Woodham Ferrers & Bicknacre Parish Council

Newsletter

Summer 2024

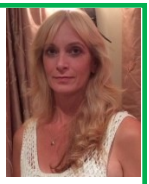


WOODHAM FERRERS & BICKNACRE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meet on the first Tuesday of each month; agendas are available on the website or notice boards or by contacting the clerk three days prior to each meeting. Members of the public are very welcome to attend meetings and may address the Council at the start of the meeting during the public session.

	Cllr Mary Shay—Bicknacre Ward—Chairman
	Cllr John Robins—Woodham Ferrers Ward
	Cllr Richard Poulter—Bicknacre Ward
	Cllr Albert Mair—Bicknacre Ward
	Cllr Paul Walton—Bicknacre Ward
	Cllr John Sharman—Woodham Ferrers Ward
	Cllr Angela Pumfrett
	Cllr Robert Webster
	Cllr Garry Blackshaw
	Miss Lucy White Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer clerk@woodhamferrersandbicknacre-pc.gov.uk Articles not written by the Parish Council are not necessarily the opinion of the Parish Council and they accept no responsibility for their content. Images supplied by Freepik.com

Clerk's Report – Lucy White



Vandalism
It is unfortunate to be opening my report with the title 'vandalism', but it is costing the taxpayer money. In the last three months, the Parish Council's handyman has invoiced £140.00 solely for repairs to Parish Council property damaged by vandals .

Mostly, this is affecting The Hooe in Bicknacre and examples are as follows:

- Removing the stickers from the ping pong table and attaching them to the skate ramp.
- Bin set alight on multiple occasions.
- Deliberate damage to the climbing net.
- A piece of fencing off the Hooe Trails fencing deliberately broken.
- Nearly the whole of the skate ramp area covered in smashed concrete.
- Glass bottles smashed on the skate ramp on multiple occasions.
- Glass bottles smashed in the teenage shelter.
- Not specifically vandalism, but having to pick up contraceptives, gas canisters etc is not the most pleasant of tasks.
- Again, not specifically vandalism, but the clear aroma of cannabis.

There are a few other examples, but clearing up and mending all these things costs time and money.

The Hooe Trails
On a happier note, the Hooe Trails is now OPEN! The jumps have been altered to ensure they are usable by a wider range of abilities (although I'm not sure I'd be able to negotiate any of them!).

There is a sign urging users to observe the following:

- Say NO to strangers
- Suitable safety clothing and helmets must be worn
- Small children should be supervised
- NO glass or litter
- NO dogs in the trails enclosure
- NO digging or alterations

Please let the Parish Council know your opinions of the new Trails by emailing me at:
clerk@woodhamferrersandbicknacre-pc.gov.uk

This Parish Council is committed to listening to the voice of residents; your views and suggestions for improvements are welcomed.

Woodham Ferrers Village Hall
I am pleased to report that when no one came forward to fill the vacancies for trustees at Woodham Ferrers Village Hall, the Parish Council agreed to become the 'Sole Managing Trustee'. This ensures the security of the hall. The existing committee remains committed to running the hall, demonstrating their devotion to the community. The Parish Council is very grateful.

Other Projects
The Parish Council has a few other projects underway, which will be progressed over the next few months: new changing rooms at Lodge Road, a new pavilion at Priory Field (working in conjunction with Danbury & Bicknacre Juniors), the purchase of additional land at Priory Fields, and more. Come along to the Parish Council meetings to find out more!

Enjoy the summer.

Lucy White, CiLCA
Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Community Speed Watch

Many of our parish residents complain about speeding vehicles through our rural villages. Speed is a danger for everyone using the roads and footpaths not just for motorists but cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians.

It takes just a split second of lapsed concentration where a driver or motor cyclist looks away from the road, reaches down or across to pick something up, is distracted by a mobile phone or just sees something in the sky or in a field and a crash can happen. Speed limits are there for a reason because crashing at 30 mph can result in a fatality if a vehicle hits a person at 40 mph it most probably will.

If two cars are in collision and are both travelling at 40 mph the impact speed is 80 mph and that will certainly result in dire consequences for all concerned.

Speeding is anti-social and dangerous. Our rural roads do not have pedestrian crossings where pedestrians can safely cross from one side to another; they must try and see when all is clear and as rural roads tend to have a lot of bends obscuring view, people must judge when it is OK to cross. If a car or motor cycle is speeding the pedestrian's judgement can be impaired because they believe that motorists will not be exceeding 30 mph.



Hopefully, motorists will slow down when passing horses so as not to scare the animals. Suddenly roaring past a horse could send it into a panic even if it is used to vehicles. If there is another vehicle approaching from the opposite direction and the speeding vehicle goes out wide to overtake there could be a head-on crash or a panicked animal could throw its rider and rush into the path of a totally innocent motorist.

I cannot believe the number of car drivers who still use their mobile phones while at the wheel despite many campaigns by the police to stop them. Hands-free devices and in-built systems on many vehicles mean that no one has an excuse for driving and holding a mobile. If you have not got a hands-free system and the phone rings – stop the car in a safe place, get out and return the call. Simple - it saves you from perhaps being involved in an accident, killing yourself or someone else or injuring them. Even if you are not involved in an accident, if you are caught the penalty is six 6 points and a hefty fine plus increased insurance premiums. The same goes for drinking and driving and nowadays more so the drug driving that appears more prevalent. I was a cop for 38 years and two years as an EMT with an ambulance service and have seen the devastation that speed, drinking and driving, drug driving and just being reckless behind the wheel can cause.



The speed limits in our residential areas are NOT minimum speeds but are the maximum which finer minds than mine have deemed to be safe.

Many urban areas are introducing 20 mph limits not for some arbitrary reason to slight the motorist but because of safety concerns.

When road conditions, through rain or factors restricting visibility, prevail that 30 mph should not be viewed as still the maximum safe speed, but every driver or rider should make their own risk assessment as to what is safe.

A lot of residents in our parish moan about the speeding on our local roads and many tell the CSW volunteers what time they should be doing their patrols and where—but far too few will actually volunteer an hour a week of their time to do something about it.

Yes, we do get some verbal abuse and gesticulations from some drivers but usually our volunteers laugh and feel sorry for those small minorities who cannot understand why we stand out in the cold or sun for an uncomfortable hour trying to save lives or prevent injuries.

When we started Community Speed Watch in our area motor bikes were often a problem but with a friendly wave and the odd assistance to them, we have found very little concern with motor cyclists more recently. The only speeding motor cyclists tend to be the younger generation who are still on "L" plates and believe they are invulnerable to injury – until they aren't. As an anecdote and not something we can condone such a learner did speed through a year or so back and was chased by several other motor cyclists who, of course, were then themselves speeding until they caught up with the learner and dealt out some summary and forceful advice about riding through our parish.

In July we spent just nine hours at the roadside recording 135 offences with an average speed of 38.5 mph and a high speed of 54 mph – a little lower than the month before.

If you would like to help and volunteer, the group meets at 7pm on the last Friday of each month in the back room of Woodham Ferrers Village Hall. Training and a coat are supplied through the Essex Fire & Rescue Service and Essex Police. We are a friendly bunch and are not all old and retired - some of us are still working full time and can still find the odd hour each week to make our roads safer. Be safe and careful.



WOODHAM FERRERS VILLAGE HALL

We are pleased to report that the Parish Council is now officially the Sole Managing Trustee for the Village Hall.

This has taken rather a long time to achieve but it is a requirement of the Charities Commission that the trustees(s) have to be named to enable the hall to function. The hall will still be managed by a separate committee of residents and the Parish Council does not become involved in the running of the hall, except if the Committee is disbanded and no more volunteers come forward. Our thanks go to the Parish Council for taking on this role.

The hall is still very busy and we have a waiting list of potential hirers. During the hall's yearly closure we have:

- Concreted the south entrance
- Removed the rear hedge and replaced with fencing
- Replaced the floor in the rear hall
- Replaced five of the original internal doors
- Carried out decoration in the main hall
- Cleared various areas and carried out minor repairs
- A new serving hatch shutter to the rear hall is also being fitted shortly.

We received some responses to our recent letter and this has given us great encouragement but please remember, we still need your input and help as there is always more to do, especially as this is a changing world and those who have been with us for a long time are not 'up to date' with things!

We meet every two months to discuss matters; our meetings, whilst run formally, are light-hearted with a drink and a laugh, so please think about joining us to keep us on our toes.

For bookings, please call 07906 587414 (leave a message if no reply) or email: wfvh@gmail.com

Website: www.wfvh.org.uk

Barbara Phillips—Chairman

I am writing this article on the 1st August during the heatwave which started the last week in July and looking at the weather forecasts recently we should be having heavy rain. I will probably regret saying this tomorrow.



Those who use the fields regularly will have noticed that we have raised the level of the footpath from the East Meadow into the East water Meadow [the path to the footbridge].

This is to try to remedy the wet area there during the winter when it was almost impassable.

Our friend Micheal Barltrop who rebuilt the collapsed bridge a couple of years ago brought us about 20 trailer loads of soil and then levelled/compacted it with his tracked digger all free of charge [Thanks Mike]. We then spread woodchip on it to stop it becoming sticky after rain. Let's hope it works.



The fields have looked great this year: we are seeing more and more wild flowers every year and the seeds from these will be spread shortly when the hay is cut and baled. Hopefully, this will be done by another friend, Alan Sheldrake by the time this is printed and delivered.

Unless we get some rain shortly the next work party will be using the water bowser to water the Jubilee trees planted two years ago. We replaced some which were lost last summer due to the hot weather and 95% of them look healthy if a little dry.

The orchard is looking good, we have thinned the fruit on the trees as groups of apples tend to rot when growing close together, don't be tempted to pick any early as most won't be ready until late September and please only take one or two to eat as you walk as we seem to find a tree stripped overnight of apples by someone picking bags of them.



Sadly we have to report vandalism again, this time to the flag pole where the lock has been ripped off and the Green flag taken. This happened a week after the Football club suffered goal posts being uprooted [same group?] Please all who use the fields, keep an eye open for anything suspicious and if you feel something is wrong use your phone at a distance to record it. We can zoom and enhance any pictures and all info will be confidential. We can ill afford the repairs we have to make every year due to bad behaviour. We do have covert wildlife cameras in operation on the fields but can't cover 30 odd acres fully. Let's hope that the people who do harm over there, next time pick one of the areas covered as we move them regularly.

Green Flag Award® Community

Living Landscapes Award The Wildlife Trusts ESSEX Wildlife Trust Winner

As usual we are still asking for volunteers for our work parties and on our committee,. If anyone is early retired or still working and wants a hobby which benefits the whole community, please get in touch, or just turn up, the dates are on the Priory Fields notice board in the car park. You will be made most welcome.

Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre Neighbourhood Watch

Home security

If you are leaving your home for an extended period always ensure that you have locked all doors and windows securely. In addition, it is also important to check that all doors on outbuildings, such as sheds are locked, and that any garage doors are also secured. Any infringement may cause problems in claiming on your insurance policy, something which would be very unwelcome after a relaxing break.

Summertime Driving

This is the time for many of us to use our cars for recreational purposes so it is most important that we ensure that if the police decide to stop us the safety of our vehicle cannot be faulted. It is most important that tyres are legally correct i.e. that tyres on the same axle are of the same make and tread type. Any infringement can lead to a sizeable fine - not welcome at any time. In addition, a tyre which has visible signs of wear such as splitting around the outside/inside rim or lacking in tread means that it should be replaced as it is dangerous for higher speeds on motorways or dual carriageways.

Latest Scams

QR Codes—Criminals are experts at impersonating people and organisations we trust, such as the police, your bank, a delivery or utility company. They spend hours researching you for their scams, hoping you'll let your guard down for just a moment.

Our Chelmsford Police Force has sent out a warning that fraudsters have now worked out how to manipulate QR codes in order to perpetrate crime. It would appear that codes printed on paper can be modified causing infiltration into what we, as customers intend to happen. So, it is recommended that we do not trust QR codes unless there is a certainty that they come from a known and trusted source. If you are uncertain contact the issuer by their email and request reassurance by asking for an email copy – better safe than sorry.

Vandalism

It has come to our attention that incidents of vandalism have been on the rise within the confines of the villages, usually where property appears to be unkept – damage to windows on empty houses has been apparent around Bicknacre. There may be other problems too.

Use 101 to report any non-urgent incidents, non-urgent criminal activity that has been committed where the perpetrators are not present, or other incidents. NOTE: if phone lines have a long wait time, use **Report Online.**

To report non-live crime, non-serious road traffic incidents, non-threatening anti-social behaviour, etc., use the Essex Police website, select the appropriate topic from the list available, complete the template with all relevant information and submit the form. https://www.essex.police.uk

nhwbicknacrewf@yahoo.co.uk

Tel 226438

Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome

I am very pleased to confirm that after a great deal of pressure by the aerodrome, neighbouring businesses and supporters of Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome the Essex and Suffolk Water roadworks in Hackman's Lane have been halted and the associated diversions removed. Although there is now full access to the aerodrome and museum the damage has, of course, already been done and the small contingent of staff and the Charity's dedicated volunteers are working hard in an attempt to recover the income lost during the period of the roadworks, which at the present time amounts to a figure in excess of £30,000.

The Charity has been overwhelmed by the level of support that it has received during this extremely difficult and stressful period from our existing supporters as well as those living in the local surrounding villages, including Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre. It has been a real boost to know that we have this support. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has visited the aerodrome and museum, donated to our crowd -fund appeal or advocated on our behalf. A particular thanks to your Parish Council for its generous support by way of a grant to enable the purchase of some much-needed embroidered logo clothing for our volunteers, all purchased from a local supplier.


Volunteers wearing their new liveried tops

Our work to recover from the impact of the roadworks and its aftermath continues. We have met with Essex County Council and Northumbrian Water, the parent company of Essex and Suffolk Water, and this dialogue is ongoing at the present time. The roadworks may have gone, for the time being, but we still need your help. If you are able to do so please visit us and continue your support, including the sharing of our social media posts. The Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome museum, Airman's Mess Café and shop are open each Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10am until 4pm. We also have a number of events planned during the course of the next few months. For more information about the museum, the programme of events or how to make a donation please visit our website www.stowmaries.org.uk.

Thank you.

Martyn Gill
Chair of Trustees
Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome
chairman@stowmaries.org.uk

DANBURY & VILLAGES ROTARY

LATEST NEWS

Open to all, our club was formed just over three years ago and we are going strong – but always wishing to have more members.

BRAs

This has been a successful project in support of the Lady McAdden Breast Screening Trust. Many bags of donated bras have been delivered to LMBST by our members to raise funds. Thank you for helping us.



BIKES, BIKES and more BIKES

The demand by asylum seekers is constant for bikes of all sizes. Please contact me on 079321 54061, preferably by WhatsApp, and if possible, please send photos and then I can arrange collection.

TWINNING

As part of Rotary International ideal, recently six members of our club visited the Rotary Club of Backnang in Germany to successfully discuss the possibility of twinning our two clubs. Twinning with other clubs brings about the opportunity to pool resources and extends the ability of clubs to take part in more major projects.

A great time was had by our members thanks to the fantastic hospitality of the Rotarian hosts.

AIMS OF ROTARY

One aim of Rotary is to welcome to the club like-minded people ***who would like to help others***. As a young club we look forward to more people, both men and **women** to join us. So please regard this as an open invitation to join us to help with the good work that we do.

MEETINGS

We meet on Wednesdays 7 for 7:30 pm, when we enjoy good food and friendship and importantly a giggle!

If you would like attend as a guest to find out more about us, please give us a call and we can arrange the rest. We will be delighted to meet with you.

CONTACT

For up-to-date information on what we are planning or we have been up to, please visit our Facebook page:

Website: https://www.facebook.com/danburyandvillagesrotary

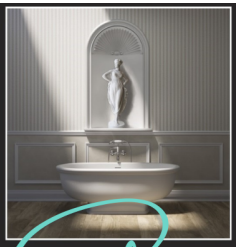
email: info@danburyandvillagesrotary.co.uk

Keep safe and well.

Soroush Ebrahimi - Mobile/WhatsApp 079321 54061

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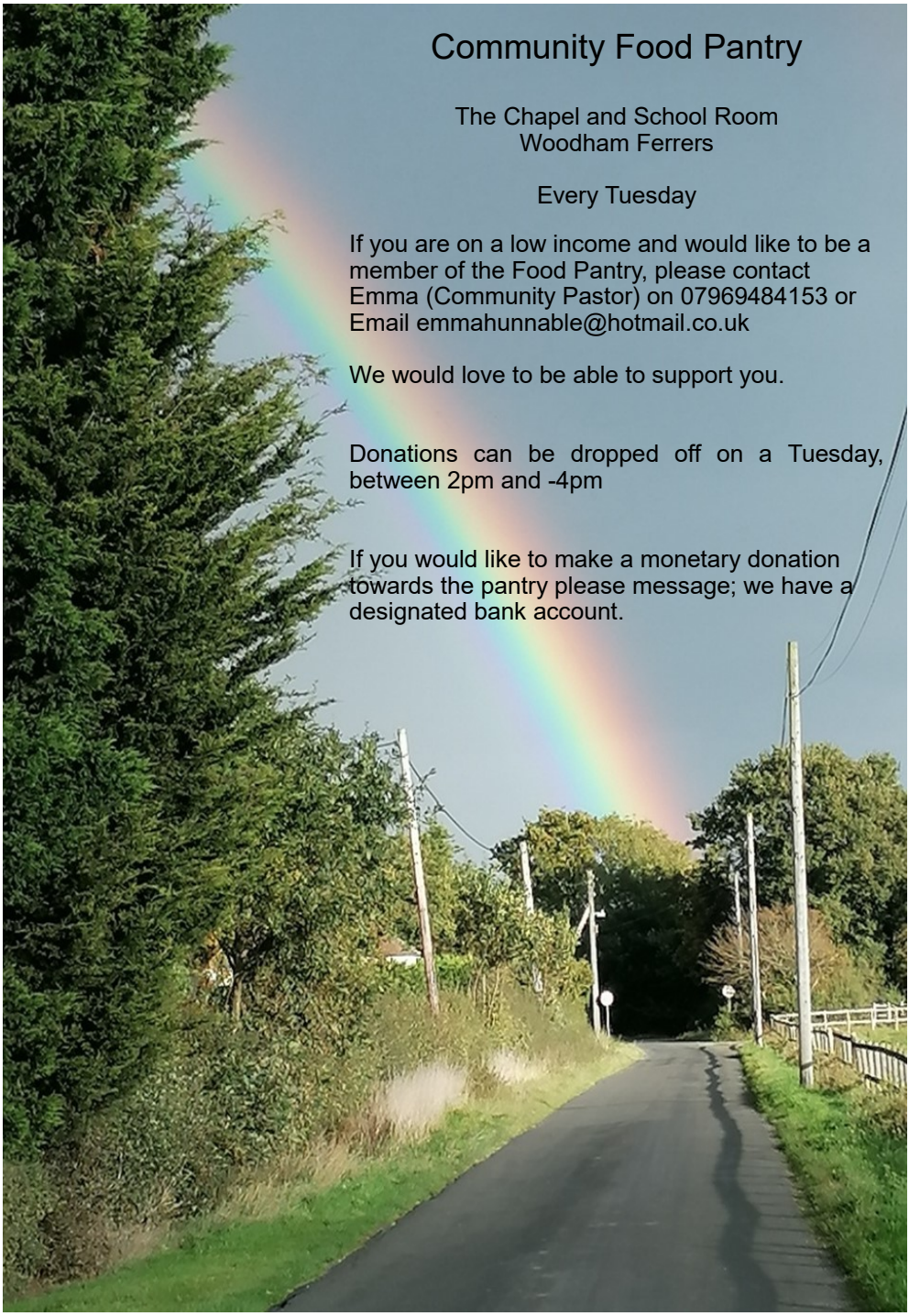
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Community Food Pantry

The Chapel and School Room
Woodham Ferrers

Every Tuesday

If you are on a low income and would like to be a member of the Food Pantry, please contact Emma (Community Pastor) on 07969484153 or Email emmahunnable@hotmail.co.uk

We would love to be able to support you.

Donations can be dropped off on a Tuesday, between 2pm and -4pm

If you would like to make a monetary donation towards the pantry please message; we have a designated bank account.





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in batter	£1.50
Saveloy	£1.40
Fish Cake	£2.00
Pancake Roll	£2.20
Chicken Nuggets	£2.25
Roe	£2.20
Burger	£2.00
with cheese	£2.20
Chicken Burger	£2.50
with cheese	£2.70
Scampi	£4.35
Chicken 1/4 breast	£3.95

FISH

Cod	£5.50 or £6.50
Rock	£6.50
Skate	£6.00 or £7.00
Haddock	£6.00 or £7.00
Plaice	£7.00

Kids Meals

Nuggets x4 £2.60 x6 £3.25
Fish Bites £3.50
Sausage £1.75 in batter £1.85
Fish Cake £3.00



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