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## Contact Numbers for Various Groups in Rowhedge

**Rowhedge Under 5's Pre-school** - Mon-Fri (term time)  
9.30-12pm. Contact: Deborah Carroll-Head 01206 729042

**Carpet Bowls** - Mon & Wed 2-4pm. Contact: Ken White  
01206 728363

**Cubs** - Mon 6.30-8pm. Contact: Tracy Barrett 01206  
728059

**Brownies** - Tues 6-7.30pm. Contact: Rosie Wignall 01206  
728162

**Essex Concert Band (practice)** - Tues 7pm.  
Contact: Geoff Harniess 01206 729639

**Valentine Dance School** - Fri 3.15-7.15pm. Contact: Val  
White 01206 514419

**Carolyn's Dance** - Tues 6-7pm. Contact: Harriet Cranfield  
01206 525145

**Youth Group (Years 7-11)** - Weds 7-9.30pm. Contact: Keely  
Rendell 01206 728436

**Rowhedge Junior Football Club** - Contact: Sheryl  
Dunningham 01206 729388

**Beavers** - Fri 6.30 - 8pm. Contact: Diane Paton 01206  
793760

**Rowhedge Village Hall** Contact: Yvonne Gibbs 07780  
923688

**Kung Fu** - Mon 7-9pm. Contact: Mark Adams 01206 579958

**Table Tennis** - Mon, Thurs & Fri 8-11pm. Contact: John  
Andrews 01206 273961

**Sea Scouts** - Fri 7.30-9.30pm. Contact: Richard Barrett  
01206 728059

**Village Lunch** - 3rd Tues in each month. Contact: Barbara  
Sanderson 01206 728060 or Yvonne Peacock 01206  
728838

**Rowhedge Moorings Association** - Contact: Fabian Bush  
01206 728577

**St. Lawrence Primary School** - Contact: Kerry Malcolm  
01206 729488. School: 01206 728517

**St. Lawrence School PTA** - Contact: Toni Clay 01206 729219

**Rowhedge Heritage Trust** - Contact: Keith Phillips 01206  
792244



# Donyland Despatches

A newsletter for the Rowhedge community

Autumn 2010

## Get in touch with the Parish Council

Post your comments and suggestions in the dedicated box outside Rowhedge Post Office.

## Welcome to the Council

At the July meeting, Doug Clay was unanimously co-opted onto the Parish Council. The Council looks forward to working with Doug on many projects in the future.

## Parish Council and Police Surgeries

From September, the Parish Council and Police will be holding joint surgeries in the School Hall before the monthly Parish Council meeting.

A Police Officer or PCSO will be available between 6.00pm and 7.00pm and a Parish Councillor will be available between 6.15pm and 7.00pm. As there is no Parish Council meeting in August these surgeries will be held on the following (Thursday) dates:

**9th Sept, 14th Oct and 11th Nov 2010.**

In the meantime, the Mobile Police Station can be found in the Village Hall Car Park on **Wednesday 25th August** (10.15am – 11.00am) and **Wednesday 8th September** (10.15am – 11.00am).

## Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council meets on the second Thursday of the month (with the exception of August) at 7.00pm in the School Hall. The hall is open from 6.30pm and we welcome members of the public to come along and have their say on matters that are important to them.

## Some Dates for the Diary

The Rowhedge Proms will take place on Saturday 9th October 2010 in the Village Hall. The Essex Concert Band will be starting their performance at 7.30pm and there will be an interval with refreshments.

The Essex Concert Band's Christmas Concert will once again be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 21st December 2010 and the performance will start at 7.45pm. The Band will be providing refreshments during the interval and all monies raised will go to the Essex Concert Band's charity of the year.

## Delivery volunteers

The Parish Council are looking for volunteers to help with the delivery of Donyland Despatches. If you are interested in helping out, please contact the Clerk, Amy Harness, on **01206 729200**.

## Your Parish Councillors

### Chairman

#### Richard Keeble

112 Rectory Road, Rowhedge, Colchester, Essex CO5 7HY.  
Tel: 01206 729588. Email: montignac@hotmail.co.uk

### Councillors

#### Susan Allen

21 West Street, Rowhedge, Colchester, Essex CO5 7HW.  
Tel: 01206 728468. Email: susanlorna@yahoo.co.uk

#### Doug Clay

117 Hillview Close, Rowhedge, CO5 7HT.  
Tel: 01206 729219. Email: doug.clay117@talktalk.net

#### Tina Collins

51 Fingringhoe Road, Colchester, Essex CO2 8EB.  
Tel: 07742 421675. Email: collinstc@hotmail.co.uk

#### Dave Myers

Fern Cottage, 29 Regent Street, Rowhedge, Colchester, Essex CO5 7EA.  
Tel: 01206 728063. Email: david.myers83@tesco.net

#### Andrew Stott

27 Parkfield Street, Rowhedge, Colchester, Essex CO5 7EL.  
Tel: 01206 728509.

### Parish Clerk

#### Amy Harness

6 Stable Mews, West Mersea, Colchester, CO5 8HR  
Tel: 01206 729200. Email: edpc@hotmail.co.uk

## Parish Council Vacancies

Are you interested in your village and the community? Do you want to get involved and help shape the future of the Village?

Please contact Amy Harness for further information and to discuss what is involved in being a Parish Councillor. Telephone **01206 729200** or email **edpc@hotmail.co.uk**



## Walkers website gets better, and goes national

[www.walkingnessex.co.uk](http://www.walkingnessex.co.uk) is a website packed with useful information for walkers.

With more than 430 walks to download and print, free, and details of around 100 guided walks every month, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

Now, after three years, the Walking in England web

site has been launched. [www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk) has thousands of walks to download and print – and all free of charge!

There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in England has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home or away on holiday you will be able to find a walk suitable for you.

**John Harris**

[www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)

## Heritage Centre Vacancies

An exciting opportunity has arisen to manage the proposed new Heritage Centre within the popular waterside village of Rowhedge.

The Heritage Centre will be situated on a prime spot along the riverfront, including a Café, exhibition area and flexible space (subject to planning).

East Donyland Parish Council invite offers of interest from suitable applicants in order to secure agreement prior to construction.

The new Centre's focus will be on the community, and will be a huge asset to the Village.

**To find out more, in the first instance, contact:  
Mrs Amy Harness, Parish Clerk, 6 Stable Mews, West Mersea, Colchester, CO5 8HR or call 01206 729200**

## A big thank you

The Committee, staff and the families who use Rowhedge Under Fives Pre-school would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this year's Strawberry Fayre.

Despite the gusts of wind and torrential rain at points during the day, we had a very good turnout with takings only slightly down on last year's bumper total.

The assistance that we get year on year is amazing. All sorts of people, from local

businesses, residents, friends and family muck-in to support what has become a significant Village event, contributing to the wonderful sense of community that we have in Rowhedge.

We really do appreciate the time, effort and enthusiasm that people put in.

Thank you once again for all your help – without your generosity we wouldn't be able to do it!

**Helen Wilson, Chair  
Rowhedge Under Fives  
Pre-school Committee**

## Bus Consultation on 21st April 2010

Thank to all those who attended on the night. The hall was packed, which was the best way of letting the bus bosses see that we want answers in Rowhedge.

The Managing Director of Firstbus for the whole of East Anglia, Mr Alan Pilbeam, had actually asked to be present, since he said he could see there are serious problems with our bus service.

As a matter of courtesy, he was permitted to use the first half of the meeting to outline his company's policy and plans for future improvements. This of course took up some time, but the majority of listeners felt he put his points very well.

This talk, together with some further explanations from Miss Fran Garthwaite of Essex County Council, made a lot of issues much clearer for all concerned.

At the end of the evening, several major breakthroughs had been made, namely, the

Managing Director and County Council representatives have suggested that they return to the Village for another meeting in three months' time, so that any improvements they envisage, based on public points raised at the meeting on the 21st, will have time to be implemented, and they can return to hear our further comments.

The second half was given over to question and answer, and the discussion of complaints led, not least, to a promise by Mr Richard Walker of Colchester Borough Council, to investigate our list of complaints about the bus station, and look into ways and means of improving the area.

Please do write in with complaints. This is vital! Address them to Mr Shane Miles, Senior Customer Service Agent, Roven House, Roven Road, Norwich, NR1 1RB.

**Rowhedge Action Travel  
Group**

## First Annual Front Garden Table Top Sale

Sunday September 19th will see Rowhedge's first Annual 'Front Garden Table Top Sale'. Enjoy a day strolling around our beautiful Village shopping as you go, taking time out to enjoy tea and homemade cake at The Heritage Hut, a barbeque lunch in the St. Lawrence School grounds or a pint or two at the Anchor and Albion on the waterfront.

Table top listings can be purchased for £1 from the Crows Nest, the Albion, The Anchor or the school office from Monday 13th September. Inside you'll find all the table top sellers addresses (including a street map) and a chance

to win in the free prize draw (Courtesy of our sponsors Ye Olde Albion & The Anchor).

If you'd like to take part as a seller, please complete a booking form (you can pick one up from the places listed above) and send it along with your payment of £5; FAO Charmaine Scott, St. Lawrence Primary school ASAP (but definitely no later than Monday 6th September). The event will be well promoted in local press 'What's On?' listings.

For further information telephone **01206 728517**. Please join with us to make this 'new' annual Rowhedge event a success!



## Essex County Councillor Report



**Report from Kevin Bentley, County Councillor for East Donyland, part of the Stanway and Pyefleet Division**

### Improving the turning into Rowhedge

I recently met with representatives from East Donyland Parish Council and Fingringhoe Parish Council, along with my Borough Councillor colleagues and Highway Officers to discuss improving the safety at the junction of the old Walnut Tree pub.

We exchanged views about traffic speeds travelling to and from Fingringhoe and also the safety of vehicles slowing to turn into Rowhedge or those trying to exit the junction. This has been a dangerous junction for some years and as vehicle numbers grow, it is something we are all mindful of for the future.

We have asked for a speed survey to be undertaken so that we, your elected representatives at Parish, Borough and County level, can gauge the level and speed of traffic and we are expecting the results of these sometime after the summer. I will report back on the findings of these in future editions of Donyland Dispatches.

We have no promises about what the improvements can be until Officers at Highways look at proposals in more detail but we all hope the survey will

provide some very clear evidence that work is essential at this location for everyone concerned.

### Rowhedge Regatta

My wife Karen and I enjoyed ourselves immensely at this year's event, as we have for many years, but this was the first time I have attended as your County Councillor.

I am always deeply impressed by the sheer hard work put into this event every year by all those involved. It would not be right to thank everyone individually – I don't think the editor would give me that much space in the newsletter – but I did want to say how tremendously proud we all are of the time, effort and skill you all offer to make this one of the premier events in Essex. Well done and we are all looking forward to next year!

If you need any advice, help or assistance with any Council related matter then please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone **01206 548100** (which is my office number) or via email on **Kevin@mosaicpublicity.co.uk** or, alternatively via my official County Council website **cllr.kevin.bentley@essex.gov.uk**. I will do all I can to ensure you get answers to your questions or help with any particular item.

**Kevin Bentley**  
**Essex County Councillor**

### Contact your Colchester Borough Councillor

If anyone has any issues that they need help with please contact Mike Lilley on **01206 728542** or **07776 267891** or email **cllr.mike.lilley@colchester.gov.uk**



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**Essex CO5 7EG. (01206) 728062**

## Proposed Riverside Heritage Centre

The new Centre has attracted considerable attention over the last few months and the Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to update you on the current situation.

Progress on the new Centre has continued well over the last twelve months albeit sometimes not always as speedily as the Parish Council would like.

East Donyland Parish Council applied for and was awarded two grants which totalled £40,000, over a period extending from 2004 - 2006. £20,000 was received from Colchester Borough Council's Town and Parish Grant Scheme with the second £20,000 grant coming jointly again from the Town and Parish Grant Scheme and the Essex County Council's Community Initiative Fund. To date approximately £24,000 has been spent on various services:

- Flood Risk Assessment - required by the Rowhedge

Heritage Trust (RHT) in order for them to obtain extended planning permission for the current Heritage Centre.

- Topographical Survey - required by the architects to establish correct site levels.
- Install Services to Site - water / electricity to the site to enable the RHT to run the Centre more effectively.
- Architect Fees - paid to Stanley Bragg Architects who were recommended by Essex County Council to the Parish Council.

The Council has agreed a concept design mindful of advice received from the Planning Department. The Parish Council has spent significant time ensuring that only one planning application will be made as each planning application carries a cost implication.

The Parish Council is currently in communication with Trinity Construction Consultancy Ltd obtaining costs for building the new

Centre. The Council is very aware of the need to encapsulate modern concerns with regard to construction materials, green issues, carbon footprint, etc. and the costings will reflect these concerns.

The results of previous public consultations reflected a desire for a more modern approach to be given to the new centre. The design which has been agreed mirrors these consultation findings, in that it is a modern, light, unobtrusive building which is also sympathetic to the local area. With this in mind, the Parish Council have taken on board advice from people such as the Urban Designer regarding environmental impact, green issues, parking and materials.

This design unfortunately has not met with the approval of the RHT who have recently commissioned their own architect to create an alternative design which will be publicly exhibited in September and people should keep an eye on the notice boards for more details.

## Have your say!

Can I please give a big thumbs-up to St Lawrence School for allowing the Book Swap to happen every term time Monday afternoon.

It's a great free resource for all of us in the Village and there is a healthy range of recent books on their shelves. Children's books are available as well as all sorts of adults' and it saves most of us a trip to the library, or a wait for the library bus.

Widening your reading scope without cost can only be commended. To my mind, it's the sort of initiative that should be supported, as it illustrates sharing, community and literacy in one fell swoop.

Well done (and no, I don't organise it!!)

**Karen, Rowhedge**

**Want to advertise or contribute to the next issue of Donyland Despatches? Please email your contribution, by the 1st November 2010, to [donyland@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:donyland@hotmail.co.uk)**



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## Rowhedge Recalled

This is a new intergeneration project between Age Concern Colchester and the St Lawrence C of E Primary School, Rowhedge where older people will be meeting pupils and looking at the theme of 'Love Where You Live.'

### Programme

It is planned that the group would meet on the second Thursday in the month commencing in October.

### Thursday 14 October 2010

Arrive at the school at 10.30 am for coffee in the 'Community Room'.

There would be initial introductions and then we would look at the theme of 'When I was at school'

A roast lunch will be available in the School Hall at 12 noon and guests would be escorted there by the children.

Group would leave after they have had their lunch/coffee.

### Thursday 11 November 2010

Arrive at the school at 10 am for coffee and then walk with the children to the War Memorial or meet at the War Memorial. Silence at 11 am.

Walk to St Lawrence Church to offer prayers and then walk back to the school.

Lunch in the School Hall at 12 noon, and then followed by coffee in the Community Room. In the afternoon 'Wartime Memories'

### Thursday 9 December 2010

Arrive at the school at 10.30 am for coffee in the 'Community Room'. The theme would be 'Christmas Memories'.

A roast lunch will be available in the School Hall at 12 noon and guests would be escorted

there by the children. Group would leave after they have had their lunch/coffee.

### Costs for Guests

Age Concern will make a standard charge of £4 per guest of which £3 will be donated to the school for the roast lunch and coffee, etc.

### Further information

For full details of the project and registration then please contact either Peter Simpson or Lin Roberts at Age Concern Colchester on **01206 368420**.

### Attended Freighter

#### Dates

Colchester Borough Council will be providing a skip in the Village Hall Car Park on the following date. This is an excellent opportunity for you to dispose of any unwanted rubbish.

**Saturday 16th October 2010**  
8.00am - 9.15am

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### Badminton Club

Are you interested? If so, the season starts Monday 6th September at 8pm in Fingringhoe Village Hall. Some knowledge of the game is required, as we do not take

beginners due to only one court. We have a Men's Doubles team in the Colchester & East Essex League. If you are interested, contact Ian Chamberlain on **01206 729433**.

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## Update from the Rowhedge Allotment Association

In December 2009, some twenty-six people turned up to a meeting in the upstairs room of the Albion Pub in response to a poster placed on the Village notice boards asking 'Would you be interested in having an allotment if there were some in Rowhedge?'

Over the past six months, a group of residents have met regularly to discuss how to make this happen and we are making progress. So far, we have:

- Identified a piece of land, just off Weir Lane, and we are in the process of sorting out a lease for 2 acres to be used for allotments
- Formed ourselves into the Rowhedge Allotment Association (RAA) with a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee
- Tried to reach as many people as possible, through posters on the village notice boards, a newsletter at the recent Civic event and information at the Regatta
- Reached an agreement that the Parish Council will hold the lease on the land for the RAA - a condition of the owners
- A quote from Anglia Water to get water connected to the

perimeter of the field and the Parish Council have agreed a grant to help us with the cost

- Started the process of writing applications for funding to help with the cost of getting water to the proposed plots, fencing and clearing the land
- Agreed that we will affiliate with the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners - who will give us the benefit of their advice on setting ourselves up.

There has been growing interest (no pun intended) and we now have 40+ people who have expressed an interest in having a plot.

To make sure the plots are allocated fairly, the RAA have adopted a policy which basically states that plots will be allocated in date order of when people said they were interested, together with the payment of a £10 per person membership fee.

First priority will be for residents of Rowhedge.

If you wish to find out more or express an interest in having an allotment, you can contact Joy Magna or Paddy Adams (membership secretary) on **01206 728400**.

## St Lawrence Church of England Primary School Report

It's been an amazing year at the school; I can hardly believe that the busy months have come to a close before we start our new 'journey' again in September. Following our great inspection at the beginning of the year our work has gone from strength to strength. The summer term was particularly industrious, lively and creative.

We have just received our English results for our Year 6 pupils who took national tests in May this year. The results are the best we have ever had and are far in excess of the national average for reading and writing in 2009. Our results put attainment and progress for English in the Ofsted OUTSTANDING category. We are very proud of our Year Six pupils. Due to our success last year we are growing and expanding and very excited to be opening a new class base in September 2010. We will welcome twenty nine children to our Foundation Stage class and four new children to other classes in the school.

Our whole school theme for the Autumn Term will be; 'Love Where You Live'. Throughout the theme, children will be developing their geographical, historical and social skills as

they explore our Village and the wider community. We will be thinking about what it means to be a member of a community such as ours and the responsibilities that come with this. If you feel you could help with this very 'hands on' local project, we would love to hear from you.

Our Annual Community Week will take place slightly earlier this year, just before half term - 18th October to the 22nd October. Again, if you are able to help in a classroom that week, you would be made very welcome. Perhaps you could come in and help with reading, help the children use the computers or even work with a group of children to bake a cake?

Our Gardening Gang (a group of enthusiastic pupils and parents led by Sally Jowers, Angie Cass, Jayne Thompson and Eunice Brown) have been working hard to cultivate vegetables and grow flowers in our wildlife area. They have been really successful and we regularly enjoy eating their 'harvest' at lunchtime.

**Kerry Malcolm , Headteacher**  
**Tel: 01206 728517**  
**Email: admin@st-lawrence-pri.essex.sch.uk**

## Cuts to budgets

Colchester Borough Council has recently written to the Parish Council informing them that the budget for the Capital Grants Scheme has been cut for the upcoming financial year.

The Village has received many grants from this 'pot of

money' over the years, including; canoe trailer for the Sea Scouts, new floor in the Village Hall, new roof for the Football Clubhouse, money towards the Heritage Centre, and money towards the Kicking Wall and Youth Shelter.

The letter received by the Parish Council also asked that

we take part in a consultation relating to the annual Revenue Grant issued to every Parish Council within the Borough. The Parish Council have responded to this consultation explaining how vital this grant is to the rural areas within Colchester and requested that alternative budgets be

reviewed before Colchester Borough Council makes any final decisions that may affect our Parish.

The Parish Council will hear the final outcome of the consultation at the end of the year and this will affect how we budget for the financial year 2011/12.

## Rowhedge Village Hall News

### Raise the Roof Fund

We are still attempting to raise more funds towards our roof refurbishment, which will be costing us in the region of £30k. The current roof has been in place for 25 years and is now showing signs of wear, with the occasional leaks springing up in stormy weather.

We hope to be able to raise enough money to over clad the roof and to give the building a new lease of life. So far we have received grants and contributions as below:

*Augustine Courtauld Award* - £250  
*East Essex Forum (Essex C.C.)* - £2,000  
*Ragged String Band Event* - £1,121  
*Essex Environmental Trust* - £10,000  
*Cory Environmental Trust* - £7,500

**GRAND TOTAL**  
- **£20,871**

So if there are any local businesses or organisations that would like to help with a donation to our cause we would be extremely grateful. "Every little helps".

### Rowhedge Junior Football Club

During the past season, all teams have continued to play some impressive football.

Our U10 and U13 teams were winners and U15 runners-up of their respective leagues. Congratulations to them, and to all children involved with the club, for all their hard work and commitment.

The Club continues to grow, with new U8 and U10 teams, and an adult reserve side

### 25th Anniversary Events

Our first event kicks off on the **25th September** with The Navy's Wife folk Opera. Tickets are now on sale at £8.00 each, see the posters around the Village, available from Yvonne on **07780 923688**, Deborah on **01206 729042** or Loraine **01206 728693**. We will also be running a raffle on the night and there will be a bar available.

On the **3rd October** we will be having an exhibition covering the 'History of the Halls'. There will be refreshments available and hopefully some entertainment as well. We will be open from 11.00am to 3.00pm and everyone is welcome, so please drop in for a potted history of how we started, and a drink.

On the **23rd October** we will be holding our final 25th Anniversary event with an evening of entertainment with R2G2 Barbershop Quartet. The cost of a ticket will be £7.00 per head and will also include a jacket potato supper, so please do come along for

registered for 2010-11 season. We run training sessions on Saturday mornings as follows:

*'Little Dribblers' 3 & 4 years*  
- 9.45-10.30am.

*5 & 6 years - 11-12 noon.*

*School years 2-5 (1st Sept 2010) - 10.30-12 noon.*

Please call Lisa Tant **07917 407722** for further details.

*School years 7-11 (1st Sept 2010) - 10.30-12 noon*

Please call Rob Luckman on **01206 367915** or **01206 367915** for further details.

## Beautician in Rowhedge

### Get ready for Summer!

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what appears will be a fun evening. Watch out for posters in the Village to find out when tickets are on sale.

### Children's Entertainment

On **Sunday 12th December** we will be presenting 'Garlic Theatre', who will be performing 'Old Mother Hubbard', a puppet performance.

This show comes via Essex On Tour, so it is guaranteed to

be an excellent production. Posters will be in the Village later in the year.

Finally, we would like to thank the Rowhedge Society for their kind donation towards the purchase of a new cupboard for the office at the Village Hall. This is gratefully received.

**Yvonne Gibbs,**  
**Administrator**  
**Rowhedge Village Hall**

### In memory of Ann Barrett

On Saturday 17th July, St. Lawrence Church of England Primary School were joined by lots of visitors to officially open the new raised flower bed just outside the Community Room.

### In memory of Ann Barrett

The garden has been planted in memory of Ann Barrett, who sadly died earlier this year.

Ann was a very active member of our local community, involved in many projects and events, in particular Rowhedge Open Gardens.

Her community work remains an inspiration to us all.

Ann took a very active role in Rowhedge Society and in her memory they made a very generous donation to the school so that they could purchase the plants and shrubs for the bed.

My thanks to Angie, Eunice and Sally for bringing this project alive with the children.

**Kerry Malcolm, Headteacher**  
**St. Lawrence Church Of England Primary School**