



The Village Voice

Great Burstead & South Green Village Council



CORONATION FUN DAY 2023

THIS YEAR, we combined our usual free Village Council Family Fun Day with the celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III.

Despite rain being forecast, the weather held out and the crowds descended on South Green to raise money for St Luke's Hospice. Displays from Imperial Birds of Prey and Live Love Dance took place and the ever popular Punch and Judy performances captivated our younger residents. The fun fair stalls and bouncy castles were a great hit with queues forming throughout the event and children loved meeting the reptiles too; they were definitely braver than the adults! Children enjoyed having their faces painted and making crowns, whilst adults enjoyed the delights of the WI refreshments. Both children and adults alike enjoyed the Smash a Plate stall which had proved a 'smash hit' at our previous fun days and this time raised over £300.

Our raffle and tombola were also popular and we thank all local businesses who donated prizes especially in the current economic climate; our final total raised was £989.89, a great amount for St Luke's Hospice. Our Family Fun Day just keeps on growing bigger and better, so keep your eyes peeled for details on next year's event.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2023

Discussions are underway about the Village Council's Christmas event this year. The date, time and venue will be announced on our website nearer the time.



SEPTEMBER 2023 – Edition 14



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2023

St Mary Magdalene Great Burstead hold a Remembrance Service each year. All are welcome to attend. This year the date is: Sunday 12th November. The service is usually held at 10am. For further information please view online: greatburstead-church.co.uk



CCTV INSTALLATION SOUTH GREEN

CCTV was installed at South Green, Grange Parade on 11 May 2021. It covers the area from the Grange Parade bus stop, in front of Southwood Court, to Tylers Estate Agents. Since installation it has proved to be effective as the Police have been able to use the images from the cameras to assist them with crime prevention as well as investigating any incidents. The installation of the CCTV has made the village a more enjoyable and safer environment for residents.



COMMEMORATIVE AVENUE OF TREES

ON MONDAY 21st March 2022 residents awoke to a circle of 13 Cherry Trees planted on the Village Green opposite the shops. Nobody knew where they had come from or why they had been planted in that location. A plaque located with the trees cleared up part of the mystery, they had been planted to commemorate the late Queen's Jubilee. The Village Council felt that this marvellous gesture could have been improved with some consultation, as the planting site disproportionately affected leisure activities.

On further investigation with Basildon Council, it appears that a "one size fits all" decision was made for various sites within the Borough. We met with the Parks & Countryside Operations Manager on 16th May 2022 to discuss the lack of proper communication. Our concerns were heard, and we then liaised with Head of Environmental Services, James Hendry, who we met on 24th October 2022 to discuss our ideas.

On the 20th January 2023 we met with Arboriculture & Grounds Maintenance Officer Ian Dunn and his Contractor to discuss the new position of the trees and the removal of two dead Conifers. It was agreed that the trees would form a Commemorative Avenue with existing trees. The trees were successfully moved to form the new avenue on 24th February 2023.

We would like to thank Basildon Borough Council for selecting our Parish to commemorate and pay tribute to the Platinum Jubilee of our late Queen Elizabeth II.



ST MARY MAGDALENE GREAT BURSTEAD SUMMER FETE

ON SATURDAY 8th July Cllrs Cowles, Crowe, Dear and Thomas manned a stall at St Mary Magdalene's summer fete. This is the second fete the Church has held since the end of the pandemic. It was a joy to see the church grounds used to entertain residents with dance and karate demonstrations, delicious tea and cakes, bric-a-brac stalls, many other attractions and a chance to see inside this beautiful Grade 1 listed building.

The Village Council raised money for St Luke's Hospice with a guess how many sweets in the jar competition which was very popular.



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SOUTH GREEN AND GREAT BURSTEAD

AFTER MANY YEARS, when the Christmas lights display at South Green needed upgrading, the Village Council felt it was time for lights with a greater impact.

Discussions were undertaken with At Last Events to provide high quality lights. It was decided to install lights in the trees on the green opposite Grange Parade shops.

The reaction to the lights was extremely favourable with many residents commenting on social media that they felt the lights were the best in the local area and gave South Green a sparkle of Christmas festivity.

The lights will return again this year and negotiations are underway to have similar lights installed in the trees at Great Burstead.



ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT A POTHOLE

Essex County Council is responsible for road surfaces. If you see a pothole please go online and report it to: www.essexhighways.org/tell-us/road-pavement-and-surface-issues/potholes.

NEW BIN SOUTH GREEN

THERE WAS a very poor waste bin on South Green, opposite Tesco Express, that was suffering from a severe case of "Rust Worm" to such an extent that it was falling over. It was nothing like "Dusty Bin" just Rusty Bin (if you don't understand, ask someone older than you, or type "Dusty Bin 321 into your search engine).

After much discussion at one of the Village Council meetings, about a minute at the most, it was agreed to replace it with a new bin. As can be seen from the pictures it is a great improvement.



REPLACEMENT BENCH PASSINGHAM PARK

THE BENCH in Passingham Park, South Green, was originally installed in 2003 and is now worn and broken in places, is uncomfortable and not easy to sit on.

The park is very popular with families living nearby with many play activities and a small football pitch.

The Council consulted local residents about the bench replacement and received a resounding thumbs up. In view of the park's importance to local families and the feedback from residents the Village Council has come decided to replace the bench. A new bench will be installed where families can watch their children play.



BILERICAY TREE WARDENS

TREE WARDENS – The Billericay Tree Wardens (BTW) was set up in late 2017 in association with the Billericay Town Council (BTC) but has been left to evolve its own remit. We carry out work to look after our Tree Heritage in the general area and that also incorporates the Great Burstead and South Green Village Council Parish.

The BTW's remit is varied but a main aspect, other than generally "raising awareness" amongst the residents of our area, is to monitor how the Local Plan (when the revised version eventually becomes a reality!) affects our existing mature trees on those nine proposed and extensive New Build residential building sites.

We want to avoid the Developers from clear-felling those sites but retain what is practical and worked into the architect's street plans as they were at the Queen's Park housing estate. Additionally our remit also includes requesting a Tree Protection Order (TPO) on threatened trees across our existing housing estates, carrying out Planning Application (PA) checks and submitting a "Comment" on the PA where trees are unnecessarily threatened. Mature trees are often threatened when a For Sale sign goes up outside a property that has fine mature trees in its gardens.

For further information please contact:
billericaytreewardens@gmail.com John Smart, Chair.



NEW FLOWER DISPLAY FOR VILLAGE COUNCIL NOTICE BOARD

RESIDENTS HAVE always enjoyed the flower displays organised by the Village Council. Historically beautiful floral arrangements used to hang in the baskets along the lampposts in South Green. It is no longer possible to have the hanging baskets as Essex County Council deemed the lampposts unsafe for our baskets. However, the Village Council is still exploring ideas to create floral displays for residents to enjoy.

A new flower bed has been planted under the Village Council Notice Board on the Village Green. Thanks go to Billericay Nurseries for their excellent work creating the new flower bed. The Notice Board is used to display the Village Council monthly meeting agendas, advertising upcoming events and other local information.



NEW COUNCILLOR RAYMOND JACKSON

CLLR JACKSON has lived in South Green for 17 years and is married with a son and daughter, who are also married. He worked mainly in London in construction, latterly as a Contracts Manager, up to his retirement. He is now

working on a mountain of DIY and maintains a 1997 car.

Cllr Jackson attended a Village Council meeting about a few issues and decided he could support the village by joining the Village Council. He was co-opted onto the council in March 2022.

Since becoming a councillor he has supported Village Council events, such as organising a classic car display at the Coronation Fun Day where his wife ran the raffle stall for St Luke's Hospice. He has also brought local concerns to the attention of the Village Council and suggested the new bin at South Green.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2022

NOVEMBER 2022 saw our inaugural Village Council Christmas Fayre held at Langham Hall, which proved a great success with even the main man himself, Father Christmas, attending and spending the day in his grotto meeting children and giving out presents.

Many small businesses attended and were able to showcase their goods to the steady stream of visitors, who were also able to meet the donkeys who came to see the residents for the day. Refreshments were provided via a rota of Councillors and our raffle and tombola again proved a great success with £300 being raised for the Billericay Foodbank; Cllr Crowe enjoyed buying enough food to make Christmas a bit easier for 10 local families.

It was a lovely start to the Christmas festivities made all the more special knowing that we have helped those families.



VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETINGS

Village Council meetings are held at 7pm on the first Wednesday of the month at South Green Memorial Hall. The public and press are welcome to attend.



BECOME A YOUTH COUNCILLOR

THE VILLAGE COUNCIL is committed to listening to the young people of the area with any ideas they have. Giving young people a voice and say in their local area, listening to what they want and where possible taking action by speaking to the relevant services.

The Village Council wants to engage with the younger community to find out what they would like to see in their Village and how this can be achieved. One of the benefits of being a Youth Councillor is seeing how the council works for the Village from the inside and being able to put forward the youth view.

Being a Youth Councillor is a great way to experience working in a team for the benefit of the community.

For further information contact the Village Clerk: clerk@greatbursteadsouthgreen-vc.gov.uk or view our website: <http://www.greatbursteadsouthgreen-vc.gov.uk>. You can also find us on Twitter: @GBSGVC and instagram

VILLAGE COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Applications are invited from Members of the Public to become a Great Burstead and South Green Village Councillor. Why not apply? It's a great opportunity for you to have some input into the future of Great Burstead and South Green. Should you require any further information or to obtain an application form with full details of qualifying status, please visit our website www.greatbursteadsouthgreenparishcouncil.gov.uk or contact the Village Clerk, Mrs M Linwood: clerk@greatbursteadsouthgreen-vc.gov.uk

SOCIAL MEDIA

IN ADDITION to the traditional methods of keeping in touch with residents the Village Council decided to engage with residents through social media platforms. Our Social Media Representative, Cllr Suzy Crowe, advised the council and set up the relevant platforms.


Today communication has become easier for those who have access to the internet and we took this into account when making the decision to use social media to inform our residents. It has been found to be effective with positive

feedback.

Even though we have embraced social media we have not forgotten that many of our residents do not have access to the internet and with that in mind we will continue to produce the Village Voice in paper format to be delivered to all households in our parish. As a Village of 4,873 electorate with 8,000 residents and 2,700 households the Village Council decided unanimously to continue to deliver the Village Voice and keep in touch with our residents.

Residents can find us on:

Village Council Website: www.greatbursteadsouthgreen-vc.gov.uk/

 Twitter Account: [Twitter.com/GBSGVC](https://twitter.com/GBSGVC)

 Instagram: www.instagram.com/gbsgvc/

VILLAGE COUNCILLORS CONTACT DETAILS

Councillor Alan Boyce

alan.boyce@greatbursteadsouthgreen-vc.gov.uk

Councillor Bob Chapman

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Councillor Lesley Cowles (Planning Rep)

lesley.cowles@greatbursteadsouthgreen-vc.gov.uk

Councillor Suzy Crowe (Media Rep)

suzy.crowe@greatbursteadsouthgreen-vc.gov.uk

Councillor Marie Dear (Chair)

marie.dear@greatbursteadsouthgreen-vc.gov.uk

Councillor Raymond Jackson

raymond.jackson@greatbursteadsouthgreen-vc.gov.uk

Councillor Linda Thomas (Vice Chair)

linda.thomas@greatbursteadsouthgreen-vc.gov.uk

CLERK & RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Mrs Mel Linwood • clerk@greatbursteadsouthgreen-vc.gov.uk • Tel: 01268 712866

