 10.00, St Andrew's)**Neighbourhood Watch**

Simon Johnson -227338

**Open Group**Jan Yule - 222117  
(2nd Weds evening)**Parish Archives**Jane Rigler - 223429  
*poleighs@btinternet.com***Prayer Fellowship**Elisabeth Bourn - 223183  
Ann Poulard 224221  
(Ecumenical, Weds 2pm,  
St Andrew's)**St Andrew's Room**

Sally Lowe - 223733

**Scottish Dancing**Jan Yule - 222117  
(Tues, 8pm Sept - May)**Scouts, Cubs, Beavers**

Clive Pretty - 225209

**Sunday Luncheon Club**Barbara Staines - 226417  
(2nd Sun, Mem Hall)**Tennis Club**

Paul Hibbert - 222002

**Women's Institute**Mary Buckley - 224615  
(1st Thurs, 2pm, Mem Hall)**W.E.A.**

Audrey Saunders - 223053

**Schools:****Danbury Park** - 224994**Elm Green** - 225230**Heathcote** - 223131**St John's** - 222173**Churches:****St Mary the Virgin**Revd Canon Christine  
McCafferty - 476371**United Reformed Church**Revd Michael Powell - 422781  
Brenda Hooson - 222836  
John Gibson - 222148**Roman Catholic Church**

Father Paul Fox - 324138

## POLICE

### EMERGENCY - 999

#### URGENT INCIDENTS:

(if a patrol car is needed)

**01245 491491**

#### NON-URGENT INCIDENTS:

(for advice or report a non-urgent incident)

**01245 491212****PC Julian Stuart**  
**Mobile: 07711 147171**

#### Clerk to the Parish Council

#### Bob Shepherd, MBE

2 Chase Cottage, Riffhams  
Chase, Little Baddow CM3  
4AU**Tel: 01245 227275***littlebaddow@yahoo.co.uk*

## Little Baddow Cricket Club Centenary Year

Cricket was first played in the village in 1904 and moved to its present location in Riffham's Chase after the First World War, where it has been played ever since.

2004 turned out to be a memorable year and gives the Club much impetus to move forward. The 1st XI won promotion from the Mid-Essex League Division 1 to the Premier Division, which included a run of 15 straight wins. It was a great team effort, but the standard in the Premier Division will mean that it will be much more difficult next season.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, meanwhile, retained their place in Division 5 of the League and finished mid-table. The Sunday XI once again enjoyed their cricket, playing every weekend during the season, whilst the Junior age groups (under-11s, under-13s and under-15s) showed great promise for the future.

Centenary Year meant that several special fixtures were arranged including a game against the MCC and on the same weekend, a 6-a-side competition, which was deemed such a success that it is planned to organise another one next year. A marquee was erected on the ground for a dinner dance after the MCC game at which a live band performed. No complaints were received from the neighbours, so one assumes that they enjoyed the free entertainment!

Two other special games were organised, both of which were won by Little Baddow. The first was at Hambledon in

Hampshire, reputed to be where cricket was first played in England and the second was at the end of the season - an all-day game against Cross Arrows on the nursery ground at Lord's, where players and spectators had a thoroughly enjoyable day out.

The Centenary Club tour was based in Amsterdam, where 3 games were played in the space of 5 days, on astroturf/matting wickets, which are rather different to the grass pitches we are used to in England. The Club players had a thoroughly enjoyable few days and also had time to see the sights!

The Centenary dinner dance was held at the end of the season at Channels Golf Club and Ronnie Irani, the Essex Captain, was guest speaker. He entertained the audience of 100 present with stories of his county colleagues, then did a questions and answers session and finally presented the annual trophies.

Our thanks go to the members of the Centenary Committee, chaired by Calvin Cole, whose efforts went to make the year such a special one for the Club. Much work was spent preparing the ground for the extra games and the Club was delighted to receive the Class One category award from the Essex Playing Fields Association for the standard of the square and outfield, which reflected all the hard work put in by Tom Suthery and Paul Jackson.

The Club is now looking forward to next season and has made the decision to enter a League Team in a Sunday League for the first time. The Club is always looking for new members and if you have recently moved to the village or would like to renew your appetite for the game after a time away, then please contact the Honorary Secretary, Paul Churchouse on 227426.