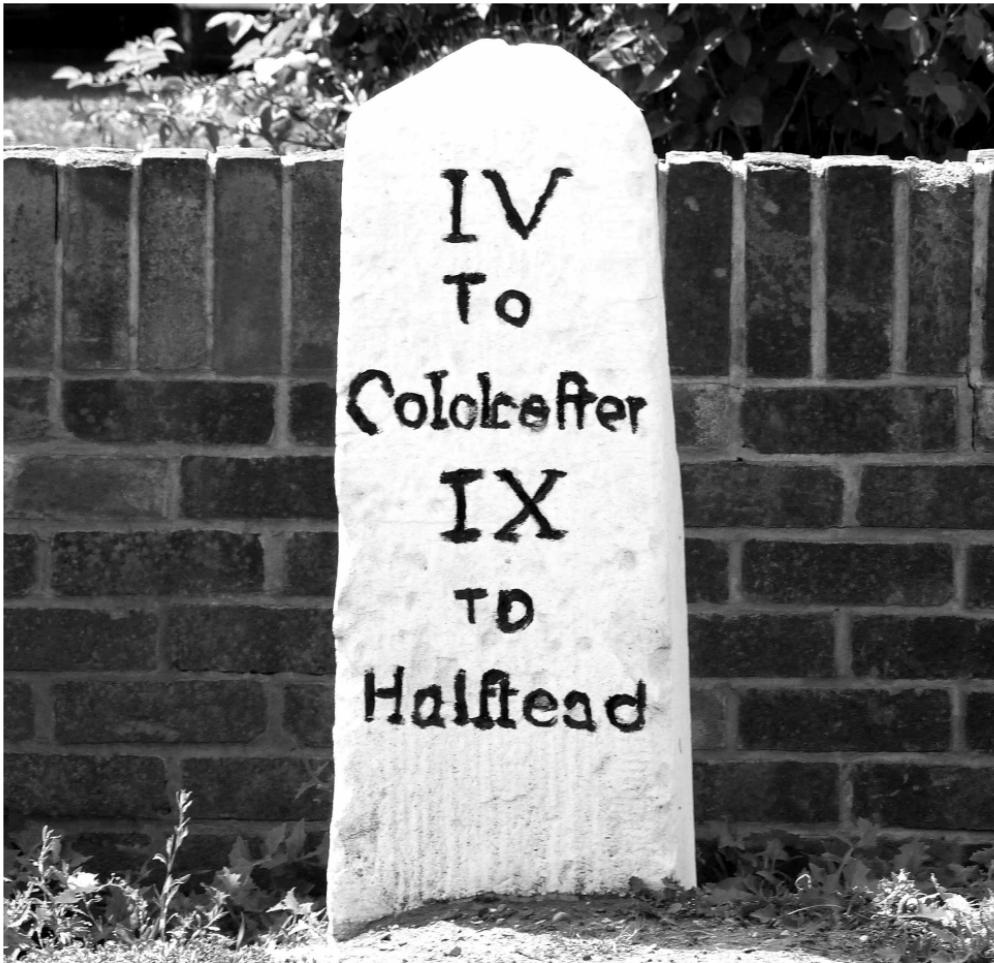


# Eight Ash Green & Fordham Heath Quarterly Newsletter November 2013



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# **EIGHT ASH GREEN PARISH COUNCIL**

**The Parish Council meets in the Village Hall at 7.30 on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.**

**Parish Clerk: Helen Cook  
07530 873736**



**Derek Franklin  
(Chairman)**

**210959**

Elected 5th May 11

[derek.franklin@eightashgreen.com](mailto:derek.franklin@eightashgreen.com)



**Andrew Cook  
07584  
218280**

Co-opted

[andrew.cook@eightashgreen.com](mailto:andrew.cook@eightashgreen.com)



**Leon Coombs  
07526 743634**

Co-opted

[leon.coombs@eightashgreen.com](mailto:leon.coombs@eightashgreen.com)



**Josh Greenwold  
572645**

Co-opted



**Louise Greenwold  
572645**

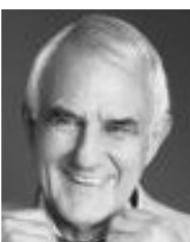
Elected 5th May 11

[josh.greenwold@eightashgreen.com](mailto:josh.greenwold@eightashgreen.com)



**David Mills  
231572**

Co-opted



**Christine Willetts  
240314**

Elected 5th May 11

[david.mills@eightashgreen.com](mailto:david.mills@eightashgreen.com)

[christine.willetts@eightashgreen.com](mailto:christine.willetts@eightashgreen.com)



**Keith Winterbourne  
240497**

Co-opted

[keith.kinterbourne@eightashgreen.com](mailto:keith.kinterbourne@eightashgreen.com)

**Parish Council Project Managers  
(Not Members of the Council)**

**Website & Broadband**

Marcel Horst, 07917 586132

Marcel Horst@eightashgreen.com

**Village Speedwatch**

Anthony Robin

anthony\_robin@hotmail.com

## **Parish Council Chairman's Report for Autumn - 2013**

The Parish Council has met three times since the publication of the previous newsletter. We have co-opted Andrew Cook to fill a vacancy on the Parish Council. Andrew served on the Council for several years, and we welcome him back.

Next year is the centenary of the outbreak of the first world war. The Parish Council will lead the village in remembering those from the village who fell while fighting for their Country. The civil parish of Eight Ash Green was created relatively recently in 1949, when all the land south of the River Colne comprising 642 acres was transferred from Fordham, together with 844 acres from Copford, 125 acres from Stanway and 4 acres from Aldham. Thus Eight Ash Green was not a civil parish at the end of either of the great wars, and therefore does not have a memorial. The Parish Council have approached the Church Authorities and obtained agreement in principle to the erection of a memorial flag pole in the front grounds of All Saints Church in Halstead Road. It will not be a war memorial in the traditional sense, but rather a place where we can gather together on Armistice day and other appropriate times to remember.

On several occasions the Council has discussed problem of speeding traffic in Spring Lane. We have asked the Speedwatch Team to give particular attention to this area of the Village

The Parish Council participating in the 2013/14 Winter Salt Bag Scheme. Essex County Council will deliver 1 ton of salt to the Village Hall. Parish Councillors will distribute it to those locations in the village where particularly slippery conditions occur on our roads over winter.

We received a report about sewage discharge into the village pond at Daisy Green. Several residents have pipes across the road to drain their septic tanks into the ditch, however the parish Council expects systems to be properly maintained so that no public health risk ensues. We have called in Environmental Health officials to monitor the problem.

We have approved an extra rubbish bin on the Heath, but decided not to put hand-rails on the bridges across the ditches in the Lower Heath.

We have completed a survey of trees on Parish Council Land, and will be considering how to ensure the trees do not pose any significant future risk to the public.

We try to make the Parish Council Meetings as friendly as possible. Every meeting starts with a period of public participation in which any villager can attend and raise any matter relevant to the Village.

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# Parish Clerk: Helen Cook

parish.clerk@eightashgreen.com or 07530 873736

**Meeting:** The Parish Council meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday each month (apart from August) at 7.30pm in Eight Ash Green Village Hall. Members of the public are always welcome to attend and we have a 15 minute section at the beginning of the meeting for members of the Public to raise any issues.

**Winter Salt:** We are currently seeking volunteers to store a couple of bags of salt and then in wintery conditions spread on the highway. If you live in an area of the village that does not get gritted and would be happy to volunteer please let me know.

**County Broadband:** Tired of slow broadband? Consider signing up to County Broadband. Eight Ash Green Parish Council agreed a loan to County Broadband in order to set up the initial network, the more people that sign up in the village the quicker this is paid back. The Parish Council also receives an ongoing income, which is used to help to maintain your village [www.countybroadband.co.uk/community/eight-ash-green/](http://www.countybroadband.co.uk/community/eight-ash-green/)

**Vacancies on the Council:** There is currently 1 Councillor Vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are interested in joining the Council, please contact me and I will give you further details.

Sadly my time covering the role of Eight Ash Green Parish Clerk is nearly at an end and I will be passing the post back to Amy Harness on the 1<sup>st</sup> December when she returns from Maternity Leave, email and telephone number will remain the same. Many thanks to all of you who have made me feel very welcome.

## WEST BERGHOLT GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION

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

Large garden, allotment holder, small window box, devoted gardener or just a passing interest - why not join our gardening club?

**18th November:** Woodland Trust

**9th December:** Role of the Police Wildlife Crime Officer

**17th February:** Looking for plants in South Africa

**17th March:** Luscious lawns

New members and visitors always welcome. Annual subscription is £10; visitor entry £3. If you require information on our organisation please call 01206 241256 or e-mail [wbgardeners@gmail.com](mailto:wbgardeners@gmail.com)



# LITTLE MALTINGS

## Feline Lodge (Cattery) Fully approved



Abbotts Lane  
Eight Ash Green  
Colchester CO6 3QL

01206 564401  
07956 429102

Prop. Brenda Eagland

## Joanne Crawshaw 1922-2013

Joanne died on 17 October 2013. She taught for many years at Colchester High School for Girls where she was Head of Geography.

Although she had suffered a stroke some years ago, she travelled widely until recently.

She had also been on EAG parish council for many years.

She, and her late husband Ken, had been very much involved with setting up the Fingringhoe Nature Reserve.

Many will remember her with her large golden retriever.

## The Editor's Column

Dennis Willetts, The Retreat, Wood Lane.  
[cllr.dennis.willetts@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.dennis.willetts@colchester.gov.uk)  
Telephone 240314

This is the time of year when the village reverberates to the sound of hedge trimmers and chain saws. In this issue we report on progress maintaining the Church Wood, and other important woodland features in the village.



The Ashcroft Rest Home in Halstead Road ceased operation earlier in the year. Progressive Mews have acquired the premises and are carrying-out major refurbishment. They have provided an article on their services.

The Borough Council's new weekly food waste collection service commences in November, just in time for the Christmas cooking. We publish further details of the scheme.

Essex Highways propose to turn-off unnecessary street lights between midnight and 5am, but want feedback from local communities about which lights to leave on all night. If you have an opinion, tell the Parish Council.

Finally might I thank the Parish Council and the advertisers for funding 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 March 2014, with an editorial deadline of 14th February, so get writing.

# The Allotment News

Louise Greenwold, Site Steward



What a good year for the allotments, only 3 sites didn't seem to keep abreast of the weeds, the rest really tried hard to be considerate to neighbours and grew some lovely produce. It would still be nice to form an allotment association and perhaps get water onto the site but I haven't had a champion come forward yet. Any volunteers would be welcome.

We had one complaint of an inconsiderate bonfire and all the allotmenteers were sent the rules again regarding bonfires, however, it should be remembered that not all the plots are rented out by the Parish council, some are privately owned. It was difficult to locate the responsible party but happily I haven't been notified of it happening again.

Anyway, again only too quickly the time has come to harvest the last of the vegetables, clear the plots and start digging in the manure to provide good foundations for next year. There are three people on the waiting list. If you would like an allotment please either contact me or the clerk of the council.

Carry on allotmenteering.

## Christmas Eve Nativity Service

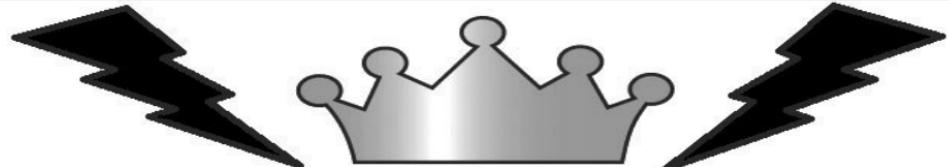
All Saints Church, Eight Ash Green with Fordham, invite you to our Christmas Eve Nativity Service.

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 animal, angel, shepherd or wise man so that they can take part (no rehearsal necessary). We look forward to seeing you at



**All Saints Church, Fordham at 3pm on Christmas Eve.**



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## Tree Maintenance and Preservation

**By Parish Councillor Keith Winterbourne**

The Parish Council recently commissioned a survey of all the trees in the village for which it is responsible. The survey identified those that require attention or removal. Most of the trees requiring removal are either dead or in a dangerous condition. Where possible these trees will be cut down to leave a stump about six to eight feet high with the logs cut and piled around the base for the wildlife.



The most noticeable work will be on the large crack willow on the south side of the cricket pitch opposite The Cricketers. This tree is living up to its name and will soon be in danger of cracking down the centre of the trunk. In order to preserve this wonderful tree, approximately 4 meters will be removed from the canopy and the biggest branches exerting the outward pressure will be removed.

Across the car park from the willow, one of the three Horse Chestnuts is sadly beyond saving and will have to be removed. A new tree will be planted in its place. The preservation of our village trees will be on-going and regularly checked but if anyone sees anything that needs attention please inform the Parish Clerk.

# Bus Report

By Christine Willetts  
Parish Council  
Transport  
Representative



The extra buses to and from town have been very well received in the village. The newly re-instated bus stops at Seven Star Green are also a great boon to the villagers living in that area, avoiding a long walk back from Wood Corner with heavy shopping bags and negotiating crossing Wood Lane and Halstead Road.

The Sainsbury's mini shopper bus on Monday mornings continues to be very popular with about 12 passengers a week on average. It has now been running for nearly 2 1/2 years! Time flies!

We also hire the bus for social outings—the latest one was Perrywoods garden centre in Tiptree followed by lunch at The Ship. A good time was had by all.

## No 88 Timetable: Monday to Friday

Brick & Tile to Colchester  
Earlier from Wood Corner  
(0756 School days only)  
(\*Spring Lane opp Walk)

0703	0724	0746	0741	0756	0811*	0841	0916
0941	1016	1041	1116	1141	1216	1235	1241
1316	1341	1416	1441	1516	1541	1616	1641
1741	1811	1859	1916	2014	2208	0001	

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	

## No 88 Timetable: Saturday

Brick & Tile to Colchester  
Earlier from Wood Corner  
\* indicates Spring Lane  
opposite The Walk

0741	0815	0841	0916	0941	1016	1041	1044*
1116	1141	1216	1235	1241	1316	1341	1416
1441	1516	1541	1616	1641	1716	1741	1821
1918	2018	2208	0001				

From Colchester Bus  
Station to EAG  
\* indicates via Spring Lane  
& the Cricketers

0645	0735	0810	0840	0910	0940	1010	1040
1110	1140	1200	1210	1240	1300	1310	1340
1410	1440	1510	1540	1610	1640	1710	1740
1810	1850	2040	2240				

## No 88 Timetable: Sunday

Brick & Tile to Colchester

1003	1203	1403	1603	1803	2003	2203	
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	--

From Colchester Bus Stn

0848	1048	1248	1448	1648	1848	2048	2248
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# All Saints Church

## Eight Ash Green

**10-Nov 10.45am  
17-Nov 11.15am  
01-Dec 11.15am  
08-Dec 3.00pm  
15-Dec 11.15am  
22-Dec 6.30pm  
24-Dec 11.15pm**

**Remembrance Service  
All Age  
Communion  
Time to Remember  
Christingle  
Lessons and Carols  
Carols by Candlelight**



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a trip to  
Perrywoods  
Nurseries & the  
Shop at Tiptree.



If anyone is interested in setting-up a Neighbourhood Watch for their road, street, or part of the village, then please do get in touch with me. I can help you get started by giving you the relevant contacts.

[susan.greenwold@colchesterborough.com](mailto:susan.greenwold@colchesterborough.com)



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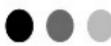
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# Eight Ash Green Music Festival and Fun-day

## Richard Brown - Chairman



Fantastically, brilliant, the sun shone, the crowds came and the music was awesome, 2013 was a good year for the festival. Massive thanks go to the huge, year long, effort of the committee, the support of Matt and his staff at The Cricketers, our main sponsors, the local businesses who advertised in the programme and therefore supported the festival, the musicians and the arena events. Sincere thanks also go to the people who helped set up the marquees and took them down and cleared up the heath so that on the Monday morning you wouldn't have known a festival had taken place, also Colchester Skip Hire who give their services free for the weekend, I could go on and I am sorry if I have not mentioned someone. However, the main thank you goes to the people of Eight Ash Green and everyone who came and supported us. We made a significant amount of money this year all of which will be ploughed back into making 2014 just as good as this year.

**The 2014 music festival will be held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2014 so put it in your diaries as without your support we couldn't continue.**



## Eight Ash Green & Fordham Heath Open Gardens - Sunday 15th June 2014

We are planning to hold an Open Gardens event in Eight Ash Green and Fordham Heath in June 2014.

Unfortunately the event had to be cancelled this year, but we are determined that Open Gardens will go ahead in June 2014, when the flowers are in glorious bloom.

We hope that a goodly number of villagers will agree to open their gardens on the afternoon of the 15th June, whether it be a small front garden, or rolling acres. Match this with the curiosity that many of us have to see the garden behind the wall or fence (in return for a small contribution to a well-known charity) and it should be an enjoyable afternoon. We have in mind running a gardens photographic competition for the younger generation.

We need a small group of volunteers to ensure the event is well planned. If you are interested, please contact Cllr Dennis Willetts on 240314.

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# Play Area Proposals -An Update on progress-

By Parish Councillor Andrew Cook



We submitted the application for a new children's play area on Fordham Heath back in April of this year. This was followed by a consultation period.

The Government Planning Inspectorate have been in contact to ask a series of follow up questions and seek clarification on a number of issues raised in letters of representation they have received.

The Planning Inspector has also advised that he would like to conduct a site visit, which will be late January 2014. Such a long wait is clearly disappointing but the Parish Council continues to press for an earlier date and remain hopeful that a cancellation slot will become available.

Updates will be posted on the website [www.eightashgreen.com/update-of-the-play-area-project/](http://www.eightashgreen.com/update-of-the-play-area-project/)

## Village Heating Oil Syndicate



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.

The success of the syndicate depends on us banding together to put in bulk orders to obtain the best price. Typically our latest price was 2p per litre cheaper than the next best price.

To date we have collectively ordered in excess of 45,600 litres. If you are in need of heating oil in the future, why not join the syndicate rather than going it alone?

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

**Youth Group Report:** The youth group for 10 to 16 year old boys and girls is held in the village hall on Wednesday evenings and has been running for over three years. Dates and times and activities are displayed on the village Website - [eightashgreen.com](http://eightashgreen.com) and also on the village Notice boards.

We do however require assistance if the youth club is to continue running in the long-term, so we are appealing for any parent or adult interested in youth work, who would like to help out, if only for 2 hours a month.

The club has WII equipment for 4 players, Table Tennis, Pool and other activities including Essex association of Boy and Girl Club sponsored events which include outdoor activities.

If you require any further information ring Derek Franklin on 210959.



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.

## No parking on the grass verges around the Holiday Inn

The map shows the areas around the Holiday Inn roundabout where parking on the grass verge is now banned under an Order pursuant to the Essex Act 1987.

Fix Penalty Notices will be issued by CBC Parking Services to any offenders. For further information contact Cllr Dennis Willetts or Cllr Marcus Harrington.



# Report from Holy Trinity School

## From Heather Hann, Headteacher



We are having another busy term at Holy Trinity! Class 1 and 2 are learning all about Homes and Classes 3,4 and 5 are learning about Space through a topic entitled 'To Infinity and Beyond!'



Each year at Holy Trinity our Year 6 pupils write job applications for roles within our school. These include House Captains, who raise money for charity, Office PA, Games Captains, Snack Shop Assistants, Wildlife Assistants, Head Boy and Head Girl.

This year we are continuing to develop our distinctiveness as a church school. We have

therefore created two new posts for Year 6 Leaders of Worship. The photograph shows our new LOW and Head Boy and Head Girl who have written a few words to explain what they do:

**Head Boy and Head Girl** - We are the Head Boy and Girl of Holy Trinity and we lead the school council. In assemblies we set up the music and represent our school in different places.

**Leaders of Worship** - we are the LOWs and also Deputy Head Boy and Girl. We lead the welcome and dismissal in assemblies and help plan and lead parts of the worship including the prayers.

For details of school events or to find out more about your local village school please contact us or visit the school website [www.holytrinityeightashgreen.co.uk](http://www.holytrinityeightashgreen.co.uk)



# The Cricketers

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

Tel: 01206 240 666

[thecricketers06@btconnect.com](mailto:thecricketers06@btconnect.com)

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of Every Month  
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## News from Cllr Marcus Harrington

Many residents of Eight Ash Green will remember Mrs Joanne Crawshaw of Daisy Green who sadly passed away on 17th October. She was a former Parish Councillor and geography teacher at the Girl's High School. Since suffering a stroke in 2007 Mrs Crawshaw had lost her power of speech and benefitted hugely from the help she received from the Stroke Association who met at Abbotts Activity Centre. Local newspapers have reported how the battle to save Abbotts has finally been lost, but not before Cllr Willets and I joined forces with other Borough Councillors to oppose the eventual and heartless decision by Colchester Borough Council's cabinet to close the Centre. Mrs Crawshaw bravely attended the Council's meetings and I had the privilege of reading her submission for her, even mentioning her name in full Council the day before she died.

Sometimes major issues like Abbotts, the traffic ban in the High Street, the collection of food waste which begins week commencing 25th November, and so on can pre-occupy our time. Then when it comes down to Ward issues again you can be sure of one thing – it starts with rubbish, and poo in particular. So it comes as a major triumph, after several false starts, finally to see a new rubbish bin on Fordham Heath. Moving the underused dog poo bin from Seven Star Green to Fiddlers Folly is taking more perseverance, but the job is nearly done.

Plans for the development of new homes at the former railway sidings in Stanway are progressing. Iron Latch Wood is part of the plot and falls in our Ward. Walkers and bicycle riders will notice that work has begun in the Wood to improve it. In particular, ponds have been created to relocate the Great Crested Newts that were living in the sidings. So far, 350 newts have been moved. Further coppicing work will take place to establish a more healthy fauna and flora there. Although the Wood is privately owned, residents from Eight Ash Green and Stanway have become accustomed to using the Wood as a public amenity. I have continued to hold meetings to ensure this privilege is enshrined as a condition of the development.

There is some good news and some bad news for the long-suffering residents of the Holiday Inn roundabout area. The good news is that, due to the incisive work of my colleague Cllr Willets, the greenswards and verges are now protected from motorised vehicles and even bicycles being parked there. Notices to this effect are now displayed in the area. The bad news is that we will have to wait a little longer for the Resident's Parking Zone. After the previous time estimate expired I have pressed the matter with the Parking Partnership who have admitted that their officer gave misleading information. I am now promised that preparatory work will begin in November although implementation of the Zone will take a little longer. I shall continue to keep a strict watching brief on this matter, reporting monthly to the Parish Council, and keeping this issue to the fore in the Partnership's plans.



## Eight Ash Green Music Festival & Fun Day

Friday Evening 18th & Saturday 19th July 2014

Marcus will be bring his donkeys to the Fun Day, weather permitting

# Essex County Council Mobile Library

## Visits Eight Ash Green Village Hall 14.30 to 14.55



Nov: 5, 19

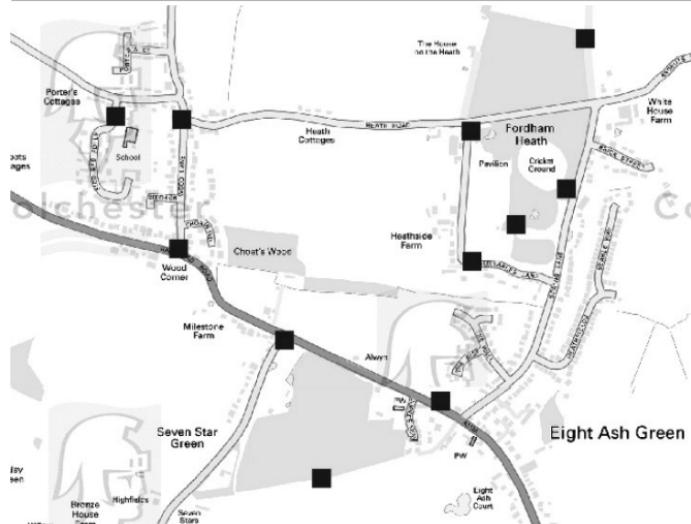
Dec: 3, 17

**Use it or lose it !**

**Where are the Dog Bins ?**

The map shows where we think the dog bins are located. Some of the bins seem to go for longer walks than the dogs.

If the map is incorrect, contact Cllr Dennis Willetts



### Essex Highways plan to switch off 70% of its street lights between midnight and 5am.

Exceptions would be made for town centres, areas with high crime, busy road junctions, and other areas where there is a good local reason. Trials in Maldon and Uttlesford since early 2007 showed no increase in recorded crime or road collisions.

Essex Highways are currently installing a WiFi device to all of its street lights that will allow each to be controlled individually from a central location.

In Eight Ash Green, many of the street lights are owned and operated by the Parish Council, which is carrying out a separate study on reducing energy costs.

Local communities are asked to identify any areas where the lights should be kept on over-night. Please e-mail your views to the Parish Clerk at [parish.clerk@eightashgreen.com](mailto:parish.clerk@eightashgreen.com).



# Food Waste News from Borough Councillor Dennis Willetts

Colchester Borough's new "Food Waste" weekly collection service is set to start in Eight Ash Green on 14th November 2013, but excluding flats and business premises.

During the week 4th to 8th November, the Borough Council will deliver food waste recycling kits to each home throughout the Village. For those of you who do not already compost your organic waste, the kit will make recycling all cooked and uncooked food quick and easy.

Each kit contains a roll of approved compostable kitchen bin liners and recycling information, a small 7 litre kitchen caddy and a large 23 litre external caddy. The kits will be delivered to your doorstep the week before each home's first collection, so residents can begin recycling straight away.

Collections of food waste will take place weekly on each resident's existing recycling and rubbish day. Adding food waste collections alongside existing rubbish collections will make it easy for residents to recycle more.

Five years ago, Colchester was at the top of the Essex league table for recycling rubbish and waste, and was 4th best in the whole of East Anglia. But in the intervening years, most other District and Borough Councils in the County have introduced food waste collections and other innovative recycling projects. Those Authorities have now leapt ahead of Colchester,



**Winter Garden  
Waste Recycling  
8 sacks from  
November  
until March**

leaving us languishing in 9th or 10th place (out of 13) in the Essex recycling league table, depending on how you do the statistics.

We hope that the introduction of food waste will see a marked improvement in recycling, and a corresponding decrease in rubbish sent to land-fill.

**Any last-minutes changes to the kit delivery date, or to the start of food waste collections, along with details of food waste that can be recycled, may be viewed at our website [www.colchesterborough.com](http://www.colchesterborough.com)**



# The Methodist Church



At Eight Ash Green Methodist Church we continue to meet regularly to praise God at 9.30am on a Sunday morning.

We also hold regular bible studies on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8pm, prayer time on a Monday morning from 9.30am-10am and a variety of social and fundraising events. More details of these can be found on the notice board outside the church.

For the ladies, our Monday club meets every other Monday at 7.30pm and has a full programme of events. Details can be obtained from Audrey Flutter on 542757.

At the beginning of September we were pleased to host a 60's evening, where many were able to dance the night away. Look out for our January Jazz evening too which will take place on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 8pm until late!

Christmas is approaching and as ever in the Christian Church this is a time of great celebration as we remember the birth of Jesus as evidence of God's everlasting love. It always seems to me very symbolic that at the darkest time of the year we remember the coming of Jesus, light of the world and as the days begin to lengthen once again, so the light of Jesus can strengthen and inspire us too. If you would like to be part of these celebrations, we will be holding a carol service on 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 6.30pm and a Christmas morning service at 10am. Ladies Monday club will have their carol service on 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm and there will be a Christmas Coffee Morning on 7<sup>th</sup> December from 10.30am – midday.

Please feel free to join us at any of our events and services. More details on the Church notice board or from Revd Ruth Ridge, tel: 01206 242183 or e-mail [ruthkr ridge@gmail.com](mailto:ruthkr ridge@gmail.com).

## EAG PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



**ANDREW COOK** has been co-opted on to the Parish Council. Andrew leads on the Parish Council's childrens' playground project. Professionally, he is one of the Country's leading experts on environmental and economic strategy



## If you go down to the woods today You're sure of a big surprise.

Planning permission was given in 2006 for the development of 12 houses on former Church land (now Jubilee Meadow) and for the three houses on the opposite side of Blind Lane. In return, the Developer and the Church Board covenanted with the Borough Council to allow members of the public to have unrestricted and unhindered access without charge to the Church Woodland. A Woodland Scheme would be implemented for the future good management of the wood,

The wood is the last remnant of 12 acres of historic woodland first referred to in manorial records of 1793 as "Blind Bullbecks" when purchased by a William Firmin of Fordham, hence the name of the adjacent public footpath, Blind Lane.

The wood was given to a Church Trust by the local benefactor Mrs Searle in the late 1890s. The mature trees in the wood are covered by the Borough Council's Tree Preservation Order 20/93.

The Church has appointed Bill Roberts as a volunteer Ranger to manage the Woodland on a part-time basis.

Bill said "I will ensure that there is an appropriate balance between those parts of the wood which are to be left natural to encourage wildlife, and the glades and the paths through the wood for the enjoyment of the local community. The fencing and boundaries will be properly maintained. I will liaise with the Borough Council in regard to management of trees covered by the Tree Preservation Order."

Ranger Bill has also been asked by the Borough Council to investigate and report any misuse of the woodland, particularly fly-tipping or the depositing of unauthorised waste not originating from within the woodland.

If you have any suggestions about the management of the woodland, please do not hesitate to contact Bill directly.

Bill Roberts, tele 07761 570 454, Email: [ranger.bill@colchesterborough.com](mailto:ranger.bill@colchesterborough.com)

# Parish Plan & Village Design Statement Group

## Consulting on the future of the Village Newsletter Editorial Team

Contact us on 01206 248628,  
Email: [eagpp@ColchesterBorough.com](mailto:eagpp@ColchesterBorough.com)  
Website: [eagpp.colchesterborough.com](http://eagpp.colchesterborough.com)



**John Allcock**  
Chairman

**Steve Brown**  
Secretary

**Keith Winterbourne**  
Treasurer

**Dennis Willetts**  
Press Officer

**Jenny Jones**  
Committee

**Marcel Horst**  
Committee

**Great news!** Not only did the Parish Council approve the final draft (no 14) of the Village Design Statement way back in July, but subsequently we made a presentation to the Local Plan Committee of Colchester Borough Council on 25<sup>th</sup> September and they also gave their approval, commending the VDS Team on producing an “excellent document”.

Following a meeting with the printers on 14<sup>th</sup> October, the VDS is on course for publication and distribution and we will ensure every household in the village receives a hard copy. It will, of course, also be placed on the EAG website [www.eightashgreen.com](http://www.eightashgreen.com)

**PLEASE** take time to read what is your Village Design Statement. Even if you are not personally planning to undertake any building work in the immediate future, there is a lot of interesting information there including details about the history of EAG, a description about the “Character of our Village” and some curious facts about our two Village Greens. And if you are considering alterations to your property, we strongly suggest you read Section 16. “The Future”.

Finally, on your behalf, may I take this opportunity to congratulate all the members of what is your EAG Village Design Statement Team for all their hard work and dedication over the past two years.

# CHRISTMAS TREES

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# LOOK



**Bluebell Pre-school has opened in Fordham Heath.**

Would you like your child to attend this outstanding pre-school?

Would you like your child to have fun while learning?

Would you like your child to be prepared for school life?

Then look no further – bring them along to  
Bluebell Pre-school at Holy Trinity School, Fordham Heath.

Available sessions:

Tuesday 9.15am – 3.15pm

Wednesday 9.15am – 3.15pm

Thursday 9.15am – 12.15pm

**For further details please call Jackie Leach 01206 241677**



# EAG Village Speedwatch

Anthony C Robin  
Spring Lane, 01206 571910  
anthony\_robin@hotmail.com

Many readers will know that Eight Ash Green has a Speed-watch Group. This is a group of volunteers, trained by the police to use an approved radar speed device. Members monitor the speeds of the traffic. Any motorist exceeding a threshold speed has their vehicle details written down, with time and date, and this is passed to Essex Police. The keeper of the vehicle will then receive a letter from the Police asking them to obey the speed limits in future. The Police state "Persistent high violators will be targeted by Essex Police resulting in prosecution."

Many people have been concerned about the speed of traffic along the A1124, Halstead Road, and Spring Lane in particular. When I came here the road was labelled A604 to Cambridge, and this is still the shortest, and often the quickest, route to Cambridge, despite the authorities trying to direct such traffic on the A120 & M11. Lorries and other large vehicles can be particularly intimidating where the footpaths are so narrow. Most of these vehicles are not exceeding the speed limit, but even then they create frightening turbulence.

The rail company paints yellow lines on the platform, to separate people from the trains. Most of our footpaths are not wide enough to allow such a gap. Many people also complain about the skip lorries. Again most of these are within the limit, but when we went at 6 am on September 30th, the first one we saw was doing 44 mph, in a 30 mph limit! Miraculously all the others were within the limit.

Many also travel too fast in Spring Lane, and with the hill, bend, and many drives with restricted views, including the Village Hall, this is also potentially dangerous. One resident reported to me that their cat had been killed by a speeding and hit-and-run driver. It could easily be a child or an old person next time!

If you are a motorist who regularly speeds and thinks we are a nuisance, I would just ask you to do a simple experiment. Try driving within the speed limit and see how much longer it takes. Inevitably we have to slow for junctions and traffic lights, so the actual maximum speed has a surprisingly small effect on total journey time.

**If you would like to join us, please let me know, so that you can receive the police training. Once trained, members can join in this valuable community service, making our village safer.**

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100

**Girlguiding UK**  
girls in the lead

## 1st Eight Ash Green Brownies

Since the last newsletter we have been busy taking part in a Bear Challenge. We visited Sainsburys and have been learning about bears from around the world. This autumn we have taken part in the Colchester North Division Handicraft show, we created a collage of hibernating animals using natural materials. Following on from the handicraft show we have made our very own toffee apples and learnt about constellations with our wonderful young leaders.

Coming up is the Big Brownie Birthday and we are making lots of big plans! In addition to celebrating the 100th birthday of the Brownie section, 1st Eight Ash Green Brownies will also be celebrating their 50th birthday in February 2014. We are hoping to hold a celebration so if you were previously involved with the unit please do get in touch with us using the email address [eagbrownies50th@outlook.com](mailto:eagbrownies50th@outlook.com).

Rebecca Tolfrey and all the Eight Ash Green Brownies wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Based on the much-renovated premises of the former Ashcroft Rest Home in Halstead Road, Progressive Mews is a Residential Service for Adults with special needs, including complex health needs and behavioural difficulties.



The service has a homely environment divided into three areas, Acorn House, Blossom House and The Oaks. Acorn House has been extensively refurbished creating accommodation for five people to a very high standard. At a later stage Blossom House and The Oaks will be extensively refurbished and remodelled providing accommodation for seven and four people respectively, again, to a very high standard.

We provide person centred support to individuals to help them maximise their full potential. The support needed may include daily living skills, educational and leisure pursuits. As part of this process we will set small achievable steps towards greater independence.

Residents are encouraged to participate in all aspects of the running of the service wherever possible. This is achieved by forming a residents committee who in turn will elect representatives.

All staff will receive a thorough induction, ongoing training, development and supervision to enable them to provide an excellent service to all residents. It is vitally important that all staff show empathy, understanding and patience whilst maintaining dignity and respect at all times.



**ST TERESA OF LISIEUX  
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
LEXDEN**

# **Christmas Masses**

## **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

**4<sup>th</sup> of Advent**

Masses: Sat: 6.30pm (St John's)  
Sun: 9.00am (St Teresa's)  
11.00am (St Teresa's)

## **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

**Christmas Eve**

Mass: 10.00am (St Teresa's)  
Confessions: 11am – noon (St Teresa's)

## **First Mass of Christmas**

6.00pm Family Mass (St Teresa's)  
Carols 10.00pm (St Teresa's)  
Mass: 10.30pm (St Teresa's)

## **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

**Christmas Day**

Mass: 10.00am (St Teresa's)  
There is no evening Mass today

## **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December**

Mass: 10.00am (St Teresa's)

## **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December**

**Feast of the Holy Family**

Masses: Sat: 6.30pm (St John's)  
Sun: 9.00am (St Teresa's)  
11.00am (St Teresa's)

# **Karen Chamberlain Garden Design**

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**email:** [info@karenchamberlain.co.uk](mailto:info@karenchamberlain.co.uk)



We take thousands of unwanted bikes, parts and tools from the UK and send them to our trusted project partners in Africa. As a small charity we simply could not function without the hard work of our fabulous team of volunteers. Due to our increased success we are busier than ever and need more help.

### **Could you spare a few hours to help us?**

We urgently need people to help us to prepare bikes for shipping in our Colchester warehouse.

**If you would like to help then please call us on 01206 841268 or visit our website: [www.re-cycle.org](http://www.re-cycle.org)**

Thank you

Unit 2 Gunfleet Business Park, Brunel Way, Colchester CO4 9QX, Tel: 01206 841268  
Email: [info@re-cycle.org](mailto:info@re-cycle.org) [www.re-cycle.org](http://www.re-cycle.org) Registered Charity No. 1063570



### **Maintaining the village ditches in good order**

Derek Franklin, Chairman of the Ditch Working Group

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 has dramatically changed the responsibility for flood prevention. The County Council now has responsibility for the producing a risk assessment for flooding, in conjunction with the District & Borough Councils. The Act reinforces the requirements that any construction work affecting ditches requires Planning Consent.

The Parish Council has powers under the 1936 Health Act to deal with ditches that constitute a public health problem.

The Parish Council has convened a Ditches Working Group. We will be carrying-out a regular series of inspections. We will annotate the Parish map with those ditches that we consider essential for good drainage around the village, and identify any that are over-grown, blocked, impeded, or otherwise a public nuisance or hazard to health.

Any infringements will be formally considered by the Parish Council. The Parish Clerk will write to the owner of the ditch, presenting our findings.

If the owner fails to complete necessary remedial work within a reasonable length of time, the Parish Council will refer the complaint to the Borough Council, County Council or Environment Agency, as appropriate. Where that ditch is a hazard to public health, the Parish Council is empowered to carry-out immediate remedial work and re-charge the full cost to the landowner.



# Cricket Club News Richard Parker, President

EAGCC 1st XI on Saturday gained promotion in the Two Counties league allowing the Development XI to play on Saturdays next year too. On Sundays both the 1st XI and Pirates XI enjoyed themselves, played some great cricket and ended up mid-table in the Piri League.

The Women's XI competed well and the Youth Section ran five teams all of which enjoyed themselves in this summer's sunshine. We hosted a Youth tournament that was well supported by local primary schools.

EAGCC once again enjoyed the support of Jack Petchey fund and this year achieved the highly regarded Clubmark status. This shows that our club is managed to the highest standards especially with regard to youth players.

Off the field finances remain strong despite steadily increasing costs. Club members raised nearly two thousand pounds for cancer charities – a fantastic achievement for a small sporting club.

EAGCC is in excellent shape. We always welcome new members – playing and non-playing - and anyone interested should visit our web site at [www.eagcc.com](http://www.eagcc.com).



## Eight Ash Green Scout Group Richard Hudson, Group Scout Leader [01206 841746, eag.scoutgroup@btinternet.com](mailto:01206 841746, eag.scoutgroup@btinternet.com)

Our Cubs and Scouts are both enjoying a fun packed program , the cubs have been out and about and have surveyed Chip Shops in Colchester. if you want to know who was best you will need to talk to our Cub Pack !!. They would be pleased to welcome you if you are between 8 and 10.5

The Scouts have been out on the Woodland Trust area, enjoying the last few weeks of daylight evenings, but dark nights never stop our Scouts. They gear up and keep going !!. If you enjoy being outdoors and would like to join our Scouts please contact us.

Beavers are having a rest until January when we are re launching our Colony, we will have capacity for Boys and Girls aged 6-8 to join us, and we already have some places booked so please contact us.

As a Group we are always pleased to welcome Adults to join in the FUN, and we do have as much fun as the young people, we have recently heard from someone who is going to work with the Beavers, we would like more adults in all our sections.

If you don't fancy working with the young people perhaps you can help us with some fundraising , admin , or general support to our sections,

We would like to contact anyone who has been involved in our Group , be it as a beaver cub or Scout or as an adult volunteer as we would like to invite you to an event were we can talk over old times, have a look at your photos and let you know our plans for the group and our proposed new HQ. We really would like to explore the history of Eight Ash Green Scout Group



# Focus on Burglary

Traditionally burglaries increase at this time of year so we are asking people not to give thieves a chance. Sometimes, you can beat the burglars by taking just a few simple steps:-

1. Make your home safe and secure by fitting 5 lever mortice locks on external doors and for all other doors and windows fit secure locks.
2. It is most important to take extra care when locking up particularly with regard to UPVC doors. Lift the handle and lock the door with the key.
3. When you leave your property remove keys from locks and place them out of sight.
4. With the nights drawing in, make your property look occupied at all times by using automatic light timer and you might want to consider installing external lighting, especially now that street lights are going to be turned off by councils in some areas.
5. Nowadays burglars break into properties to steal car keys so avoid leaving car keys near a door or window and lock your car in a garage or behind a locked gate if possible.

**REMEMBER:** Burglars have no boundaries, and could be operating in your area at any time. Stay vigilant, stay secure and stay safe!

**REMEMBER:** You can attempt to beat the burglars by taking just a few simple steps. We do have plenty of crime prevention advice on our website at [www.essex.police.uk](http://www.essex.police.uk) or by contacting your local Crime Prevention Officer Stephen Arsmson-Smith, tel: 101 ext: 430386.

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.

**January - The History of Weather**

**February - Family History**

**March - Lavenham, Dedham and the Cloth Trade**

For more information, phone our secretary, Mrs Judith Rose, 01206 240426, or just come on the night.

**the WI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

# 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
Andrew Cook, Parish Councillor	07584 218280
Leon Coombs, Parish Councillor	07526 743634
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
Anthony Robin, Speedwatch Coordinator	571910
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.