

Eight Ash Green & Fordham Heath

Quarterly Newsletter

November 2012

Festive Season

Edition



Winter 2011-12 on The Heath

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The Editor's Column

Dennis Willetts, The Retreat, Wood Lane. 240314.
cllr.dennis.willetts@colchester.gov.uk



It has been a busy time since the July newsletter. New regulations from Government brought upheaval to our Parish Council. Following several high-profile investigations in the Metropolitan North East, where Councillors paid huge grants to companies owned by their wives, Government ruled that Councillors had to declare the financial interests of their spouses as well as their own. Several members of the Parish Council resigned as a matter of principle. There are still vacancies to be filled.

The Highways Agency finally resurfaced the A12 Roundabout after 100's of complaints. But we now have a spate of anti-social parking around the roads off the Holiday Inn traffic island. Why can we never find a traffic warden when we really need one?

After 4 years of lobbying, work started on re-installing the bus stop at Seven Star Green, but the contractors put it in the wrong place. Why not a mobile phone "App" that tells the driver passengers are waiting at the next stop. Why can we never find technology when we need it?

Many villagers are rightly concerned about speeding traffic in the Village, and the Speedwatch group has risen to the challenge. However, Anthony Robin, the village's Speedwatch coordinator, needs 3 more volunteers to be trained by the Police. Now there's a good new year's resolution.

One of the summer attractions is to visit the splendid open gardens event in our neighbouring village of Aldham and wonder why we cannot have a similar event in EAG. Jenny Huxtable is organising a small team to consider the possibility.

Christmas is now in sight and the children are getting excited. For many, Christmas is a time for carol singing at Church, so we publish the details of the local Christmas services. But for others it is a time to shop-until-you-drop, so we hope the display of lights and decorations in Colchester Town centre will be scintillating. Colchester Bus Station finally closes on 18th November.

Lastly, might I thank the Parish Council and advertisers who fund the Newsletter. Special thanks go to the diligent band of volunteers who tramp the streets, summer and winter, delivering it to your door, to name but a few: Ray & Mary Crane; Angela Fisher; Geoff Tye; Katie & Ian Frewer; Jenny Huxtable; Louise Greenwold; John & Pat Allcock; Robin & Thérèse Baylie; Keith & Sue Winterbourne; Bob & Mavis Fortune; Carole & Steve Brown; Jenny & Peter Jones; Roy & Daphne Youngs; Dave Silverton; Doreen Fletcher; Sybil Duncombe; Laurie Coffey; and my wife Christine.

The next edition is will be delivered in March 2013 , with a mid-Feb editorial cut-off date. If you have any village news, do contact the editor.

EIGHT ASH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

9 Parish Councillors

Parish Clerk: Amy Harness

07530 873 736



**Derek Franklin
(Chairman)**

210959

Elected 5th May 11

derekfranklin@btinternet.com



Josh Greenwold

572645

Co-opted

josh.greenwold@eightashgreen.com



Louise Greenwold

572645

Elected 5th May 11

louisegreenwold@hotmail.com



Christine Willetts

240314

Elected 5th May 11

christine.willetts@btinternet.com



Keith Winterbourne

Co-opted

Keith.Winterbourne@eightashgreen.com

Vacancies on the Parish Council

Several Councillors have recently resigned due to their business commitments. The vacancies have been formally advertised, with no success, so the Parish Council can now co-opt members to fill the vacancies. The Council meets once a month, and councillors usually need several hours of preparation. Also you have to publicly declare your and your spouse's business interests in the Parish and sources of income (but not the amounts) If you are interested, contact the Parish Clerk, Amy harness, on 07530 873 736.

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



Andrew Cook

07584 218280

**Playground
Project**

Marcel Horst

07917 586132

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News from the desk of Cllr Marcus Harrington

The main issue occupying my time in Eight Ash Green in the last month has been the parking around the junction of the Holiday Inn Roundabout with the Halstead Road spur and Abbotts Lane.

Local residents know only too well that drivers from outside the village park their cars at this junction early in the morning in order to share journeys to onward destinations. The result is that the junction is cluttered with vehicles all day long, parking illegally and inconsiderately.

This causes problems for residents gaining access to and leaving from the spur road and Abbotts Lane, with the additional problem of drives being blocked. It is very worrying to think that emergency vehicles might not be able to reach addresses and in any case the cars parked in such a higgledy-piggledy way create an eye sore at the gateway to the village.

Residents can always contact the Police, the Council or DVLA as appropriate, but the remedy lies with parking restrictions. The body implementing these restrictions is the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP). In Jan 2012 I applied to NEPP for parking restrictions for this junction. It was not until early October I was informed that my submissions had been refused. News spread quickly, and at the Parish Council meeting on 10th Oct a group of residents expressed their anger and frustration.

The NEPP met on 18th Oct. Accompanied by Mr Bob Egerton and Mr John Heath from Abbotts Lane, and Cllr Dennis Willetts, I was able to impress the seriousness of the situation upon the Chairman. I told her we did not accept the refusal of her Panel to implement parking restrictions and asked her to reconsider. I presented her with a petition signed by almost all affected residents and provided her with photographic evidence of the problem.

I left feeling we had made a strong case and will continue to pursue this matter with NEPP and its individual members. I am now more optimistic for a satisfactory resolution although one must never get ones hopes too high.

Revd Ruth Ridge

Tel:01206 242183

ruthkridge@googlemail.com



The Methodist Church

As we move from autumn into winter we turn from a time of remembering to looking forward. Advent in the Church is a season that not only marks the countdown to Christmas, but reminds us of Christ's promise to return in glory. It is a time of getting ready – not in terms of shopping and writing cards, but reflecting on how we can live better lives, making time for God and for others. It is very easy in the run up to Christmas to get caught in a whirlwind of busy-ness that leaves us exhausted and disillusioned by the festive season but perhaps this year we might contemplate doing things a little differently? Alongside opening our Advent calendars, wouldn't it be great to take 5 minutes each day just to be still? In that way we make space to meet with God and to savour something of true Christmas joy.

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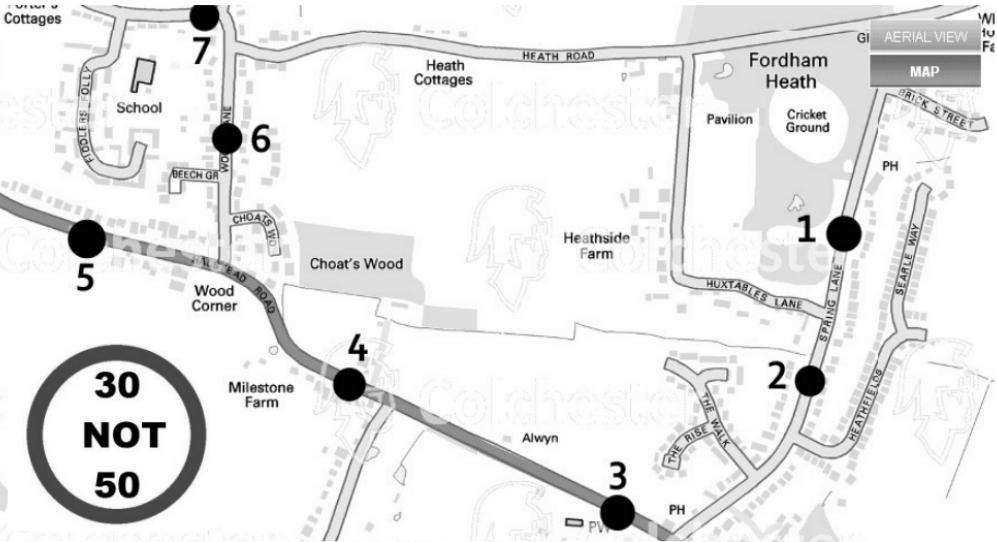
Any enquiries please ring
Susan: 07986 384591

Community Speedwatch Campaign

Many people in the village have complained about the speed at which some motorists drive through the village. Speedwatch is a small group of volunteers who have been trained by the local Police, and who use an official radar speed gun to check the speed of vehicles. We are able to carry-out speed checks at locations which have been assessed as safe (see map), and to note the details of cars or other vehicles travelling above a speed threshold. These motorists will then receive letters from the Police.

We are not anti-motorist, most of us are motorists ourselves. We aim to persuade everyone to obey the speed limits, for the safety of all road users.

Speedwatch sessions require a minimum of two volunteers, but extra people are helpful to collect details. If you could spend a hour or so, when convenient to you, and would be interested in joining us, then let me know as soon as possible. If we receive enough volunteers, we can arrange another training session with the local police. If you would like to join us, please contact me as soon as possible by email anthony_robin@hotmail.com, or by phone on 571910.



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Eight Ash Green Action Group

Report of AGM & Final Meeting, 18th July 2012, Village Hall

It was agreed that the remaining money should be distributed amongst local voluntary groups. The Local School and Youth Club had submitted requests for grants and also that the Village Hall Committee be considered for a grant to assist with the resurfacing of the floor.

All members of the committee wished to express their gratitude for the help and support that they received in the fight against a Park and Ride in Eight Ash Green. A formal motion to wind-up the Action Group was approved.



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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 at eagpp@ColchesterBorough.com or by telephoning 01206 240314. Thank you.

katrina

mobile hairdressing



07747 826511

County Councillor Anne Brown

The Battle to maintain the roads

Top of the list of complaints from Villagers is the state of the roads in Eight Ash Green.

Since the July Newsletter, the most frequent complaint I have received from Villagers has been the state of the A12 round-about. This was seriously pot-holed and showed significant signs of wear, including some dangerous ruts caused when an articulated lorry carrying 5,000 chickens overturned during summer. We had to obtain the agreement of the Government's Highways Agency to get the repairs done. This entailed closing either the whole or part of the A12 Junction 26 for eight evenings. While the repair teams were on site, it was cost-effective to resurface the A1124 from the Holiday Inn Roundabout to Jubilee Meadow.

We have also undertaken major repairs and surface-dressing in Heath Road and Huxtables Lane. The Bridleway deteriorated considerably over winter, but this is the responsibility of the Parish Council, with whom I am liaising.

Across Essex, 35,000 potholes have been repaired during the last two months. The second phase of the work will start in November and will focus on strengthening the road network to ensure that fewer potholes occur next winter. To ensure that tax-payers' funds are spent as efficiently as possible, the maintenance of all the County's roads has been contracted to one company, Ringway Jacob, a national contractor. The new contract will bring a better service to residents and at the same time, make significant savings to the Council's maintenance bill!

During severe winter weather, the County Council is required to focus its gritting resources on the major roads and bus routes. However last winter, bagged salt was issued to parish councils in order that local communities could keep their paths and minor roads useable. Residents can find a map of the Essex County Council gritting network and other winter travel information by visiting www.essex.gov.uk/winter

From 1st October 2012 older residents will use a new system to apply for their bus passes. First time applicants can download an application form from www.cangetapass.org.uk, or can call 0845 200 0388, or collecting a form from their local library. Current pass holders who need to renew their passes will automatically be sent a replacement, but if you have moved home you will need to contact Essex County Council on 0845 200 0388. This new system should be more convenient for residents and will save £900,000 over the next 3 years.

Essex County Council funds a Ranger service, to do minor clearing work, which is administered by Colchester Borough council. If vegetation needs cutting back from the road edge, or pavements and you think it would help the safety of residents, call me on 321241 or contact Borough Councillors Willets or Harrington. We will be pleased to forward your problem to the correct department.





Christmas Church Services

Eight Ash Green, All Saints, Halstead Road

Time to Remember, 3pm, 2nd December

Lessons and Carols, 6.30pm, 23rd December

Carols by candlelight, 11.15pm, 24th December

Fordham & EAG Morning Prayer (at Fordham), 10am, 25th December

Methodist Church, Halstead Road

Christmas coffee morning, 10.30 -midday on 1st December.

Ladies Monday Club Carols, 7.30pm on 17th December

Carol service, 6.30pm on 23rd December

Christmas morning family service, 10am on 25th December

St Teresa's Roman Catholic Church, Lexden

Mass, 9.00am & 11.00am on Sunday 23rd December

Mass 10am; Confessions 11am-noon on 24th December

First Mass of Christmas 6pm; Carols 10pm; Mass 10.30pm on 24th December

Christmas Day Mass 10.00am on Tuesday 25th December

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UPDATE ON THE VILLAGE HIGH SPEED BROADBAND PROJECT

By Marcel Horst

Village Broadband Coordinator

This past quarter has seen more progress with the roll-out of the County Broadband network and the connection of further properties.



There have been some challenges to get the next Community Access Points (CAPs) installed around the Wood Lane / Halstead Road and Abbotts Lane / Halstead Road area due to network planning challenges of tree cover and seeking agreement of the right CAP location. This was eventually resolved and 2 new CAPs went live in September. A number of homes were connected to these in October. There are still a few awkward locations on Halstead Road and County Broadband will carry out further signal tests to seek the best solution. Furthermore one more CAP will be needed in the Wood Lane / Heath Road / Porters / Fiddlers area. Some more door-to-door surveys will be carried out to assess demand before this last CAP will be installed in the best location.

This quarter has also seen the first small revenue share payment to the Council from County Broadband. This is something that the Parish Plan Group who is responsible for the Community Broadband Agreement and the Council hope to develop further with some new incentive schemes. Watch this space!

Broadband Progress

Community access points live:	5
Community access points planned:	1
Rollout to those who placed an order:	74%
Subscriber growth since April:	49%
Free hotspot:	Village Hall
Internet bandwidth to the village:	50Mbit/s

In summary, the superfast 35Mbit/s broadband service is now available to 80% of properties in our parish and soon it will be 100%. If you have not yet taken up the offer, please try out the service for free by

connecting your smart-phone or laptop to the WiFi access point installed in our Eight Ash Green Village Hall or talk to your neighbours that do have this superfast service.

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Thursday 9.15am – 12.15pm

For further details please call Jackie Leach 01206 241677

Play Area Proposals -An Update-

Good news on the development of proposals for a play area on the Heath; following a successful consultation during the summer on the look and feel of the proposals, the Parish Council voted unanimously at their October committee to proceed to submission of an application to the Planning Inspectorate for permission as soon as possible.



This application will now be prepared in compliance with the relevant legislation on behalf of the Parish Council with a view to submission before Christmas. The consultation also contained a good consensus of option from residents regarding the types of equipment and materials to be used that will enable the Parish Council to develop the designs should permission be forthcoming.

Of equal importance was the enthusiasm and interest we received from people both at the annual Village Festival, where the concept designs were exhibited and via website submissions that have been received.

Looking to the future, once an application has been submitted, the Planning Inspectorate will launch their own round of consultation as part of the approval process, giving people a further opportunity to express their views. We would urge people to get involved at the appropriate time so that those making the decisions have a balanced impression of residents views on the scheme.

Village Heating Oil Syndicate

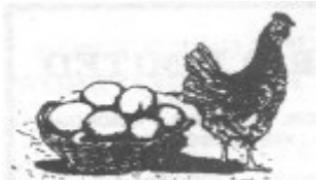


Trevor Westall is unable to continue as the Syndicate coordinator. He has been the coordinator since the start of the scheme, and feels it is now time for someone else to have a go. Please contact him directly if you can help.

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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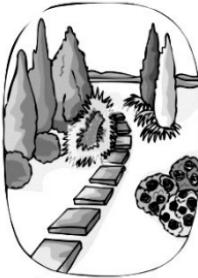


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Eight Ash Green & Fordham Heath Open Gardens 2013

We are planning to hold an Open
Gardens in Eight Ash Green/
Fordham Heath in the Summer



of 2013 for the first time and we would be very keen to hear from the Village folk who would like to volunteer their services in helping to organise this event with us.

Obviously we would like some Gardens to show too! Whether it be postage stamp sized, acres or a front garden. All will be welcome.

We will also be running a Photographic Competition alongside the Open Gardens, for the younger generation.

Please do get in touch. Call Jenny Huxtable on 01206 241034

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Report from Holy Trinity School



It has been great to welcome everyone back to Holy Trinity after a very exciting summer holiday, especially our new Foundation Stage children and new children across the school. This term we are developing our outside areas to encourage butterflies and other wildlife. Over the summer we had a new pergola built and are in the process of planting new beds and climbers. We have also completed the outside sail shade area, with support from our active PTA, enabling all the children to eat and work outside in the shade.

This term we have lots of exciting events planned such as Theme Days, Harvest festival, Carol Service and visits out to enhance the curriculum. We are holding an open afternoon 1.30-2.30 pm and evening at 6.30pm on Wednesday 14th November for prospective parents with children starting school in September 2013. Please contact the school office on 01206 240880 if you wish to attend or visit your local village primary school. At Holy Trinity we believe in the importance of '*learning together, creating new things, enjoying every day.*'

Please visit our school website www.holytrinityeightashgreen.co.uk to find out more about us.

Heather Hann, Head-Teacher

A message from our Head boy and Head Girl



It has been a great start to the new school year. We have lots of new foundation stage children join us and we are doing a great job of being their Guardian Angels. This means that we play with them and help them settle into school life, a bit like a big brother or sister!



The year six children now have their jobs and we are delighted to be the new head boy and head girl.

This term in key stage two our topic is 'Amazing Asia' and in classes 1 and 2 their topic is 'Journeys.' We are looking forward to all of the exciting things that will be planned for us as part of these topics.

By Frances Turner (Head Girl) and James Martin (Head Boy)



Eight Ash Green Music Festival & Fun Day

Held on 20th & 21st July 2012



The Village Festival kicked- off on Friday 20th July 2012 with two spectacular jazz bands playing for our entertainment, along with the Hog Roast and of the Bar. Despite a wet and rather cold evening this event was still well supported.

On Saturday 21st July the main event started at 1.00pm. During the day we had a wide range of stalls and activities, plus a brilliant line up of bands playing throughout the day.

This year we had two music stages. The trailer stage which hosted many different styles of music throughout the day and evening, and the new Acoustic tent with a more relaxed atmosphere during the afternoon. During the preparations leading up the festival there was a few concerns that having the Acoustic stage, the main stage would drown out the sound, but on the day it was proved that the lay out was right and both stages was enjoyed by all.

The Festival committee re-invests any profit into next year's event, making it bigger and better. This year we purchased the large tent for the acoustic bands and lighting for both stages. Long term it is more advantageous to buy than hire. After all the expenses, including the tent and lights the accounts show a small loss of £400. The festival committee is now hard at work to decide how to make the two-day festival profitable. The accounts are formally audited by an independent accountant.

The committee would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the bands and performers playing at the festival, our sponsors, all companies and individuals donating raffle prizes and to all of our volunteers that help in any way.

Lastly a big thank you the residents of Eight Ash Green that continue to support this event,

It is never too early to volunteer to help at next year's festival, which will be on 19 & 20 July 2013. Contact Richard Brown on 07712 570685

WEST BERGHOLT GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

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November 23rd - Hellebores in the Winter garden

December 12th - Do your own Christmas arrangements

February 20th - To prune or not to prune

March 19th - Vegetable for value

All meetings at 7.30pm in the Orpen Hall, West Bergholt. 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.

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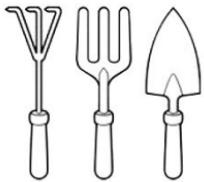
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Christmas shopping evening Friday 16th November 2012, 7pm-9pm,
Holy Trinity Primary School, Eight Ash Green CO63PU
01206 240880 for tickets or just turn up
Unique Christmas gifts for all.

The Allotment News

Louise Greenwold

Site Steward



This summer hasn't been very productive at the allotments, some crops have failed or been very poor whilst the weeds have been prolific.

Caring for an allotment takes a lot of time and consistent effort and, whilst some allotmentees have done their best, there were some complaints about the untidy and uncultivated plots. It is so disheartening to have seed blown over from an unkempt plot; perhaps if you are finding a whole plot difficult to manage then you would consider halving the site. I'd welcome contact if you want to discuss this.

November leave us in no doubt that we are on the edge of winter. Dig the ground as soon as a crop is cleared. The whole point of winter digging is to open up the soil so that the frost and rain can break it down. Dig in as much manure as you have to spare at this stage and then leave the ground until it warms up in the spring. All digging should be done by Christmas.

If you want to grow broad beans then 'Aquadulce' should be planted on November 5th. I have always done this and have always had a good crop. (However, traditionally this was done on St Thomas's Day - December 21st). Garlic and elephant garlic can also be planted now. November 20th is St Edmund's Day. St Edmund was king of East Anglia and died in AD869 – he is the patron saint of gardeners.

December brings glittering white, crisp frosty mornings, lit by a low sun that struggles to elevate itself only to be defeated by the shortening days. When the sun sets at 4pm and the smoky mists enfold the countryside a good fire is always welcome once you get indoors. Take the opportunity to stay in the warmth, plan and browse those seed catalogues.

Good tools make for light work. Clean off soil residue with a scraper and wire brush, remembering the handles. Use a file to re-sharpen edged tools like spades, hoes and secateurs. Treat wooden handles with linseed oil, and coat metal parts with lubricating oil. Suspend or store them under cover, and make sure they are securely locked up.

Have a lovely restful season and let's get ready for a good year in 2013. If you need to contact me please phone on 01206 572645 or e-mail me at louisegreenwold@hotmail.com



Winter Garden Waste Recycling

**8 sacks from
6 November
until 29 March**

ESSEX COUNTY STANDARD

The Village correspondent for the
Rural Life Column in the Essex
County Standard is

Louise Greenwold,

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

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

Police Constable David Underwood PC71091, Neighbourhood Policing Team



SAFETY AT HOME: Invest in a smoke alarm, two would be better. Keep windows shut or on a security latch when properties are unoccupied. Consider leaving lights or a radio on to create a presence, use a timer. Do NOT leave valuable items/portable electrical items on show when your property is unoccupied, '**If it is on show, it could go.**' Secure your pedal cycles – invest in a good quality lock and make good use of it.. Keep sheds and garages equally secure and invest in sturdy locks.

VEHICLE SAFETY: Do NOT leave valuables on show in your vehicle, particularly Satellite Navigation Systems. Remember: '**If it is on show, it could go.**' Lock valuables in the boot or keep them with you.

SUSPICIOUS PERSONS: Trust your instincts, if something seems suspicious, report it to the police immediately. The more details you can note down, the better. Helpful information for the Police includes car registration numbers, make/model/ colour of vehicles and unique features of individuals, descriptive details and clothing. Do not hesitate in calling the Police – criminals act and move on quickly.

ELDERLY RESIDENTS: When answering the door to strangers, remember – '**IF IN DOUBT, KEEP THEM OUT.**' Legitimate persons should carry Identification Cards and should be able to provide you with a telephone number for their Head Office and they will happily wait outside while you call them to confirm. DO NOT let anyone you do not recognise into your home without confirming their identity first. I cannot reiterate enough; **IF IN DOUBT KEEP THEM OUT.**

Please feel free to contact your local Officers on **0300 333 4444** and ask to speak to any one of us, we'll always be happy to take your call. I look forward to meeting and speaking to many of you in the future.

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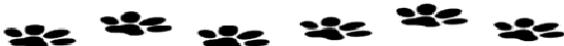
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Mob: 07732323026

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All Saints Church, Eight Ash Green

A Time to Remember

3pm on Sunday 2nd December

As Christmas approaches the pain we feel because of those we have lost through bereavement can be acute.

This Service provides a time for who have been bereaved, either recently or many years ago, to remember with thanksgiving those they have lost. It is also for those who particularly want to support the bereaved. There will be a moment of remembrance, a talk on the Gospel and an opportunity to reflect. Details from the Church Office on 243261.

Jamie Haxby

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07968 964826

kwade62@aol.com

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TUESDAY EVENINGS

5.30-6.30 PM AND 6.45-7.45PM

Bus Report

By Christine Willetts
Parish Council
Transport
Representative



The Sainsbury's shopper bus on Monday mornings continues to be a popular asset to the village and we average 10 or 11 passengers each week. There are always some spare seats though, so do give it a try sometime. Remember the service is free if you hold a bus pass and £2.50 return if you don't yet have one. We have main pick up points at various stops, but will always take you back to your front door with your shopping. And Steve, our driver, will always carry them for you!

We have never yet picked up anyone at the Heathfields / Searle Way junction - (arriving there about 10.20) - and the bus will not continue to go there if it is not required.

The regular bus users have also formed an informal social club and we've made several trips out using the same mini bus and driver. October saw us at the Harbour Lights Carvery in Walton, and the sun actually shone for the first time that week while we were there enjoying lunch and the lovely view. On Tuesday 4th December, we're having Christmas lunch at The Cricketers, and if anyone would like to join us, please phone me on 240314 before 20th November.

At the time of going to press, the bus stops are due to be reinstated on the Halstead Road at Seven Star Green. There were several frantic phone calls when the Colchester bound stop was obviously being put in the original position rather than the new one and work was stopped for a week while it was being investigated. It was eventually decided to keep this original site but dispense with the promised bus shelter which would impede the view of oncoming traffic. It was never planned to have a shelter for passengers travelling in the Halstead direction as it would detract from the view of Seven Star Green and the village sign. Hopefully, both stops will be operational when you receive this newsletter.

Halstead Road, Holiday Inn Roundabout, Village Sign	1000
Wood Lane, Beech Grove	1004
Fiddler's Folly, opposite bus shelter	1007
End of Fiddlers Folly, Stop & Turn	1010
Porters Cottages, Bus Shelter	1012
The Cricketers Pub	1018
Heathfields	1019
Searle Way	1021
Village Hall	1023
The Walk	1025
The Rise	1027
Top of Spring Lane Bus Stop	1028
Seven Star Green, Turkey Cock Lane, Daisy Green	1032
Sainsbury's Tollgate	1041

Every Monday (except Bank Holidays), returning from Sainsburys at 12 noon.

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LEN LUFF, VILLAGE SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

**with an eye for the erroneous, an ear for the
egregious and a nose for nonsense.**

Some of the things that can annoy us are not actually the responsibility of any Authority, Local, Parish or Borough. Here's your chance to let off steam about the things that irritate YOU in our village. If you'd like to have a moan – in the strictest confidence – just email Len Luff at lenluff@tiscali.co.uk , and we'll print your comments!

May I say well done to all the organisers of the EAG Fun Day ?

Indeed you may, and I'll heartily second the motion ! And not just the fun day, which was indeed the best we've ever had; the Music Festival in the evening was a knock-out, great bands and well planned and executed. Good work, and well done, lads !

Weren't we supposed to be having a Jubilee Dance this year ?

That's a point, I have been hearing rumours that someone unknown was planning this all through the summer, but I haven't heard anything recently, and it's probably a bit late, now. Pity nobody – including yours truly – didn't pick up on this sooner, and something could have been arranged. A lost opportunity, and a lesson for the future, methinks.

Has Tangles hairdressers closed for good, now ?

Sadly, yes; as the building is up for sale, Sarah took the opportunity to open a salon in Colchester, same telephone number as before. We'll miss her, and wish her well, but we still have the Amour Boutique at one end of the village, and Danielle's salon in the Holiday Inn, so no excuse for having untidy hairstyles, ladies and gents !

AND FINALLY Well done to the Village Hall Management Committee – especially Bernard Alden - for the bright new floor in the Village Hall ! The Line Dancers, I'm told, are delighted!

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Meets 1st Tuesday of month at Fordham Village Hall
Contact Audrey Crees for details, 01206 241293



At our meeting on 4th December, Members will be entertained by the Committee with a festive buffet including a talk on "Chocolate Planet" from Karen Series. What a wonderful way to finish the year!



Youth Group Report from Parish Councillor Derek Franklin

The Eight Ash Green Youth Club has now reach its capacity for members and the register is closed to new members.

The Club works in conjunction with the Essex Association of Girl and Boys clubs has successfully completed training for a young volunteer youth worker and it is hoped to continue with this scheme in the future.

We still require helpers to assist. Anybody interested should contact Derek Franklin on 01206 210959.

Nativity Service Fordham Church at 3pm on Christmas Eve.

Eight Ash Green & Fordham Church invites you to our Christmas Eve Nativity Service. This short service is suitable for even the smallest of children and proves to be a festive highlight for many families. Why not establish a new Christmas tradition for your family and bring them to this service? Children aged 8 years and under are encouraged to come dressed as an angel, shepherd, animal or wise man so that they can take part (no rehearsal necessary).



Starts 1st November 2012

KayZ Dance Studio is an IDTA qualified dance school.

If you're looking to learn the latest dance moves, make friends, keep fit or just have fun then KayZ Dance is the right place for you.

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

More classes and venues coming soon!

For more information & prices contact Kayley;

Mobile: 07707 245076

Email: kpfitness@btinternet.com

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

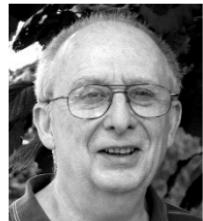
Newsletter Editorial Team

Contact us on:

eagpp@ColchesterBorough.com
or 01206 248628



John Allcock
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Secretary



**Keith Winter-
bourne**
Treasurer



**Dennis
Willetts**
Press Officer



**Jenny
Jones**
Committee

Report from John Allcock, Chairman.

As you may recall from the July village newsletter, we distributed two copies of the Village Design Statement (VDS) questionnaire to every house in the village urging as many people as possible to complete it. Despite the rather poor response (we only received 208 replies from the 1,500 copies we delivered – a 14% return rate), our Secretary Steve Brown has been working hard to produce a Technical Report summarising the views that have been expressed. This newsletter carries an article setting out some of the details of the findings.

Whilst our main effort has been on the questionnaire and its findings, we have also been working on both the shape and content of the VDS which we want to share with you in outline form early next year. Look out for the adverts that will tell you the date (probably a Saturday morning) and location. This will give you a good opportunity to let us have your comments/thoughts on the actual document itself before we get to the printing stage next year.

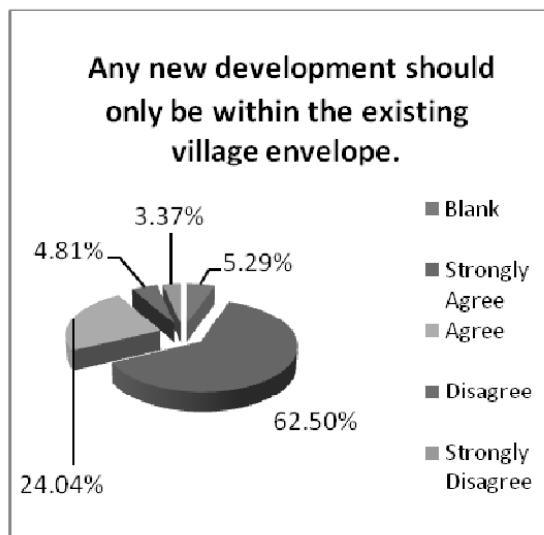
Part of the VDS will contain a report from Eight Ash Green Primary School on their wildlife project which has produced some interesting results. Another aspect we may want to investigate is to undertake some form of tree survey showing the different species to be found in the village. If you wish to take part, please let us know.

Analysis of the responses to the Village Design Statement Questionnaire.

This is a short selection of the analysis; the full Technical Report on the questionnaire will be available on the Village website

Q1.1 Any new development should only be within the existing village envelope.

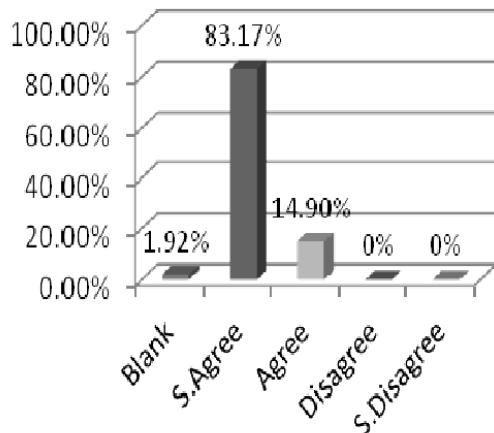
The response to this question shows a good majority of respondents (86.54%) would only like new developments to be within the village envelope



Q2.3 Where possible, new houses should have their own off-street parking

Inconsiderate parking can be a problem in some parts of the village so it is not surprising that 98.07% agreed or strongly agreed that new housing should have their own off-street parking. Clearly villagers do not want the type of high density housing which does not have personal garages or drives.

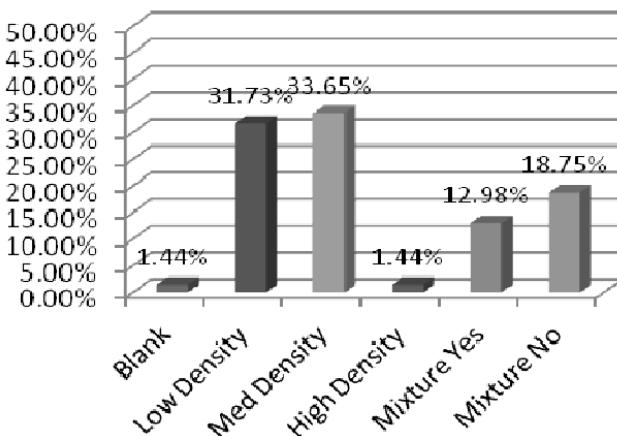
Where possible, new houses should have their own off-street parking



Q3.1 Which of these three different types of housing density or layout would you prefer?

The question gave an opportunity to choose a specific density of housing OR whether a mix would be appropriate. Low and medium density were most popular with about 30% favouring each. A majority of the remainder (about 19%) voted against a mixture of housing on one development with (13%) for a mixture

Which of the different types of housing density or layout would you prefer



Section 8 Additional Comments

Most of the comments made in the questionnaire, which are relevant to the planning process, and thus the Village Design Statement (VDS) are covered by the answers to the questions.

They may be used as quotes to support parts of the VDS they refer to. The very few that are not covered by these results will be mentioned in the text of the VDS, in the specific sections that they relate to.

The comments made that are not relevant to the VDS for example - regarding Bus Stops, Zebra Crossings etc. will be passed on to the Parish Council for their information/action.

Other comments which refer to the beauty, situation and general look of the village will be used as quotes throughout the VDS as confirmation and emphasis of points made in the document.

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
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

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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.