



West Horndon Parish News November 2010

The Newsletter of
West Horndon Parish Council

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

In this issue:

Page 1

Your Village needs
your help!

From the Chair

Page 2

Snapshots of
West Horndon

Page 3

OPEN LETTER

Page 4

Who's Who
Parish Council
Meetings

Village information
& announcements

Where
will you
be on
Saturday
11th December?

YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

May 2011 is election time for our Parish Council. The whole Council is up for re-election, which is 9 Councillors. Some of our existing Councillors will not be standing for re-election and so the big question is: SHOULD YOU (and we do me YOU) BE STANDING FOR ELECTION?



It is important that the village is truly represented and it would be brilliant if some younger people were to stand. We are being told that we need to develop the 'Big Society'. Well West Horndon may be a 'small' community but if the wonderful community spirit that has existed in the village for many years is to continue a new cohort of people need to take up the mantle from those who have served for many years. (see Open Letter on page 3)

Being on the Parish Council means attending Council Meetings on 10 Thursday evenings a year and there are usually a couple of other meetings for all Councillors. In addition individual Councillors and small groups take responsibility for specific areas of interest such as Planning, Transport, Environment, the Park and for other areas and projects as they arise.

If you would like to find out more before putting your name forward please talk to one of the existing Councillors or the Parish Clerk, all of whose contact details are given on page 4. (Nomination time will be in the Spring)

From the Chair

Welcome to the third Newsletter for 2010. As the article above says we are drawing to the end of this Council's term of office and I would encourage you all to consider standing for election to the new Council. On page 3 of this issue I have written an Open Letter which challenges us all as to whether we are serious about supporting the community in which we live. Please read it and think about it. It would be good to get a debate going about what we want for the future and not only in the current economically difficult times.

In many ways I think we stand at a crossroads as many of the long term residents of the village are not able to do as much as they have in the past.

On a lighter note, please remember the Christmas Tree Lighting at the Village Hall between 4pm and 6pm on Saturday 11th December. This is a lovely village occasion with refreshments provided free but a raffle in aid of charity.



Steve Williams (Chair)

SNAPSHOTS OF WEST HORNDON

Christmas Tree Lighting at the Village Hall (4pm to 6pm, Saturday 11th December)

For the past few years the Parish Council has supplied a Christmas Tree and arranged a lighting up ceremony. We are continuing the tradition this year. The tree will be installed outside the Village Hall and free refreshments provided in the Hall, but as last year there will be a raffle. This year it will be in aid of 'Help for Heroes'. The lighting up the tree will be by Kath Porter, our 2010 Citizen Award winner, and will be soon after it is dark but the whole time is a lovely opportunity to get together and chat. (and it will finish before Strictly and the X Factor - what more could you ask?)



Howard Memorial Trust

The Trust offers small grants to organisations and individuals in the village. Recent grants have been up to £175 and gone to 3 village organisations for new equipment and to a secondary school pupil towards a project involving a visit to Africa. For more details or to make an application contact the Secretary, Geoff Rudd (contact details - page 4)

Silver Surfers

This is a new initiative from West Horndon Primary School. They are offering to help to introduce older residents to the use of computers.

There are 10 weekly morning sessions and the autumn course, held on a Thursday morning, is proving a great success. Each person has an individual teacher - one of the older pupils. There will be a another course starting in the New Year.

So if you want to find out about computers from 'experts' contact the School for details of the New Year dates and times.

Our Village Hall

Are you a regular user? If not it's worth a visit. The last couple of years has seen a major upgrade and, as we write, the car park is being resurfaced. It has long been a centre of village life being used for regular clubs and activities as well as one off social events and even as our polling station.

The Playgroup meets there and their facilities are currently being upgraded, using funds from the Parish Council, with a new surface and matting for the outside play area and a canopy which will enable that area to be used all the year and in all weather. If you know anyone looking for a Playgroup for their children, ours can be highly recommended.

Wider issues affecting our community

Are you interested in the changes that will affect our community in the future? There are regular consultations about possible changes in many areas and you could have your opportunity to make your views known.

Among things currently in the spotlight are Waste Development Document Issues and Options (consultation period to December. See www.essex.gov.uk/WDD)

Meanwhile Brentwood Borough Council are consulting on the strategy for the borough through to 2031. The Gypsy and Traveller situation may also soon be a subject for consultation. (<http://www.brentwood.gov.uk/index.php?cid=1386> website gives a list of all current consultations and links to the documentation)

There are always things going on relating to health and Essex & Southend LINK is a good source of information (www.essexandsouthendlink.org.uk)

Many areas of our life are influenced by Essex County Council who also often run consultations. Their web site is <http://www.essex.gov.uk/>. Another Essex wide organisation is the County Local Strategic Partnership, The Essex Partnership, whose web site can be found at <http://www.essexpartnershipportal.org/pages/>

AN OPEN LETTER

Dear

This is a letter to each resident of the Parish of West Horndon. It is addressed to you individually. (If you don't believe this please read the announcement on page 4 about the demise of "someone else")

I have now been the priest-in-charge of St Francis for 7 years and on the Parish Council (which has nothing to do with the Church) for 3 years and as I look at events in the village and those on the wider, national, front I have been thinking about the future of the village.

We are hearing a lot about the "Big Society" at the moment, but long term residents of West Horndon will tell you that this is nothing new. They will refer back to the post war period when the village was awash with activities and life covering all ages. Although we still have uniformed organisations and the Dancing School other activities are generally for older people and even these are experiencing difficulty in finding leaders. The Parish Council has only one Councillor under 55 and, at 63, I am probably about average age for the Tennis Club members!

Last week I heard a presentation about The Debenham Project. Debenham is a Suffolk village and in the last couple of years this project has sprung up, from within the community, to assist people with dementia and those supporting them. This project has mobilised a large number of people and provides a lifeline for many. I am not suggesting we need a similar project here but the reason for the presentation was that this was an excellent example of an initiative from within the village. It may be possible for politicians to encourage the idea of the "Big Society" but it can only be created where there is local support which leads to local initiatives. It strikes me that West Horndon is at a critical point in its history and faces a number of options:

- Individuals may wish to come forward and take on existing community roles and, if they do, they will be welcomed and I, for one, would support and encourage you to do play your part. Depending on the number of volunteers it may even be possible to maintain the existing organisations.
- But you may want to go further and believe that we need to be less individualistic as a society and that we need to think more in terms of community. (Buy into the "Big Society" idea) However even here there are two options:
 1. You may see West Horndon as your community and want to start to build up relationships within the village and play an active part in the community.
 2. You may not see West Horndon as your real community. Your community may be a wider one and you see West Horndon as just a place to live. In which case there is no reason for getting involved.
- Or, finally, you may not see the need to change at all in which case (as with 2 above) the organisations and community life of our village will slowly die as the current volunteers are forced to retire.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

Yours,

Steve Williams

(Priest in Charge of St Francis Church and Chair of the Parish Council)

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 |
| Marjorie 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 | 01277 262212 |
| 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 - 2010/11

Thursday, December 2, 2010
Thursday, January 27, 2011
Thursday, February 24, 2011

Thursday, March 31, 2011
Thursday, April 28, 2011
Thursday, May 26, 2011

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 and we have our own web site which can be found at:-

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

Do look at these to find out what's going on.

ANNOUNCEMENT

We are sad to report the death of one of the most valuable members of our community, Someone Else.

Someone's passing leaves a gap which will be hard to fill. Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years Someone did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever there was a job to do, a task undone, a meeting or event to organise, one name was on everyone's lips. Let Someone Else do it.

Whenever leadership was mentioned this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results: Someone Else will sort it out. It is common knowledge that Someone Else was amongst the most generous of givers of time and energy. Whenever there was a need, we all just assumed that Someone Else would take care of it.

Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else and now they are gone. What are we going to do? Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow but who is going to follow it? Now whenever a need arises we'll have to remember – we can't depend on Someone Else any more.