



Bowers Bugle

We're on the web www.essex.info.bgnb-parishcouncil

ELECTIONS 22nd MAY

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL HAS
TO BE RE - ELECTED ON MAY
22ND

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES
TO BECOME A COUNCILLOR?

COULD YOU REPRESENT THE
WHOLE COMMUNITY, NOT
JUST YOUR OWN VIEW?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART
OF THE DECISION MAKING
PROCESS?

YES!!!

TURN TO INSIDE PAGES FOR
MORE INFORMATION...

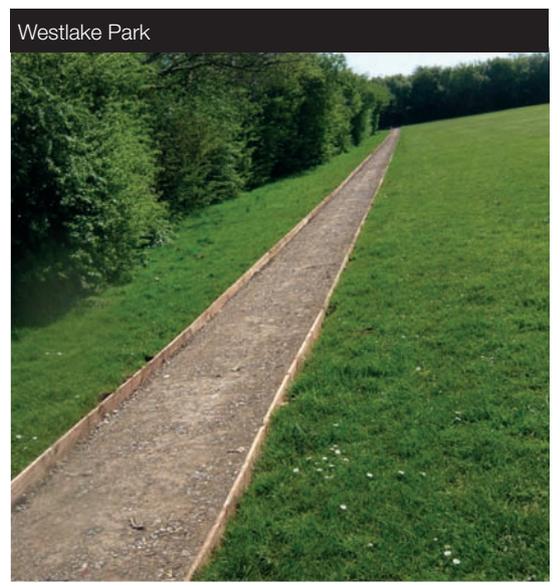
Work starts in Westlake Park

Works on Phase II of improvements to Westlake Park have started.

After more than 18 months of consultation, asking residents for their views and obtaining grant funding of £80,500 from Veolia North Thames Trust, Essex County Council Community Initiatives Fund and Basildon Borough Council, the Parish Council can at last move on with the improvements to West Lake Park.

Over the next weeks a path will be laid around the Park to make it more usable for everyone, before summer and winter. An Outdoor Gym for all ages and new gates will be installed, the car park and access road leading to the park will be resurfaced and some bins and seating will be introduced. It is also anticipated that there will be some planting to make the park more enjoyable for everyone all year round.

The Parish Council asks Park users to be patient while this work is going on and apologise for any inconvenience caused.



WHAT'S INSIDE

RSPB UPDATE

WWI MEMORIES

COMMUNITY EVENT

COULD YOU
BECOME A PARISH
COUNCILLOR?

PARISH IN BLOOM
COMPETITION

IN AND AROUND
THE PARISH

An Inspector listens

Developers, Meridian Strategic Land, arguments against the decision by Basildon Council to refuse planning permission to allow Nottinghamshire County Council to build on Little Chalvedon Hall Farm were heard by the Planning Inspector in a week long hearing at the end of February. During that time the Inspector also visited various locations around the Parish to see for herself what the area is like.



Basildon Council expertly stated their case for refusing the planning application and the Parish Councillors and Residents Association spoke eloquently in support of the refusal and cross examined the developers.

The Planning Inspector listened to the arguments from both sides and is due to report her findings as this newsletter goes to print. She will make a recommendation as to whether Nottingham/Meridian's Appeal to build on our green belt will be allowed or rejected and gave no indication of this decision at the hearing.

However, the final decision will lay with the Secretary of State who will issue his decision on or before 27th. June 2014.

STOP PRESS

Turn to the inside pages to find more on The Charity Fun Walk and how you can raise money for projects.

Can you Help: Volunteers are needed to help deliver this newsletter to your road. If you can help please contact the Parish Clerk on **01268 725236** or email: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com

Parish Council Village Fete

**Sunday 17th August 2014 - Westlake Park , Pound Lane
12.00 – 4.00 pm Fun for all the family.**

Preparations are in their early stages but there will be something for everyone to enjoy. Volunteer help is needed on the day and if you are one of our local cottage industries or a local charity and would like a stall please contact: **Councillor Rose Griffin on 07808 041825 or email cllr.rosegriffin@gmail.com for more details.**

RSPB Veolia Bowers Marsh nature reserve



Spring has sprung, and now is a fantastic time to visit RSPB Veolia Bowers Marsh, which can be found at the end of Church Road, past St Margaret's Church. Listen out for bearded tits 'pinging' away in the reedbed and watch for marsh harriers flying overhead. The best places to see the first butterflies of spring are alongside the hedgerows, especially the old elm drove track alongside the public footpath heading down to the Old Saltings viewing point.

As waders and wildfowl return to their breeding grounds after winter it won't be long until we welcome summer migrants such as 'purring' turtle doves, an increasingly rare bird, but fortunately still found in this area of Essex.



Male bearded Tit



Oyster catcher

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

EssexWorks.
For a better quality of life

The Mobile Library Service in Essex, which came into effect on the 4th July 2013, are proposing to make some changes to the Mobile Library routes and timetables in light of their experience so far and the feedback from users and other local stakeholders. The use of the service fluctuates current stopping patterns need to reflect demand in communities across Essex.

The current timetable will be replaced by the following timetable

Clifton Stores, Bowers Gifford on
Friday Week 2 at 11.00am – 11.20am

Gifford House, Bowers Gifford on
Friday Week 2 at 12.00pm – 12.20pm

Stansfield Court, Benfleet on
Tuesday Week 1 at 11.30am – 11.50am

If you would like to make any comments on these proposals or on the mobile library services generally, please contact the Parish Clerk. The revised timetables will be published towards the end of May 2014, and the new timetables will be implemented on the 1st July 2014.

HOME SAFETY CHECKS



Essex County Fire and Rescue carries out free home safety checks and fits smoke alarms in homes across the county every year. Smoke alarms are proven life savers; they give vital early warning at the first sign of fire giving everyone time to get out to safety before

calling the fire service. The alarms are fitted by trained technicians who will also carry out a full home fire safety inspection.

There is no cost to the people receiving the visit and they are left safer in their homes and secure in the knowledge that they are as safe as possible from the risks posed by fire.

If you would like a visit get in touch with Essex Fire Service on 0845 601 2495 or email HFSV@essex-fire.gov.uk

Throughout the winter the hard working wardens have been out on shingle islands in both the freshwater lagoon and the saline lagoon, removing vegetation to create large areas of bare shingle. This is perfect habitat for breeding birds such as little ringed plover and terns. A pair of oystercatchers have already been seen scouting out one of the shingle islands, so fingers crossed the hard work pays off!

With 6 km of accessible footpaths, a car park and public footpaths leading to Benfleet and Pitsea train stations, now is an excellent time to go for a stroll, enjoy this special reserve and look out for the wildlife that calls it home.

If you have any questions about the reserve or your visit call the RSPB South Essex Visitor Centre on **01268 498620**.

www.rspb.org.uk/bowersmarsh

Find us on Twitter @RSPBEssex or facebook.com/RSPBEssex

RSPB South Essex team

HIT & RUN

The Parish Council noticeboard is no longer beside the post box in Pound Lane. This is because a large vehicle, believed to be a Black 4 x 4 Range Rover, demolished it and drove off. The Parish Council are intending to replace it but if any resident can provide any information on who might be responsible please contact the Parish Clerk.



Damaged noticeboard

MEMORIES WANTED!!

The folk at St Margaret's Church, Bowers Gifford are planning to commemorate the centenary of the start of the WW1 "The Great War" in July with a small exhibition in the Parish Church in Church Road. This year is also the centenary of the Diocese of Chelmsford. We are looking for mementos and memories of the men who went to war, or indeed the families whom they left behind. Did you know that there were about two dozen men with links to Bowers Gifford and North Benfleet who made the ultimate sacrifice? We hope to do a small booklet giving details of as many as we can identify to be a more tangible memorial to the human beings represented by just names on war memorials.

If you have any photos, letters or anything else you might think of interest relating to this period in the two parishes please contact the Church Wardens on **01268 753673** or by email on info@st-margarets-church.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

30th April 2014. 7:00 – 8:15 pm

This meeting is dedicated to you the elector, to ask questions of your Parish Councillors.

This meeting will be followed by the monthly Parish Council Meeting. 8.15 – 9.30 pm

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

28th May 2014. 7:30 – 9:30 pm

The Benbow Club, Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford

The press and public are welcome to attend at each meeting

A Letter from the Parish Council

The Parish Council, like all organisations, is very conscious of costs and to this end the Parish Clerk is employed by the Council on a part time basis, 15 hours a week, Parish Councillors are not paid.

The days the Clerk works vary and you may experience some delay in receiving a reply to any telephone call or email, but you will receive one. Please just leave a message for her.

The Clerk, is the first point of contact for all Parish Council business, but your Parish Councillors are happy to receive texts or emails from you at any time. Please copy the Parish Clerk into any email.

A full list of Councillor contact and Parish Clerk's details are available in this newsletter.

We would ask that phone calls unless urgent be limited to normal daytime office hours 9 am – 5 pm Monday – Friday.

Please bear in mind that the Parish Council carries out no work directly, except in the case of some projects and have to place requests with the appropriate authority in the same way as any resident.

The Parish Council monitor responses from the authorities and try to achieve speedy action when possible but please bear in mind that departments such as Highways have a very heavy workload and can take a long time to respond to problems, so there is not always a quick solution.

In relation to this they often respond best when many people contact them on specific issues and so you will find links on our web site to allow you to report things such as potholes, lighting, dangerous pavements etc and we would urge you to use them. If you send an email to the Clerk to say that you have reported something and can supply any reference number we will monitor progress.

Thank you for your cooperation.

FLY TIPPING

Fly tipping is not acceptable at any time and the roadway leading from the London Road past the allotments leading to the Church Road underpass seems to be a favourite spot by someone who just doesn't care what problems are caused.

In the last 6 months this area has been cleared numerous times and the padlock removed from the bollards that are in place to stop this kind of anti- social behaviour.

Our pictures show the result of the tipping on weekend of 6th & 7th April. If anyone recognises the bag that the rubble is in from the renovations to their property please contact the Parish Clerk on (M) 07758255621 or email: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com.

If you see any vehicle fly tipping and disposing of material in this manner please ring 101 and ask for Pitsea Police station giving as much detail of the vehicle with a registration number. Your information will be dealt with in confidence.



Parish Council Elections

Parish Council Elections (if contested) will take place on Thursday 22nd May, alongside the Basildon Council and European Parliament Elections.

If you would like to stand as a Parish Councillor you will need to obtain a nomination pack from the Electoral Services Team at Basildon Council on Tel: 01268 294669;

email elections@basildon.gov.uk; download a nomination pack from the Basildon Council website or attend in person to the Basildon Council Offices, St Martin's Square, Basildon SS14 1DL.

To qualify as a Parish Councillor you must satisfy certain criteria and this information is on the Basildon council website. Follow the link on the Parish Council website www.essexinfo.net/gbnb-parishcouncil for more information.

Parish Council's are the 1st tier of local government and represent the people living in their local area at the closest level to the community. When decisions are made Councillors are there to put the views of residents across. Councillors represent the whole community not just their own views. Being a Councillor does not have to be time consuming, it depends on how much you want to get involved.

Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet Parish Council have 5 councillors at the present time but have the capacity for seven.

The Fun Walk Trust

CIO Charity no. 1151626



Come & Join your Parish Councillors

Once again Councillor Robert Smillie and Councillor Bernie Foster have agreed to take part in the Annual Charity Fun Walk, organised by John Baron MP and his Committee on Sunday 18th May at Barleylands Farm, Billericay and extend an invitation to residents to join them.

The event helps to raise money, through sponsorship, for projects within the Parish. Any money raised is increased by the Fun Walk organisers, from a bonus pot by courtesy of generous local businesses and individuals. The additional bonus is calculated on the amount collected, so the more that is collected in sponsorship the bigger the bonus amount received by the Parish. All money raised will be put towards future community projects in the Parish.

If you would like to sponsor the Councillors or would like to join them and would like a sponsor form please contact them directly or contact the Parish Clerk 01268 725236 (M)07758255621 email: clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com

Parish In Bloom Competition

After a long wet winter Spring has finally arrived and the Parish Council have pleasure in inviting all residents of Bowers Gifford & North Benfleet to enter in the first 'Parish in Bloom' competition. If it is successful it is hoped to make it an annual event.

The categories for entry this year are:-

- 1. Best front garden**
- 2. Best rear garden**
- 3. Best hanging basket or container.**

For our younger residents (Age 14 and under) there will also be a category for the tallest sunflower.

Entry is FREE and judging will take place late July (weather permitting) early August and the presentation of the winners will be at the Village Fete on 17th August.

Residents are welcome to enter any categories and the closing date for all entries is 30th June 2014. No entries will be accepted after this date.

Entry forms can be obtained from the Parish Council website, by email from the Parish Clerk clerkbgnbparishcouncil@gmail.com or by telephone 01268 725236 (M) 07758255621

Easter Services

**St Margaret's Church,
Church Road, Bowers Gifford**

MAUNDY THURSDAY

17th April at 7:00pm

Eucharist

GOOD FRIDAY

18th April

The church will be open for private prayer and meditation between 12.00noon and 3.00pm.

Saturday 19 April at 7:00pm

Easter Eve Vigil and Service of Light

St Chad's, Clay Hill Road, Vange

Sunday 20th April at 9:00am

Easter Sunday Eucharist

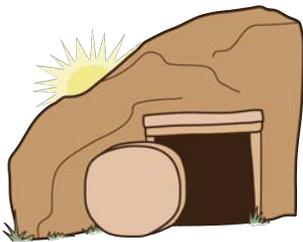
Wednesday 23 April at 7:00pm

A Celebration of St George

EASTER SERVICE AT THE POUND LANE MISSION

18th April	Good Friday	10.00
20th April	Easter Sunday	10.00

Celebrate Easter with
The Church at Gun Hill



Easter Family Service
Sunday 20th April

10:30-11:30am
followed by refreshments

01268-553423
www.gunhill.org.uk

Councillor contact details

Robert Smillie (Chair)	07790 907113	cllr.robertsmillie@gmail.com
Bernie Foster (Vice-Chair)	07811 838115	cllr.bernardfoster@gmail.com
Nigel Tyler	07850 192227	cllr.nigelt Tyler@gmail.com
Rose Griffin	07808 041825	cllr.rosegriffin@gmail.com
Brian Wall	07759 812852	cllr.brianwall@gmail.com

Parish Clerk: Christine Barlow
Tel: (01268) 725236 (M) 07758 255621
15 Highlands Road, Bowers Gifford, SS13 2HR
Email: clerkgbnbparishcouncil@gmail.com

Parish Council website:
www.essexinfo.net/bgnb-parishcouncil



The U3A is an informal, social group of retired and semi-retired men and women who want to have fun, make friends, start new hobbies and interests all at a little or no extra cost.

Interested?

Meetings are held 4th Wednesday in the month 2 – 4 pm at the Benbow Club, Pound Lane, Bowers Gifford

Speaker at forthcoming meetings:

23rd April – Pearly King and Queen of the Isle of Dogs

28th May – Jean Stafford – Life as a JP

25th June – Jill Allen King- Growing up in Bowers Gifford

For more information contact: Christine Lockwood 01268 458268

Create & Chat

1st & 3rd Tuesday in the month 2pm - 4pm

St MARGARET'S School (St Johns Church Hall in St Margaret's School grounds)

Arts & Crafts

Meetings are every other Monday 2pm - 4pm
at the Pound Lane Mission.

Come along for a cup of coffee and a chat.
You don't have to be 'crafty' or skilled to join in!

Keep the Thief Out – Lock your doors and windows



There has been an increase in the number of burglaries in the Pitsea South East area entering into properties either through a rear or back door or insecure window.

Remember to:

- **Keep all windows and doors securely locked especially at night or when going out.**
- **Leave a light on if you are not at home**
- **Keep valuables out of sight and do not leave keys in easy reach of front doors**
- **Property mark valuable items**
- **Ensure ladders and tools are not left lying around and sheds and garages are secure**
- **If you go on holiday cancel your newspapers, milk and or deliveries. Consider using a timer switch to turn on lights, radio etc. If possible as a trusted friend or neighbour to check your property, collect post and open and close curtains.**

Useful numbers:

Non-emergency **101**

Emergency incidents **999**

Pitsea South East Neighbourhood Team: **07875 003 290**

NO. 21 Bus Basildon – North Benfleet



There are no current plans to withdraw the Saturday service No 21 from Basildon to North Benfleet. This is Essex County Council contract service. Essex County Council recently consulted on priorities for the local bus services it supports. From that consultation, they are drawing up a draft strategy for future provision, and they intend to consult on that draft strategy at the next round of Parish Transport Representatives meetings in June 2014.

Councillor Brian Wall is the representative for the Parish Council and the Parish Council's views have already been added to the consultation.

DOGGY DOO DOO!

Be a responsible owner pick up after your pet Bag it! Bin it!



Many dog owners use Westlake Park, most are responsible are you the one who is not?