



SANDON TOPICS

Spring 2013 Newsletter from Sandon Parish Council

Website: www.sandon.info

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

The Annual Assembly of Sandon Parish Council will be held on Monday 29th April 2013 at 7.30p.m. at Sandon Village Hall. Representatives from various organisations will be on hand to give parishioners help and advice including Chelmsford City Councillor John Galley, Cabinet Member for Finance, Derek Stebbing, Planning Policy Manager Chelmsford City, Councillor Bob Shepherd Chelmsford City Council. Do come along as this is your chance to have your say. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN, IAN WRIGHT

I would like to thank you all for the support and help given to me over the past 16 years whilst I have served on your Parish Council, latterly in the role of Chairman. It is with great regret that I have made the decision to resign from the Parish Council after the Annual Assembly on the 29th April, as I feel it is time to hand over the reins to a member of our Parish with fresh ideas and who will help keep our Quality Parish Council as one of the most respected Councils within the City of Chelmsford area. I will continue to serve as a City Councillor for the Danbury, Little Baddow and Sandon Wards and will therefore be in a position to fully support the residents of Sandon and your Parish Council. (My telephone and e-mail will remain the same). Your Parish Council plays a very important role in ensuring that your environment is protected: helping to prevent indiscriminate development in the Parish, and to coordinate the views of our residents regarding many issues that need to be brought to the notice of other authorities. To carry out the duties expected of a Parish Council, members do need the full support of their parishioners and new volunteers are needed who are prepared to devote time and energy into taking our authority to a more proactive and professional level. It is **your** Parish and in your own interest, please make that extra effort to get involved. **We will therefore shortly have a vacancy – if you are interested, please give any of the Parish Councillors or the Clerk, Sue Dobson a call or an email and they will be very happy to give you a good idea of what is involved.**

SANDON OPEN GARDENS IN AID OF FARLEIGH HOSPICE

Once again the annual Open gardens will be held on Sunday 19th May 2013. There will be at least 16 gardens open, with a barbecue on the village green and at 3p.m. the Chelmsford Morris Dancers will be giving a performance introduced by the new Mayor of Chelmsford Councillor Trevor Miller. There will also be a display of classic/vintage cars at Butts Green. Do come along and join in the fun to support this worthwhile cause even if you don't want to visit the gardens.

HIGHWAYS

Highway issues give rise to more complaints to our Council than any other; these range from potholes, general state of the roads, parking, speed limits and drivers travelling at speeds which are excessive to road conditions. It must be understood that the Highway Authority is Essex County Council and despite our constant efforts to solve problems and seek improvements that would improve highway safety, it always proves to be a long and very frustrating procedure to get ECC to act in a positive manner. Your Chairman has personally requested site visits on many occasions to try to seek solutions but such requests **either go unanswered or are refused**. Recently a new Chelmsford Highways Panel, chaired by the Leader of Chelmsford City Council has been formed. Cllr Ian Wright is a member of this Panel and we hope that some progress will now be made to clear up problems within our Parish. Unfortunately every scheme for improvements has to be the subject of a new report for the Panel to consider. Cllr Wright has already submitted two schemes for the Panel to consider regarding improvements in Hulls Lane and the parking problems in Brook View, Sandon. Other schemes being prepared are regarding the Protected Lane known as Sporhams Lane and the present "T" junction of East Hanningfield Road with Southend Road (Old A130). We will continue with our efforts to improve the problems caused by irresponsible parents parking near Sandon School.

ALLOTMENTS

The allotment site has been a cause for concern for some time as the allotment holders have been experiencing problems with vandalism and irresponsible dog walkers allowing their dogs to foul the allotments. We have now erected a fence with a locked gate at the front of the site and a fence to the rear. Unfortunately, there are still people who still consider it their right to clamber over the rear fence to gain access to the area, only to find that the gate at the front is locked. Please note that this area is private property and not a public footpath; the front gate will be locked at all times and request that people do not trespass on this site in future. On a more positive note, we now have an allotment free for rent; these allotments are available for those living in the parish only. If you would like more information, please contact the Clerk.

BEST KEPT GARDEN COMPETITION

Are you a keen gardener? Is your garden full of colour and interest? Chelmsford City Council and RHS Garden Hyde Hall are getting together to search for the best kept residential gardens maintained without professional help in the Chelmsford area. Entry is free and there are four categories, terraced house, semi-detached house, detached house and containers/ baskets. The winners of each category will win 2 tickets to the Hampton Court Flower Show (9 – 14 July) and other finalists will receive VIP tickets to the RHS Garden Hyde Hall Flower Show (1 – 4 August). To request a competition pack telephone the NEAT officer on 01245 606377 or download a form at www.chelmsford.gov.uk/neat.

REDUCING THE RISK OF CRIME

Spring is usually the time of year to tidy up the garden – here are some useful tips to reduce the risk of crime. Security-mark your gardening equipment and power tools by using an overt property marking system. Securely lock away your tools and use chains to secure ladders and wheelie bins when not in use as they could be used as climbing aids. Trellis can be an effective way of preventing burglars accessing your garden/property. They will add extra height to a fence or wall and will probably not support a burglar's weight. Prickly rose bushes, bushes and shrubs around vulnerable areas such as windows, fences and boundary walls will help deter burglars. How secure is your shed or garage – are the locks and windows in good repair? The garden shed, or out-building is more often easier to break into and, less likely to be alarmed. Sheds store garden tools, pedal cycles and other items. From the thieves perspective these items are usually small, lightweight and easier to make off with and can have a healthy second-hand value and can be quite sought after. Ensure items such as pedal cycles and lawn mowers are securely locked in the shed. Garden sheds should have a good quality pad bar (hasp & staple) and a close shackle padlock.

MEMORIES OF SANDON (Continued) by Alistair Woodcraft, Albany Australia

My interest in cricket began at a young age as father was a keen cricketer and played for the pre war village team most Saturdays, (any sport on a Sunday being considered nothing less than sacrilege then of course). The pre-war Sandon club fielded a strong team and I wonder how many older Sandon residents today can remember any of the pre-war members? Names such as Stanley Ward, Mr Leaf, the three Norton brothers, Reg and George Bush, Cyril Kemp, Stanley Cordell, Hughie Jones, and including my father Arthur Woodcraft and my older brother Max. Those were the days when a village team consisted of local members, not trendy 'blow ins' imported from afar just so the team could win more games. The club was disbanded at the outbreak of WW2 as were most others until the winter of 45 when father and I attended an interest meeting at Stanley Wards house and, together with Mr Leaf and Reg Bush, the five of us managed to revive the old club and once again battle royal against the surrounding villages resumed again on the playing field in front of the old Hut as it was called. What stories that old former WW1 army building could have told. Originally bought in 1919 for the grand sum of 50 pounds (old money) with funds raised locally by the Women's Institute to provide somewhere to hold meetings, just about everything that was anything took place in and around the Hut. The first time I can vaguely remember was in 1935 when celebrations and sports events on the playing field and food and dancing in the Hut took place for the Silver Jubilee of King George V and I well recall a small boy stuffing free ice cream most of the day and being spectacularly sick all over dad's car on the way home! Another big event for the hut was not long afterwards in 1937 when the village celebrated the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth with much merrymaking and dancing. Looking back now I am surprised the floor did not collapse under the weight of people crammed inside.

Other things that come to mind are the adventures I and my two best mates, Pat Saltmarsh (Woodhill Road) and Neal French (Mayes Lane) used to have, such as scrumping farmer Ketley's apples, and climbing (for a dare) the Holy Trinity Elm tree that grew next to the hump back bridge on the Woodhill Road. This was a village icon, a really big tree with three large trunks growing on an even more massive main trunk and climbing it was severely frowned on by adults and especially the ever watchful bike riding local plod PC Collis, who caught Pat and myself up it one late evening. After we had very reluctantly climbed back down we both collected a couple of heavy cuffs round the ears and a dire warning as to what would happen to us if he caught us again. However he was a good sport and 'forgot' to tell our parents. Another time we played a (very bad) joke on an old lady who lived on Butts Green lane. She had seen Neal and I taking a short cut through her large garden one day and told our parents which caused us both a bundle of trouble so we thought it would be a good idea to pay her back by creeping up to her front door one dark night and putting a lighted penny cracker in her front door keyhole. The resulting loud explosion frightened the life out of all concerned, and (as we later learnt), blew the heavy iron key along the hallway and through the kitchen door the other end! If she had been in that hallway..... Although we were never found out over that stupid prank no doubt dear old PC Collis had his suspicions but, boys will be boys in any age and children had to make their own fun in those pre -technological times. Still, I have to say I cannot remember youngsters of yesterday deliberately causing the senseless damage and vandalism seen in these times. If damage was caused it was nearly always accidental and unforeseen and the penalty from your parents if caught was immediate and severe. Those were not the days of the slap on the wrist.....

Other memories that come to mind are of the local personalities. Frank Smith from Graces Cross, who always turned up at church service on Sundays in a smart little pony and trap, the Speakmans, Bernard and Charles also farmers and both on the Woodhill Road. I can hear Bernard's bellow now which could be heard two miles away. I think he had been a RSM in the British Army in the First World War and time had not dimmed his voice.

Other folk were Frank Cordell who supplied fresh milk daily around the village in two large covered containers one on each handlebar of his old bicycle. Rumour had it that if he spotted the health inspector in the distance he would have a convenient 'accident', lose his balance thus spilling the milk hither and yon. A Mr Carter from Great Baddow who delivered oven warm bread to the door daily, as did Mr Copsey the butcher, also from Great Baddow I think. Village residents bought most of their daily requirements from the village shop next door to the forge. Bert Crow delivered the mail daily six days a week come hell or high water, and nurse Gotobed delivered the babies likewise, both by pedal power on their trusty bicycles, while Tom Knight, that mine of local information and scandal, swept the lanes and cut the grassy verges and kept the hedges neat and tidy and didn't need a tractor mounted hedge cutter to do it either. Another welcome sight for young palates was the Walls Ice Cream man. Once a week he would pedal his three wheeled bike with the big 'Stop me and Buy One' ice box in front, out from Chelmsford during summer doing a complete circuit of the Parish, bell ringing while selling his wares. The three cornered flavoured ice sticks costing a penny were all most parents could afford their kids, although sometimes a thrupenny cornet for a birthday maybe... Luxury!

To be continued in the next newsletter

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

The Council meets at 7.15p.m on the 2nd Monday of each Month at Sandon Village Hall and on alternate months at Howe Green Chapel. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

IAN WRIGHT – CHAIRMAN (CITY COUNCILLOR)

Farm Cottage
Sporhams Lane
Danbury CM3 2AJ
01245 226289
i.wright@chelmsford.gov.uk

SUE DOBSON - CLERK

Crack Willows, Mayes Lane
Sandon
CM2 7RP
01245 227734
parishclerk@sandon.info

DIANNE NEAL – VICE CHAIR

The Fold
Woodhill Road
Danbury CM3 4AL
01245 222330
dianne.neal@yahoo.co.uk

RON BULLUS

Rumbolds House
Hammonds Road
Sandon CM2 7RS
01245 473633
search@bullus.co.uk

MARTIN CROSS

Magrathea
East Hanningfield Road
Howe Green CM2 7T
01245 478275
xfamily@nildram.co.uk

DAVID PEARSON

9 Chalklands
Howe Green
CM2 7TH
01245 471589
david@pearson7.plus.com

SUZANNE RAMPTON

Willow Court
Butts Green Road
Sandon CM2 7RN
01245 223672
suzanne.rampton@tesco.net

RON ROBBIN-COKER

10 St Swithins Cottages
Howe Green
CM2 7TN
01245 476808
ronrobco@aol.com

CITY COUNCILLORS

CHRIS KINGSLEY
97 Main Road
Danbury
CM3 4DL
01245 223744
c.kingsley@chelmsford.gov.uk

BOB SHEPHERD
2 Chase Cottages
Riffhams Chase
Little Baddow CM3 4AU
01245 223709
b.shepherd@chelmsford.gov.uk

IAN WRIGHT
Farm Cottage
Sporhams Lane
Danbury CM3 4AJ
01245 226289
i.wright@chelmsford.gov.uk

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Chelmsford Borough Council
Police
Broomfield Hospital
Citizens Advice Bureau
Neighbourhood Watch
LOCAL ORGANISATIONS
Church Warden
Church Warden
Rector
Sandon Parish Council
Bell Ringers
St Andrews Youth Fellowship
77 Youth Club
Women's Institute
Sports Club
Garden and Allotment Association
Howe Green URC
Howe Green URC Elder
Village Hall Management Committee
Guides
Brownies
Scouts
Beavers
Mother and Toddler Group
Village Hall Bookings
Parish Magazine Editor
Sandon Tiny Tots Toddler Group
Chelmsford Rambling Club
Parish Council Newsletter

01245 606606
01245 491491 Ask for S Woodham Ferrers
01245 443673
0845 4040506
01245 471589

Mrs J Terry	01245	472997
Mr M Puffett	01245	222066
	01245	243863
Mrs S Dobson	01245	227734
Mr N Tovey	01245	472692
Mr P Ellis	01245	222682
Mr P Ellis	01245	222682
Mrs A Harvey	01245	474294
Mr G Lucas	01245	283730
Mrs E Tappin	01245	476951
Rev J Sermon	01245	601662
Mrs P Knott	01245	471691
Mrs J Cecil	01245	224747
Ms J Ronaldson	07939	047987
Mrs S Little	01621	840525
Mr N Paul	01245	474891
Mrs J Bernades	01245	476830
Mrs A Read	01245	474858
Mr S Turner	01245	471575
Mr N Bobeldijk	01245	471756
Mrs A Read	01245	474858
Ms S Cutmore	01376	326327
Mrs D Neal	01245	222330