



West Horndon Parish News April 2010

The Newsletter of
West Horndon Parish Council

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

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2010 Citizenship Award
With 2 new categories!
The Award Ceremony, with the Mayor of Brentwood, will be in the Christabella Wing at St Francis Church at 7.30pm on Thursday 27th May.
All welcome.

Your Village Hall

We are fortunate in West Horndon to have a Village Hall and a dedicated committee who keep it going. Below is a report on what is currently happening at the hall.

The hall is about 50 years old and has not had any major work done on it for a long time. The last two years have seen a great effort of fundraising from events run by the committee to bring the village together as well as raise money. In addition there has been much work undertaken to obtain grants from a number of sources. A number of significant grants have been obtained, including ones from the Parish Council towards the new disabled toilet and upgrading the electrics. There was also a generous donation of £15,000 from a villager. This has meant that we have been able to repair the roof and make it watertight, install new fascia boards and drainpipes together with double glazed windows which will reduce our heating bills.

So now we move on to the next stage. We are planning to have all new outside and kitchen doors put in the hall this summer, so hirers will no longer have to struggle with the padlock and bar to get into and out of the hall! This summer we also hope to have the whole downstairs hall repainted and new curtains on the stage and at all the downstairs windows.

When these things are complete we will have spent all the grant money and also gone into our own funds, so we still have to carry on fundraising as there is still all the upstairs to redecorate and curtain.

And as you can imagine the hall is always in need of having work done!

We are planning a Barn Dance in July, another quiz in September and a dance in November. All monies raised goes into our refurbishment fund, so please look out for these and try to support the ongoing refurbishment of the hall.

Thank you to everyone that has supported us at our events and we look forward to seeing you at the hall in the future.

From the Chair

Welcome to the first 2010 edition of our Newsletter. At the beginning of a new Council year the main feature is a report of Council activities for the last year. There is also feature on our newest Councillor, Marjorie Ramsey, and details of forthcoming meetings. The Annual Parish Meeting is in the Village Hall at

7.30pm on 13th May when villagers have the opportunity to ask questions of their elected representatives. The following Council meeting, on 27th May, will include the presentation of the annual Citizenship Awards.



Steve Williams (Chair)

Parish Council Annual Report

The Council has continued with its regular pattern and has held ten meetings during the last Council year (May 2009 to April 2010). Each one can be quite lively and our work is enhanced by those local residents who come along to ask questions or speak about some matter of concern during the public question time that starts each meeting. We appreciate the support of our County and Borough Councillors at these meetings and recently a number of local issues have been covered by the local press.

There have been some changes within the Council this year. Back in April 2009 we said thank you and farewell to Linda and Michael Golding, both of whom stepped down to concentrate on their Brentwood Borough Council roles and then in October, Peter Bowes resigned for business and personal reasons. We are grateful for the time and work that these colleagues have given. A mention must be made of Linda Golding in particular as she was the last of the founder members from 2003. In their place we have welcomed four new councillors. First we appointed in September, Andy Spiller, Alan Slawson and Mike Bowyer to fill the vacancies from April plus an earlier one, and latterly we have been joined by Marjorie Ramsey who replaced Peter Bowes. If you recognised Mike Bowyer's name, it may be because he served on the Council in its earlier days and we are delighted to welcome him back again. This means that we now have our full complement of nine members and we look forward to embarking on a further year of achievement through to May 2011 when elections are due for the full Parish Council.

However back to the current year – what have we done? Here is a summary of the Council's work.

Planning – the Council has the opportunity to examine every planning application. The comments made form part of the Brentwood Planners' report and so the Parish Council can influence the decision.

West Horndon Park – the Parish Council, together with the Park Association and the Borough Council jointly manage this. Each year the Parish Council contributes towards the running costs and again last year, financial support was also given to the summer fair. In all some £3,700 was paid over.

East and West Horndon Village Hall – over the years the Parish Council has provided grants towards the running of the Village Hall. These now total well over £20,000 and last year we were particularly pleased to see the completion of our work to provide an accessible (disabled) toilet for the hall with grant support from Essex County Council. In addition the Parish Council has provided a new Community Notice Board and an external electrical supply column.

Annual commitments – these include the provision of dog waste bins, the management of two garden areas at the Station and the Village Hall, the Citizen of the Year award (won last year by Marcia Goddard when Mayor Tony Sleep presented her with the Roy Boggis Trophy), the publication of West Horndon Parish News, support for the local charity the Howard Memorial Trust which can give out grants for local residents. New to us last year was the launch of a website and I am pleased that this is being visited more and more. One event that the Parish Council runs is the provision and annual lighting-up of a Village Christmas Tree. Last year's event was particular well supported and resulted in us being able to donate £100 towards the Little Haven Children's Hospice, being the proceeds of the raffle. Lastly, recent visitors to the Scout Hut should have seen the results of the bulb planting that the Guides carried last October after the Council supplied 2,000 crocus bulbs.

This is just a flavour of some of the things that the Parish Council has achieved on your behalf.

cont....

COUNCILLOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT



In each issue of the Newsletter we put someone involved in the Parish Council under the spotlight. For this issue our 'victim' is our our newest Councillor, **Marjorie Ramsey**.

Editor: You seem to have your hands full in our picture!

Marjorie: Having lived on a smallholding for the 50 years we have lived in this Parish, animals have always been a part of our lives. Besides 2 cats we have 3 dogs including 2 young Jack Russells. We used to have pigs but now it's just hens, one of which sleeps with the older dog.

Editor: 50 years in the Parish and before that?

Marjorie: Yes, I came as a new bride. I was originally from Bethnal Green but grew up in Hornchurch.

Editor: So you're at the Golden Wedding Anniversary stage.

Marjorie: Yes, David and I have been married for that time and we have two daughters, one in Derbyshire and one in Australia. There are also two granddaughters.

Editor: So you haven't been idle all these years?

Marjorie: No and I will volunteer for things! I've been a school governor, a Guide leader and involved in politics. I'm still on the Guides Divisional Executive and Secretary of the West Horndon Women's Institute.

Our children were the Sunday School and choir at St Peter's, Little Warley and 40 years ago I volunteered to take the minutes for *one* Church Council meeting... I'm still doing it!!

Editor: So you do this in your free time as a retired housewife?

Marjorie: Oh no! I still have a full time job as a secretary to a Westminster MP in their Constituency Office.

Editor: So why volunteer for the Parish Council?

Marjorie: I always like to have an interest rather than just hobbies. I'm interested in the community, its people and their issues.

Editor: On a lighter note, what is your favourite food and drink?

Marjorie: Most types of fish and a glass of Australian red wine.

Editor: And finally, if you could go back in time what would you like to live again?

Marjorie: I would like to go back to a more gentle time, but without the hard work that went with it! My favourite time would be the 1950s but, maybe, that's because it's when we were teenagers.

Parish Council Annual Report (cont)

Readers may also like to know about the financial side of the Parish Council. As Council Tax payers, residents are asked to pay an additional 1% (for a Band 'D' property this comes to £18.88 a year or 36 pence a week) as a precept to cover the cost of running the Council. We have been able to keep this at the same level for three years now. It covers the ten hours a week salary of the Clerk and the Council's admin. costs which include such things as office expenses, insurance and audit charges.

However in return the existence of the Parish Council brings in a general grant from Brentwood Council and gives us the ability to obtain specific grants from Essex County Council and other agencies. Thus for 2009/10 we received £13,000 from Brentwood which has helped to fund many of the activities that referred to in this report. In the seven years of the Parish Council's existence, these grants have totalled more than £110,000 and if there was no Parish Council acting as an advocate for the community it is extremely unlikely that an equivalent amount of funding would have come to our community.

We hope that this report gives a useful picture of the work of the Parish Council and if you have any questions or queries don't hesitate to come to one of our meetings or contact the Parish Clerk or one of the Councillors. Contact details and dates of meetings are given on the next page.

Who's who on the Parish Council

Steve Williams (Chair)	01277 811223
Tina Duffin (Vice-Chair)	01277 811793
Michael Bowyer	01277 811202
John Grahame	01277 811548
Christine King	01277 810306
Chris Price	07708 503104
Margorie Ramsey	01277 811242
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 - 2010

Thursday, April 29, 2010
Thursday, May 27, 2010
Thursday, June 24, 2010
Thursday, July 29, 2010

Thursday, September 30, 2010
Thursday, October 28, 2010
Thursday, December 2, 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 Community Notice Board outside the Village Hall
Do look at it to see what's going on.

**Don't forget the
Park Event**

11th July

Put it in your diary NOW!

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.

Annual Parish Meeting
(for all residents of the village)
7.30pm, Thursday May 13th 2010
in the Village Hall