



LITTLE BADDOW PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report & Newsletter 2007

From the Chairman...



Spring 2006 saw the Parish Council receive the status of 'Quality Parish Council' for which we were very pleased. My thanks go to the committee members who have worked so

hard to achieve this, in particular our Parish Clerk, Bob Shepherd. I was proud in the autumn to receive the certificate on behalf of the Council.

2007 will see the elections for new Parish Councillors in May. This follows the resignation of one very valued member of council and two further members who have notified us they will be standing down at the end of this term. We would encourage anybody who is interested in becoming a councillor to put their names forward to the Parish Clerk. Completed applications for the

coming period must reach Chelmsford Borough Council by noon on 4th April.

Sadly, Margaret Martin resigned from the Council in November 2006 after many years of service and we are very sorry that she decided to leave. She was Chairman from 1991 to 2001. Her devotion to parish duties was second to none. Over the years Margaret became our expert in planning matters and represented the Council at many public hearings, both at Borough and before the Appeal Inspectorate. She will continue her active role in planning as a committee member of the Little Baddow Conservation Society. She also had responsibility for the Charitable Trusts within the Parish and will continue her involvement in such matters. Margaret will be sorely missed and we all wish her well for the future. On behalf of our Council I offer our grateful thanks to her for all the hard work that she has put in over the many years as a Councillor.

The application for the tennis courts was withdrawn because of objections by some sections of the community. The application will be re-submitted in the near

future. Negotiations have taken place and some of the problem areas have now been resolved. The application will still reflect the views of the majority of the village and the Parish Council.

A new committee has been formed to redevelop the Spring Close play area in conjunction with some local residents. Thank you to those involved for their efforts involved in this scheme.

A number of meetings have taken place between the Police and the Council regarding the use of Hurrells Lane ford area for sexual activities. Unfortunately the police seem to be unwilling to discourage such use despite the wishes of our community and we are no further forward in recovering this beauty spot for the benefit of our local community.

I would like to thank Bob Shepherd, Parish Clerk for his continuing dedicated support over the past year; John Sheriff in his role as caretaker of the Memorial Hall; Kenneth Stebbings as Parish Correspondent; and Margaret Jarvis for continuing to keep her eye on the Spring Close play area.

Play area to get a makeover

The play area between Spring Close and Jarvis Field is going to get a makeover. The existing play equipment is now 30 years old and some has recently been removed as it was unsafe.

A working party is consulting with local residents and village children to determine what equipment and activities should be included. Initial indications are

that the football area should be retained, and picnic benches and landscaping should be included around the new play equipment to make it an attractive and welcoming playground for local children and their carers. Several play area design companies have been invited to produce designs and quote for the work. The Parish Council has some money put aside for the purpose and intends to raise the rest by local fundraising and grants.

The decision to go ahead and refurbish the area was made following demolition of the derelict garages at the side of the site which had previously attracted problems of vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

The play area should be safe, welcoming and inclusive for all local children and to help update its image we intend to change the name of the play area. We have received the



Spring Close play area

All Little Baddow Residents are invited to attend the PARISH ASSEMBLY on Wednesday 18th April 2007 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

Our speaker will be Steve Packham, Chief Executive, Chelmsford Borough Council, "Vision for Chelmsford"

suggestion "Wickhay Green" but would welcome any other ideas from residents.

Questionnaires have been delivered to residents at the north end of the village, but if anyone else would like to complete a questionnaire please contact Bob Shepherd, Parish Clerk on 227275 or email clerk@littlebaddow.org.uk. The proposed design will be displayed at the Memorial Hall later in the year for full public consultation.

Parish Council Reports

Planning



There has been a change of policy in the reporting procedure adopted by the Chelmsford Borough Council that effectively means that they no longer inform the Parish Council of the result of any of the planning applications they receive, which in future means that we shall have to make a specific request to obtain the result of any planning application.

During the year the Parish Council considered 48 planning applications of which 35 were approved, 12 were objected to and 1 was withdrawn. There were 3 appeals, of which 1 was allowed, and 2 were dismissed.

The introduction of the Village Design Statement last year has helped the Parish Council to assess the planning applications received, and has provided a greater understanding of what the village consider should be conserved and what should be approved.

Comments have been made on the consultation document: "Core Strategy and Development Control Policies" in respect of policies relating to villages.

Butler Educational Foundation



Those who visited the excellent "Reading, 'Riting and 'Rithmetic" exhibition at the History Centre may have noticed the display of information on the Butler Educational Foundation.

It is now two hundred and ninety years since the charity was first endowed and it has continued to help the young people of Little Baddow and Boreham with educational grants throughout this time.

There are now more university students than apprentices and the grants form a tiny proportion of the costs. However, all applicants receive something and the trustees hope this benefits them with the purchase of books and other educational expenses.

Other grants are made to school-age children including private tuition for music lessons and for those with learning difficulties. Financial help has also been given to individual children who need help towards the cost of educational school trips.

If the charity has a surplus at the end of the academic year, donations are made to the libraries of St John's School, Danbury and Boreham Primary School.

John McAllister was appointed a trustee in 2006 and he joins the other trustees representing Little Baddow who are Pat Breeze, Deborah Burt, Wendy Godden and Margaret Martin. Further information is available from them and applications will be warmly welcomed. Parents should submit applications on behalf of their children but students over the age of eighteen should apply in their own names.

Sports Club



This has been another eventful year with a further attempted break-in to the machinery shed. With the additional security measures which had been introduced the attempt to penetrate the store failed although, as always, some damage was caused and further repairs had to be carried out to the building.

There was a change of cleaning company and RichComm Limited were appointed to clean and look after the Pavilion.

During the early spring we replaced the rotted windows in the 'away' changing room with double-glazed windows, and refurbished the exterior of the Pavilion.

After many years of discussion and contemplation the Sports Club has agreed on a Constitution that sets out guidelines for all the clubs.

The WEA were again able to use the Pavilion for their meetings during the winter months and although there were some difficulties with the heating during the early part of the winter, the Parish Council has now placed a contract for service and repairs with Gasforce for this coming year so we are hopeful of the remainder of the winter being trouble-free.

After much discussion and deliberation by the Parish Council, the Tennis Club submitted a planning application for two tennis courts to be sited on the Sports Field. The Tennis Club subsequently withdrew their application to allow further discussions with interested parties on the positioning of the courts.

It has become so regular to receive an award from the Essex Playing Fields Association that it seems almost unnecessary to report it again but as the standard of the field is so consistently good it merits this award each year. The Parish Council would like to thank Paul Jackson and his team from the cricket club for all the efforts they put in to maintaining the playing field to this high standard.

Amenities



Heather Hills is subject to ongoing maintenance in line with the 10 year plan of the Essex Wildlife Trust which runs until 2013, with tree and undergrowth clearing being the main work undertaken.

Footpath 30 (The Old Rodney) has been subject to an appeal regarding its diversion. The appeal upheld the diversion and as from 2/1/07 the new route is to be used. Walkers should look out for new signage and route markers. The route now takes you around the edge of the garden area rather than straight across it.

The Danbury Flyer is doing well, and Little Baddow Parish Council will maintain its contribution to this vital community service.

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council meets at 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall, usually on the first Thursday of each month (see diary dates). Members of the public are very welcome to attend, and can address the Council on any issues relevant to Little Baddow during public question time.

Further information is available from the Parish Clerk, Bob Shepherd on 227275, email clerk@littlebaddow.org.uk or from our website at www.littlebaddow.org.uk

Diary Dates 2007

4th April	1st November
10th May	6th December
7th June	3rd January
12th July	7th February
6th September	6th March
4th October	3rd April

Parish Council Reports

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.

As I write this in January, I can report that we anticipate another good year financially. This is primarily because we have seen a further upturn in the bookings from the Memorial Hall, following all the improvements that have been made. In addition we have had several unbudgeted one-off receipts over the last 2 years that have augmented our reserves.

Against this background, we have been able to buy new chairs for The Berridge Room in the Hall to improve its suitability for extended smaller meetings, and to buy a new oven, which was vital as the old oven had become unpredictable.

This year we have planned in depth for the longer term, to ensure that proper provision is made for major outlays that we shall have to face eventually. We have identified future needs for the Hall, the Sports Pavilion and the Spring Close play area, and in addition we need to continue to build our general reserves towards the level that the Essex Association of Local Councils considers an appropriate minimum. To reach the reserve levels required for these purposes, we have reluctantly decided that after holding the precept unchanged for both of the last 2 years we must raise it this year, by 6.6%, increasing the average charge per household by £3.14 for the year. While this is unwelcome, we hope in this way to be fully prepared to meet identified future challenges and to avoid the need to borrow even for larger expenditures.

Financial Statement 2005-6

2004 - 5	INCOME	2005 - 6
	<i>Excludes One-off receipts and VAT</i>	
30000	Precept	30000
1022	Interest	1007
11061	Hall	13134
4548	Sports	4033
331	Other	644
46962	Total	48818
	EXPENDITURE	
	<i>Excludes VAT, Holybred Wood (accounted for separately), and Hall extension costs in 2004-5</i>	
13712	Hall	12707
	Spring Close Play Area and Sports	
4597	Facilities	4876
1224	Capital Items	3800
15226	Other	17071
5624	Loan Repayments	5624
40383	Total	44078

Spring Close Play Area



Strong representations were made to Chelmer Housing Partnership regarding the derelict garages. This resulted in CHP sorting out ownership issues, demolishing the garages and clearing the site during the summer and we very much appreciate the action they have taken. Now that the main target of vandalism has been removed we are able to activate plans for the refurbishment and re-naming of the play area (see front page).

During the year the climbing frame was deemed unsafe by our Insurers and removed from the playground. Following a complaint about footballs landing in neighbouring gardens one of the goalposts was removed.

Dog mess continues to be a problem and we would remind all dog-walkers to clear up after their dogs and use the bins provided.

Who's who and what they do...

Parish Councillors' responsibilities

Tim Thorogood	Chairman/Amenities/Planning/Sports Club
Mary Buckley	Hall/Neighbourhood Watch
Tim Clayton	ACD-Parish Councils/Transport
Mike Fenn	Amenities/Chelmer Valley Association/Public Rights of Way/Spring Close Play Area
Keith Ferguson	Finance/Hall/Emergency Planning
Harriet Middelboe	Community Care/EALC/Hall/Home & Safety/North Essex Health Authority
John Robinson	Vice Chairman/Sports Field/Planning
Jane Rigler	Holybred Wood/Spring Close play area/Website/Newsletter
Bob Shepherd	Clerk to the Parish Council and Borough Councillor

Parish Council delegated responsibilities

Margaret Martin	Butler Educational Trust/ Pledger Trust/Almshouses
------------------------	---

Contact us via the Parish Clerk, Bob Shepherd on 227275 or email clerk@littlebaddow.org.uk



The Parish Council in session

Almshouses



In May 2006 Keith Ferguson was appointed Chairman of Trustees.

Further enquiries into the question of Trustee Liability Insurance have established that the trustees now have adequate financial protection.

Two new beneficiaries were appointed during the year. An application has been made to the Charity Commission to allow the trustees, without reference to the Charity Commission, to appoint beneficiaries who live locally but are not actually resident in the village at the time of their application. Applicants who live in Little Baddow and who are considered suitable would be given priority.

A vacancy of a few weeks in one of the properties enabled the trustees to have the interior re-decorated.

Risk assessment and routine maintenance were ongoing throughout the year.

In December, quotations were considered for replacement of the fencing and handrails. This is a project which has been under consideration for some time and it is hoped to complete it early in 2007.

Parish Council Reports

Transport



Last year we reported that Essex County Council Highways Department were considering the Parish Council's request to extend the 30mph speed limit along The Ridge and North Hill. The Parish Council is pleased to report that the Highways Department have, at the time of writing, confirmed that the 30mph speed limit will be extended from outside The Generals Arms to the Parish boundary with Danbury.

Hopefully by the time this Newsletter reaches you the public notices will have been posted and the change be well on the way.

The Parish Council continues to financially support the Community Bus, which provides a link to the shops and services in Danbury.

The bus runs on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, leaving Spring Close at 10:00 and 11:00 with a scheduled return from the Library in Danbury at 10.50 and again at 11:50 if requested.

The drivers will stop at any safe place on the route to pick up or drop off and the fare is £2. The bus mobile is 07752 399309 and small detours are possible if time allows.

Please make use of this service if you can.

Memorial Hall



Hall bookings have increased this year with new regular hirers, extra bookings from existing users, and some new occasional hirers.

Our largest expenditure was the new oven, installed on 5th December 2006, just in time for Christmas lunches. Our apologies to hall users who were faced with the tantalising sight of the oven still in

it's packaging and not ready for use. We also purchased 16 chairs with arms for the Berridge Room to make a comfortable environment for small meetings. In addition, we have commissioned improvements to the car park lighting, which should be complete by the time you read this, and we have undertaken repairs to the surface of the car park.

Once again the User Group Meeting proved helpful and informative.

A Grant application was submitted in mid December for supplementary heating to enable the fan heaters to be switched off during meetings without any substantial loss of heat. The result of the application is expected in early March 2007.

After a recent stock-take of the Hall cupboards we found that 11 cups have disappeared. We do ask that any breakages be reported to enable us to maintain 120 place settings as indicated in the Inventory.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Hall. Remember, it is your Hall, and substantial discounts are available for Little Baddow residents. Please consider this when you are planning any special celebrations.

If you have wondered why the 'Berridge Room' is so named, see the framed photograph and details of Jesse Berridge on the wall near the clock in the Berridge Room.



Holybred Wood

The second of the three areas to be coppiced was completed by early spring 2007. Subsequent visitors to the wood will have noticed a proliferation of wood ants' nests in the newly cleared areas providing all year round food for Green Woodpeckers, plus the regeneration of most of the coppice stools. This spring we should see the beginning of growth of ground flora whose seeds have lain dormant for years, just awaiting the light.

Do visit the wood and see what you can find.

The Warden was very fortunate to see a Buzzard flying just above the tree tops in early January 2007, so don't forget to look both ways - up and down!

A guided walk round the wood has been organised by Little Baddow Conservation Society on Saturday 5th May, and this will be combined with an opportunity to visit the Chapel Grounds, hopefully to see the meadow saxifrage in all their splendour. It should be nice, but do return on your own for a quiet stroll, to catch sight of the shy wildlife.

The recent gales caused a certain amount of damage, and we are advised that unless we coppice more of the wood over the coming years we are in danger of losing more of our 400 year-old trees that have been managed this way for centuries.

Thanks are due to the band of litter pickers and others who keep us informed of the goings on within the wood.

*John Hooson
Warden*

The Parish Council would like to thank John Hooson on behalf of the village for his excellent work as Volunteer Warden of Holybred Wood and also to thank the team of regular walkers. Holybred was purchased for the village following a fundraising campaign in 2000 and is managed by the Parish Council as a village amenity. We strongly recommend a springtime visit to admire the bluebells and wood anemones.

Website



The Parish Council website is updated each month with a "What's on" section as well as Minutes of Parish Council Meetings. The website has provided the platform to make various policy documents available to the public in compliance with Freedom of Information legislation.

We are pleased to include any information about local clubs and organisations, linking to other websites where appropriate. For further information please contact Bob Shepherd, Parish Clerk on 227275, or email clerk@littlebaddow.org.uk

www.littlebaddow.org.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

Crimewise the last year has been very quiet.

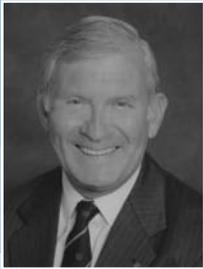
There have been a couple of break-ins, with the criminals known and talked to by the Police.

The Police now have regular `surgeries' every fourth Saturday at the British Legion Hall in the Community Centre car park opposite Danbury Co-op, from 9am till noon.

We understand that we will be getting a new Community Police Officer in the early New Year. It will be sad to say goodbye to Paul Birkin, who some of us have got to know well.

If you have anything that we should know about please phone Simon Johnson on 01245 227338 or 07890 664886.





Borough & County Councillors

**Robert Shepherd MBE,
Borough Councillor**

Another year has come and gone and I can update you on the various matters that I highlighted last year.

Roads

The condition of our roads gives me cause for concern and continual pressure is applied to the County Council for repairs and resurfacing where necessary. The erosion of our lanes is still ongoing and I would appreciate suggestions as to how we can make some impact on those drivers who continually drive over our borders and verges. Should we be looking at one way streets?

Recycling

As promised the Borough now collects both plastic and cardboard and we shall continue to collect your black bin on a weekly basis.

Licensing

As far as I am aware there have been no problems in the village associated with the extended hours of our licensed premises. In addition of course our Memorial Hall now holds a licence for the sale of alcohol, and is licensed also for many forms of entertainment.

Transport

Our new Bus Station in Chelmsford has now been opened and our local 'Danbury Flyer' is still being supported by the Parish Councils. Please use it - or lose it!

Planning policies for the future

Our future Planning Policies have been influenced by the results of previous consultation with our community and stakeholders in 2004/5 as well as information gathered from background studies and technical research.

The Core Strategy sets out the long term vision and objectives for the Borough including broad policies for steering and shaping development, identifying broad locations for new housing development and changes to the transport infrastructure. Once the Core Strategy is adopted it will become the principal policy document for the Borough Council and will replace the current Borough Local Plan. Our Green Belt and land outside the Defined Settlements will continue to be protected.

As the Core Strategy is about the inter-relationships of people, activity and land use the Borough Council has adopted five Themes:

Managing Growth - deals with the fundamental aspects of planning.

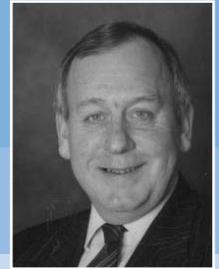
Environmental Protection and Enhancement - provides the environmental basis for all development.

Balanced Communities - promotes social inclusion in all aspects of development.

Quality of Life - focuses on how our living and working is influenced by sense of place, safety and security, ease of local travel and the quality of public facilities.

Economic Prosperity - provides the economic basis for the success of the Borough.

The Borough's proposals are now with Central Government and there will be a public inquiry held by a Planning Inspector later in the year.



**Peter Martin,
County Councillor**

Park and Ride

The Essex County Council Park and Ride got off to a tremendous start last year and was fully used almost from day one. Due to continuing high demand an extension comprising a further 325 spaces opened in time for Christmas and this has taken the total number of spaces to 925.

The Council has received a number of suggestions as to how the service could be improved and these are being considered at the present time. In particular I am aware that many people would like some spaces to be reserved for shoppers and would also like the buses to run later in the evening, and I have asked the Highways Department to consider this. I may be able to update this report at the Parish Assembly.

Council Tax

The Essex County Council has set a rate of £1003.95 for a Band D property which is an increase of 4.5% over 2006/07.

The Council faces an enormous financial challenge as our income from Government will increase by 2.7% next year but our own inflation rate is increasing at some 5%. At the same time demand for the services delivered by the County Council increases each year particularly in the areas of Adult Social Care and Waste Disposal where landfill tax payable by the County Council increases by 15% each year.

The Council has instigated a programme to save a massive £100m over 3 years. This will be done by efficiency savings from the "back office" and support services. The Council is determined to maintain and improve services by reinvesting these savings back into service delivery.

Highways

I am continuing to press the Highways and Transportation Department, together with the Parish Council, to implement a 30 mph limit along The Ridge and North Hill and make some repairs to the minor roads.

Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation

The Council is continuing to work with the Inland Waterways Association to maintain the Navigation for the long term. There remains the need to spend significant sums each year to repair the large number of locks on the Navigation. I represent the Council on the Advisory Committee which comprises local authorities, Essex and Suffolk Water and other agencies.

East of England Plan

The Government has now produced its final changes to the Report produced by the Panel following the Examination in Public last year.

The result gets worse and worse as the number of houses to be built in Essex has increased yet again to 127,000 including another 2,000 houses in the Borough of Chelmsford.

The Government has stressed that these are minimum figures and that they should be exceeded if possible, and that this rate of building must be maintained after the Plan period, which is 2001 to 2021, through to 2031.

In my opinion this Plan is deeply flawed and unsustainable, and the County Council continues to fight it.

Danbury Flyer

A replacement bus is needed and I have approached the Council to contribute to the cost. It is important to maintain this much needed service.

Little Baddow History Centre

The History Centre has had a very successful year with a varied programme of exhibitions resulting in over 1200 visitors mainly as a result of increased publicity. Opening times were extended to include Monday mornings and Sunday afternoons as well as Thursday and occasional Saturday mornings, and a rota of volunteers has been established to staff the Centre during these times.



Exhibitions

The nature, variety and quality of the exhibitions attracted much favourable comment. The Craft Festival in May proved extremely popular with displays of painting, sketching, photography, sculpture, felt-making, weaving and embroidery by the Church Embroidery Group. Our thanks to all those who participated in this successful event and we were pleased to be able to display the work of so many talented people in the village.

Sir Alastair Stewart displayed his extensive collection of memorabilia on "The Canal Age" and this was visited by many canal enthusiasts from all over Essex. Simon Johnson, our resident amateur archaeologist, revealed the history beneath our feet, in his exhibition of "Archaeology in Little Baddow" sharing his own finds and prompting many others to bring along and display theirs.

We would like to thank Sir Alastair and Simon for their tremendous contribution to last year's programme.

Our 'in-house' exhibitions included 'Faith History, 'Church & Chapel' and 'Reading 'riting and 'rithmetic', all of which were very well received. Relationships with local museums are being established and exhibitions have included items on loan from Braintree.

The programme for 2007/08 is now available from the History Centre or on our website at www.littlebaddow.org.uk/history/index.htm

<i>2nd April - 31st May</i>	<i>"Working the Land"</i>
<i>3rd June - 27th September</i>	<i>"Pilgrims and Puritans"</i>
<i>1st October - 31st Jan 08</i>	<i>"Wartime Memories"</i>
<i>4th February 08 - 8th May 08</i>	<i>"Butchers, Bakers and Paper-Makers"</i>

Management & Finance

The Management Group continues to meet quarterly to monitor the development and usage of the Centre and its associated finances.

Income	2006	2005
Sale of Books etc	343.00	300.00
Events	780.45	245.00
Visits	170.00	209.16
Donations from visitors	360.53	766.80
Total	1653.98	1520.96
Expenditure		
Insurance	150.00	150.00
Heating	225.00	200.00
Publicity Material	474.00	0
Stationery, Copying, Postage	39.76	204.95
Total	888.76	554.95
Surplus for Year	765.22	966.01

Our operational costs continue to be satisfactory and we have recently purchased a lockable glass display cabinet, allowing us to display valuable items safely, particularly artefacts on loan from local museums. Any surplus funds will be used to purchase much needed equipment and for the installation of a broadband internet connection.

If you would like to join our team of volunteers for staffing the centre, or would like to offer subject material for an exhibition or get involved in any other way please contact Andy Coppell (224896) or Jane Rigler (223429).

Little Baddow W.I.

2006 was another busy year for Little Baddow W.I. Our 68 members and 6 dual members have heard monthly speakers on subjects including; - Birds in Your Garden; English Lady Gardeners; Homeopathy and Cooking with Turkey.

We have been on two shopping trips to Bluewater in Kent, and enjoyed a great day out at Brighton & the Royal Pavilion in the summer. Some of our members joined a trip organised by Eves Corner W.I. to see Windsor Castle and a rare opportunity to visit Eton College, and 6 members joined Springfield W.I.'s trip to Thursford in Norfolk to see the annual Christmas show.

The July garden meeting was rained off, and we had to de-camp to the hall, but we still enjoyed the strawberries and cream tea. The August charity coffee morning was well supported and raised £303 for Crossroads Care, an organisation that provides help and support for carers. In December, 74 members and guests enjoyed a traditional Christmas Lunch and were entertained by Chelmsford Star Harmony.



Christmas Lunch

In addition there have been outings organised by Essex Federation to Cosmopolitan London which included a visit to the Hindu temple at Neasden. One group had to stagger their time for their tour to avoid a clash with Tony Blair's visit.

There was also a trip to Lullingstone Castle just after the television documentaries. The World Garden, though not fully complete, was worth the visit. The Mildmay Group meeting was hosted by Terling & Fairstead W.I. The Speaker was Lady Margaret Astley-Cooper who told us about her fascinating 'Life as a Film Extra'. This included many background parts in T.V. soaps, and a part as a nun in The Da Vinci Code' film. We were very pleased to win the competition, a film poster, with a very colourful poster for 'Spring in Park Lane'.

We have had representatives at the Essex Federation Meetings at The Charter Hall, Colchester and at Blackshot Grays, where the speaker was James Herriot's son, James Wight.

Next Year is going to be an exciting year for Essex Federation as they will be celebrating their 90th Anniversary and have many special events planned.

At our November Annual Meeting we had several changes on the committee with the President and two members retiring. New President, Mary Buckley, and the new committee are looking forward to an eventful 2007.

We meet on the 1st Thursday of each month, most months of the year, at 2pm at the Memorial Hall.

LITTLE BADDOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thursday 10th May 2007
7.00pm (6.30pm Memorial Hall for car-sharing)

"A Historic Walk around Beeleigh"
with Stephen Nunn
(bookings - Ann Greenslade - 224261)

Thursday 7th June 2006
8pm at The History Centre

"Essex Pie"
by John Doubleday

New Members welcome
further details from Ann Greenslade - 224261



St John's Church of England Primary School

Our Learning Adventure

At St John's Danbury C of E Primary School we have 231 children learning how to learn and asking themselves 'What do we value?' The governors, parents, friends and staff combined efforts last September in establishing our vision statement. Out of this came our 5 Core Values. An apple has a core from which new life grows and the quality of the fruit is determined. We believe in character education alongside excellent standards all around our five values.

Our Vision: St John's is a kind, caring Christian community school where everyone is welcomed and valued. We provide a secure, challenging learning environment where all receive a rounded education. We aim to equip the children with skills, knowledge and lifelong learning.

Learning is an adventure that we all should enjoy. Any adventure has its difficult times but is well worth the effort. Adventures are so much more fun when shared with friends.



The Core Value Kids

Over the last six months the school has invited sections of the community in for coffee, an open ICT day, a Christmas Fair and provided the opportunity to contribute to our travel plan. It has been great getting to know the local folk and all the best ideas have come from the children,

parents and friends. We loved singing for your Christmas Fayre and would like to invite you to join with us for the Easter celebration on Wednesday March 28th at 10.00am at St John's Church and an open Maths morning on Tuesday March 20th.

Do come along and share in our learning adventure. We have many ideas to make our school really special but we want you to feel welcomed to join us and be part of our learning community. If there are any experts in sewing who have time and patience to share we would love to make a new school banner. The children are keen but we need some guiding hands. Gardening is also an area we want to develop as our grounds need imagination, finance and purpose.

Any helpers would obviously have to have the criminal checks and references but don't let that stop you from getting involved. Telephone 222173 and put your name down to help in these projects.

Ridge Runners

Little Baddow Ridge Runners enjoyed another active social year of events.

Membership has declined slightly, which may be due to the club restricting its activities to off-road terrain - footpaths and bridleways around the beautiful countryside of Little Baddow, Danbury, Woodham Walter and surrounding areas. Off-road running is tougher and 'muckier' but can be more rewarding if you just love getting out in the fresh air and enjoying the local environment. Road running does occur but only during the evening in winter months, although a more recent Tuesday evening outing saw us donned with head-torches trying to find our way across footpaths and through local woods.

The annual camping trip to Devon was well attended with members enjoying walking, cycling and moor running. Similar activities were appreciated at the wonderful location of Grasmere in the Lake District.

Thanks to the facilities of Park Drive Fitness Centre in Maldon we were again able to organise the annual Triathlon. Congratulations go to Nigel John and Elspeth Missen, winners in the male and female categories respectively.

The more competitive element of the club competed in Mountain Orienteering races in Ireland and Scotland, enjoying the wildness and freedom of hill running and performing to a very competitive

international standard against our more experienced Northern fellows.

Over the past few years the Ridge Runners have participated in the increased popularity of the discipline of "Trail Running". These are low key events undertaken on all types of terrain throughout the Essex countryside. A route description is handed out at the staggered start and competitors are timed-in. These events can be as competitive and non-competitive as participants decide, and are usually situated around public houses.

Mid-Essex Cross Country League

For the fourth year in a row the Ridge Runners managed runners-up spot. The league comprises seven Essex clubs all hosting a race in their locality. This season is now well under way and our race is to be held on Sunday 28 January 2007, starting at Postmans Lane, 10.30am. Spectators are very welcome and if anyone would like to offer help by being a marshal we always need extra hands.

Finally, sincere congratulations go to Bing Crosby (yes still alive and running very well in Little Baddow) for earning the "Little Baddow Ridge Runner of the Year" shield.

The Ridge Runners meet every Sunday at 9.30am and Tuesday at 7.30pm, at the Pavilion in Riffhams Chase. For further information please contact Andy Ritchings on 01621 828056.

Cricket Club

The cricket club offers the opportunity to participate in the game to people of all ages and abilities. It enjoyed a successful season in 2006, both in terms of league results and in the size and age range of its active playing membership.

The Saturday first team finished as runners-up in Division 1 of the Mid-Essex league and will return to the Premier Division in 2007, whilst the Saturday second team achieved a creditable third place in Division 5.

On Sunday, the North Essex league team continued the policy of fielding a balance of adult and junior players and finished as

champions of Division 4 to win promotion for the second consecutive season. The Sunday social team enjoyed a varied programme of friendly fixtures against local teams, with players ranging in age from under 13 to over 60 appearing regularly in the team.

The junior section continued to expand, with more than 60 youngsters regularly attending weekly training sessions, and teams at under 11, under 13 and under 15 age groups participating in local league and cup competitions.

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)

Butler Educational Trust

Margaret Martin - 223624

Carpet Bowls Club

Ted Grace - 223018

Community Bus

Colin Budgey - 225434

Community Care

Zoe Coates - 226169
(Tues 12.15pm St Andrew's - lunch for the elderly)

Conservation Society

Helen Hardwicke - 225950

Cricket Club

Paul Churchouse - 227426

Drama Club

Sally Lowe - 223733

Edward Bear Club & Eden Cafe

Ann Poulard - 224221
ann@poulard.org.uk
(2nd Fri, 9.15am St Andrew's)

Essex Wildlife Trust

Geoff Ford - 222328
(monthly mtgs, Sept - Apr)

Historical Society

Ann Greenslade - 224261

History Centre

Andy Coppell - 224896
Jane Rigler - 223429
poleighs@btinternet.com

Horticultural Society

Julie Gilligan - 224751

Kick-Boxing Bu-jutsu

Julie Nisbett - 226315
(Thurs, u16 6.30-7.30,
16+ 7.30-8.30, Mem Hall)

Mobile Library

Mondays only:
Memorial Hall 14.10 - 14.25pm
Spring Close 14.30 - 14.45pm

Mother, Toddler & Baby

no contact available but just call in:
(Tues, 10.00, St Andrew's)

Neighbourhood Watch

Simon Johnson - 227338

Open Group

Jan Yule - 222117
(2nd Weds evening)

Prayer Fellowship

Elisabeth Bourn - 223183
Ann Poulard 224221
(Ecumenical, Weds 2pm,
St Andrew's)

Ridge Runners

Angela Bulman - 224413

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

W.E.A.

Audrey Saunders - 223053

Women's Institute

Mary Buckley - 224613
(1st Thurs, 2pm, Mem Hall)

Walkers

John McCrindle - 225270

Schools:

Danbury Park - 224994

Elm Green - 225230

Heathcote - 223131

St John's - 222173

Sandon School - 473611

Churches:

St Mary the Virgin

Revd Canon Christine McCafferty - 476371

United Reformed Church

Revd Dr Michael Powell - 422781

Brenda Hooson - 222836

John Gibson - 222148

Roman Catholic Church

Father Paul Fox - 324138

Clerk to the Parish Council

Bob Shepherd, MBE

2 Chase Cottage, Riffhams Chase, Little Baddow CM3 4AU

Tel: 227275

clerk@littlebaddow.org.uk



POLICE
EMERGENCY - 999
URGENT INCIDENTS:
(if a patrol car is needed)
01245 491491
NON-URGENT INCIDENTS:
(for advice or to report a non-urgent incident)
01245 491212

For Hire at Reasonable Rates
LITTLE BADDOW MEMORIAL HALL



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

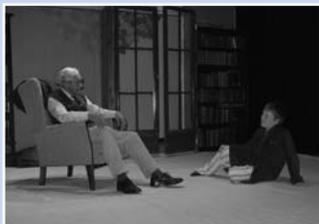
Enquiries to the Caretaker - 01245 223444

Little Baddow Drama Club
Come and join us!
We put on productions twice a year - but there's even more to us than that!



Monthly members' evenings with a variety of events - play-readings, guest speakers, quizzes - and a Christmas Party

Productions - Twice-yearly at the Memorial Hall (April and November) and we are always delighted to welcome anyone who is interested in acting or helping backstage. So don't be shy - come along to a members' evening and find out more!



"Shadowlands" - April 2006

Subscriptions - only £15 per person, or £5 for junior members including a bi-monthly newsletter, monthly members' evenings and the chance to be part of a renowned and friendly Club, helping backstage or front-of-house, acting or any combination of these.

Phone Caroline Ogden on 225246 for full details
or visit www.littlebaddow.org.uk and follow the link for the Drama Club