



**Welcome to the first issue of the “Parish Update” – a way to bring you up to date on what’s happening in the district and to keep you more informed and in touch with the people who can help and advise at Braintree District Council.**

### THANK YOU

Very many thanks for completing and returning the **Rural Services Survey** – we received a 100% response, resulting in the completion of a comprehensive survey document.

Contact Linda Hadley our Parish Liaison Officer if you didn’t collect a copy at the Evening with Parishes and wish to receive one.

Tel: 01376 551414, Ext. 2343 or  
e-mail: [linda.hadley@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:linda.hadley@braintree.gov.uk)

This Survey is also available to read on the website, [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk) under Council and Democracy and in the January issue of the **Members Focus**.

If you wish to contact us or find out more about an item in this newsletter, details are on the back page.

### HAVE YOU LOOKED AT THE NEW PARISH PAGE ON THE BDC WEBPAGE?

Would you like easy access to help and advice on many aspects of the parish/town council process and services? For the Internet users amongst you, browse on the Parish Pages on the Braintree District Council website at [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk). To find this page, click on Council and Democracy and then Parish Information.

### WHAT’S INSIDE

- Biodiversity Competition**
- Community Safety**
- Community Transport**
- Funding Advice**
- Parish Webpage**
- Printing Services**

### PARISH CLUSTERS

As you are all aware the Cluster meetings are held twice yearly in the Spring & Autumn enabling parishes to discuss issues and to share ideas. It’s an ideal opportunity for you to invite officers from Braintree Council to your meetings, for help and advice, or other organizations such as the Police, ECC Highways, Environment Agency, even your MP. Have you considered inviting community groups and guest speakers?

NOW...it's time to plan for the Spring Cluster Meetings and the issues important to your Parish, which can be included on the next Agenda!!

Contact Helen Riches at Braintree Council, on 01376 551414 Ext: 2005, email: [helen.riches@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:helen.riches@braintree.gov.uk) for help and advice on Cluster meeting administration.

### MEMBERS FOCUS

Members Focus was reviewed in December 2005 and the feedback from District Councillors and Parish/Town Councillors was very positive. This has shown it to be a good way to provide information to both groups regularly and speedily.





## **EVENING WITH PARISHES'**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> December Braintree District Council hosted the 'Evening with Parishes' - an informal event, which included discussion, question and answer sessions, quiz and refreshments.

Many issues were raised during the question and answer session and those the responsibility of the District Authority will be considered as part of the business/budget planning process. Other issues will be passed to the appropriate authorities.

## **COMING SOON**

### **Parish Plan Coffee Morning**

**On 21<sup>st</sup> February 2006** between 10 am and 1 pm at Foakes Hall, Great Dunmow, Rural Community Council of Essex staff will be available to help with applications for the Parish and Town Plans Grant – applications are for up to £1,500 to assist with production of a Parish Plan. All money to be allocated by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006 and used during the following 12 months.

Contact: 01245 495427

### **Trading Standards – how much do you know about their work? Would you like to know more?**

**On 2<sup>nd</sup> March**, Braintree District Council are hosting a presentation from Essex County Council's Trading Standards. Invitations have been sent out. For more information contact: Carol Clayman on 01376 551414, Ext: 2202, Email: [carol.clayman@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:carol.clayman@braintree.gov.uk).

### **Business Continuity Management Presentation**

Have you received your invitation from Braintree Council's Health, Safety and Emergency Manager to attend what should be an interesting and informative evening?. The main speaker will be Richard Verrinder, ECC – **29<sup>th</sup> March 2006** at 7.15 pm at Causeway House.

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 placed a requirement on local authorities to promote the concept of business continuity to all businesses within their district. Does your parish/town already have a plan in place? Find out how to help yourselves and local small businesses.

For more information contact: Donna Walton on 01376 551414 Ext: 2675 or email:

[Donna.Walton@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:Donna.Walton@braintree.gov.uk)

### **Update On Planning Applications - "What makes a valid planning objection?"**

Look out for an invitation, to Parishes/Towns to attend an evening training session at Causeway House on **20<sup>th</sup> April** at 7 pm.

For more information contact: Margaret McCloud on 01376 551414 Ext: 2540.

### **Register of Interests – Reminder**

How up to date is your Register of Interests? Patrick Dempsey, Monitoring Officer for BDC will be writing to all parishes in April suggesting an item is added AGM agendas for all parish councillors to re-consider their Registers of Interests and confirm they are up to date?

### **A Fete For Parish And Town Councils – Meet Your Service Providers**

**On 5<sup>th</sup> October 2006** instead of the parish evening we hold in December, we are holding a different kind of event.

The idea is to hold an informal indoor Fete for Parish Councils, where the Parish Council representatives will be able to drop in and visit the fete stallholders any time between 4pm and 9pm. The venue will be at Causeway house.

### **Stall holders**

The intention is to have a fete stall for many of the services that Parish/Town Councils may use or be interested in. This will include a number of Braintree District Services. Other organisations such as ECC, and the Police will be invited to hold stalls.



There will be the chance to meet officers and Members in an informal atmosphere where -

You can discuss services, request information/advice, make suggestions for improvements or let us know if we have got it right.

We can, promote our services, ask you for feedback and get to know more about your local achievements or concerns.

All Parish/Town Councils will be given a plan of stallholders to enable them to target those services of greatest relevance.

If you would like to know more, please contact Kitty Barrett on Tel 01376 557746 or, email [kitty.barrett@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:kitty.barrett@braintree.gov.uk)

### LISTENING TO PEOPLE!

Councillor Wendy Scattergood, the Member of the Council's Cabinet with responsibility for Planning and Rural Issues, was amongst other Councillors who were out and about in Witham, Halstead and Braintree town centres recently to listen to anyone's views and questions on the Council's future priorities and finances. These two-hour consultation opportunities are one of several ways Councillors are trying to improve their understanding of local people's concerns and priorities before the coming year's budget is put to the Council's Cabinet.

### HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT COMMUNITY TRAVEL SCHEMES?

#### Community Transport

Braintree Community Transport is a scheme, which was set up seven years ago as a working partnership between Braintree District & Essex County Councils who jointly fund it. It is a subsidised scheme to which members make a contribution.

This extremely popular and successful scheme was introduced to help those people whose

transport needs were not being met by existing services or those who fell through the loop.

We offer three different services, the Social Car Scheme, Dial-a-ride Scheme and Minibus Hire Scheme for those who have a disability, mobility difficulties, rurally or socially isolated or anyone unable to access public transport – all our minibuses are fully accessible with a tail lift and all minibus drivers are trained to MiDas standard.

Using the scheme gives people back their independence and means they have to rely on friends and family members less often.



The Social Car Scheme can be used by individuals for shopping, visiting friends and family, doctor, dentist, social events and lunch clubs etc.

When this scheme was launched 7 years ago we had one driver covering the whole of the district using his own car and two minibuses with one volunteer driver.

During the first year we undertook just under 6000 journeys. The scheme has grown from strength to strength thanks to the continued commitment of local authorities, our volunteers and the admin team.

We now have approximately 40 drivers using their own cars or driving one of the minibuses – covering the whole of the district and by the end of this financial year we will have exceeded 40,000 trips.



The minibus fleet is currently six and there is funding from Braintree District Council for a seventh.

A feasibility study is being conducted to find a suitably safe place to keep one minibus in the north of the district.

It's been said that our drivers have taken on the role of the milkman – often they may be the only people our members see during the week.

You may have seen in the local paper the lady who had not been out of her house for five years. In her youth she had been involved in sailing and now wanted to see the sea. She used the dial-a-ride to go Frinton and said by going out she was inspired to paint again.

It's a great scheme to be involved in, members constantly say how they appreciate the service and a complaint is very rare.

A scheme like this benefits not just people with special transport needs, it also benefits the volunteer – it enables them to keep their own vehicle on the road (the out of pocket expenses reimbursed helps towards this) They are given a purpose to their day, they have the knowledge they are helping others less fortunate than themselves, they are putting something back into the community and often they build up a rapport with the members and form friendships.

If you are interested in volunteering, have a sense of humour and a willingness to help please give the team a call on 01376 327357.

The Social Car Scheme is for people who have mobility problems, disabilities or are rurally isolated.

The Dial-a-Ride Scheme is mainly for people who travel with wheelchairs.

The Minibus Scheme is for non-profit making groups within Braintree District.

### **Free Essex Travel-pass!**

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006, Braintree District Council are pleased to be offering a Free Essex

Travelpass to permanent residents either over the age of 60 or disabled (receiving higher rate mobility component of DLA or by doctor's approval). This pass will enable users to travel by bus anywhere within Essex at no cost to them.

Holders of the current Half Fare Essex Travel-pass will not need to re-apply for the Free Essex Travel-pass. It has been agreed that valid half fare passes will be accepted by bus drivers in Essex as a Free Essex Pass from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006, meaning that until the current bus pass expires after that date, a different pass will not be needed.

Braintree District Council will continue to offer Travel Tokens as an alternative to the bus pass for those who wish to claim them.

If you need more information on the Free Essex Travelpass or Travel Tokens contact Sarah Sherry, Concessionary Transport Officer, Tel: 01376 551414, Ext. 2352, email: [sarajane.sherry@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:sarajane.sherry@braintree.gov.uk)

### **Cross Border Travel**

Is your parish amongst those able to benefit from the revisions to the Concessionary Transport Scheme regarding cross border travel?

These changes will enable pass holders living close to the Essex/Suffolk border to use their passes more effectively.

If you are able to publicise the revisions in your parish magazine it may help those residents who are still unaware of the adjustments.

For further information contact Sarah Sherry, Concessionary Transport Officer, Tel: 01376 551414, Ext. 2352, Email: [sarahjane.sherry@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:sarahjane.sherry@braintree.gov.uk)

## Voluntary Groups Road Show For rural villages in the Braintree District.

Braintree District Voluntary Support Agency (BDVSA) have just received funding from Change Up, a government initiative, in addition to a grant from the Abbey Charitable Trust, to hold road-shows in rural areas.

The funding enables BDVSA, in partnership with Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE), Voluntary Sector Training (VST) and Essex, Southend and Thurrock Council for Voluntary Youth Services (ECVYS), to visit 4 villages in the spring.

From this opportunity local voluntary and community groups will be informed about the services provided, which can help support voluntary groups working in rural areas.

The Road Show will be visiting the following villages;-  
25<sup>th</sup> April - Great Yeldham, 28<sup>th</sup> April - Coggeshall, 8<sup>th</sup> May - Sible Hedingham & 12<sup>th</sup> May - Great Bardfield.  
Contact: BDVSA on Tel: 01376 550507.

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

**The Police Community Safety Tasking Groups** work to reduce crime, nuisance and disorder and tackle other community safety issues. If your parish/town has issues you wish to raise, contact Braintree District Council's Community Safety Development Team on 01376 551414 for help or more information on the role of the Group.

Alternatively, you could contact your Area Police Inspector.

The Groups meet on a monthly basis as follows:-

**Halstead** – 10 am on the first Tuesday of every month – Halstead Police Station

**Witham** – 10 am on the first Wednesday of every month – Bramston School

**Braintree** – 10 am on the first Thursday of every month – Braintree Police Station



## Look out for the 'Smart' police cars!

Thanks to a £15,000 donation from Braintree Council there are now three 'Smart' cars helping Police Community Support Officers patrol rural areas in the Braintree district. Walking the beat and providing a high-visibility uniformed presence will continue to be their primary function but the 'Smart' cars will give access to more rural areas.

## PARISH/TOWN EMERGENCY PLAN

If you haven't already adopted an Emergency Plan and are looking for help in drafting one, have a look at the Parish Page on the BDC website for a template which can be adapted to suit individual parish needs – click on Council and Democracy then Parish Information. You could also contact the Emergency Planning Officers for help and advice on **01376 552525 Ext. 2675**.

## HALSTEAD – “KICK ABOUT AREA”

Spansey “Kick About Area” in Halstead was officially opened on October 2005. This project began when a local resident recognised the need for young people to have their own safe play area and researched a location. A local landowner offered an area of land, Braintree District Council Community Safety Team made successful funding applications and a planning application was made and agreed.



This project is also supported by Essex County Council, Essex Police and the Youth Service.



Nominated for 'Taking a Stand' Awards 2005 'Well Done Everyone'

### Crime Prevention Panel

Your parish may be one of those surrounding Halstead, which may benefit from the Crime Prevention Panel.

They hold meetings every two months and membership consists of representatives from Braintree District Council, the Police, Parish/Town Councils, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators, businesses and local people. They attend local fetes and village shows during the summer to give advice on preventing crime.

Projects the Panel have recently undertaken include the promotion of a Crime Stoppers campaign and joint working with Braintree District Council to identify vulnerable elderly Council tenants who would benefit from 'Secure by Design' external doors that were subsequently fitted by BDC. The next project will be a campaign to raise awareness on purse theft.

They would like to attract more members; the only criteria being that individuals live in the area, are enthusiastic and prepared to devote some time to assist with future projects. Can you help by including an item in your Parish Newsletter?

For more information, why not contact Gill Sagers on 01376 551414 Ext: 3400 or Email: [gilsa@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:gilsa@braintree.gov.uk)

### PARISH RANGERS

Our Parish Rangers have been patrolling the district now for a few months and reporting back to Braintree District Council Departments and other relevant organisations on abandoned vehicles, fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour, dangerous parking and many other issues.

#### Spotlight on a Parish Ranger

##### Jackie Windard

You might like to know a little bit more about Jackie Windard, our Parish Ranger, who covers Coggeshall, Bradwell, Feering, Kelvedon, Rivenhall, Silver End and Stisted.

Jackie has been married for 30 years this year, with two daughters in their twenties and a grandson aged 3. Both her daughters attended local schools. For over 20 years she worked in a local business for her father, later as Market Superintendent for Coggeshall Parish Council, a lollipop lady for five years and now works at Braintree Police Station in the Property Department as well as a Parish Ranger.

Jackie has great enthusiasm for her work and enjoys being out and about in the villages, meeting and talking to people and helping as



much as possible with any issues she encounters.

#### A Customer Survey

will be sent out to Parish Councils shortly for views on the impact of the

Rangers and benefits to the community. Please look out for the survey, as this will be your chance to have a say in the future and role of the Rangers.

## REFUSE/RECYCLING

With winter well and truly upon us, we are likely to experience periods of bad weather (very strong winds, ice or heavy snowfall) over the next few months which may cause a delay of one or more days to refuse/recycling collections. Service will resume as soon as weather conditions allow and so residents are advised to leave their refuse or recycling at their usual collection point to avoid being missed.

If bad weather persists, it may be necessary to cancel some collections and undertake a double collection from households the following week.

If and when problems occur, we will do our best to keep customers advised, but it would be helpful if parishes could include the above I

information in any newsletters they produce. Customers can also check our website [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk) or call our Customer Services Centre on 01376 552525 for the latest information.

## DID YOU KNOW WE CAN WE HELP WITH THESE SERVICES?

### Printing Services

Do you know about Braintree District Council's Design & Print Service? They have already helped other Parish/Town Councils in the production of Newsletters, compliment slips, letterheads, business cards and car park excess charge tickets. This service is offered to parishes at discounted rates. Next time you are looking for a printing service why not contact them for a quote, help or advice? Call 01376 551414 Ext: 2568.

### Energy Conservation

**Could your parish reduce energy bills for its community building?**

One of the District Council's initiatives is not only giving help and advice on energy

conservation in the Braintree District but also helping other authorities to set up their schemes.

Many households have taken advantage of the following schemes and the grants available:

- cavity wall insulation (which if taken up through a discounted scheme could mean a reduction in council tax bills)
- loft insulation
- solar hot water systems
- wind energy (which has recently become a government accredited scheme)
- or any sustainable energy source

A government grant was set up for community buildings specifically for renewable energy sources. Details of the grant scheme running from this April will be available shortly.

If your parish is interested in finding out more contact Wanda Smith or Anna Billings on 01376 551414 Exts: 2255/2778 or email: [beat@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:beat@braintree.gov.uk)

You may like to consider including information in your Parish Magazine/Newsletter to help people in your district reduce their energy costs? More in depth information is available on the Braintree webpage, [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk)

### We can help you promote your parish/town events?

Will you be holding a parish/town event such as a summer fete or quiz evening this year?

Please remember our Tourism Office at the Town Hall Centre will be very happy to display your flyers and posters on their notice boards at the Town Hall and throughout the town.

Post to Tourism Office, Town Hall Centre, Market Square, Braintree, CM7 3YG.  
Telephone: 01376 550066 or email: [tic@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:tic@braintree.gov.uk)

## CULTURAL SERVICES FUNDING

**Braintree District Council's Cultural Services** having produced their strategy – 'Enjoy Braintree District', are wishing to continue helping villages, towns and organisations to access funds for projects.

**We can help you produce a village guide** to record and identify what makes your parish special and unique, establish a village trail or perhaps set up an art project?

Projects have been completed in many villages and if you have ideas or projects please contact the Cultural Team as they would really like every Parish to benefit. Tel: 01376 325266 or email: [jean.grice@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:jean.grice@braintree.gov.uk)

## SUMMER ACTIVITY DAYS FOR CHILDREN

Would you like us to provide fun activities for the children aged 5 - 11 in your Parish during the

Summer Holidays? Every parish will be invited to take part and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

All that is required from the parish is the provision of a venue for the day (free of charge) and our experienced team of staff will entertain the children for the day.

For more information contact Kryshia Fuller, Leisure Development Officer, Braintree District Council 01376 551414, Ext: 2318. [kryshia.fuller@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:kryshia.fuller@braintree.gov.uk)

## FUND ADVICE/OPPORTUNITIES

### Trying to raise funds for a local project?

Do you know about the various sources of help and advice from Braintree District Council for raising funds for local projects and activities? Angela Verghese, External Funding Officer, can provide general advice about fundraising, recommend possible sources and help in completing application forms for grants. From time to time she sends out information directly to Parish Clerks on funding possibilities that might be of interest. You can contact her on 01376 551414 Extn: 2329 or email:

[angve@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:angve@braintree.gov.uk)

### Braintree District Council's Rural

**Communities Development Fund** launched for the first time last year will be opening for applications again in April 2006. all rural Parish Councils will receive guidelines and application forms at the beginning of April. The closing date for applications will be 16<sup>th</sup> June and you will know whether or not you have been successful by the beginning of August.

Monitoring forms are shortly being sent out to parishes with ongoing projects from last year's fund – we're looking forward to hearing about how these are progressing.

**Rural Renaissance Fund** small grants scheme administered by the Rural Community Council of Essex is now known as the **Rural Activities Grant** and, whereas it used to give grants of up to £1,000, the maximum grant if you apply between now and 31<sup>st</sup> March has been reduced to £750. Contact Suzanne Roast at the Rural Community Council for more details/application form: 01245 352046.



## ESSEX HISTORY FAIR

Sometimes help is required in getting information to as many people and community organisations as possible on events, exhibitions,



workshops and education programmes etc. and the **Essex History Fair** is one of these. It returns to the district on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June in Braintree and will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Fair held at Castle Hedingham.

We want to make this a very special event as it's being held in the Braintree District this year.

Information on the Fair has already been sent out but if you would like to receive this again contact Linda Goodrich at Tel: 01376 325266 or email: [linda.goodrich@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:linda.goodrich@braintree.gov.uk)

## WARNER TEXTILE ARCHIVE

One of this country's most important textile collections – the **Warner Textile Archive** – opened to the public in October last year.

It was a 'coming home' for this extensive collection of woven and printed fabrics that originated at New Mills (now Warner's Mill)

Braintree where Warner and Sons had set up business in 1895.

Warner's Mill, in Silks Way off South Street Braintree, is easily accessible with adjacent parking. The two galleries, house examples of all the woven and printed fabrics produced by the company during its long productive life including the Royal Silks, the figured velvets, to the bold prints of the 1960s and 70s. The showcases burst with the colour, shape and texture of fabrics designed by Owen Jones, Alec Hunter, Marion Dorn, Marianne Straub, Edward Bawden, Eddie Squires and many others.

**This is a nationally important archive and it is on our doorstep! Come and have a look!**

Guided tours can be arranged and representatives are available to go out to community organisations to give talks about the Archive. Opening Times: 11 am – 4 pm (last entry 3.30 pm) Wednesday to Saturday. General Enquiries: 01376 557741

## CONSERVATION AND VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Do you know of any groups of volunteers who need help and advice on organising events, making funding applications, providing wildlife advice, loaning of tools, or leading on practical working parties?

**Angela Norton – Braintree Council's Community Landscape Officer, – Tel: 07970 993624 , is keen to start up and/or help any conservation based volunteer groups.**



## CAN YOUR PARISH/TOWN DO SOMETHING TO HELP WILDLIFE?

### Biodiversity Competition - Prize of £200

By entering the Biodiversity Competition your Parish/Town Council could win a prize of £200!

This is running until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2006, open to individuals, schools and groups within the Braintree District and is for new projects or those already underway.

Do you have a village hall, which could be an ideal situation for a 'bat box' or window box?

Is there a pond in your village to maintain which could provide a home for different types of wildlife, including birds, insects and amphibians?

Does your parish/town have an ongoing project or one under discussion?

Do you want to help wildlife?

How can you get involved?

For more information or just advice on local issues and projects, contact Landscape Services on 01376 557743, River Colne Countryside

Project on 07702 918980 or visit the BDC Landscape Services webpage.



## NOTIFICATION OF CONSULTATIONS THAT AFFECT OUR DISTRICT

### Braintree Local Development Framework (to replace Braintree District Local Plan)

On 5<sup>th</sup> January the Council's District Development Committee considered the responses to the consultation on the **Draft Statement of Community Involvement**.

The **Draft Statement** sets out the Council's proposals for involving the community in both the preparation of the **Local Development Framework** and in the consideration of planning applications.

A number of changes have been agreed in response to comments and a revised document will be prepared and submitted to the Secretary of State. There will be a further 6-week period (anticipated to start on 27<sup>th</sup> January and **all parish councils will be notified**) for representations, which will be considered by an Independent Inspector and his recommendations will be binding to the Council.

### Supplementary Planning Document (Spd) On Affordable Housing

Another consultation to watch out for in January and February is a supplementary planning document (SPD) on affordable housing. All parish councils will be notified.

### National Health Service Consultation

The following National Health Service consultations are currently taking place until 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2006:

- Consultation on new Strategic Health Authority arrangements in Eastern England
- Formal consultation on new Primary Care Trust arrangements in Essex

For further information take a look at the Essex Strategic Health Authority website which has all the details: <http://www.essex.nhs.uk>



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

<b>February</b>		
13 <sup>th</sup> – 11 am – 3 pm	Community Safety Road Show Halstead – Weavers Court	Nikki or Jayne 01376 551414 Ext 2354
15 <sup>th</sup> - 10 am – 2 pm	Community Safety Road Show Braintree – George Yard	Nikki or Jayne 01376 551414 Ext 2354
17 <sup>th</sup> - 12 pm	Sensory Walk, Nature Trail - Great Notley Country Park	01376 347134 or 07970 993624
<b>March</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Trading Standards Event - Causeway House	Carol Clayman 01376 551414 Ext. 2202
29 <sup>th</sup> – 7.15pm	Business Continuity Management	Donna Walton 01376 551414 Ext. 2675
<b>April</b>		
20 <sup>th</sup> – 7pm	Planning Applications Update “What makes a valid planning objection?” (Invitations to be sent out)	Margaret McCloud 01376 551414 Ext. 2540
8 <sup>th</sup> - 10 am – 2 pm	Dog micro-chipping day - Witham Public Hall, Collingwood Hall	Andy Potter – Dog Warden 01376 551414 Ext. 2217
5 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup> 10 am 2 pm	Sensory Walk, Nature Trail Great Notley Country Park Fairview/Bocking End	Angela Norton - 01376 347134 or 07970 993624
<b>June</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup>	National Volunteer Week	Angela Norton – 07970 993624
date to be advised	The Opening of Fairy Wood Great Notley Country Park	Angela Norton – 07970 993624
25 <sup>th</sup>	Essex History Fair – 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Braintree	Linda Goodrich Cultural Services 01376 325266
<b>October</b>		
5 <sup>th</sup>	Parish Evening – Fete	Kitty Barrett – Rural Policy 01376 551414 Ext 2746
<b>General</b>		
First Thursday and first Sunday of each month At 10 am	Practical Volunteer Tasks Discovery Centre, Great Notley Country Park	Angela Norton 07970 993624



### A FOCUS ON RURAL ISSUES AND PARISH LIAISON

The Council continues to demonstrate its commitment to supporting and working with its rural communities. In the last few months there have been a number of initiatives, which demonstrate that commitment.

One of these has been to form a small team to co-ordinate rural policy issues and events, publish a "Braintree District Council Rural Policy And Action Statement" and work with partners to continue developing relationships with rural communities and Parish/Town Councils.

#### Meet the Team



From left to right: Kitty Barrett, Linda Hadley, Jan Cole, Councillor Wendy Scattergood

Many of you will have met **Councillor Wendy Scattergood** who is a member of the Council's Cabinet and has responsibility for Planning and Rural Issues.

Tel: 01787 269881

Email: [wendyscattergood@btconnect.com](mailto:wendyscattergood@btconnect.com)

**Kitty Barrett** is the Policy Development Officer and much of her work is around Rural Policy identifying any national, regional or county initiatives, which may have implications for rural areas. It also includes, monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Braintree District Council's Rural Policy and Action Statement.

Tel: 01376 551414 Ext: 2746

Email: [kitty.barrett@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:kitty.barrett@braintree.gov.uk)

**Linda Hadley** is the Parish Liaison Officer, who is the main point of contact with Parish Councils, continuing to improve communication and response rates relating to specific issues.

Tel: 01376 551414 Ext: 2343

Email: [linda.hadley@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:linda.hadley@braintree.gov.uk)

**Jan Cole** is our Fieldworker, who is jointly funded by Braintree District Council and The Rural Community Council of Essex to help promote community participation, Parish Plans and Village Design Statements. Jan also provides advice to communities on progressing issues identified in their action plans.

Tel: 01245 352046

Email: [jan.cole@essexrcc.org.uk](mailto:jan.cole@essexrcc.org.uk)

#### Or write to one of the team:

Rural Issues and Parish Liaison Team  
Development Services  
Braintree District Council  
Causeway House  
Braintree  
Essex  
CM7 9HB

#### Or contact the Customer Services Team

Tel: 01376 331616

Email: [csc@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:csc@braintree.gov.uk)

