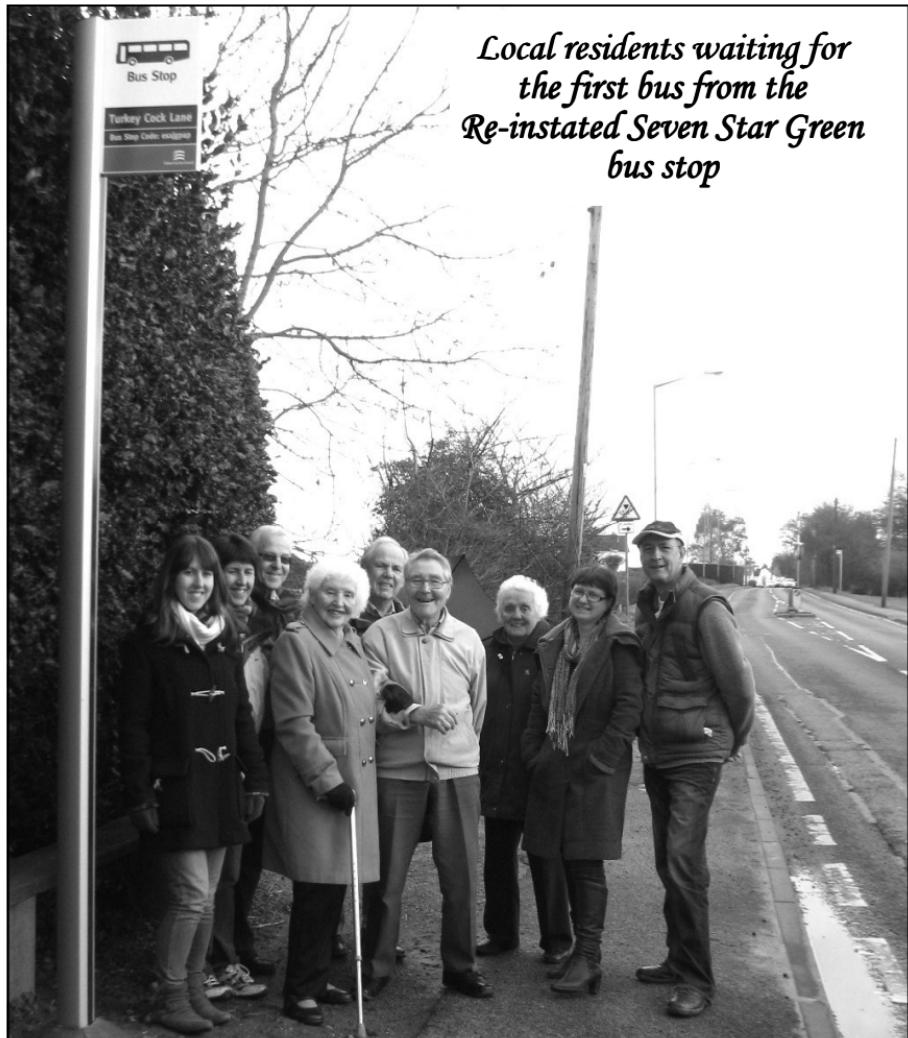


Eight Ash Green & Fordham Heath

Quarterly Newsletter

March 2013

*Local residents waiting for
the first bus from the
Re-instated Seven Star Green
bus stop*



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EIGHT ASH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk:
Helen Cook
07530 873736



Derek Franklin (Chairman)
210959

Elected 5th May 11

derekfranklin@btinternet.com.

Josh Greenwold
572645
Co-opted



Louise Greenwold
572645

Elected 5th May 11

josh.greenwold@eightashgreen.com

David Mills
231572
Co-opted

louisegreenwold@hotmail.com



Christine Willetts
240314

Elected 5th May 11

david.mills@eightashgreen.com

christine.willetts@btinternet.com

Keith Winterbourne
240497
Co-opted

The Parish Council meets in the Village Hall at 7.30 on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The meeting commences with an item for members of the public to address the Parish Council on any topic.

Keith.Winterbourne@eightashgreen.com

Parish Project Managers (not Councillors, but they assist on major projects)

Andrew Cook
07584 218280
Playground
Project



Marcel Horst
07917 586132
Broadband &
Web-site
projects



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Bus Report

By Christine Willetts
Parish Council
Transport
Representative



After more than seven years of campaigning, the bus stops at Seven Star Green have finally been reinstated. Prior to this, we were told by Essex County Council in Chelmsford that the bus flags were going to be removed from the telegraph poles where they had always been. Apparently, the new 'Health and Safety' legislation specified the bus flag signs had to be fixed onto their own metal pole and sharing a pole with another utility was no longer permitted!!!

The inevitable happened. Old signs were removed and new ones never appeared. The bus drivers eventually stopped calling at Seven Star Green altogether, much to the annoyance and inconvenience of local residents.

Re-instatement however was not without its problems. I had been told that the stops would have to be moved further along the Halstead Road towards the Brick and Tile as – yes you guessed it!! – updated Health and Safety legislation meant that there were insufficient sight lines to put the stops in their original positions. This was a particular problem on the Colchester bound side as the bend in the road coming from Wood Corner reduces visibility. The old stop was located where there is a small bench close to the hedge, and a black litter bin. The new sites were determined by ECC and were published in the village magazine in March 2010.

It was decided to put a bus shelter on the Colchester bound side, but not on the Halstead bound side as that would have detracted from the very pleasant view of Seven Star Green and the village sign.

So you can imagine the consternation when after months of waiting, work started on the footings for the bus shelter on the Colchester bound side, but in the original site rather than the new Health and Safety approved site further up the road towards the Brick and Tile!!! A great flurry of phone calls

No 88 New Timetable: Monday to Friday

Brick & Tile to Colchester
Earlier from Wood Corner
(0756 School days only)

0703	0724	0746	0741	0756	0841	0916	0941
1016	1041	1116	1141	1216	1235	1241	1316
1341	1416	1441	1516	1541	1616	1641	1741
1811	1859	1916	2014	2208			

From Colchester Bus
Station to EAG

* indicates via Spring Lane
& the Cricketers

0540	0600	0730	0810	0840	0910	0940	1010
1040	1110	1140	1200	1210	1240	1310	1340
1410	1440	1510	1550*	1610	1620	1620*	1650
1710	1740	1750*	1810	1850	2040	2240	

followed. All work stopped while the muddle was sorted out. If that original site was too close to the bend from Wood Corner, then surely the addition of a bus shelter, reducing visibility even further, would be an even greater hazard. Especially when we were told it would be a solid wooden shelter rather than a transparent one. Houses on that side of the road and along Nimrod Chase would have very poor visibility on exiting their drives.

Eventually common sense prevailed. The County Council decided that this original site was sufficiently safe after all, but only if no shelter was installed. And so the shelter was found a loving home elsewhere in Colchester.

On the Seven Star Green side of the road, the stop could not be put too close to the bollards and the crossing point which, of course, did not exist when the original stop was there. There was very little room to manoeuvre on the siting on this side.

Eagle eyed villagers will note that the bus flags say Turkey Cock Lane rather than Seven Star Green. Presumably someone looked at a street map and assumed that the road was so called. But that is only a small niggle. We now have the official stops back again, so enjoy using them!!

Eight Ash Green Parish Council: Chairman, Derek Franklin

The Parish Council is indebted to the following for their help and assistance.

The Parish Plan Group for all the continuous work in keeping the council ahead of the game with the surveys which are so important in ensure everyone has a say in future development of our Village.

The Residents Halstead Road Parking Action Group, for setting up to fight the illegal, inappropriate and inconsiderate parking in the Halstead Road/Abbotts Lane area. I attended a meeting with other Councillors held at the Holiday Inn on Friday 15th February at which we were able to give our wholehearted support in their endeavors.

We are also able to give our full continuing support to the residents on the festival committee for all the work they do in holding our successful festivals.

There are other groups, Brownies/Guides, Cubs/Scouts, Youth Club, Men's Club, Ladies Circle, Church, Chapel, Cricket and Football Clubs which make up our village life. Not forgetting our only Pub the Cricketers, the staff of which work extremely hard and I think they should enjoy our patronage.

Thanks to Marcel Horst for co-coordinating the village Broadband project, also our thanks to Andrew Cook for his continuing help with the play area project, and to Susan Greenwold for organizing Fordham Heath Neighborhood Watch. Lastly our thanks to Geoff Tye for keeping the village litter free against all the odds.

I am sure everyone is aware of the financial restraints on public spending which hit rural parishes really hard. The council will endeavor to spend wisely and keep any increase to minimum, but this does mean we may not be able to respond as quickly as in the past. We are also handicapped in having vacancies for four Councillors. Volunteers would be most welcome. I wish you all a very good summer.

Play Area Proposals

-An Update on progress-



The start of the new year has seen some significant movement forward on the village play area project. Following authorisation being granted by the Parish Council at their December meeting, solicitors have been commissioned to produce the required legal documentation that will be necessary to make an application for the play area to be sited on the heath. This work is likely to be complete by the beginning of March.

In parallel with this activity, the design has been revised in line with the comments that were received from residents in last summer's consultation, with a tighter grouping of equipment and some minor changes to ensure the preferences of the majority have been reflected. Once the application has been submitted, there will be a further consultation process with an opportunity to view the final proposals and make comment directly to the planning inspectorate as the decision making body. It is anticipated that this will take place during spring 2013 but the Parish Council will provide more detail as soon as it is available.

Village Heating Oil Syndicate



In the last issue of the newsletter, Trevor Westall announced that he wished to step down as Syndicate Coordinator sometime this year. He has been the coordinator since the start of the scheme, and feels it is now time for someone else to have a go. Please contact him directly if you can help.

Each member of the syndicate is responsible for deciding how much oil they require, and for paying the supplier directly. The syndicate ensures that the supplier delivers a considerable quantity of oil to a small area of the village, thus sharing in the benefits of the supplier's reduced transport costs and time.

If you are interested in joining the syndicate, please e-mail your name, address and telephone number to Trevor Westall at EagOilSyndicate@ColchesterBorough.com

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This year we have a new event in the EAG & FH Diary: an "Open Gardens" day on Saturday 6th July. The Editor often wonders what is behind the tall Leylandii hedges and high fences that surround many houses. Lets hope we have the opportunity to find out on Open Gardens day, and in doing so raise funds for charity. While you have your diary out, don't forget this year's Eight Ash Green Music Festival & Fun Day on the evening of Friday 19th July, and all day on Saturday 20th July 2013.

I have published a letter on the increasing problem of dog poo in the village. Most responsible dog owners remove it. But as ever, a few let the side down.

Although the Parish Support Grant, previously paid by Colchester Borough to the Parish Council for carrying out public services, has been axed, we clawed back half of it in a Queen's Jubilee grant to Borough Councillors to do good works in their wards. Cllr Harrington reports on the chosen projects.

We "saw-off" the official Park-&-Ride scheme, but an unofficial one is now establishing itself in the roads near to the Holiday Inn roundabout, causing severe problems for local residents. We report in the Newsletter what action is being taken to stop this nuisance.

Finally might I thank the Parish Council and the advertisers for funding this edition of the Village Newsletter, and the diligent band of foot-soldiers who deliver it to all houses and businesses in the village. The next edition will be in July, with an editorial deadline of 14th June, so get writing.

1st Eight Ash Green Brownies

Happy New Year and Happy Thinking Day from all at Eight Ash Green Brownies! We finished 2012 with our annual Christmas celebrations and we have had a busy 2013 so far here at Brownies. We have recently begun the Girls in Action challenge and the girls decided that they wanted to focus on the Railway Children part of the badge. So we have been learning about what it means to run away and who we can turn to for support in our own lives.

We have also celebrated Pancake Day, having pancake tossing races and making our own delicious pancakes with the help of a trained chef. During the snow we had a few less brownies make it to the meeting than expected so we decided to complete our agility badge running and exercising in the hall to help us keep warm in the cold weather. In addition to all this fun we are looking forwards to celebrating World Thinking Day on the 22nd February and have already begun planning our celebrations for The Big Brownie Birthday in 2014.

We currently have a few spaces available at Brownies. If your daughter is interested in joining us please get in touch via the "GirlGuiding UK Join Us" website (<https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk/>), or pop in to a meeting and speak with us in person.

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News from the desk of Cllr Marcus Harrington

The coalition controlling Colchester Borough Council withdrew the Parish Support Grant from Parish Councils, deciding instead to give a £2,000 grant to each Councillor to spend in their ward.

Cllr Dennis Willetts and I were given the pleasant task of spending our grant in the village. After consultation with the Parish Council and local organisations we have decided:

- * To erect a notice on Fordham Heath at the site of the Village Well, recording its history.
- * To Install a new bicycle rack in the car park at the Village Hall
- * To contribute to the new facilities for Holy Trinity School's Forest Schools status, including facilities especially for autistic children, and allowing other groups who use the school premises to benefit.

We expect a similar sum of money next municipal year and welcome bids from village organizations needing a little financial boost.

There has been some progress to report regarding the illegal and inconsiderate parking around the Holiday Inn Hotel junction that blights the gateway to Eight Ash Green. I have persisted against an entrenched position taken by the Authorities who seemed to go to any length to refuse any helpful parking restrictions. Finally an email has been received discussing the possibility of double yellow lines and/or a residents parking zone in Abbotts Lane and the Halstead Road spur.

At a well-attended and lively public meeting on 15th February, called by resident Bob Egerton and kindly hosted without charge by the Hotel, residents were able to tell Cllr Willetts and me the true extent of the problem. We also discussed a preferred solution which I will now argue for with the Parking Partnership. The battle has taken a new dimension with safety issues concerning Doucecroft School becoming evident. This is highly influential in decision making. It is also very helpful that our MP, Bernard Jenkin, is a patron of the school and is willing to intervene if necessary.

I am now much more hopeful for a satisfactory resolution although it will not be quick.



Eight Ash Green Music Festival & Fun Day

Friday Evening 19th July + Saturday 20th July 2013

Quarterly Newsletter Postbag: Letter from a resident about dog poo



I've lived on Fiddlers Folley for about 15 years and never felt the need to complain about anything until now!

I find it hard to believe that in this day and age, with all that we know about dog poo, how dangerous it can be, how nasty it is to tread in, and even nastier to be the one cleaning it from shoes and wheels, some people still think it's ok to leave it in the middle of the path which runs right along the side of the primary school.

I have to walk up and down this path twice every week day, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to negotiate a pathway through the poo. It has definitely got worse over the darker days of winter, so someone is being very irresponsible and very lazy.

I do know who the culprit is, but won't name and shame at the minute.

Think of the children and please, please, be a responsible dog owner and pick up the poo!. It's not as though we don't have a poo bin two minutes away!.

(Name & Address supplied)

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1st Eight Ash Green Scout Group Our Beavers (6-8 years) Cubs (8-10.5 years) and Scouts (10.5 to 14 years) are all enjoying the adventures and challenges we offer.

We are all looking forward to the time when we can get out doors more. Indoors is Ok but we have much more fun when we are out !!.

We can offer your Young Person the chance to join us. Scouting is for girls and boys, young and old, all faiths and backgrounds. Please give me a call to join in.

We need more adults to assist, especially with the Scouts, but not only to be with the young people but also to help us support the young people with their adventures. Go on call me for an informal chat.

Our HQ at Eight Ash Green is now showing signs that its time to replace it. I am not sure exactly how long it has stood at its present location ??, I understand it was brought in and put up by the group??, we would be interested to hear from anyone who can fill in the gaps, especially if you have any photos.

We are actively putting a package together to replace the HQ and would welcome any ideas or help.

Bear Grylls our Chief Scout says "Two things matter in life: following your dreams and looking after your friends. This is what I love about Scouting. It's about doing great things, loving and enjoying the great adventures and helping others to do the same."

Richard Hudson Group Scout Leader
01206 841746 or eag.scoutgroup@btinternet.com

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in Fordham village hall for fun, friendship and listening to a good speaker.



April 2nd Wartime Childhood in London

May 7th Annual meeting & talk on 'children who live without food'

June 4th 1920 – a walk in Paris

July 2nd Flower workshop

For more information, phone our secretary, Mrs Audrey Crees, 01206 241293, or just come on the night.



Dog bags are available from Chris Payne, 46 Heathfields. Tele 768580 or just call when walking past with your dog. Cost is 50p for a pack of 50.

County Councillor Anne Brown

The Battle to maintain the roads

Essex Highways Department repair team recently assured me that north Colchester is one of their busiest areas and I am sure you will agree. There are an enormous number of problems as witnessed by the size of my e-mail inbox.



The position started to deteriorate last summer. Pot hole repairs are only really successful if done during dry weather. Last summer was the wettest on record, which set back the repair programme from the previous year.

The cold snap before Christmas started a round of further damage. Emergency repairs have been carried out in many places, again often in wet conditions, so the repair only lasts weeks, rather than years. Argents Lane is a particular trouble spot. Along much of its length, the fields are higher than the Lane, resulting in a constant run-off of surface and ground water. The Lane was resurfaced over summer, but because of the wet conditions the new surface had already deteriorated by autumn.

ECC has decided that during the next 2 years an additional £35 million will be spent on road maintenance, this on top of the extra £11m allocated in autumn 2012. In the longer term, an additional £180 million will be spent over the next four years on maintaining and enhancing the network of 8,500 miles of roads and footpaths.

I am the County's representative on Colchester Hospital's Governors Council. I want to reassure you, that the hospital is safe, and has nothing like the issues of the North Staffordshire Trust. Four years ago, Monitor, found that Colchester hospital wasn't performing well. A new Chairman and new Directors was appointed. A programme to improve the hospital was prepared and the recommendations agreed. Much has been done, but not all completed.

The hospital is a Centre of Excellence for Vascular Services. It has one of the best Stroke Units in the country. A new Paediatric unit has been built and much more. Professor Keogh is reviewing the poor figures that have caused the review, but this only one of a number of indices used to assess the performance of the hospital. His report will help the Governors to understand the specific problems and enable the hospital to continue its drive for excellence

My "E" mail address is: anne.brown@essex.gov.uk. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have a problem with ECC services.

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Eight Ash Green & Fordham Heath Open Gardens



Saturday 6th July 2013.

We had a good response to our last article in the newsletter but we still need a few more villagers to open their gardens, and volunteers to help with the running of the event.

We have not had an Open Gardens before and the idea is to get villagers together and to make it a fun day. Your garden can be any size, whether it be postage stamp sized, front or back garden or wherever you are in the village.

Running alongside the Open Gardens will be the Village Photographic Competition for 12yrs up to 16yrs, and a drawing & painting competition for the Primary age children, aged 5 to 11yrs.

The theme for both will be 'Village Life', so it can be from drawings, paintings, photos of family, the countryside, your garden, birds or suchlike.

Money raised will go towards the re-building of the Scout Hut and towards financing another Open Gardens next year.

Some of us will be selling cakes and serving tea on the day, so if anyone doesn't want to show their garden, you may like to bake a cake or make some jam to sell instead.



All help, including from first aiders, will be gratefully appreciated. Be warned, we will be knocking on doors around the village to ask for your support, so we may expect a cup of tea along the way and do some cake testing!

For any enquiries or to offer your support, please contact either Jenny Huxtable on 01206 241034 or Susan Greenwold on 01206 240843.



The Cricketers

Spring Lane, Fordham Heath,
Colchester, Essex CO3 9TG

Tel: 01206 240 666

thecricketers06@btconnect.com

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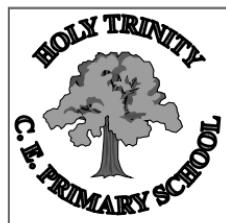
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Eight Ash Green, Colchester, Essex

Report from Holy Trinity School

Around the World Music Day



At Holy Trinity we enrich the curriculum by having half termly theme days. The first half of the Spring Term we had an 'Around the World Music Day.' The children spent the whole day singing songs, using instruments and learning about music from other cultures.

During the day every child had a class workshop with our visitors from EarthSong, which is a company which specialises in music workshops for children. The workshops were based around the music and instruments from different countries and all the children had a go at trying them out!

At the end of the day we held a Celebration Assembly, to which all the parents were invited, and shared what we had learnt during the day. The results were fantastic and the children had a wonderful musical day to remember. Our next theme day is a Writing Day with some very special visitors arriving to help...

To find out more about all the exciting things that have been happening at Holy Trinity please visit our website www.holytrinityeightashgreen.co.uk



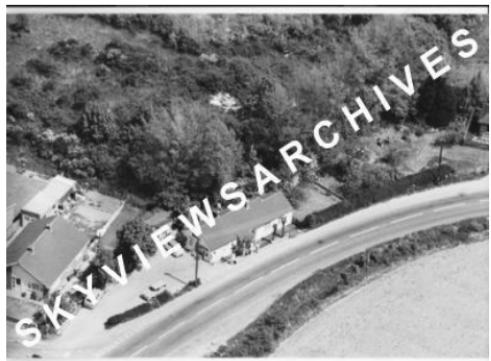
Aerial view of the village, 1971



Brick & Tile



Spring Lane Garage



Bungalow stores

Skyviewarchives had a library of aerial photographs of the village, circa 1971/2 which can provide a fascinating insight into the history of properties in the village and their immediate environment. Extensions, alterations, landscaping development and natural disasters have all changed the shape of our surroundings over a 40 year period. The photographs on this page are a small sample of the archive we manage. Prints are available. Please call Skyviewarchive on 07946 467592 for more information



Winter Garden Waste Recycling

8 bags ends on 29th March
Then 4 bags until November

ESSEX COUNTY STANDARD

The Village correspondent for the
Rural Life Column is

Louise Greenwold,

Tele 01206 572645, e-mail
louisegreenwold@hotmail.com

Reports from local organisations
should be sent directly to Louise for
publication.

**Louise is standing down so a
another volunteer is required.**

WEST BERGHOLT GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

Meetings at 7.30pm in the Open Hall, West Bergholt.

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Monday March 18th Climbers, creepers and crawlers

Monday April 15th Sir Cedric Morris, iris breeder

Monday May 20th Annual Plant

New members and visitors always welcome. *Annual subscription is £10; visitor entry £3.* If you require information on our organisation please contact Valerie Lofthouse on 01206 855450 or valerielofthouse1@hotmail.co.uk.



www.eightashgreen.com website has recently had some additional functionality added to allow any visitor to sign up for updates. When you do sign up by registering at the bottom of the home page, you will be sent periodic emails with any village news stories. We aim for no more than once a month and you can stop any such messages at any time. Signing up also allows you to comment on any news articles placed on the website.

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UPDATE ON THE VILLAGE HIGH SPEED BROADBAND PROJECT

By Marcel Horst, Village Broadband Coordinator

In the past quarter we have seen more properties being connected to the network and more and more residents are enjoying the benefit of superfast broadband in our village.

The Parish Plan group surveyed Porters and Fiddlers Folly to plan a possible new Community Access Point. The survey did note a considerable difference in the quality of existing broadband available in that area with some users receiving reasonable speeds and others very poor speeds. Information packs were sent out to those residents together with an offer for a free 1st month's service. If you have received such an information pack and still wish to take up the offer, please call County Broadband on 0845 767 5000.

The service has generally been very good with only a couple of service interruptions due to the snow settling on the antenna and interrupting the signals. As this was quite an unusual event and Eight Ash Green is still one of the early adopters of the CBL Next Generation Network service, it is something that could not have been foreseen and an antenna upgrade is being planned.

The bandwidth is the same high speed in both the download and upload directions. This is beneficial when you use the service for services like 2-way video conferencing.

If the service does not work as well as it should, do call CBL and select options 1 and then 1 from the telephone menu. This gives you a live service update about the network. If there are no reported issues, then please wait for a support engineer to answer your call (office hours) or log

a ticket (any time).

Last week the Parish Council also received its 2nd quarterly revenue share payment from County Broadband. In the monthly Parish Council meetings this is discussed and made to be put to good use with various parish improvement projects.

Broadband Progress

Community access points live	6
Community access points planned	0
Rollout to those who placed an order	87%
Subscriber growth since April 2013	62%
Service availability to EAG to Q4	99.54%
Free hotspot	Village Hall
Internet bandwidth to the village	50Mbps
Service bandwidth available*	0.5 to 32Mbps

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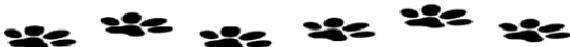
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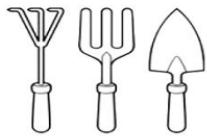


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The Allotment News

Louise Greenwold, Site Steward



March is a promise – it's not spring, yet it is a farewell gesture to winter. April showers come suddenly and unexpectedly (we could do with some more rain!) but just as soon go away. Allotmenteers are anxious to make full use of the extra hour or so of daylight, spades and forks gleam and the air is sweet with the smell of newly turned soil. May is the month of flowers and every lane is margined with cow parsley. The weather is watched intently at this time of year, and, as fruit is setting we do not like to see late frosts.

Catkin time is here and the horse chestnut buds are breaking, brown and sticky. This is the beginning of the agricultural and gardening year. We need a dry month to get on with spring sowing. Like nature it's time to wake up, put down the seed catalogues and get up the allotment. Garlic, elephant garlic and broad beans sown in early winter have rotted in the ground due to the deluge of water this winter. Broad beans will have to be replaced with spring sown varieties, such as 'The Sutton'. Also early spring is the time to sow beetroot, carrots, chard, early peas, spring onions, turnips, spring onions, bulbing onions, globe artichokes and asparagus. Plant first early potatoes in a sheltered position, plus second earlies and if mild weather is here then plant main-crops a few weeks later.

Asparagus is the most wonderful seasonal vegetables, although that season is quite short, you can be cutting a couple of bunches a week from late April to the middle of June but to have those wonderful spears then now is the time to make an asparagus bed. This is a long term project as the spears should not be cut until the third year. Making an asparagus bed takes planning. Choose a spot that you can spare a generous amount of space as asparagus occupies the ground full time. Dig the ground well and put in a generous amount of well rotted manure. In April, in well drained ground, work in some general purpose fertiliser. Dig a generous planting hole for each crown, spread the roots out well (they always remind me of huge spiders) then cover with 2 inches of soil. The crowns should be planted 12-18inches apart with 3ft between rows (see what I mean about space). As shoots start to appear above the ground, gradually earth up the plants until they are growing along ridges up to 6 inches high. Water new plants in well and keep weed free.

Up the allotment the tree, which if left, would have taken up a lot of water from the immediate area has been cut down. Thank you to the allotmenteer for doing that. Rents are now in and not everyone has renewed. There are four people on the waiting list and someone will contact you as soon as possible as clearing and planting will need to be done. I will be up the allotments in the next few weeks numbering the plots so that new allotmenteers know which are theirs. If you need to contact me please e-mail louisegreenwold@hotmail.com or phone 01206 572645 (I work full time but leave a message and I will return your call)



All Saints Church Eight Ash Green

Good Friday, 29th March, 2pm

An Hour at the Cross including Holy Communion

Easter Day, 31st March, 11.15am

including Easter Egg Hunt for the children

New All Age Service

at 11.15am on the 3rd Sunday of each month, beginning on 19th May

Jamie Haxby

Qualified Gardener

- Garden construction
- Small hard landscaping projects
- Fencing
- Lawn care programs
- Grass cutting
- Garden clearing
- Planting up new beds or annuals
- Pruning fruit trees, roses, etc
- Hedge cutting
- Consultation and advice

07846 642834

Ladies' Monday Club

The Ladies' Monday Club continues to meet in the Methodist Church on

the second and fourth Mondays of the month, apart from Bank Holidays and the latter part of July and the month of August when we have a summer break. The club has fewer members now than when we began (about 35 years ago), when we numbered 30. However, the 21 members we have at present appear to enjoy the programme of speakers, slide shows, demonstrations and entertainment which is hopefully arranged to be as varied as possible.

In order to defray the cost of speakers, we have some DIY evenings when we make our own entertainment. Our social secretary, Ruth Rising, has several quizzes on hand for these evenings, ringing the changes with word games, photo recognition etc. A unique DIY meeting was our 'Jubilee Evening' last summer. We each brought something towards a buffet meal, which was laid out on two long tables set end to end. Decorated with red, white and blue plates and serviettes, they looked just like the tables in the street parties held all over the country last year. Before we started on the buffet, Ruth got us to sit around small tables, and then presented each table with a bag containing some 'swish' material, bits of lace, silver foil, scissors and other bits and pieces from which to concoct a 'Royal' outfit, complete with crown. Each team had a member who modelled the contrived masterpieces, amidst a fair amount of laughter. A very enjoyable evening.

If you think you may be interested in joining us and would like more details, please ring Audrey Flutter on 542757.

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LEN LUFF, VILLAGE SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

with an eye for the erroneous, an ear for the egregious and his legs in plaster, is not able to write his usual column in the Newsletter.

BUT WHAT ABOUT WOMEN'S RIGHTS in EIGHT ASH GREEN asks his daughter, the luscious Lucretia Luff.

Thanks to all of you who asked about my Dad's skiing holiday; he had a spiffingly wonderful time, apart from the incident on the ski-lift, and hopes to be home shortly, as soon as they've taken the casts off his legs. However, since he can't do his usual page, he asked if I'd try to think of how our village caters for its lady residents, as a change from the usual carping about road gritting and the coiffure-challenging weather.

I asked a few fellow lady residents, and found a few shortcomings that maybe deserve passing on. For one thing, why has the bench outside the former Brick and Tile lost its seating, and who's responsible for replacing it? This bench is a useful spot for meeting people, or for relaxing after a walk to the garage – can something be done about restoring it to "sitality" ?

Another problem was the bridleway connecting Searle Way to Spring Lane; this is a very useful short cut if one's popping up to the Cricketers for a quick G & T, but somewhat murky at night, lacking as it does any form of lighting. Could something be done about this ? And, while we're at it, could some kind person with a pair of shears cut back the undergrowth which virtually halves the width of the bridleway ?

That said, most ladies were happy enough with the amenities in our fair village, but felt that it might be nice if we had a few more things going on. For one thing, a keep-fit at the Village Hall for the more mature ladies – one that didn't involve frenetic dancing; I mean, the point of frenetic dancing is to pick up men, surely, and worry about getting fit afterwards?

On which subject, a couple of my lady friends insisted I mention, why do we never seem to have any dances at the Village Hall any more? I mean, we got through the entire Jubilee Year without a single one! Surely someone could find some excuse to stage the odd dance catering for we more mature ladies – i.e. dances with a inexpensive bar (I'm sure that dishy Matt at the Cricketers could arrange that) and a few spare chaps to pad out the numbers?

Oh well, just a thought. Tell me at Dad's email, lenluff@tiscali.co.uk, if any ladies have any other bright ideas. 'Bye for now.'



Youth Group Report from Parish Councillor Derek Franklin

The youth group is now in its third year. It is held in the Village Hall in Spring Lane on the last 2 Wednesdays in the Month. The dates and times and update news are available on the Village website - www.eightashgreen.com.

The management committee consists of Joint Youth Leaders Amanda Webber and Derek Franklin, Assistant Youth Worker Keely Barton other members Chris Gray (Treasurer) and Richard Brown. The cost of Membership Registration is £1.75p and 75p per evening session. Ages are 10 to 16 years. There are vacancies for new members who would be most welcome. The club works closely with the Essex Boy and Girls Clubs to provide a range of activities.

We do however require more assistants to ensure the long term future of the club. So we are appealing for any Parent, interested Adult to help out for 1 to 2 hours per month or young person's 16/18 interested in youth work (Training would be given by the Boys and Girls training scheme which includes a course in the lake district)

Require any further information ring Derek 01206 210959



KayZ Dance Studio is an IDTA qualified dance school.

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We offer classes incorporating street and disco freestyle.

Our Classes are open to all ability levels with opportunities to take part in shows, competitions and exams.

Classes are held at Kingsland Church Lexden (Above the Aldi supermarket)

5 – 10 years crew / Thursdays 4.30 – 5.25pm
10 – 16 years crew / Thursdays 5.30 – 6.25pm

For more information & prices contact Kayley;

Mobile: 07707 245076

Email: kpfitness@btinternet.com

More classes coming soon!



John Parker was installed as Rector of the Parish of Eight Ash Green & Fordham in March 2012. John heads the Parish Team of the Associate Minister and three lay workers.

**All Saints
Fordham & Eight Ash Green
Colchester**

Dear Friends, it is wonderful that the days are getting longer and spring reminds us of new life. At Eight Ash Green & Fordham we want to extend a warm welcome to everyone to come and hear about the new life that is possible for anyone who puts their faith in what God has done, in his Son.

On Mothering Sunday we will give thanks for all that our mothers mean to us, the sacrifice and hard work that are often associated with bringing new life into the world in the form of new human beings! And what a joy this is. We will also celebrate what it means to be part of the family of God. Do come and join us on March 10th at Fordham church.

As we approach Easter we will spend time considering what Jesus Christ has achieved in his death on good Friday, in a lively way at our 10am All Age Service at Fordham, and in a quite and reflective way at Eight Ash Green at 2pm. The wonderful truth that we can come into the presence of a holy, just and good God by his gift of his Son to us, is worth celebrating, but when we consider it took the death of the Son of God to take the punishment we all deserve, it is right that we mourn for the effects of our sin on God.

On Easter Day we have a new service, an All Age at Eight Ash Green at 11.15am. Do come for an Easter hunt there, as well as at Fordham at 10 am. Do feel very welcome to join us as we celebrate the victory of Jesus Christ over death, however doubting or skeptical you are. Of course there are many reasonable objections to believing in the resurrection, but we wouldn't want you to feel that this bars you from coming!

The Bible gives many pictures of the new world beyond the grave for those who trust in Christ; a fabulously wealthy city; a life giving river with trees of healing; a throne surrounded by angels; a feast with wine and food of the highest quality, a wedding between Christ and his bride the church.

As a Church we continue to be committed to upholding the Bible's teaching in a whole host of areas, including marriage. If you would like to find out more about the teaching of Jesus on what is a current question mark in our society, do visit the website for links and a sermons on this topic at www.fordhamchurch.org.uk.

We would love you to come and share the new life we experience. Do come and join us! Happy Easter!

Parish Plan & Village Design Statement Group Consulting on the future of the Village

Newsletter Editorial Team

Contact us on 01206 248628,

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John Allcock
Chairman

Steve Brown
Secretary

Keith Winterbourne
Treasurer

Dennis Willetts
Press Officer

Jenny Jones
Committee

Marcel Horst
Committee

Report from John Allcock, Chairman.

Since my last report in November 2012, Steve Brown has produced a Technical Report summarising the views expressed in the questionnaire that we distributed last year and this is now on the EAG village website at www.eightashgreen.com under Village Design Statement (VDS).

When you go there, you will also see a reference to the forthcoming village meeting scheduled to take place at 10.00am on Saturday 9th March at the Cricketers' where everyone will be able to see and comment on the draft VDS – see the separate advert contained in this Newsletter.

At that meeting, we will be reporting on progress as we work towards publication of the VDS at this year's village festival in July. The text itself is almost there and currently, we are working in the Design Guidelines that turn the factual information contained in the VDS and the responses to the questionnaire into helpful, practical guidance for people in the village; developers; and the Parish/Borough Councils.

The VDS team look forward to seeing you on 9th March.

Village Meeting about the VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

**10.00am SATURDAY 9th MARCH
CRICKETERS PUBLIC HOUSE**

**The meeting will provide you
with an opportunity to see and
comment on the draft.
- All welcome to attend -
Free coffee & biscuits!**

PLANNER REQUIRED FOR THE VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT GROUP

The Village Design Statement Group is still desperate for a volunteer with town planning qualifications and/or experience to lead the drafting of the technical sections.

If that is you, could you get in touch with the Village Design Statement Group by telephoning 01206 240314 or at eagpp@ColchesterBorough.com
Thank you.

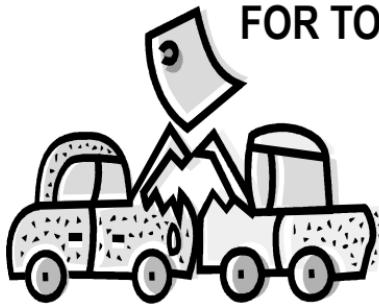
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Village Contacts

Essex County Council	0845 743 0430
Colchester Borough Council	282222
Eight Ash Green Parish Council	07530 873736
Holy Trinity Primary School	240880
Stanway School	575488
Village Hall booking	562860
Police Constable Dave Underwood	999 or 101
Revd Aella Gage (Church of England)	243266
Revd Ruth Ridge (Methodist)	242183
Father Tom Lavin (Catholic)	576898
Zen Dental Clinic, Tollgate	762417
Francois Rossouw, Dental Practice	764111
Tollgate Heath Centre	710030
The Cricketers	240666
Bernard Jenkin, MP	01376 564292
Cllr Anne Brown, County Councillor	321241
Cllr Marcus Harrington, Borough Councillor	241411
Cllr Dennis Willetts, Borough Councillor	240314
Derek Franklin, Chairman Parish Council	210959
Louise Greenwold, Parish Councillor	572645
Josh Greenwold, Parish Councillor	572645
David Mills, Parish Councillor	241572
Christine Willetts, Parish Councillor	240314
Keith Winterbourne, Parish Councillor	240497
Andrew Cook, Parish Volunteer, New Playground	07584 218280
Marcel Horst, Parish Volunteer, Village Broadband	07917 586132



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EAG VILLAGE DIARY

Monday	— Scouts (ring 0844 414 2746 for time and venue) 19.30 Ladies Monday Club, Methodist Church 20.00 Cardio Blast, Keep Fit, Holy Trinity Primary School
Tuesday	— Explorer Scouts (ring 0845-0946-208 for details) 14.40 Pilates, Village Hall 19.30 Line Dancing, Village Hall 19.30 WI, (1st Tuesday) Fordham Village Hall 20.00 Harley Davidson Club (1st Tuesday), The Cricketers
Wednesday	09.45 Zumba, Village Hall 10.30 Lower Body Blitz, Village Hall 18.30 Village Youth Club (3rd & 4th Weds) Village Hall 19.00 Wednesday Club (1st Wednesday) Village Hall 19.30 Parish Council (2nd Wednesday) Village Hall 20.00 Quiz night (alternate Wednesdays) The Cricketers 20.00 Mini Club (1st Wednesday) The Cricketers 20.00 VW club (alternate Wednesdays) The Cricketers
Thursday	10.00 Daisy Beaders, (2nd Thursday) The Cricketers — Cubs (ring 0844 414 2746 for time and venue) 11.00 Holy Communion, (Last Thursday) All Saints Church 19.30 Christadelphians Bible Class, Village Hall
Friday	16.30 Karate Club, Village Hall — Beavers (ring 0844 414 2746 for time and venue) 19.30 Mens' Darts & Snooker Club, Village Hall
Saturday	Village Hall available for hire
Sunday	09.30 Worship, EAG Methodist Church 10.00 Worship, Fordham (EAG and Fordham congregations) 11.15 Morning Prayer, All Saints EAG (1st Sunday in month) 14.15 Christadelphians Memorial meeting, Village Hall 16.15 Christadelphians Bible Talk, Village Hall

Published by EAG Parish Plan Group for Eight Ash Green Parish Council

Printed by Mail Boxes Etc (Colchester) Ltd, 9 St Johns St, Colchester CO2 7NN

Opinions appearing in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and are not necessarily those of the Editor, the Parish Plan Group or Eight Ash Green Parish Council.