

**LAYER DE LA HAYE PARISH COUNCIL
2014 NEWSLETTER**



THE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillors

Mark Jones *Chairman*, Mike Strain *Vice Chairman*
Peter Bunting, Paul Cope, Anne Hughes MBE,
Duncan Jones, Simon Jacklin, David Lennox, Andy Stallan
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, 7th April 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 residents 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@birchandwintree.com

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

VILLAGE HALL

The exciting project to rebuild the small Village Hall is moving forward. Plans for the new hall, developed following wide consultation with user groups, have recently been approved by Colchester Borough Council. The Project Steering Group has been successful in raising £341,000 from a number of sources towards the total project costs of £468,000. However, there is obviously still a considerable amount of fundraising to do before we will be in a position to start the build. Several grant applications for substantial sums are in the pipeline, but smaller contributions from local sources would also be much appreciated. To this end, enclosed with this Newsletter you will find information about how you might assist with the project. In the meantime the small hall remains open for bookings up to the end of September. Contact Sue Priestland on 734708.

RECREATION FACILITIES

A 'Netscape Climber' costing £10,000, has recently been installed in the play area, paid for with the profits from the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations and a grant from the Cory Environmental Trust. The temporary goal posts were also re-sited courtesy of a generous grant from one of our Ward Councillors. The village

has excellent tennis courts on Church Road, these 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.

ABBERTON RESERVOIR COMMUNITY FUND

Work to expand Abberton Reservoir is nearly complete. The £750,000 Community Fund, established to ameliorate any disruption caused by the expansion, has enabled a number of significant projects in our own and the surrounding villages. Layer has benefitted from the lion's share of the funding with over £340,000 being awarded for projects which have included resurfacing of the village hall car park, the relocation of an entrance on the playing field, a contribution to the installation of the footpath between the village and the Church and £280,000 towards the new village hall project. The most recent project enabled by a grant from the fund is the extension of the 30mph speed limit in the village to beyond the Church, together with the installation of roadside 'Village Gates' which will assist in reducing the speed that traffic travels through the village.

HEATHERFIELDS

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

CHARIOT PARISH SHOPPING BUS

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 £4. This is made possible by a substantial Parish Council subsidy. Our thanks to Martin Friend for organising this service and to the volunteer drivers for their time and commitment. Info. from 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 real health hazard. Dogs should be kept on a lead on the Playing Field at all times. Dog poo bags are inexpensive and widely available at supermarkets and pet stores. Individual bags for emergency use, provided by the Parish Council, can also be collected from 17 High Road and 67 New Cut. Dog bins are sited at either end of New Cut, on the High Road and on Malting Green - please use them. CBC Community Street Wardens will be patrolling various 'hot spots' in the village and they will issue £50 fines to anyone who does not clear up after their dogs.

VILLAGE LITTER PICKS and PALS (People Against Litter)

The litter pick last March collected some twenty bags of rubbish from around the village. Our next one is scheduled for Sunday 23 March; between 10.30 and 12.00 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.

LAYER DE LA HAYE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The School continues to strive towards excellence in all areas! This year, we have welcomed Miss Terry, as the new Year 3 teacher, and seen the return from maternity leave of both Mrs Priestley and Mrs Stevenson. They have taken on a new initiative running Key Stage 2 extension classes in English & Maths for the more able children. Over the summer a number of classrooms were re-decorated and the staff room extended and refurbished. The children are also enjoying a lovely outdoor stage that has been built in the playground.

St JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Over the past year the Rev Julia Russell Grant, with the help of Lay Readers, Church Wardens and others, has ensured that Services have taken place as usual, while the awaiting the appointment of a Team Vicar under the Thurstable & Winstree Team Ministry. The Rev Celia Cook has recently been appointed to the post and will be licensed on 8 April. We look forward to welcoming her and her family to the village.

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 Fox. 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.

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.

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 ensure that the Emergency Services and residents can gain access to properties, it is very important that roads and driveways are not obstructed. Your co-operation in parking considerately would be much appreciated.

CAST IRON FINGER POST

You may have noticed that the rather dilapidated 1930's cast iron finger post at the crossroads disappeared for a while and has now reappeared resplendent in its original colour scheme and having undergone extensive refurbishment. This work was funded by grants from the ECC Jubilee Fund and Ward Councillors together with generous donations from a number of residents and a small sum from the Parish Council.

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.

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 12 April, 2 June and 2 August. Fridges, freezers, commercial refuse or hazardous waste will not be accepted.

POLICING

PC Darin Patrick 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 EC and is also currently under review. 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).

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