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[annekinesiology@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annekinesiology@hotmail.co.uk)

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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  
or Rachael Godfrey 01206 728126

**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: Carole Heddle 01206  
728052



# Donyland Despatches

A newsletter for the Rowhedge community

Spring 2010

## Salt Bins and Gritting within the Village

The following has been taken from Essex County Council's 'Winter Service Operational Plan' regarding salt bins.

Salt bins were originally provided for the use of the local Lengthsman. However, with the demise of the Lengthsman, the bins have been maintained with the intention that members of the public will use them on a self-help basis.

The purpose of the salt bin is to allow highway users to treat parts of the highway network that would not normally be treated as part of the plan 'A' network (or at particularly hazardous locations). It is therefore important that the bins are located where they would be the most effective but would not place the user at unnecessary risk.

Salt bins must be located within the highway with the agreement of the Area Highway Manager. They should not be a hazard to the highway user or positioned such that the user is endangered.

Where there are existing bins the County Council shall arrange for their maintenance and replenishment, should there be no known provider.

Existing bins at non-hazardous locations or on the plan 'A' network, and where there is evidence that the bin has not been used, will be removed.

For the purpose of liability and insurance, the County Council and its agents will take responsibility for the salt bin and its contents after it has been installed.

East Donyland Parish Council is considering sponsoring additional salt bins within the parish.

We have contacted the Highways Department requesting an officer visits the village to suggest possible locations for additional bins.

Councillor Kevin Bentley will be contacting the gritting team at the County Council to request that the bus turning circle and the roads leading to the Co-op be added to the route of the gritters, to ensure the buses can gain access to the Village and people can get to the Co-op.

## 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 along.

## Your Parish Councillors

### Councillors

#### Susan Allen

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

#### Graham Bibby

13 Regent Street, Rowhedge, Colchester, Essex CO5 7EA.  
Tel: 01206 728332. Email: 8185@sky.com

#### Tina Collins

51 Fingringhoe Road, Colchester, Essex CO5 8EB.  
Tel: 07742 421675. Email: collinstc@hotmail.co.uk

#### Richard Keeble

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

#### Peter Moles

36 Regent Street, Rowhedge, Colchester, Essex CO5 7EA.  
Tel: 01206 728615. Email: lyn.m@virgin.net

#### Dave Myers

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

#### John Sharp

10 High Street, Rowhedge, Colchester, Essex CO5 7HG.  
Tel: 01206 728272. Email: casharp10@hotmail.com

#### 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.com

## Date for the Diary 2010

As you will remember from last year's Civic Service the Parish Council are keen to make this a Village event with the whole Village getting involved. It starts with a warm and welcoming Church Service at 11am; followed by the Civic

Reception, which usually starts at about 12.30pm in the School Hall.

The Parish Council would like to see you at their Service and Reception this year, which will be held on Sunday 13th June, so please put the date in your diary!



## Waste and recycling consultation

Thank you to all of you who took the opportunity to express your view on the future of Colchester's recycling and waste collections by completing the survey that was made available to you.

We have compiled your responses to present to the Council's Policy and Review Development Panel on 1 March and we will be publishing the results on our website this month.

The survey was just one of the many opportunities you will have to tell us what you think about the recycling and waste options over the coming year.

You can browse, chat or post a comment about the review on the Recycle for Colchester Facebook page, or access interactive information explaining the proposed recycling options by downloading a video

from YouTube. Both forums will provide you with a host of information about the need to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and the different methods of increasing the amount of your waste that is recycled.

Simply visit the web site at [www.colchester.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.colchester.gov.uk/recycling) to find the latest information about Colchester's recycling and waste review or sign up for our e-news services by visiting [www.colchester.gov.uk](http://www.colchester.gov.uk) and receive the latest information directly into your inbox.

**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**  
**ROWHEDGE**  
**OPEN GARDENS**  
Sunday June 6th 2010  
Please add to a great day by opening your garden!  
Please contact Ann Barrett  
01206 729468  
On behalf of The Rowhedge Society  
charity No. 294108

## Rowhedge Junior Football Club

The current season is now well underway, with all teams (including the seniors) playing a very high standard of football. U10, U13 and U15 teams are all top of their respective leagues.

The U11 team and the seniors are also doing very well. We have been lucky enough to have had very few games postponed due to the recent bad weather.

The U10s return to playing on 7 February after their winter break.

As always, we are on the look out for new members particularly children 9 years of age and under.

Just come along to the Recreation Ground on Saturday mornings from 10.30am onwards or call our Secretary on **01206 729388** for more details.

## The Rowhedge Society

Just a quick note from us to let you know that at the time of writing this we are planning our AGM which we hope to hold on March 18th; keep an eye out nearer the time for confirmation of the date and additional details.

We are organising another Open Gardens event for 2010, so those of you waiting for the weather to improve, so you can get your wellies and trowels out of the shed, will have something to aim for!

Other events will follow during the year, if you have any particular ideas or suggestions then do please get in touch with a member of the Committee.

The Rowhedge Society awards small financial grants to community groups or individuals whose activity enhances the community in ways which have positive benefit for the people of Rowhedge.

If you are aware of any individuals or groups within the village who might benefit from this support then do please encourage them to get in touch with us.

**Chris Wetton, Rowhedge Society – Chairman**  
Telephone **01206 729554**

**Spring Open Gardens**  
**East Donyland Hall, Fingringhoe Road**  
**3 acres of award-winning gardens + woodland**  
**Sunday 11th April, 2-5pm**  
**PLANTS and PRESERVES FUN DOG SHOW**  
**HOME MADE TEAS**  
**Admission £3**  
Supervised Children Free.  
Dogs on Leads Please.

## An Update from the Rowhedge Village Hall

### Recent Events

The Ragged String Band - this local group recently performed at the Village Hall as a fund-raising event for the roof repairs. Our thanks go out to all the members of this band who gave their services voluntarily to help our cause.

The evening was a tremendous success with approximately 150 people attending. A raffle was also held and thanks go to The Anchor, The Albion and the Co-op for donating such wonderful prizes. A grand total of £1,121 was raised for this project.

Farmers' Market - Another great success for EDCA was the first of many Farmers' Markets to be held at the

Village Hall. There were 15 stall holders attending, and the variety of foods on offer was extensive. Quality and price were to the forefront for this event, which many Villagers I think will agree was an extremely successful event.

Our last Market was on the 30th January and our next on the 6th March, so watch out for posters around the Village.

### Future Events

Flea Market - Pitches are £10 and bookable from Yvonne Gibbs - **07780 923688** or email [rowhedgevillagehall@me.com](mailto:rowhedgevillagehall@me.com).

No food or plant products and definitely no fleas! Refreshments will be avail-

able. Watch out for posters around the Village for upcoming dates.

Salsa Night - to be held on the 20th March. Tickets £10 each including 1 hour's tuition, or £8.00 just for dancing to Coco Express. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Tickets will be on sale from Yvonne Gibbs on **07780 923688** or Deborah Carroll-Head on **01206 729042** or email [rowhedgevillagehall@me.com](mailto:rowhedgevillagehall@me.com)

**AGM Meeting - 12th November 2009**

A report from the Chairman can be found on our website at [www.rowhedgevillagehall.co.uk](http://www.rowhedgevillagehall.co.uk) under the 'Newsletter' tab.

**Yvonne Gibbs - Administrator**  
**Rowhedge Village Hall**

## Colchester Borough Councillor Report

I attended a recent meeting of the Local Highways Panel and spoke on the problems at and near the junction of Rectory Road/Fingringhoe Road.

The Highways Department said they would look into the problems in this area and since the meeting have agreed to install new warning signs and markings in and around the junction.

This is an area that needs addressing further, with more than signs and road markings, as cars speeding from the Old Heath area towards Fingringhoe are a major concern for many Residents.

This needs immediate and serious consideration and a more proactive response than additional signs.

Please could I ask anyone who has had an incident at this Junction to call me so we can compile a log to present to the Highways Department as evidence.

The Highways Department will only look at statistics to assess how dangerous a junction is. Unreported incidents are not included in the statistics held by the Highways Department so it is not classed as a dangerous junction.

For all of us who use this stretch of road, we know it is

an issue, which they should be dealing with.

Colchester Borough Homes have been looking at the waste disposal system in the flats at Stephen Cranfield Close and should have installed a new system in the latter part of January. Hopefully this will help with people recycling their waste and make it easier for the collection of waste from the flats.

Thanks must go to Colchester Borough Homes for the work being carried out here and in other areas within the Village.

By working in conjunction with myself they have helped to resolve problems within the Village related to Borough-owned Homes.

After all the snow vanished, it left the Village full of large pot-holes, which have all been reported to Essex County Council Highways.

However, after looking at Hillview Close, I will be asking for a complete repair to the whole of the surface as it has suffered major damage.

If anyone has any issues that I can help with please contact me on **01206 728542** or **07776 267891** or email me on **cllr.mike.lilley@colchester.gov.uk**

**Councillor Michael Lilley**  
**Labour Borough Councillor**  
**East Donyland Ward**



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### The Rowhedge Medical Practice

The **practice** is open: **Monday - Friday**  
8.30am - 12.30pm & 1.30pm - 6.30pm.

The **dispensary** is open: **Monday - Friday**  
9.00am - 12.30pm & 2.00pm - 6.30pm.

**To contact the Practice, please telephone**  
**01206 728585**

## OBITUARY - Peter Wright

Ex Village Policeman, Peter Wright of Regent Street, died in December at the age of 87.

Peter married Agnes before leaving the Navy at the age of thirty. His career with Essex Police started in Chelmsford then moved on to Colchester.

He became Rowhedge Village policeman in October 1957. In those days, being the Village bobby meant being on call 24/7 and covering the area of Rowhedge, Fingringhoe and Abberton - on a bike, without a radio!

"There was no good you saying, if the phone went, 'I'm sorry I'm off duty' - you had to get out and get on with it no matter what time of the day or night.

"One night about 11 o'clock the landlord of the Albion, Len Rossiter, rang and told me there were people in the river. Three lads had finished their apprenticeships and they had just been across to Wivenhoe to join the Boiler Makers' Union. When they came back

they were carrying on and turned the boat over." Peter went in and pulled out one of the young men, others rescued the second, but the third was found next morning drowned in the mouth of the Roman River.

As the Village policeman, Peter would visit elderly people living on their own. One day in 1968, a fire broke out in the home of a bedridden lady in Church Hill. By the time Peter arrived, the bedroom was ablaze, but he managed to pull the bed to the door. Unfortunately the Lady died, but Peter's efforts were recognised when he was awarded a certificate by 'The Society for the Protection of Life from Fire'.

Peter was orphaned when very young and lived in a Dr. Barnardo's home until he was fostered by the village blacksmith in Mendlesham, Suffolk. He went to a Naval school near Dereham in Norfolk and then on to train at HMS Ganges in Shotley.

As a boy seaman he was cho-

sen to serve on the Royal Yacht 'Victoria and Albert'. Being quite close in age to Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret, he and other young seamen were chosen to entertain the young princesses on board the yacht.

In 1995 Peter and his wife, Agnes, were invited to a garden party at Buckingham Palace where they met the Queen, and he was able to remind her of the treasure hunts they had organised.

War was declared when Peter was nearly seventeen and he was transferred to a battleship as an anti-aircraft gunner covering the evacuation of Norway. He took part in several Atlantic convoys and was present during the battle which sank the Bismark in 1941. He was in the convoy transporting Spitfires and fuel to Malta, and also served in the Far East. Peter's war ended in 1946 in Sydney, on VJ Day.

Peter believed that being a good Village copper meant

becoming part of the community, "...and the only way to mix in with people was to join in with what they were doing."

In 1964, along with Dr Sanderson, Peter was instrumental in reviving the long forgotten Regatta and was Chairman of the Regatta Committee until the late 1970s.

Peter also helped form the Donyland Swifts Football Club and used to organise Sports Day on the Recreation Ground. Peter and Agnes also ran the local Youth Club with Maureen and Ron Woods.

Peter's son Derek also became a policeman. Tragically, he died trying to help four youths in an overturned car on the A12 at the Hadleigh turnoff. Peter leaves his wife Agnes, son Phillip, grandchildren Lauren, Hannah, Daniel, Nicola and Crystal and great grandchild Lucas.

Quotes are from an interview with Peter Wright on 26th October 2007 made by Ros Watling of the Rowhedge Heritage Trust Museum Group



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## Rowhedge Heritage Trust

### Hut Opening

The Heritage Hut will re-open on Good Friday with an exhibition on the 'Cap Pilar', a vessel with local connections which sailed around the world during the 1930s.

The Committee have been busy planning this year's events which will include 'Shanties by the River' with Jimmy Lawrence, a walk along the marshes, a book sale, a family woodland walk, and an interesting talk at the Village Hall.

On April 11th, Sarah and Peter Thistlewaite will, once again, open up their garden at Donyland Hall in aid Rowhedge Heritage Trust.

These events are open to everyone, non members and members alike, so keep an eye on the parish notice boards for more details.

From Good Friday until winter we aim to have the Heritage Hut open between 11.00am and 4.00pm on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

These hours may be extended according to demand and depending on the weather. If you would like to volunteer to help in the hut please ring Mel Chase on **01206 729315** or leave your details in the hut.

### Riverside Centre

In June last year, the Parish Council took over the project from the Rowhedge Riverside Centre Partnership. We have been to some of the EDPC Design Working Group meetings and agreed with the plans for the internal layout.

There was a good discussion at the last meeting about the external appearance of the

contemporary mono-pitch roof designs submitted by the architect.

A recommendation was made to request that an alternative more traditional design be commissioned.

Unfortunately the Parish Council turned this down at their January meeting.

The RHT agrees with one of the main conclusions of the independent report of last year's consultation that, in terms of its appearance, the Riverside Centre should 'strongly reflect the maritime history of the village'\* and so wish to continue discussions on this point.

**Keith Phillips and  
Ros Watling**

\* Page 6, Grace Smith's 'Community Matters' Report, April 2009

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

Get in touch with the Parish Council Post your comments and suggestions in the dedicated box outside Rowhedge Post Office.

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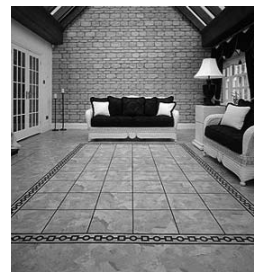
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## Dog Fouling Issues in the Village

Dog owners in the village are being reminded that they are legally obliged to pick up after their pets, if they foul in a public place. The start of spring is the ideal time to repeat this very important message.

Most owners are extremely responsible. Unfortunately, a small minority still let the rest down which gives all dogs a bad name, so we are urging every dog owner to get behind this campaign.

The Borough Council provides facilities to make it as easy as possible for dog owners to clean up after their pets, including dog waste bins and free 'poop scoop' bags.

However, it is ultimately the owner's responsibility to clean up and dispose of any mess. Anyone who isn't prepared to do this should frankly not own a dog.

We hope that the extra publicity in Donyland Despatches will encourage all dog owners to clean up after their pets so everyone can enjoy the open spaces in the village and public footpaths, free of the nuisance dog mess.

Failure to clean up after your dog can lead to a fixed penalty notice of £50 and failure to pay this may lead to prosecution and a fine of up to £1000.

Anyone with information about a regular offender is requested to ring the Borough Council on **01206 282581**.

The procedure is based around the phrase "GRAB IT, BAG IT AND BIN IT" which is a simple plan for owners to follow:

**GRAB IT** - Always keep a supply of plastic bags near your dog's lead - supermarket carrier bags make great poop scoops - so you don't forget to take a poop scoop with you on every walk.

Simply insert your hand in the plastic bag and pick up your dog's waste. It's easy and really not as bad as you may think.

**BAG IT** - Carefully turn the plastic bag inside out and your dog's mess will then be 'bagged'.

**BIN IT** - Dispose of your bag in a 'Poop' bin. Contrary to popular belief, wrapped dog waste can also be put into a public litter bin if a specific dog waste bin is not provided.

**Borough Animal Warden**

## 'Knowing Colchester': Statistics about where you live and work

Did you know that Colchester Borough now has the largest population in Essex with approximately 181,000 people? Did you know that it is set to increase by 31% by 2021?

If you need to know about Colchester for work, community projects or even homework, 'Knowing Colchester' is the document for you and a great place to start!

It includes statistics, maps and graphs about:

- Housing
- Economics/Employment
- Transportation
- Deprivation
- Environmental indicators

You can read at:

**[www.colchester.gov.uk/LDF](http://www.colchester.gov.uk/LDF)** or you can call Cathryn-Ann Cansdale **01206 282109** for more information.

# Ye Olde Albion Pub

Pearsons Quay, High Street, Rowhedge, Essex, CO5 7ES.  
Telephone: 01206 728972.

## Forthcoming events:

- 27 Feb. Six Nations rugby tournament. Showing on the big screen at the Albion - England v Ireland, 4pm
- 27 Feb. Live music in the evening with local village band, The Pistols
- 7 Mar. Craft afternoon; 2-5 pm in the upstairs function room. All welcome, come along and work on a current project or start something new!
- 9 Mar. Open musician night - come and show us what you can do ...
- 12 Mar. Sing, say & play evening in the upstairs function room
- 13 Mar. Six Nations rugby tournament. Showing on the big screen at the Albion - Scotland v England, 5pm
- 20 Mar. Six Nations rugby tournament. Showing on the big screen at the Albion - France v England, 7.45pm
- 27 Mar. Live music in the evening with Dizzy-yak - this rocking band cover a wide range of tunes from recent chart hits back to classic golden oldies!
- 23-25 Apr. St George's weekend - celebrate St. George's day at the Albion!!!  
Beer festival from Friday until Sunday and live music on both the Friday and Saturday nights. The Mighty Resonators will be playing on the Friday so get your dancing shoes at the ready...!

**Don't forget the Albion is open all day (from midday) on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday every week.**

## St Lawrence C of E Primary School Community Room

Are you a member of a community group which needs a venue in which to meet? We may have the answer. At the school we have just opened a fantastic Community Room facility.

We have a beautifully refurbished meeting space with integral kitchen, a smaller meeting room and an accessible toilet. The rooms are available for hire, although many community-based groups would only incur a nominal fee to cover running costs. If you do not have a particular group

in mind but would like to use our free internet facilities then please call the school office to check availability and book a slot.

Please keep an eye on the notice board near the school front gates for details of groups open to members of the wider community.

For more information call the school office on 728517 and help us turn our Community Room into a busy, vibrant community space.

**Kerry Malcolm**  
**Acting Headteacher**

## Sheltered Accommodation and Allotments within the Village

The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the questionnaire in the winter edition of the Donyland Despatches. A summary of the results is below, along with the action that is now being taken in light of these results.

- 55 households returned a completed questionnaire.
- Out of these 55 households 94 people would like to remain in Rowhedge into retirement
- 42 out of the 55 households believed they might have to spend some of this retirement in sheltered accommodation. 4 out of the 55 households felt they would not need sheltered accommodation in their retirement and 9 households were unsure
- 34 of the 55 households know of a friend or relative that might benefit from sheltered accommodation in the village and 15 out of the 55 households did not know of anyone who would benefit from this
- 54 out of the 55 households support EDPC in seeking to provide sheltered accommodation within the village for elderly residents
- 27 out of the 55 households made additional comments relating to sheltered accommodation.

All comments made regarding sheltered accommodation have been typed-up on the full results, but to summarise, there is an overwhelming amount of support for sheltered accommodation to be provided for elderly residents in the village.

The possible location of the sheltered accommodation has been commented on with some suggesting it be incorporated within the Docks' Development and others stressing the need for level ground near amenities.

A suggestion was made to build on the site at the entrance to Stephen Cranfield Close (where a previous application for flats had been). There is strong support to provide this facility so elderly residents do not have to move away from family and friends if they are unable to cope in their own homes. Comments stress that Rowhedge residents should be given priority for any available accommodation.

County Councillor K Bentley and Borough Councillor M Lilley attended a meeting with Colchester Borough Planners to discuss the possibility of including some sheltered accommodation within the new Docks' Development. This was a very constructive meeting and further talks are now needed with Essex County Council, which are being arranged at the present time.

### Allotments

- Out of the 55 households that responded, 50 households thought allotments would benefit Rowhedge residents. 27 of these households would like an allotment plot, 20 of these households don't want an allotment and 2 households were unsure about whether they would want an allotment or not.
- Out of the 55 households that completed a questionnaire, 22 noted the amount of money they would be

willing to pay annually for an allotment with the lowest amount being £10.00 per annum and the highest amount being £250.00.

The average amount from the figures offered is £61.96

- Various locations were suggested for possible allotment sites. All of these are noted in the full results. The three most popular sites suggested by the respondents were: the Wharf site, the old nursery site and farmers fields along the Rowhedge Road
- All comments relating to allotments have been typed-up with the full results. The majority of comments re-iterate the need for allotments in the Village and the need for water and security on the site. They also mention the benefits of growing your own food and the community spirit allotments can generate

A meeting held by residents at the end of last year has also indicated the need for allotments within the village and the Parish Council will be working with this group of residents to try to provide this facility.

Currently, we are approaching landowners in the parish to consider leasing an area of their land to the Parish Council for the use of allotments.

## The New Riverside Heritage Centre

The Parish Council is currently working with Stanley Bragg Partnership Limited (architects) on a design for a permanent building on the land adjacent to Lion Quay to go to planning.

The Council has also been exploring ways of generating income for the building so that it is self-sufficient; these will reflect ideas suggested during the consultation process and also those of local organisations. Creating a business plan for the new building is an essential part of the project in order to maximise funding opportunities.

A Design Working Group consisting of Councillors S Allen, D Myers and A Stott, along with a representative from the Rowhedge Heritage Trust and the Chair of the Rowhedge Riverside Centre Partnership, has been formed to work with the architects to agree a concept design to bring back to the full Parish Council for approval.

The architects will support the Parish Council in presenting a public exhibition in the spring so residents can see for themselves the design that has been agreed. The final design will be in direct response to recommendations put forward by local people who took part in the public consultation process last year.

## Rowhedge Under 5's Ofsted Approved Pre-School

The Village Hall, Rectory Road, Rowhedge  
Sessions available Monday to Friday - 9.30 'til 12.00  
Children accepted from 2yrs 9mths to 5yrs

For further information, or to arrange a visit, please  
contact our admissions secretary on

**01206 729042**



## The Rowhedge Policing Team

Concerns have recently been raised to me regarding possible anti-social behaviour and drug related issues along Spine Road, leading up to the Wharf.

While this has not yet been confirmed, I will be keeping a very close eye on the area with many dedicated patrols by myself and the rest of the team. If you have any information regarding this, please contact us. I have been keeping a spreadsheet of patrol dates and times and so far, nothing has been identified in the area.

### Crime prevention advice

As winter drags on and the days are dark much earlier, most people have lights on inside their homes when they are in. Therefore, it is far more recognisable when a home is unoccupied and lights are switched off.

Please make sure that your homes are left secure and consider leaving lights on as you go out. For more advice please view our 'Be Safe' section of the Police website.

### Recent crime information

Two of the crimes that occurred in Rowhedge over the past few months were both instances of mindless criminal damage - a smashed window at the Albion public house and the other was a damaged banner at the Village Hall.

If you have any information at all relating to these, please contact me directly. Also, we had five instances of anti-social behaviour occur in December 2009. These have included two counts of nuisance calls to residents, one accidental call to Police, one

animal related incident and one nuisance neighbour incident.

On a more positive note though, this shows a remarkable reduction to the seven crimes that were committed in the area over the same period last year. Also, we had absolutely no issues over New Years Eve, which is excellent!

### Other information

January saw the start of a new monthly session run by our team at the Heritage Hut, under the name of "Bobby by the Boats". My aim is to hold these sessions to give residents an opportunity to pop along and speak with me or one of the team personally.

This could be to raise any issues you may have, find out what we are doing, or just to say "hello". I hope to see you there.

The upcoming dates for the "Bobby by the Boats" sessions are Thursday 25th February 2010, Thursday 25th March 2010, and Thursday 22nd April 2010.

Your local neighbourhood Policing team will be bringing the Mobile Police Station to Rowhedge on Saturday 27th February 2010. Between 12 noon and 3pm, officers will be located on Rowhedge High Street to offer crime prevention advice and answer your questions.

### Bike Coding

If you have a push bike and wish to bring this along to the event Essex Police will record the details of your bike and add a security code to the frame for you. In the event that your bike was ever stolen and the Police recovered it, we

would be able to trace the owner.

### Home Security Check

Most burglaries can be prevented by correctly securing your property. Essex Police are offering you the chance to have a Home Security Check to make sure it is as safe as it can be.

Both the above options are free of charge; if you are interested in either please visit us at the event or, alternatively, call Essex Police on **07801 461695** to discuss us visiting your home.

The Rowhedge Policing Team remain dedicated to making the neighbourhood a safer place to live and will do our best to reduce both crime and anti-social behaviour.

We continue to do this with our partners at Colchester Borough Councils' Anti-Social Behaviour Team. Contact the Team Phone: **0300 333 4444** or Mobile: **07801 461695**.

If you have any information or questions please call us on the above numbers or email me on **middlewicksnso@essex.pnn.police.uk**

**Pc 71837 S Goodman**

**Rowhedge Neighbourhood**

**Specialist Officer (NSO)**

**South Colchester**

**Neighbourhood Police Team**

## Problems with Co-op delivery vans

As a resident of Regent Street, I have been continually frustrated with the Co-op delivery vans parking irresponsibly outside of the Store.

After many conversations with both drivers and staff, matters came to a head in January, when I was made late for work, yet again, by the road blockage.

I decided to contact the

## Bus Information

There is an advance notice of timetable revision for routes 66 and 66A from 8th March 2010. I heard this first from the constant watch of the Colchester Bus Users Support group (C-BUS) secretary and then from Essex County Council. There are no details yet, but look out for notices around the Village and on bus shelters.

By the time you read this I hope to have a reply from First's Operations Manager for Colchester, Mr Steve Hartman, regarding passengers remaining on the bus at North Station having travelled from the Town Centre and returning to Rowhedge. Any reply will be in the Post Office or Crow's Nest.

Two of us in Rowhedge belong to C-BUS. There are several members' meetings and Newsletters each year. The next meeting is at Friends' Meeting House on Tuesday 23rd February at 2pm.

All are welcome - and perhaps you may wish to join this group that works for better bus services in the area (annual subs are £3.00).

Please telephone **01206 728857** if you wish to borrow February's Newsletter.

**Elizabeth Trellis**

Distribution Centre to complain directly.

An investigation was conducted which appears to have improved matters. Should you experience further problems, however, please contact me at **millssharon@hotmail.com** and we can 'speak as one' to the Co-op representative who is monitoring the situation.

**Sharon Mills**

## Fingringhoe Drama Group



**Fingringhoe Drama Group. Back row: Yasmin Clarke, Hannah Thompson and Linda Betchley. Front row: Jayne Thompson; Joe Renton and Sally Jowers.**

Fingringhoe Drama Group are presently preparing for their annual Pantomime 'The Pied Piper' by Doreen Moger.

As this issue goes to print we will have completed both our final stages of rehearsals and our performances.

We would like to thank everyone within our communities of Fingringhoe, Rowhedge and New Town (and a few extras) who have supported us behind the scenes.

A lot of hard work goes into the planning committee, costumes, choreography, making and painting the stage, scenery and props, promoting the show and selling the tickets.

We would also like to thank everyone who will make it a

success at each performance – chaperoning the children in the cast, make-up, those backstage, lighting, sound and music, front of house and of course thanks go to our Producer (Chris Austin) Director (John Sanders) and Music Director (Terry Canham) who have all committed a huge number of hours to make this show a lot of fun for us and our audiences.

Lastly, we would like to thank everyone who has supported us by buying tickets and hope that if you came you enjoyed it as much as we have and if you didn't make it this year, that you put it in your diary for next year!

**Sally Jowers, Committee Secretary**

## Rowhedge Regatta 2010

The Rowhedge Regatta this year will be held on Saturday 3rd July.

If you would like to have a stall at this year's Regatta, please email Chris Lewis on [lewischris@hotmail.com](mailto:lewischris@hotmail.com)

We are arranging a few fundraising events in the next couple of months; please see the notice boards around the

village for further details.

### Volunteers needed

Volunteers are always welcome to help make this annual event a success.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Helen Went on **07956 283760** who will put you in contact with the appropriate person.

## Community Speed Watch

Volunteers are wanted for an initiative which clamps down on speeding. Pc Phil Moles, one of the Neighbourhood Specialist Officers for Harbour, Berechurch and Rowhedge, is seeking local people to volunteer for a new Community Speed Watch scheme.

He explained: "It would be great to hear from anyone living in the Middlewick area who would be interested in getting involved. Training will take place on a weekend, in one of the local community halls, and will last around three hours," he added.

Community Speed Watch is a scheme to help people reduce speeding traffic though their community. It incorporates poster campaigns and a pledge system linked to direct action using radar speed guns and Vehicle Activated Signs, all under the supervision of the County Council. The use of the radar devices will not lead to prosecution – drivers will get a letter from the police instead – but will help to underline the community's commitment to reducing speed.

For more information contact Pc Phil Moles, Pc Sam Goodman or Pc Karen Davis on **0300 333 4444** or email [middlewick.nso@essex.pnn.police.uk](mailto:middlewick.nso@essex.pnn.police.uk)

## Donyland Despatches 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** or email [edpc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:edpc@hotmail.co.uk).

## Telephone scam warning

Colchester Borough Council is alerting residents to a telephone scam being carried out in the Council's name.

Residents have reported receiving a call from an automated telephone message claiming that Colchester Borough Council could wipe clean all of their bills.

The call states the person's name and that they have been selected by 'Colchester Council'. It refers to the Council clearing any bank overdrafts, loans etc, as well as settling utility bills including water, gas and electric. The message claims that the person is being charged for the call and when 1471 is used to trace the phone call the number comes up as withheld.

Details of the call have been provided to the Police and Colchester Borough Council Customer Service Centre.

Peter Carrington, Community Safety Co-ordinator for the Safer Colchester Partnership said: "These types of scam phone calls usually come from outside the UK with the aim of getting the person to use a very expensive contact number charged to the caller, to obtain personal information to steal a person's identity or gain personal banking information to use fraudulently which then leaves the victim to sort out the mess and bad credit rating."

If you have received a similar telephone call, or are in doubt about a call you have received, please call Peter Carrington on **01206 717816**, or email [peter.carrington@colchester.gov.uk](mailto:peter.carrington@colchester.gov.uk)

## St Lawrence C of E Primary School News

At St Lawrence School we are really proud of the start we have made to 2010. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of all members of our school community we are thrilled to have been rated "GOOD" during our recent OFSTED inspection. The considerable progress we have made in

recent years was acknowledged with 2 outstanding and 27 good grades against 31 criteria. The inspectors identified that pupils; "thrive academically and emotionally, because all staff want them to achieve to the best of their varying abilities..." and "benefit from the positive environment of a

school that is well-focused on enabling them to make good progress."

As we look forward to a new era in the life of our vibrant community school, we would like to thank all members of the community who have supported us and worked with us to ensure that all our pupils receive the good quality edu-

cation to which they are entitled.

Staff, Governors and pupils extend a warm welcome to all members of the village community. For further information about our work, or a copy of our OFSTED report contact the school office on **01206 728517**. Please feel free to make an appointment to come and visit us so that you can see our busy school in action, we would love to meet you.

**Kerry Malcolm**  
**Acting Headteacher**

### Managing the Coast

Plans for managing flood and coastal erosion risk over the next century are being updated.

From 15th March you can find out about the Essex and South Suffolk Shoreline Management Plan which sets out the risks of flooding and erosion, policies for managing these risks, and informs us so that future land use, planning and development of the shoreline takes account of the risks and the preferred policies.

You can make your comments in the following ways:

- Online at:  
**[www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/105014.aspx](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/105014.aspx)**
- At local libraries in the coastal towns affected
- Via your Parish Council
- At Colchester Borough Council offices
- At the drop-in events where our team will be on hand to answer your questions.

Your local drop-in is on Saturday 20 March, 9.30am-1.30pm at the MICA Centre, West Mersea.

For more information please call **08708 506 506**.

## Report from Kevin Bentley, Essex County Councillor



**Kevin Bentley, Essex County Councillor**

### Gritty times

The recent severe weather has caused a great deal of disruption on the roads. The County Council has managed to keep all the main roads open throughout Essex during this snowy period and many of the secondary roads were also gritted.

I am conscious that roads in Rowhedge and Donyland were not gritted and this caused many issues for residents and shop keepers. I did try to get the roads treated but it would appear many of them were on the official gritting list to be done. I am now working with the Parish Council to review this situation and to ensure they are gritted in the future.

### Waste Collections

Rather like the gritting teams, the refuse collectors also kept going and managed to keep collections as near normal as possible.

It is reported that in other parts of the country waste collections were postponed; in Colchester our teams battled through the snow. Some areas were impossible to collect from because of safety reasons but this was rectified as soon as possible. If, however, any of you are still experiencing issues with waste collections then please let me know but hopefully all of you are having your rubbish picked up.

### Pothole repairs

After the snow, comes the damage it causes to our road network. I have seen and experienced many new potholes as I have driven around the area and indeed taken many telephone calls from residents.

I have faithfully reported every one of them and the Highways Department have done a tremendous job in repairing the major ones.

These are likely to be temporary repairs to ensure the holes are filled in but will need more work. I am liaising with the engineers at Highways to ensure these are seen to as quickly as possible.

### Roving Warden

I have been informed that our area of Colchester has been allocated a new Roving Warden. He will be able to be

contacted to help us with a number of important jobs that arise from time to time such as litter etc. If you see anything that you think needs urgent attention then please call me and I shall be able to get hold of the Roving Warden.

### Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

In January 2010, a joint Police/Colchester Borough Council anti-social behaviour hotline was being launched. The hotline number is **01206 282731**. The purpose of the hotline is to direct those affected by ASB to a dedicated specialised team so their complaint can be dealt with more efficiently.

The hotline is available Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm. Messages can be left out of these times, however, in the case of emergency dial 999.

### I am here to help

Remember I am always here to help you. As your County Councillor for Rowhedge and Donyland I will do all I can to assist you in matters where you think I can be of service. You can contact me on e-mail **[kevin@mosaicpublicity.co.uk](mailto:kevin@mosaicpublicity.co.uk)** or telephone **01206 548100**.

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

## Colchester's new children's centre

Plans have been agreed for a SureStart children's centre in King George V Pavilion, Lexden, thanks to a partnership agreement between Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council.

The plans involve the conversion of an unused kitchen area and communal space to provide a crèche and family room, meeting and consultation rooms and office space.

The proposals will see Essex County Council and Colchester Borough Council working together in order to provide additional facilities, to help address the needs of younger people and their families.

Essex County Council has secured the funding for the scheme.

## About the Census

A lot's changed in Colchester over the last 10 years. But what, exactly?

How many more people live in the Borough compared with 10 years ago?

And what services do they need in their community? The best way to find out is to do a Census.

The Office for National Statistics conducts a Census every 10 years by sending each household in England and Wales a questionnaire. The next Census will take place on 27 March 2011.

Look out for more information on our website throughout 2010 and 2011.

Alternatively, contact Cathryn-Ann Cansdale on **01206 282109** or email **cathryn.cansdale@colchester.gov.uk**

## Use bite+ on the bus to save money

Colchester is set to benefit from a pilot scheme which means children and young people aged 5 to 19 years old, who live within Colchester borough, can now apply for a bite+ card.

The bite+ card is free and entitles the bearer to half price adult fares on bus journeys anywhere in Essex and, in the majority of cases, this means paying less than the equivalent child fare.

Whether it's used to get to school or college, commute to work, or visit friends, you can save money.

The scheme starts on 1 April, so 5-19 year olds should apply now to enjoy the savings. And don't forget, bite+ can also be used as a proof of age card and a library card too.

For more details visit [www.essex.gov.uk/bite](http://www.essex.gov.uk/bite) or call **0845 603 7626** for an application form.

## Year-round games facility

A new multi-use games area is to provide play opportunities all year round at the Old Heath Recreation Ground.

The games area will provide a variety of sports markings making it suitable for play by all ages. It is anticipated that the work will commence in late spring with the facility ready for use before the summer holiday period.

The design and location of the new facility has been developed with the New Town Residents Group, and will replace the redundant grass tennis courts that are unsuitable for use during bad weather.

## Cheaper Medicines Are Not Inferior

### Why are some medicines cheaper than others?

There are two main types of medicines available for doctors to prescribe 'Generic' and 'Branded'

### Branded Medicines

Branded medicines such as Lipitor and Cozaar are medicines which are still under a patent and can only be produced/manufactured by one company.

The cost of prescribing these medicines is decided jointly between the government and the company who manufactures the medicine and allows the company to recoup the cost of developing a new drug.

Branded medicines have two names, their 'brand' name which belongs to the manufacturer, such as Lipitor, and their generic name of the active drug, Atorvastatin.

### Generic Medicines

Generic medicines are medicines which are no longer under a patent, so different manufacturers can produce them if they wish and they all have to go through the same stringent testing as branded medicine.

As there are normally several manufacturers producing the medicine and they are no longer under a patent, the cost of prescribing these generic medicines is a lot lower than the cost of prescribing a branded medicine.

Generic medicines normally only have one name - their 'generic' name - although a number of products still remain available as both a branded and generic product. The cost of prescribing these medicines is normally decided

by the government. A prescriber will select a medicine from a 'class' or group of similar drugs used for treating a particular problem such as 'Statins' to lower cholesterol.

Unless there are specific clinical reasons not to, the prescriber will start the patient on a generic medicine from this class such as Simvastatin or Pravastatin.

There are three good reasons for choosing a generic medicine first:

1. Generic medicines have been around for longer than branded medicines in the same class so we have more information on the effects the drug may have long term and therefore its safety.
2. Generic medicines are just as effective as branded medicines, and in fact, all generic medicines were branded medicines when they were first produced.
3. Generic medicines are more cost effective.

In order to make the best use of the resources available to the NHS we need to ensure we prescribe the most appropriate medicines and this is often a generic medicine.

**Imogen Witt**  
**Prescribing Support**  
**Technician**  
**Medicines Management**  
**NEEPCT**  
**01206 286872**

## Backyard Artists Exhibition

**5th & 6th June**

**In the garden of 46**

**Parkfield Street, Rowhedge.**

**11am - 5pm**

**Painting, sculpture, prints,**  
**photography and more**

**Everyone welcome**