

PARISH GAZETTE

This is a monthly magazine produced by the Church for residents of Layer and a great source of local information. It contains Church news, details about village events and interesting articles contributed by people in the village. For a fee you can advertise your business. The magazine, priced at 70p, is on sale at the village shop. If you would like the magazine delivered to your home for an annual charge of £7 (and saving £1.40) please contact Martin Piper on 734369.

ABBERTON RESERVOIR EXPANSION SCHEME

Work at Abberton Reservoir has progressed well and main construction is due to finish this summer. Council representatives attend Abberton Liaison Group Meetings to ensure that any concerns about the scheme are addressed by Essex and Suffolk Water (ESW). Working hours and delivery schedules that avoid peak school pick up and drop off times continue to be closely monitored. Any infringements can be reported to Liz Scott at ESW on 01268 664862.

VILLAGE LIBRARY

The Village Library is open every Monday afternoon 2 - 4 pm in the small village hall with a good selection of books for adults and children provided by the Essex Library Service. It is completely free and new borrowers are always welcome.

REFUSE FREIGHTERS

There will be attended refuse freighters in the Village Hall Car Park for the disposal of garden rubbish and bulky domestic rubbish between 9.30 a.m. and 10.45 a.m. on 8th June and 3rd August. Fridges, freezers, commercial refuse or hazardous waste will not be accepted.

POLICING

PC David Hirst is our new Neighbourhood Constable supported by John Howard & Richard Hauley our Police Community Support Officers (PCSO). The contact phone number for reporting non urgent matters to the Police is 101. The Emergency number remains, of course, 999.

BUSES

The village currently benefits from a regular bus service into Colchester which is subsidised by ECC. This subsidy relies on passenger numbers and the overall usage of the service. To ensure that the service remains viable for the future it is important that these numbers stay up – so please consider using the bus for your trips into town. Information on times/stops etc. can be obtained from the Traveline website or 0871 200 2233 (10p per minute).

PARKING

Parked cars, particularly at school drop off and pick up times, are a real problem round our school, the Village Hall, New Cut and Heather Close. To enable the Emergency Services to gain access, it vital that these routes remain clear. Your co-operation in parking considerably would be much appreciated.

POTHoles & OTHER HIGHWAYS PROBLEMS

These can be reported direct to Essex County Council via their website <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Travel-Highways/Report-a-highway-problem/Pages/Report-a-problem.aspx>.

Please recycle this newsletter

LAYER DE LA HAYE PARISH COUNCIL 2013 NEWSLETTER



THE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors

Mark Jones *Chairman*, Andy Stallan *Vice Chairman*
Peter Bunting, Paul Cope, Anne Hughes MBE,
Duncan Jones, Simon Jacklin, David Lennox, Mike Strain
Parish Clerk: Sarah Hughes
(Oaklands, 153 High Road, Layer de la Haye CO2 OEB)
Tel: 01206 738056 email layerclerk@hotmail.com
Website: www.essexinfo.net/layerdelahayepc

The Parish Council will hold its Annual General Meeting on Monday, 13th May at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

The Parish Council is manager of the Recreation Field, Malting Green, the Cross and War Memorial, the Multisport Courts on Church Road, the Village Hall Car Park, Heatherfields and the Play Area at Millfields.

Parish Council meetings are usually held on the second Monday of each month in the Small Village Hall at 8 p.m. The schedule and the Agenda are published on the Parish Council Notice Board at the Cross. All are welcome to attend.

The Parish Council website www.essexinfo.net/layerdelahayepc has information about the village and Minutes of Parish Council meetings. There is also an Events Diary. If you would like an event included please notify the Parish Clerk.

Mrs. Jo Jones runs the 'Parish Network', which enables parishioners to keep up-to-date with village news and share information by e mail. This is a completely free service and if you would like to join, please contact her on 734258 or jojn@hotmail.com.

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Our Borough Councillors try to attend our monthly meeting and are always willing to help in any way they can. They are:

Kevin Bentley: Willoughby End, 32 Willoughby Avenue, West Mersea, Colchester CO5 8AU Tel: 01206 548100 (work) 01206 382405 (home) 07740 123753 (mob)
email kevin@birchandwinstree.com

Andrew Ellis: Ransomes, Wigborough Road, Peldon, Colchester CO5 7RA
Tel: 07768 986611 (mob) 01206 735166 (home)
email andrew@birchandwinstree.com

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The village celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee was a fantastic example of the community coming together to celebrate a national event, locally. The open gardens were inspirational; the Church Flower Festival and the Memory Lane exhibitions were beautiful, nostalgic and gave visitors a welcome opportunity to take refuge from the disappointingly damp weather. The 'Last Night of the Proms' concert was a rousing, flag-waving success. But the highlight of the weekend was, of course, the arrival of the 'Queen' and her entourage at the Playing Field in a golden carriage, followed by a traditional fete and Street Party for the children on New Cut. It was a huge success and a credit to Anne Hughes and her team of organisers and helpers. The weekend's events also raised an amazing £6.5k. Half of this sum was donated to Village Hall funds and the remainder is being put towards a new piece of play equipment.

RECREATION FACILITIES

Last summer a basket swing, suitable for all ages and abilities, was installed on the playing field & has proved a very popular addition to the existing equipment. A sum of £3,176 raised at the Diamond Jubilee Event, is earmarked for another new piece of equipment which will be installed later this year & the Parish Council expects to hear shortly whether it has been successful in its application for a grant to replace the ageing temporary goal posts on the field. The tennis courts on Church Road are available for hire at a cost of £4.00 per court for adults & mixed groups or £3.00 for children. There is a £10 deposit for the key. Bookings are taken at the Village Shop, thank you to Mr. Chew for providing this service.

VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall is licensed and is a very popular venue for a huge range of functions. This year the facility has been enhanced by the installation of a new Fire Alarm System, new windows and new lights in the main hall. For bookings contact Sue Priestland on 734708.

SMALL HALL STEERING GROUP

A Steering Group has recently been established to take forward plans for the extensive refurbishment and improvement of the small Village Hall. The availability of potential funding from the Abberton Community Fund is a golden opportunity to improve a facility which is used by the whole community. A questionnaire is enclosed with this newsletter and the Steering Group would very much appreciate your views. Demonstration of strong local support for the improvement plans will add considerable weight to the funding application, so please complete and return the Questionnaire to one of the designated drop off points by 27th April.

LAYER DE LA HAYE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The School has had a busy and successful year, saying goodbye to longstanding teachers, Mrs Lazell & Ms. Carrigg and Mrs Bewers the Welfare Assistant and welcoming Mrs Rusby, Mrs Deacon and Mrs Wright. Ofsted visited in the first week of the Autumn Term, and the school had a very positive report. They also achieved the prestigious Eco School Green Flag Award. The link with the Archbishop Gitari School in Kenya continues and reciprocal visits are planned for later this year.

HEATHERFIELDS

Heatherfields is rented by the Parish Council for the enjoyment of the village and a new lease is currently being finalised. The paths through the woods should not be used by horses or bicycles. Your co-operation in respecting these rules ensures that the woods remain a safe and pleasant environment for all our residents. Bonfires may not be lit in the woods and timber must not be cut or removed.

CHARIOT PARISH SHOPPING BUS

This year a number of the volunteer drivers have stood down and our thanks go to Martin Friend, Derek Chaplin, Jim Anderson and Cliff Appleby for their commitment to the shopping bus service over the years. Norman Hooke remains and is joined by Peter Halls, Brian O'Toole and Nick Woodcraft and we are grateful to them. The Chariot Community Bus goes to Sainsbury's supermarket every other Monday. The bus seats 14, is open to all & delivers passengers and their shopping door-to-door for a fare of £3. This is made possible by a substantial Parish Council subsidy. For information contact Martin Friend on 734555.

DOG FOULING

The most regular complaint that the Parish Council receives is about dog fouling. If you are exercising your dog ***please do clear up after it;*** not doing so is inconsiderate and the resultant mess, a health hazard. Dogs should be kept on a lead on the Playing Field at all times. Dog poo bags can be obtained from the Borough Council at Angel Court, £1.50 for 100 bags or £3.00 for 300. Individual bags can also be collected from 17 High Road and 67 New Cut. Dog bins are sited at either end of New Cut and on the High Road - please use them. CBC Community Street Wardens will be patrolling various 'hot spots' in the village and they will issue fines £60 to anyone who does not clear up after their dogs.

VILLAGE LITTER PICKS and PALS (People Against Litter)

The litter pick in March collected some twenty bags of rubbish from around the village. We aim to do litter picks twice a year; details are published in the Parish Gazette and on the Notice Boards and appropriate equipment is provided. If you want to get out and do something a bit more regularly you could become one of the PALS. They aim to litter pick specific roads in the village on a monthly basis. Contact elizabeth.appleby@hotmail.co.uk or phone 01206 734493 for details.

HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS

There are a number of properties managed by Housing Associations in the village, consisting of flats at The Buntings, bungalows at Heather Close for the over 50s and houses at Millfields to rent and for shared ownership. The Parish Council has fought for the right for people with village connections to be housed in them. When a property becomes available, we need to be able to pass names to the associations. Vacancies do not occur very often, but to put someone's name down, please contact Anne Hughes on 734168.

St JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

The village said goodbye to The Reverend Martin Clarke in November after 22 years service to the village. The parish is awaiting the appointment of a new Team Vicar under the Thurstable & Winstree Team Ministry. In the meantime, part-time Curate Julia Russell Grant, with the help of lay readers and others, is ensuring that Services take place as usual.