

# **Barnston Parish Council**

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **Autumn 2004**

Welcome to the Barnston Parish Council's newsletter. The big news this Autumn is that Barnston received the Best New Entrant Award for the Calor Best Kept Village competition this year. A large vote of thanks is owed to George Bruneau the Village Handyman and to everybody who made a contribution to keeping the village neat and tidy.

#### **Road Safety**

Residents in Parsonage Lane expressed concern over the speed of traffic through the lane. As a result of this the Parish Council held a site meeting with Essex County Highways department to assess the situation. A request for speed reduction measures have been put forward and this is currently under consideration.

The level of traffic along the A130 has given cause for concern. It was hoped that the opening of the new A120 would divert much of the heavier traffic via the A131 at Great Leighs. The current situation is that Essex Highways are currently monitoring the situation before deciding whether or not to de-classify the road through Barnston.

Speeding through the village continues to be a major cause of concern

#### **School Bus**

Following the opening of the new A120 the question of free home to school transport is once again under review. Essex County Council representatives will be walking the route in the near future to determine whether the route is suitable for senior school students.

#### **Play Areas**

Barnston Toddler group was approached to see what items of play equipment would be most popular to replace the turnstile in the Village Hall play area. Following discussions with the Toddler group a Sputnik roundabout was purchased together with picnic tables and Fun Ball Games for both play areas. Improvements have also been made to gates and signage in an attempt to keep dogs away from the play areas.

#### **Dog Fouling**

It is sad to have to report that Barnston Parish Council's strenuous efforts to control dog fouling have proved too successful. A recently purchased dog waste bin has been stolen almost as soon as it was put up. Any information about this offence would be much appreciated.

#### **Pavements**

We are very grateful to Essex Highways for arranging the much needed maintenance to pavements around Barnston Green. There are several other areas including Rayfield Close that we hope will be

attended to in the not too distant future.

#### **1st Barnston Brownies**

.Barnston Brownies has continued to flourish and there is now a Rainbow pack for younger children too. The Brownies recent camp to Skreens Park in Roxwell was a huge success. For contact details please see the attached sheet.

#### **Village Hall**

The Parish Council has supported the Village Hall committee in updating the heating system. It is hoped that the many people who use the village hall have appreciated the change.

#### **Affordable Housing**

The Rural Housing Trust has recently built a development of affordable houses in High Easter. Do you feel that there is a need for affordable housing in Barnston? Or do you have some land available to build affordable houses on? If so, please contact the Parish Clerk (contact details on the attached sheet).

#### **Skips and Recycling**

In addition to the visits of the green waste and general rubbish skips that have been arranged in the village for a number of years, the District Council has now provided facilities for the disposal of recyclable materials in Dunmow at Hoblongs Industrial Estate every weekend between 9.00am and 3.00pm. These facilities

are extremely well used and it is hoped that facilities for general rubbish disposal will be provided in the near future.

### **Essex Libraries**

Essex Libraries has launched a new scheme called Library Direct which caters for those who have difficulty getting to the library because of age or disability. Volunteers deliver books and books-on-tape direct to the customers door. Volunteers are always welcome and further information can be obtained from the library or via e-mail: [access.services@essexcc.gov.uk](mailto:access.services@essexcc.gov.uk)

### **Smoke Alarms Maintenance**

Essex Fire Authority has launched a campaign focussing on smoke alarm maintenance. Here are some essential tips to ensure your smoke alarm can save your life:

- ? Fit smoke alarms on each level of your home.
- ? Do not put smoke alarms in the kitchen.
- ? Check the battery weekly.
- ? Replace the battery annually.
- ? Battery smoke alarm units should be replaced every ten years.
- ? Consider installing ten year smoke alarms to hard wired alarms.

Further information on smoke alarms, maintenance and fire safety can be found at [www.firekills.gov.uk](http://www.firekills.gov.uk) Essex County Fire and Rescue Service website: [www.essex-fire.gov.uk](http://www.essex-fire.gov.uk)

### **Three Valleys Water**

There have been several instances of burst water pipes in the village. If you notice a burst water pipe please contact 'Leakspotters' on 0800 376 5325.

### **Essex Police**

Many of you will have noticed the welcome appearance of the mobile Police unit at the Village Hall car park. The monthly visits offer crime prevention advice and the opportunity for you to meet your Community Officers.

### **Be Someone Who Cares**

Essex County Council have recently started a major recruitment campaign for foster carers. There is particular need for those who feel that they can look after children aged eight and above, children who need long-term placements, children with disabilities and siblings who need to stay together. If you can help, please call 0800 801 530.

Uttlesford Volunteer Bureau is a small charity that promotes volunteering and helps provide local voluntary organisations with the volunteers they desperately need. The Bureau holds details of opportunities with many organisations, from those helping children and families, to the elderly or disabled, to animal welfare, heritage or conversation.

If you would like to find out more about the Bureau, call 01799 513626.

### **NHS Direct**

The NHS Direct nurse advice line was established in Essex in February 1999. The call centre is situated at the Essex Ambulance Service headquarters in Broomfield, Chelmsford.

NHS Direct is staffed by experienced nurses and call takers, offering 24 hour advice and information on:

- ? What to do if you are feeling ill
- ? Health concerns for you and your family
- ? Information on all local health services including self help and support organisations.

NHS Direct also handles the out-of-hours services for a number of the GP practices in the county. Telephone 0845 46 47.

### **Barnston Website**

Two years ago Barnston-resident Alan Butler set up a website for Barnston news at [www.barnstonvillage.co.uk](http://www.barnstonvillage.co.uk) If you have any news or information that you would like to add to the site contact Alan at [alan@butlerfam.co.uk](mailto:alan@butlerfam.co.uk)