

## Summer 2009

Our award winning Parish Councils have again demonstrated just how productive and effective they have been during the past year by collecting awards at the recent meetings of the Rural Community Council of Essex and the Environment Trust Annual General Meetings - challenging, successful and enterprising projects were rewarded and credit must go to you all. The Parish Councils of our district have won awards for 'Village of the Year' and 'Best Kept Village' by demonstrating their ability to engage and consult with their communities.

We now have some 300 members who have signed up to the 'Peoples Panel' who, along with other partners such as our Parish Councils, will help to shape our district for the future. We are still signing up new members and if you know of any members of your parish who would like to become involved, please encourage them to contact Braintree District Council for an application form on 01376 552525 or Email: [csc@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:csc@braintree.gov.uk)

Enjoy the summer months and may I remind you that we are again this year seeking your nominations for our Community Achievements Awards to put forward that special person in your community who works tirelessly for others. *(Further details on Page 8)*

Warm wishes to you all,

Cllr Joanne Beavis

### Items included in this issue:

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## Congratulations - Great Bardfield!



(Picture courtesy of Rural Community Council of Essex)

At the Rural Community Council of Essex AGM, Great Bardfield was awarded 'Village of the Year' – well done from all of us here at Braintree District Council and good luck for the national awards! *(More news on award winning parishes on page 6)*

**Coming Soon**

September – New to Recycling – Food waste collections (see opposite page)

4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2009 - NALC Annual Conference and Exhibition – ‘Putting People First’ – further details from EALC – Tel: 01371 879722 or Email: [info@ealc.gov.uk](mailto:info@ealc.gov.uk)

9<sup>th</sup> September 2009 – The Playground Matters – Essex Playing Fields Association Seminar – Writtle College – 9.30 am to 3.45 pm – contact Malcolm Webb on 01277 218005 or download a booking form from [www.essexplayingfields.org.uk](http://www.essexplayingfields.org.uk)

10<sup>th</sup> September 2009 – Emergency Planning Awareness Evening – Causeway House 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm (*details on page 7*)

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2009 - Braintree District Clerks’ Network Meeting - agenda will be distributed mid August.

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2009 – The Puppet Festival will be taking place at Witham.

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2009 – RCCE Village Halls and Community Buildings Conference – the venue has yet to be confirmed – Tel: 0844 4773938

**Planning Training Event - The BDC Development Control team is looking at providing training in the autumn for Parish Councillors. The topics covered will include:-**

- Householder Permitted Development Rights – understanding the recent changes to the rules on how homes can be extended without needing planning permission;
- Mobile phone mast applications and pre-application consultations – how to comment and what is considered as a planning consideration.

If you are interested in attending the training, or have suggestions on other topics that you would like to be included, please register your interest by contacting Tessa Lambert, Development Control Manager - Email: [tessa.lambert@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:tessa.lambert@braintree.gov.uk)

**Local Committee – Local Priorities – Local Solutions**

An opportunity to inform your Local Committee what your priorities are for 2010/11 and influence where money is spent -  
 Braintree – 29<sup>th</sup> September  
 Halstead – 23<sup>rd</sup> September  
 Witham – 15<sup>th</sup> September  
 7.15 pm to 9.30 pm

To reserve a place at the event for your area, please email [kitty.barrett@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:kitty.barrett@braintree.gov.uk) or Tel: 01376 551414 Ext: 2746  
*(Invitations will be sent to all Parish and Town Councils)*

**Environmental Services**

**Waste and Recycling – New Routes and Introduction of Food Waste Collection!**

**New Routes:** We're currently redesigning our refuse and recycling collection routes which will mean that the collection vehicles will move over to 'area-based' working from 28<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

On any one day, the vehicles will be concentrated in the same area which will improve efficiency and ensure there is coverage even when a vehicle breaks down. Most residents will have a change in their collection days. We'll be making sure that the new collection calendars are sent out in plenty of time for the change-over and will be publicising the changes fully to ensure everyone knows their new collection days and when they start.



We'll also send out parish information on the new collection days as soon as we know them. So the message for everyone is - please check your new collection calendar carefully when you get it for your new collection days.

**Food waste:** We've expanded our green bin collections to include all types of food waste. The waste will be composted along with your garden waste and means that even less waste will go to landfill.

We will be delivering a kitchen caddy and instruction leaflet to every household with wheeled bins.



Householders will be encouraged to use the kitchen caddy to collect up all their food waste:

- ✓ Fruit and vegetable peelings
- ✓ Cooked and uncooked food
- ✓ Meat, fish & bones
- ✓ Leftover food including pet food
- ✓ Bread, pasta, cereal & rice
- ✓ Tea bags & coffee grounds
- ✓ Dairy products and eggshells

Food waste can be wrapped in newspaper, a paper bag or a 'compostable' caddy liner which can be obtained at most supermarkets. Collections will start from 28<sup>th</sup> September.

Contact the Recycling Team:  
 Tel: 01376 332374  
 Or email [recycling@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@braintree.gov.uk)

**Law and Governance**

**Rural and Parish Liaison**



**Parish In Spring-Time Event**

(Cllr Joanne Beavis)

On 19<sup>th</sup> March Cllr Joanne Beavis welcomed parish and town councils to our 'drop-in' Parish in Spring-time Event where our own services and those from other organisations showcased their work. Officers were on hand to give help and advice. Essex County Council, Essex Police, Rural Community Council of Essex, Essex Association of Local Councils and Essex Fire and Rescue were amongst those attending.



(ECC Highways stand in our 'woodland')

In our 'village hall' an election was held to vote for our Parish Publication Competition winners. In the three categories the winners were - Great Bardfield for Calendar or Diary of Events, Bulmer for Parish Magazine or Newsletter, and Shalford for the Parish Walks Booklet/Footpath Map. Prizes were presented by Cllr Joanne Beavis to two of the winners who were present.



(The 'village hall' polling station)

The parishes represented were given an opportunity to learn more about local services, give their views on local priorities and also to make suggestions on improving the parish cluster meetings, the clerks' network and this newsletter the Parish Update.

We welcome two new Parish Clerks to the Braintree District –  
Lesley Collins – Stisted  
Lisa Miller – Hatfield Peverel

*(Please notify Linda Hadley if your Parish Clerk's details change –  
Tel: 01376 551414 or Email:  
Linda.Hadley@braintree.gov.uk)*

**Local Government Association Council Worker of the Year – Lifetime Achievement Award**

A much respected gardener and landscaper employed by Braintree District Council, has clinched a top prize at a national awards ceremony.



John Morris was named ‘Council Worker of the Year’ in the Lifetime Service Category at the Local Government Association awards ceremony in Harrogate.

Allan Reid, Chief Executive at the District Council said:

“This win owes so much to all those who got behind John and voted – not only his friends and colleagues within Braintree District Council but also the hundreds of local people who voted; those that know John from his outstanding work at Witham cemetery, his family and friends and all his associates at the charity, Row4aReason. We are all extremely proud of his achievement.”

John, 57, who lives with his wife Christine in Witham, embarked on his new job as a gardener for Braintree District Council in the summer of 1970, having recently arrived from London with his parents.

Now a Street Scene Services Operative, his focus for over 30 years has been the care and maintenance of Witham Cemetery where he has become well known and respected by many in and around the town for his dedication to managing the grounds and helping visitors. The well-maintained, 2 hectare cemetery is home to over 2000 graves.

John is “absolutely over the moon,” and said “It was such an enjoyable night and when our win was announced, myself and my colleagues were all ecstatic. I’d like to say a huge thank you to everyone who voted for me. It has been an absolute pleasure to work for Braintree District Council at Witham Cemetery.”

**Essex Environment Trust – Community Enterprise Challenge and Awards**

Last year the Trust commemorated 10 years of funding by launching a competition aimed at the provision of new facilities in rural villages – congratulations to Wethersfield who have been awarded the Large Project £100,000 prize for a new pavilion.

*(Continued over page)*

*(Essex Environment Trust continued)*

At the Trust's Annual Review Evening in this July, a Certificate of Merit was awarded to Coggeshall Christ Church Community Facilities – a project which included refurbishment and additional community facilities of first floor premises of the church. The Trust thought this an excellent project.

Further Certificates of Merit went to other parishes in the district:- Sible Hedingham was awarded a Certificate of Merit by the Trust for providing a much needed new youth facility with their new multi games area on the site of the old tennis courts in the village. For their imagination and meaningful liaison with the youth of the village, Kelvedon Parish Council received a Certificate of Merit, as one of the best projects completed during the year.

For full details of all project funding agreed up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 contact the Trust for a copy of their 2009 Report. Tel: 01245 265555 or Email: [info@essexenvironmenttrust.org.uk](mailto:info@essexenvironmenttrust.org.uk)

**Congratulations to our parishes!**

**Calor Essex Village of the Year - Winner - *Great Bardfield* - 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Helions Bumpstead**

**Calor Best Kept Village -**  
 Class 1 – Runner up – *Coggeshall*  
 Class 2 – Runner up – *Kelvedon*  
 Class 3 – Runner up – *Finchingfield*  
 Class 4 – Winner – *Helions Bumpstead*  
**Merit Awards – *Belchamp St Paul and Steeple Bumpstead*.**

**Best Kept Churchyard – 1<sup>st</sup> Prize *Panfield, St Mary and Christopher***  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – *Coggeshall, St Peter ad Vincula*.**

**Hallmark – Level One Awards – Village Halls - Helions Bumpstead and Foxearth.**

**Local Development Framework - *Draft Open Space Supplementary Planning Document*** – This expands upon existing Braintree Local Plan Review policies and gives guidance on the amount of open space which will be sought from developers, including financial contributions where appropriate. Following public consultation in March and April this year 58 representations were received and these are likely to be reported to the Local Development Framework Panel on 29<sup>th</sup> July. The document is likely to be approved with amendments.

***Draft External Artificial Lighting Supplementary Planning Document*** - This sets out guidance on the Council's approach to assessing planning applications for external artificial Lighting. This SPD does not introduce any new policies, but gives guidance on how the existing policies should be interpreted. The public consultation period ended on 17<sup>th</sup> July. All representations received will be reported to a future meeting of the Local Development Framework Panel.

Stuart Kay, Senior Planner,  
 Tel: 01376 551414 or Email: [Stuart.Kay@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:Stuart.Kay@braintree.gov.uk)



### Emergency Planning Event

At the recent 'Parish in Spring-time' event a lot of interest was shown when the suggestion was made to hold a training/awareness raising evening, on emergency planning issues, for parish clerks and parish emergency contacts. This has now been arranged for Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September - 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm. Invitations have been sent out.

The theme of the evening will be flooding and community resilience. Representatives have been invited from the Environment Agency, the National Flood Forum and national companies who provide flood protection.

The Emergency Planning team will be on hand to provide information on completing community reports and identifying risk for your communities, i.e. prolonged power cuts and flooding. They will also be able to give guidance on writing your parish emergency plan.

Contact for this event is Kathy Brown – Health Safety and Emergency Planning Manager, Tel: 01376 551414 or Email: [katbr@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:katbr@braintree.gov.uk)

The information contained in this newsletter is published in good faith from a variety of sources and may be subject to change.

### 'Volunteers Make It Happen'

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June Braintree District Council hosted a celebration event to thank more than 230 volunteers who have given their free time to help others. 'Volunteers Make It Happen' was a celebration to raise awareness about the work of volunteers and to thank those volunteers who regularly carry out a diversity of roles for the Council from driving for community transport to leading health walks or helping with conservation tasks.



Chairman, Councillor Margaret Galione said "We are extremely grateful to our volunteers who generously give their free time to help others - their work is invaluable in helping us deliver vital services across the district."

The event showed how volunteering can be a positive way to keep busy and gain new skills for the future.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer with Braintree District Council or finding out more about the opportunities on offer can contact Tracey Corcoran, Community Transport Manager on Tel: 01376 55789.



'Village Agents' is a new partnership project being piloted in Mid Essex from October 2009. The partnership between Essex County Council, the Braintree Local Strategic Partnership and NHS Mid Essex has commissioned Rural Community Council of Essex (RCCE) as the pilot project delivery partner.

The main focus is to provide isolated or disadvantaged older people in rural communities with easier access to information and services.

Village Agents will be responsible for signposting local residents to a range of services and information sources that are able to provide the right help, advice and support in effect joining up services for older people in rural areas and identifying any unmet needs in the local community.

An operational Village Agent Manager has been appointed and will be starting on the 10<sup>th</sup> August. For more information or if you wish to attend the Stakeholder events in August please contact:  
Villageagents@essexrcc.org.uk  
Or contact Jane Hurt on: 07824 867579.

### Community Achievement Awards



Do you know someone who works tirelessly for others or a group who make a real contribution to the community? If the answer is yes, here's your chance to reward them for their efforts

Braintree District Council is running the Community Achievement Awards for the second year, designed to celebrate and reward the effort of people who stand out for the commitment they make to their community.

- Nominations can be made for one of these six categories for contributions to:
- the community - young person 11-17;
  - the community - group of young people 11-17;
  - the Environment and Conservation;
  - a voluntary body or to the community - individual 18 and over;
  - a voluntary body or to the community group - 18 and over;
  - "Long Service" Contribution to the community - individual 18 and over.

Nominations must be received by 30<sup>th</sup> November on paper or by email, using a form from the council's website [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk) or on request. The winners will be announced next March.

Contact : Aurélie Moreaux , Marketing and Communications Officer  
Tel: 01376 551414 Ext 2362  
Email: aurelia.moreaux@braintree.gov.uk



## Essex County Fire and Rescue Service

Activ8 - Essex County Fire & Rescue Service (ECFRS) is looking for volunteers, but not as firefighters!

They are recruiting for an exciting new people power initiative, to make communities better educated and better informed and to build on consultation and engagement with the public.

Activ8 is recruiting volunteers from across the communities to assist ECFRS in communicating with their peer groups and to ensure that their messages are delivered and understood.

Volunteers will be invited to attend a focus group on a six to eight week basis where they will be briefed on current initiatives, campaigns and safety news, which they will then be able to share with their peer groups, noting any feedback and comments and reporting these back to the group at the next meeting. They may also have the opportunity to assist at Fire Station open days and with Community Wheels, ECFRS's interactive road safety reduction initiative.

If you would like to volunteer, or would like further information contact  
Lisa Hart:

Tel: 01376 576037; or email  
[lisa.hart@essex-fire.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.hart@essex-fire.gov.uk).

## Community Warden Update

Our Community Wardens are continuing their good work in our parishes and towns. Not only are they helping to keep our open spaces cleaner and working with our neighbourhood policing teams to keep our towns and villages safer, they are working with schools to encourage an ethos of re-using and recycling by way of 'swapping'.



Dave Walls, our Warden in the north of the district came up with the idea of 'toy swapping' after Castle Hedingham held a junk swap in April 2008. He approached local schools and before the end of last year he'd worked with Sible Hedingham primary school on the first event. Since then, schools in Pebmarsh, Ridgewell and Castle Hedingham have followed suit.

Dave has organised a banner which can be used for all events along with printing of leaflets which the schools send home with their pupils. After the 'swaps', leftover toys are stored by Dave until the next event where they are put out on the tables before children arrive with their own 'swaps' – giving those first arrivals, toys to look through.

## Town and Parish News

### Bulmer – Initiatives to reduce speeding vehicles

Bulmer Parish Council is committed to reducing speeding vehicles in the village and has introduced two initiatives to help achieve this.

The first of these, Community Speed Watch has been in place for over two years with Bulmer being one of the first parishes in the district to adopt this scheme. There was no problem in finding volunteers who undertake the monitoring sessions twice monthly. They have never encountered confrontation from vehicle drivers or opposition from local residents.



(Volunteers in Bulmer)

The radar gun used is able to display the speed of a vehicle/motorcycle approaching or moving away. The volunteers are also able to record and report anyone seen driving and using a mobile phone.

Any vehicle logged as exceeding the speed limit with a tolerance of 35mph in a 30mph area, 46mph in a 40mph area, is reported to Essex Police who will then send a letter to the owner of said vehicle, politely requesting that they refrain from 'anti-social behaviour' on our highways.

A persistent offender may have further action taken which could result in an offence and a fine.

The second addition has been a Speed Indicator Device (SID), bought through the County Council scheme. It has six locations throughout the village and is moved by County Council contractors every 6 to 8 weeks. The battery is changed once a week at minimal cost to a local volunteer.



The SID records speeds and this information is downloaded on to a computer belonging to one of the parish councillors and a summary report produced. This report, which is sent to the police, identifies speed and time zones and can be used as evidence for further action by police.

## Gosfield - Junk Swap

Well done Gosfield for holding a hugely successful Junk Swap on a sunny Saturday in June.

Gosfield Parish Council has set up a 'Sustainability' Group and the Junk Swap was of the 10 targets they set for themselves this year.

Hundreds of people turned up for the Junk Swap and items included, garden tools, loft ladders, half packs of tiles, kitchen goods, toys, carpets. There were special collections of old mobile phones, spectacles and printer cartridges. For larger items, a notice-board was provided to display photos and contact details.



(Testing out the Chinese carpet or could it be a 'magic' carpet?)

This was very much a community event with around 15 volunteers – local guides made a banner, refreshments were available and help was given to those carrying large items home, which included a Chinese carpet!

There will be another 'swap' next year, following on from this year's success.

As reported last year when Castle Hedingham held their junk swap – these are community reuse and recycle events to help cut and divert waste from landfill whilst benefiting local charities - most people who attend find themselves a useful item to take home.



(Many useful items including a bicycle!)

Village Core Programme - the Plunkett Foundation (formerly known as VIRSA Village Retail Services Association) in partnership with Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and Co-operative and Community Finance have extended their grant funding until May 2012 in respect of the Village Core Programme which will provide startup funding to new Community owned shops in rural areas of England.

It provides advisory support along with a £40,000 funding package comprised of a £20,000 grant matched with a £20,000 loan matched by the equivalent community contributions. Grants will be awarded to rural communities of at least 300 people. Applications can be submitted at any time up to May 2012.

[www.plunkett.co.uk](http://www.plunkett.co.uk)  
 Tel: 01993 814377

## Rural Community Council of Essex

### Essex Living Landscape

Following RCCE's successful partnership working with Essex County Council (ECC) for last year's Essex Tree Initiative, RCCE will again be working with ECC's Natural Environment Team on conservation projects in parishes.

For the Essex Tree Initiative, RCCE allocated 25,000 trees and hedging plants to 46 parishes or settlements throughout the county. Volunteers within these communities contributed nearly 3,000 hours of time to apply for the trees, prepare the ground and carry out the planting. Successful parishes in Braintree District include Black Notley, Bulmer, Coggeshall, Colne Engaine, Hatfield Peverel, Kelvedon, Sible Hedingham, Stisted, Sturmer, Tilbury Juxta Clare, Wethersfield and Witham. All of the trees planted through this scheme are in publicly accessible locations to ensure maximum benefit for all local residents.

This year RCCE is looking to work with parishes which have Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS) or are within a "Living Landscape" area. The types of projects we anticipate providing assistance with in these parishes would be pond restoration, planting hedgerows to connect remote woodlands and conservation sites, and establishing more grassland environments.

There is a wide variety of support available for parishes to undertake these conservation projects – from BTCV leading volunteer groups to small grants and expert conservation advice. If your parish council, village hall management committee, parochial church council or other community group is interested in carrying out a conservation project, please contact Michelle Gardiner, Development Manager at RCCE.

Tel: 0844 4773938 or [michelle.gardiner@essexrcc.org.uk](mailto:michelle.gardiner@essexrcc.org.uk) to discuss your potential ideas.

RCCE has detailed information on where the LoWS and "Living Landscape" areas are located within the county, so this can be discussed as part of your initial enquiry.

Rural Community Council of Essex,  
Threshelfords Business Park, Inworth  
Road, Feering, Essex  
CO5 9SE  
0844 4773938  
[www.essexrcc.org.uk](http://www.essexrcc.org.uk)

Have you ideas for future newsletter articles?  
Contact Linda Hadley – Tel: 01376 551414  
Ext: 2343;  
or email: [Linda.Hadley@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:Linda.Hadley@braintree.gov.uk);  
or write to Linda at Braintree District Council,  
Causeway House, Braintree, Essex, CM7  
9HB.

This newsletter is distributed to all town and parish councils in the Braintree District.  
Download a copy from [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk) –  
Council and Democracy – Parish Information –  
Parish Newsletter.