



# West Horndon Parish News October 2009

*The Newsletter of  
West Horndon Parish Council*

*Web site:* <http://www.westhorndonparishcouncil.org.uk/>

**Don't miss  
the lighting of  
the Christmas Tree  
at the Village Hall,  
4-6pm on Saturday  
5th December**

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## Our three new Councillors



The Parish Council is now up to full strength again with the appointment of 3 new Councillors at its September meeting.

Michael Bowyer (left) rejoins the Council after a break. Now retired, he was originally a journalist and then worked in Public Relations for the Ford Motor Company for over 30 years. His hobbies include building 0 Gauge model railways, keep fit, gardening weeds and walking after a dog!

Alan Slawson (centre) moved into the village 5 years ago. He was born in Hornchurch and has been a lecturer in Engineering, Design and Management at the University of East London. His interests include classic sports cars, travel, photography, family history, gardening and DIY.

Andy Spiller (right), now semi-retired. He was formally an IT Manager with Barclays Bank. He is now also a volunteer with the RSPB at Rainham Marshes. He has lived in the village for 21 years and was secretary to the Residents Association at one time. His interests include music, old buses, cooking and the military and genealogical side of the Great War.

## From the Chair

In this edition we give a warm welcome to our 3 new Councillors, Alan, Andy and Michael. We wish them well in their new responsibilities and look forward to working with them in the coming years.

Also West Horndon now has its own web site. We hope this will be of use to residents and to

those wanting to know more about the village. Please read the article about the site and see how it can be of use to you and the organisations and activities with which you are involved.

Steve Williams (Chair)





## PARISH CLERK IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In each issue of the News Letter we put someone involved in the Parish Council under the spotlight. For this issue our 'victim' is our Parish Clerk, [Geoff Rudd](#).

**Editor:** Where do you come from originally?

**Geoff:** I was born and brought up in Upminster but have lived in Hutton for over 30 years. I'm married to Janet, a teacher.

**Editor:** And what have you done with your life?

**Geoff:** I'm a Chartered Secretary and worked in the Public Sector for a couple of London Councils. I became the part-time Parish Clerk at West Horndon in September 2003, soon after the Council was formed.

**Editor:** What other interests do you have?

**Geoff:** I'm very involved with Hutton Free Church, I sing in a choir and I enjoy sport. I've run a cricket team which plays one match a year for the last 30 years. I play tennis and am learning to play golf.

**Editor:** Do you have any other achievements that you are proud of?

**Geoff:** I have produced a complete pantomime and I've also written and had published a Christmas Nativity Play, much to the annoyance of my son as I was published before him (Although his publication was a doctoral thesis!).

**Editor:** Before becoming Parish Clerk did you have any links with West Horndon?

**Geoff:** In the 1930s my dad's family had a holiday home opposite the church in Bulphan and they used to catch the train from Barking to East Horndon (as West Horndon station was then called), walk to the Tilbury Road and catch a bus to Bulphan. I was brought up on stories of those days. When I lived in Upminster I used to cycle to West Horndon as it was a nice flat ride.

**Editor:** You drive more than one car (see picture above)!

**Geoff:** Yes, I have a 1972 MGB but before anyone asks, my friends always rib me because I know nothing about what goes on under the bonnet, I just enjoy driving the car.

**Editor:** And finally, what do you think about working in West Horndon?

**Geoff:** I love my job and am very fond of West Horndon and especially its people who are delightful.

## Parish Council Community Survey

Earlier this year the Parish Council conducted a Community Survey. The results have now been analysed and we can now report on some of the findings:

- **The amount the Council spends.** No great surprise that residents generally did not want to pay out more, but also they seemed fairly happy with the current level of spending and the work that the Council does. (However the view was that any major projects should only be pursued if outside funding was possible)

### What happens in the village:

- We should continue to support the Village Hall and the Park to the same level as at present.
- We should investigate the the potential for using CCTV in the village.
- We should press for more evening police patrols and speed watch survey work.
- We should look for more action on speeding in the village and look for ways that the speed and quantity of traffic can be controlled.
- We should seek for improved public transport services and pursue the possibility of a community bus scheme.
- On the recreation front we should support the park and try to improve its facilities, including the opportunities for football. We should look at whether the footpaths in and around the village could be improved and consider starting walking programmes.

### Parish Council Community Survey (cont.)

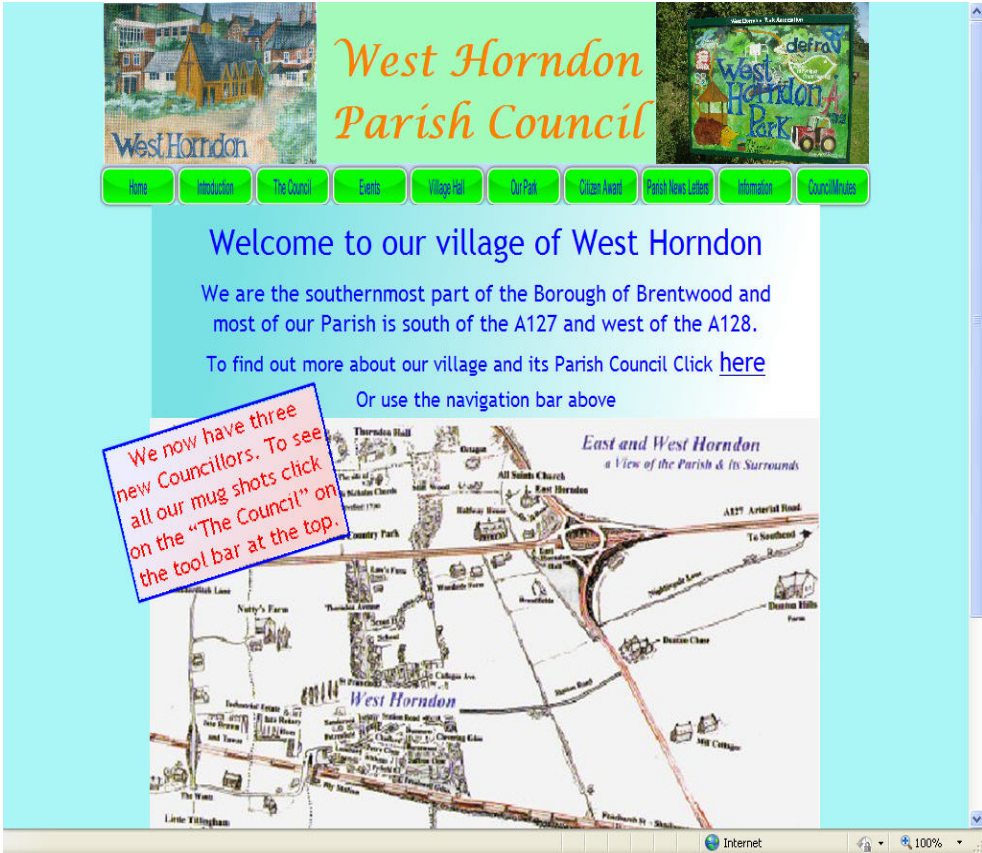
- The vast majority of respondents were satisfied with the service provided by the doctors' surgery in the village and, especially, the new appointments system.
- The local facilities most used by the respondents were shops (93%), post office (84%), village hall (54%), hairdressers (48%) and church (30%). There was very low use of the Clearview Centre, pub and restaurants.
- The current parking restrictions were strongly supported and there was no wish for any change.

Those responding to the survey were predominantly in the older age ranges. This may well reflect the make up of the village (we are predominantly older) but also may indicate that the younger people who are moving in are less likely to be involved in village activities or have much interest in what is happening (If you are younger and object to this statement, please get in touch).

**What happens next?** The Council will be discussing the findings in detail and drawing up its future plans to take account of the views expressed. It may well decide to conduct further surveys in order to refine its understanding of how it can serve the community as well as possible.

If you have any comments or questions please get in touch with our Clerk or one of the Councillors or come along to the monthly Council meetings which include a public question time.  
(Clerk, Councillors and meetings dates are on the next page)

### The Village web site



We now have our own web site which can be found at:-  
<http://www.westhorndonparishcouncil.org.uk/>

This contains information about the Council, its members and officers. There are also details of what is happening in the village, organisations, clubs and special events. There are details of the services in the village (utilities, health and police). There are also instructions for getting your organisation or special event included and any other comments or suggestions for improvements would be welcomed.



## Who's who on the Parish Council

Steve Williams (Chair)	01277 811223
Tina Duffin (Vice-Chair)	01277 811793
Michael Bowyer	01277 811202
Peter Bowes	01277 812956
John Grahame	01277 811548
Christine King	01277 810306
Chris Price	07708 503104
Alan Slawson	01277 811336
Andy Spiller	01277 811583
Geoff Rudd (Parish Clerk)	01277 218618

## Other key people

PCSO Matthew Grimwood	07896 871008 (email: matthew.grimwood@essex.pnn.police.uk)
Brentwood Police Station	01279 641218
Neighbourhood Police Team	07896 871008
Brentwood Borough Council	01277 312500
Cllr Linda Golding (Ward)	07792 670393
Cllr Gordon MacLellan (Ward)	01277 810945
Cllr John Roberts (Essex)	01277 225039

## Parish Council Meetings - 2009/2010

Thursday, October 29, 2009

Thursday, December 3, 2009

Thursday, January 28, 2010

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Thursday, April 29, 2010

Meetings are usually held in the Christabella Wing of St Francis Church in Thorndon Avenue on the last Thursday of each month \* commencing at 7.30pm, with 30 minutes for a public forum prior to business commencing at 8.00pm.

\* No meetings in August and November. The December meeting is on the first Thursday.

## We have a new Community Notice Board outside the Village Hall

Do look at it to see what's going on.



Readers may have seen the brand new Community Notice Board outside the Village Hall. This has been provided by the Parish Council and replaces an old board which had reached the end of its useful life. It has three compartments, one for Neighbourhood Watch, one for the Village Hall and a third for community groups and other village notices.

Anyone wanting to put up a notice should either speak to Dave Capps the Village Hall Caretaker or contact Tina Duffin, the Bookings Secretary on 811793.