



Buckhurst Hill Parish Council Magazine

News and views from around Buckhurst Hill

Spring 2016



BUCKHURST HILL PARISH COUNCIL 20 years on...

Creation of BHPC

In 2016 it will be 20 years since the creation of BHPC but it may surprise residents to hear that the legal basis for the creation of parish councils dates back to an Act of Parliament of 1894 (the Local Government Act). It could be said, therefore, in that context that BHPC is a relatively young parish council.

Increasing status of parish councils

Two major Acts of Parliament have increased the status and powers of parish councils since the 1894 Act. The Local Government Act of 1972, amongst other things, gave parish councils the right to be informed and consulted on planning applications for the development of land in the Parish. In 2016 this is still one of the single most important functions of BHPC with the planning committee being the most frequently meeting group in the council, as meetings take place fortnightly.

The Localism Act of 2011 has given parish councils, including BHPC, the bold new power to 'do anything that individuals generally may do' so long as it is not prohibited by any other Act of Parliament. This is also referred to as 'the general power of competence' and while parish councils are still feeling their way in relation to what this means for them in real terms it is undoubtedly a change that will significantly boost the status of parish councils and their ability to successfully represent local communities.

The 2011 Act also allowed for the formation of a Neighbourhood Plan by parish councils. In other words, it allows councils like BHPC to establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in their Parish. BHPC has already taken its first steps towards forming a Neighbourhood Plan for Buckhurst Hill and this is receiving councillors' ongoing attention through meetings and allocation of budget funding towards progressing the aim of a Neighbourhood Plan for Buckhurst Hill.

BHPC today

Responsibilities

BHPC is at the lowest tier of local government with Epping Forest District Council and then Essex County Council being above it in the hierarchy.

BHPC has a wide area of responsibility which includes allotments, two playgrounds, a ball Court, Roding Valley Recreation Ground, benches and 2 community halls.

Councillors and the office

BHPC is made up of the Office staff, at the head of which is the Parish Clerk, Kevin O'Brien, and 11 elected councillors whose current 4 year term expires in May 2016. The Chair of BHPC is Councillor Aniket Patel.

In terms of the division of work between the office and the councillors, broadly speaking, councillors make policy decisions and the office implements these on a day to day basis.



Work of a councillor – committees and sub-committees

The main work of the councillors is attending the meetings of BHPC including Full Council and they can also choose to be members of the various committees, which also meet regularly. The committees are Planning & Environment, Recreation & Community, Finance & Establishment and Neighbourhood Plan. There are also sub-committees of which councillors can be members

and these currently are the Website, Accommodation and Personnel sub-committees.

Each committee and sub-committee has its own chair and vice chair. Councillors are sent the meeting agendas and supporting documents so they can read these in advance of the meetings.

Meetings of BHPC are held in public and members of the public are permitted to speak in relation to any item on the agenda within the time allotted for members of the public.

Being a councillor – the experience

From the perspective of a councillor at BHPC, I can say that the work is varied, interesting and rewarding. Being a councillor gives me the opportunity to give something back to the community. The role of a parish councillor is one that has changed a great deal over time. In my view the role is destined to alter further still, due to the creation of the Localism Act 2011 but I believe that the changes will be positive ones that will allow even better representation of local communities.

Cllr Hale Wheeler, Vice-chair BHPC

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – Thursday 5 May



Want to make a difference to Buckhurst Hill?

Why not stand as a Parish Councillor?

Watch notice boards and website nearer the time for information
Elections are run by Epping Forest District Council – www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk

SEE INSIDE

Council information Pages 2-4

Community Information Pages 5-12

HALLS FOR HIRE

Our two community halls are available to hire for a range of uses including Parties, Meetings, Groups and Wedding Receptions.

RODING VALLEY HALL



A traditional 1930s hall with a sprung wooden floor and stage. Its maximum capacity is 185 people with parking for 39 cars.



WOOLLARD CENTRE



A large hall with a maximum capacity of 225 people. It has two other rooms, each with a capacity of 25, and parking for 10 cars.



More details: www.buckhursthillpc.gov.uk office@buckhursthillpc.gov.uk 020 8498 9933

HALLS AVAILABILITY

Our 2 community halls currently have the following slots available for regular hire:

■ Roding Valley Hall ■ Woollard Centre (main hall)

	Morning	Afternoon		Evening	
Monday		Woollard			
Tuesday					
Wednesday	Woollard	Woollard		Roding	
Thursday	Roding	Woollard		Roding	
Friday	Woollard	Roding	Woollard	Roding	Woollard
Saturday		Roding	Woollard	Roding	Woollard
Sunday	Woollard	Roding	Woollard		

Woollard Centre Meeting Rooms: Available Tuesday to Saturday



Chairman's Report

As the sound of Christmas bells fade away and the green shoots of spring start to appear, the work of the Parish Council continues unabated.

Having successfully fought to protect Buckhurst Hill's status as a Large Village in the District Council's Green Belt Review, we continue to be actively involved in monitoring developments as the Review enters its second stage. Parish and District Councillors have attended numerous meetings, workshops etc to ensure that Buckhurst Hill's voice is heard. We will keep you advised on progress later this year.

Discussions continue with Essex County Council over our aspirations to extend the current usage of the Library. We are being supported in our plans by various Community Groups and are currently pulling all the ideas together in order to present a formal proposal in the near future.

We are also making significant progress in our aspiration to extend the opening hours of the Library. At the time of writing, our first group of volunteers are undergoing training and, as a consequence, we are looking to extend the opening hours later in the spring. So watch this space. It's also not too late to volunteer. If you would like an opportunity to meet people and support your local community in the process, then see the advertisement on the back page or contact the Parish Office for information.

I reported in the last Parish Magazine that we were bitterly disappointed that we had not secured the services of our own Police Community Support Officer (PCSO). However, with constant pressure by the Parish Council in recent weeks things have become much more positive and I can now report that fresh discussions with Essex Police have reached a point where a recruitment process will begin in the near future. Once appointed, the PCSO will be dedicated to patrolling Buckhurst Hill on a daily basis, as well as forging stronger links with local schools, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators, voluntary organisations etc.

Last month saw our most successful yet afternoon performance of the Disney Film "Big Hero 6", as part of our

Community Cinema programme, see photograph below. The Parish Office have already had enquiries about when the next film showing will take place and are looking into possible dates. So please keep a watchful eye out for information in the ensuing weeks. If you have any suggestions for future showings please let us know. As mentioned previously you can contact the Parish Office on office@buckhursthillpc.gov.uk or at the address 165 Queens Road Buckhurst Hill IG9 5AZ (shared with the Library).

Our "Winter Warmers" Older Persons Forum event, held on November 6th, was also acknowledged to be a resounding success. So much so that plans are already in place for the event to be run again later this year and our Clerk will shortly be attending a meeting to organise the 2016 event. It is intended that the event will be staged again during November and we will publish details as soon as they are known. There is an article on last November's event elsewhere in the Magazine.

Again in November, accompanied by other Parish and District Councillors and the Clerk, I was honoured to take part in the Wreath Laying and Remembrance events around the Parish organised by the Royal British Legion. Again there is a separate article elsewhere in the Magazine.

In the run-up to Christmas, I was firstly invited to join the Jewish community in celebrating Chanukah and the lighting of the Menorah at the top of Queens Road. Whilst on December 4th the annual "Christmas on Queens Road" event took place. This is an event organised in partnership with the Residents Society and the Buckhurst Hill Village Forum.

The event was opened by Barbara Blossom one of Buckhurst Hill's well known and senior citizens. Our MP Eleanor Laing was also in attendance, joining in with the hundreds of residents who came along and had a great time. I was also really pleased that over £1300 was raised for the Alzheimers Society, my chosen charity for this year.

To round things off on December 16th we ushered in Christmas with a joint carol service, organised with the Buckhurst Hill Baptist Church. The evening was much enjoyed by all who attended including representatives of other faith groups in Buckhurst Hill.

The evening was full of carol singing, reflection, mulled wine and mince pies and the collection raised a further £176 for the Alzheimers Society.

This is still a difficult time financially for local councils, as the amount of money available to us from Central Government has been reducing in real times in recent years. Notwithstanding, I am very proud that, despite this in Buckhurst Hill we have been able to freeze the precept for the fourth year in a row. Efficiencies made by this Council in recent years, mean that the Council can absorb the loss of funding and avoid passing the extra cost on to residents.

The current Council has made great strides over the last three and a half years, particularly in its efforts to draw the local community even closer together to the mutual benefit of all. It is therefore with optimism that I look forward in 2016 to us continuing to work together for the unique community of Buckhurst Hill.

Cllr Aniket Patel, Chairman



Budget 2016/17

The Budget for 2016-2017 had been agreed, giving an anticipated expenditure of £588,221 and anticipated income of £76,492. The remaining income is partly taken from the Council's reserves and the remainder through the Precept which has been set at £351,867. This gives a Council Tax Band D equivalent charge of £68.89 meaning that the Local Council Tax for the parish of Buckhurst Hill has been frozen for the fourth successive year.



BHPC – COUNCIL YEAR 2015/2016

Council Chairman: Cllr Mr Aniket Patel

Council Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs Hale Wheeler

(Vice Chairmen are elected at the first meeting of the Committee)

FINANCE & ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Miss S Watson (Chairman)
Cllr Miss L Bacon (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Mr N Cohen
Cllr Mrs S Patel
Cllr Mrs J Share-Bernia
Cllr Mr R Sparrowhawk
Cllr Mrs H Wheeler
Cllr Mr N Wright

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs J Share-Bernia (Chairman)
Cllr Mr B Nagpal
Cllr Mr R Sparrowhawk
Cllr Miss S Watson
Cllr Mrs H Wheeler
Cllr Mr N Wright

PERSONNEL SUB COMMITTEE

(reports to Full Council)

Cllr Mrs J Share-Bernia (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs S Patel
Cllr Mrs H Wheeler

Councillor's Surgery –

if you would like to see a councillor, they are available before meetings by appointment. To arrange an appointment, please contact the Parish Office: 020 8498 9933 / office@buckhursthillpc.gov.uk

If the matter is urgent please contact the Parish Office.

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Mr Kevin O'Brien

RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER

Mrs Val Evans

WEBSITE SUB COMMITTEE

(reports to Full Council)

Cllr Mr B Nagpal (Chairman)
Cllr Mr R Taylor (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Mrs S Patel
Cllr Mr R Sparrowhawk

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Cllr Miss L Bacon (Chairman)
Cllr Mr R Taylor (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Mr N Cohen
Cllr Mr B Nagpal
Cllr Mrs S Patel
Cllr Mrs J Share-Bernia
Cllr Mr R Sparrowhawk
Cllr Miss S Watson

RECREATION & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Cllr Mrs H Wheeler (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs S Patel (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Miss L Bacon
Cllr Mr B Nagpal
Cllr Mr R Sparrowhawk
Cllr Mr R Taylor
Cllr Miss S Watson

ACCOMMODATION SUB COMMITTEE

(reports to F & E Committee)

Cllr Miss S Watson (Chairman)
Cllr Mr R Sparrowhawk (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Mr N Cohen
Cllr Mr B Nagpal
Cllr Mrs H Wheeler

From the Clerk

This time last year I was writing my first piece for the Parish Magazine. I had plans for the forthcoming year but had very little real knowledge as to how things would actually pan out. So looking back on 2015, I can see that we have made some very good steps forward. Some of the progress has been in areas that will not be immediately evident to you; such as a restructuring within the Parish Office in such a way that we are confident that we will be more effective going forward to everyone's benefit. Some of those changes are beginning to bear fruit already. In addition we have been in discussions with Essex County Council regarding our aspirations to extend the use of the Library for community benefit and we have also been (and will continue) supporting Councillors who are actively engaged in representing residents in relation to the District Council's "Local Plan" of which a key element is the much publicised "Green Belt Review".

Some of our work has been much more visible such as the highly successful Community Cinema events, Older Peoples Forum "Winter Warmers" event and "Christmas in Queens Road". Both the latter two events run collaboratively with partner organisations.

Whilst we can be pleased with our achievements in 2015, I am not by nature someone to dwell on the past So it is with enthusiasm that I look forward to what we can achieve over the next twelve months. For example I am delighted to report that the first of our Library Volunteers are currently undergoing training and I hope that we will soon be able to announce when we will be extending the library provision that we are responsible for in the not too distant future. We are also tantalisingly close to securing the services of our own Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), totally dedicated to all facets of neighbourhood policing in Buckhurst Hill. These are to name just a few.

So you can see that we have a busy and interesting year ahead of us in the Parish Office and it is time to roll up our sleeves and get stuck in. May I also take this opportunity on behalf of all the Parish Office Team, to wish you all a very happy Easter and I look forward to writing to you again in the summer.

Kevin O'Brien

REMEMBRANCE 2015

Led by Parish Council Chairman, Aniket Patel, Parish and District Councillors attended all the Remembrance Day Commemorations around the Parish. On November 8th, Parish and District Council representatives joined the Royal British Legion members and parishioners for a Remembrance Service at St.Johns. The service was followed by a Wreath Laying. Councillor Aniket Patel laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council, Councillor Sylvia Watson and District Councillor Gavin Chambers also laid wreaths.

In addition to the Service at St.Johns. Chairman Aniket Patel attended Commemoration events at the United Reform Church, St.Stephens Church and Pelly House.



Volunteering: are you ready for a new challenge?

In today's society more and more people, from all walks of life, are choosing to carry out voluntary, unpaid work in their community.

People choose to volunteer for all sorts of reasons like using their existing skills to benefit others, to gain new skills and experiences or simply to give something back to their community.

Young people who want to build up their skill base can also volunteer within school or outside of it.

There are many different organisations to which volunteers can choose to give their time and those interested in exploring this further from a national perspective can take a look at the Government's information on this at

www.gov.uk/government/get-involved/take-part/volunteer.

Another useful contact for general information about volunteering is the NCVO, an organisation started in 1919, which champions the voluntary sector by supporting voluntary organisations large and small. Information can be viewed at

www.ncvo.org.uk.

Whilst being a being a volunteer does not give you the same rights as an employee, you may be paid for some or all or your out of pocket expenses such as travel expenses and voluntary organisations are known to provide their volunteers with Volunteer Agreements. These may set out the level of supervision volunteers will be under and the amount of training they will receive, for example.

Buckhurst Hill Parish Council also recognises the importance of volunteers and is inviting residents to apply to become volunteers at Buckhurst Hill Library. This will involve volunteers being trained to help run the library and gives residents the chance to help make accessible this invaluable resource for the community. For more information on this wonderful opportunity please see advert on the back page

Cllr Hale Wheeler

BUCKHURST HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

This winter the weather has been much milder than usual and the gardens are full of early spring flowers. Let's hope that we do not have any very cold conditions from now on.

We are looking forward to our SPRING SHOW

details as follows:

Saturday 9 April 2016, 2.00-4.30pm

Centenary Hall, St John's Church, High Road, Buckhurst Hill
Free entry to members, £1 for non-members. Good parking facilities

Teas, home-made cakes, plants for sale and a stall selling a variety of garden sundries. All visitors welcome.

There is always a wonderful display of daffodils and this year the Society is hosting the second leg of the Daffodil Society's Southern Championship. There will be other spring flowers and shrubs, flower arrangements, photography competition, cookery and children's classes.

As this is the first show of the year, it is always popular and hopefully it will give you inspiration for your own gardens. We are always ready and willing to give advice about any horticultural problems you have.

If you would like more information about the show or the horticultural society please don't hesitate to contact either Maureen telephone 020 8504 8436 or Jill telephone 020 8257 8996.

ANYONE FOR BOWLS?

Now that Spring is eventually here your thoughts may well turn to getting some fresh air and exercise.

Buckhurst Hill Bowling Club is the ideal venue for local bowlers, whatever their skill or age, and especially for those who would like to try their hand at a new sport. The Club has a well appointed pavilion and superb greens in a lovely setting at 72 Epping New Road (opp Glyn Hopkin) and actively welcomes new members. Beginners are offered free tuition in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Whilst the bowling season begins in mid-April and runs until early October, the Club has a varied programme of social events throughout the year. Our **Public Open**

Day is being held on **Saturday 23rd April** between 10.30-4.00pm, you can try your hand at bowling and ask any questions you may have; so if you are interested please just turn up on the day and you will be sure of a very warm reception.

Bowling is fairly unique in that you don't have to have a playing partner, so members can just come along any afternoon for a roll-up and be sure to find others to bowl with. So what have you got to lose, start bowling, make new friends, and enjoy some healthy outdoor exercise.

See our website for further information: www.bhbtlc.co.uk or e-mail: buckhursthill.bowling@gmail.com

We are also holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 7th May from 10.30-12.00 and everyone is welcome so make a note in your diary to come and visit us then.

Dates for your diary and local associations



BUCKHURST HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Meetings held at Buckhurst Hill Library, 165 Queens Road

■ THURSDAY 24 MARCH

7.00pm Planning & Environment Committee
8.00pm Full Council

■ THURSDAY 14 APRIL

7.00pm Planning & Environment Committee
8.00pm Recreation & Community Committee

■ THURSDAY 28 APRIL

7.00pm Planning & Environment Committee

■ THURSDAY 5 MAY

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

■ THURSDAY 19 MAY

7.00pm Annual Council
8.00pm Planning & Environment Committee

Details correct at the time of going to print but may be subject to change for Statutory/Policy requirements.

Further information from the Parish Office:

020 8498 9933 or our website

www.buckhursthillpc.gov.uk

AGE CONCERN BUCKHURST HILL

Information and advice on a variety of topics related to the elderly.
Further details: Hon Secretary Mr D Lindsey 020 8262 2259

BUCKHURST HILL ANTIQUES CLUB

Venue: Buckhurst Hill Community Assn, Bedford House, Westbury Road, Buckhurst Hill.

First Friday of the month 7.45 for 8pm prompt.

Visitors welcome.

For further details of membership, telephone the BHCA office on 020 8504 6668 or the Membership Secretary: on 020 8504 7355 or email jean.james80@gmail.com

BUCKHURST HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner of Palmerston Road/Westbury Road

Welcome to the Buckhurst Hill Baptist Church Lighthouse Coffee Shop open Monday-Thursday 8.30am-4.30pm Friday 8.30am-2.30pm. Lovely coffee, cake and chance to chat

Friday 3.30 – 6pm – The Hub – Drop In Centre for Year 5 upwards

Sunday Morning Service 10.30am with children's activities

Evening and midweek meetings

Enquiries: 020 8559 0222 www.bhbc.org.uk

BUCKHURST HILL BOWLING AND LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Great for exercise and fun. The outdoor bowls season extends until early October and the tennis courts are in use all year round. Coaching for all ages is available.

■ SATURDAY 23RD APRIL

Public Open Day 10.30am-4.00pm

■ SATURDAY 7TH MAY

Coffee Morning 10.30am-12.00 noon

For further details contact

Bowls – Madeleine Davius bowls@bhbltc.co.uk or 020 8504 4057

Tennis – Brigid Leworthy tennis@bhbltc.co.uk or 020 8554 6528

Website: www.bhbltc.co.uk

BUCKHURST HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Bedford House, 4 Westbury Road, Buckhurst Hill Essex IG9 5NW

Your local centre for lifelong learning – over 80 classes in art, craft, and leisure activities. Brochures or further details available from the Parish Office, local libraries, or BHCA itself: 020 8504 6668, email office@bedfordhouse.org.uk or visit

www.bedfordhouse.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 301268

BUCKHURST HILL FOOTBALL CLUB

More information: www.buckhursthillfootballclub.org.uk

@buckhursthillfc or www.facebook.com/buckhursthillfc

BUCKHURST HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meetings take place in the lounge at Buckhurst Hill Baptist Church, Palmerston Road (entrance: Palmerston Road side door)

For Information please contact:

020 8504 1799/020 8504 2844/020 8532 0593.

BUCKHURST HILL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

■ SATURDAY 9TH APRIL

2.00-4.30pm

Centenary Hall, St John's Church, High Road, Buckhurst Hill

Free entry to members, £1 for non-members

Good parking facilities

Further information from Maureen 020 8504 8436 or

Jill 020 8257 8996

BUCKHURST HILL LEISURE GARDENS ASSOCIATION

The Association manages local allotments on behalf of the Parish Council at Lower Queens Road, Forest Edge, Monkhamms, Palace Gardens and River Housing (Boxted Close)

Contact Mrs Mary Cowling 020 8505 5675 for availability of plots.

BUCKHURST HILL RESIDENTS SOCIETY

Meetings held at St James' United Reformed Church, Palmerston Road. Non-members are very welcome to attend.

Further information from:

Website: www.buckhursthillresidents.co.uk

Email: info@buckhursthillresidents.co.uk

Correspondence: c/o Broomes Newsagents, 34 Queens Road IG9 5BY

BUCKHURST HILL VILLAGE FORUM

For traders and stakeholders in Buckhurst Hill
 Contact: glenys@reposestudio.co.uk Tel: 020 8559 0520.

CHABAD JEWISH CENTRE

Chabad Buckhurst Hill is a Jewish Community Centre and Synagogue serving the local community and wider West Essex
 For more information or to contact the Rabbi – see www.chabadonthehill.co.uk

EPPING FOREST & DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

Meetings take place on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm Roding Valley High School, Alderton Hill, Loughton.
 For more details contact Keith Smith on 020 8505 5620.

GOLDEN YEARS CLUB

Tuesdays 1 – 3.30pm St James’s United Reformed Church, Palmerston Road, Buckhurst Hill.
 Members and Visitors – £2 per session.
 For more information telephone Janice Curd 020 8505 2384.

NATIONAL TRUST WOODFORD GREEN CENTRE

Please see advert for dates of event
 Further information from the local Hon Secretary
 Tel 020 8508 9541
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

RODING PLAYERS ORCHESTRA

This enthusiastic group of musicians meets weekly on Monday evenings 7.15 – 9.30pm during term time at Roding Valley High School, Loughton, Essex New members welcome, especially strings and brass. For more details www.rodingplayers.co.uk

RODING REEL CLUB

Every Thursday 7.45pm at St John’s Church Hall, High Road Friendly Scottish Dance Group. Come by yourself or come in a group, we’ll teach you to dance.
 For more details contact Pat 020 8529 1300.
www.rodingreelclub.com

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

7.45pm on the first Tuesday of each month at St James’ URC Church, Palmerston Road. For more details contact the Chairman, Stephen Goddard on 020 8505 2570.

ST JAMES’ UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Palmerston Road. Sunday Morning Service – 10.30am Shell & Staff Craft Group. 2-3.30 on the first Monday afternoon of the month (apart from Bank Holidays).
 All welcome. www.stjamesurc.org.uk

ST JOHN’S CHURCH

High Road, Buckhurst Hill. Sunday services – 8.45am and 10.45am 7pm informal worship. Everyone welcome!
 For further information, telephone 020 8506 2150. www.sjbh.org.uk

SENIOR MEN’S FELLOWSHIP

Second Tuesday in every month at St John’s Church, High Road 12.00 noon – 14.30pm 2-course hot meal. Speaker.
 New members welcome (retired or near retirement age).
 For more details contact the Secretary, Derek Hall on 020 8505 1884

WEST ESSEX RAMBLERS

As a member of the Ramblers’ Association, our Group offers a wide range of facilities. We are a friendly group. Come along on some of our walks to see if you would like to join.
 Contacts: General Enquiries – John Francis 020 8527 3938 or John Juchau 020 8502 1628
 Membership Enquiries – Keith Wenden, on 020 8529 6265.
www.westessexramblers.org.uk

WOMEN’S INSTITUTE

Meetings 3rd Wednesday in each month (2nd Wednesday in December) 7.30pm St. James’s United Reformed Church, Palmerston Road. For more information contact the Secretary Elizabeth Stearn 020 8504 6634

WOODFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The WSO was formed in 1963, over fifty years ago, and for all that time this friendly group of musicians has been giving at least three public concerts each year in Redbridge, together with invitation concerts within and beyond the borough.
 Rehearsals are held at Roding Valley High School, Loughton on Thursday evenings.
 Enquiries: 020 8504 7783 chairman@wsorchestra.org.uk
www.pnms.co.uk/wso

REGULAR HALL HIRERS

For further details please contact the hirer direct

Mondays

Roding Valley Hall
Tumble Tots 020 8559 0617
Weight Watchers –
 0845 602 7076

Woollard Centre
Sing & Sign 07834 728415
Ichthus After School 07946 322835
Trodai Academy 07900 162 515

Tuesdays

Roding Valley Hall
Tumble Tots 020 8559 0617
Karate 07967 482602

Woollard Centre
Toddler Sense 07715 305471
Ichthus After School 07946 322835
Trodai Academy 07900 162 515

Wednesdays

Roding Valley Hall
Tumble Tots 020 8559 0617

Woollard Centre
Ichthus After School 07946 322835
Good Success Assembly
Tai Chi 07967 666 794

Thursdays

Roding Valley Hall
U3A

Woollard Centre
Baby Sensory 07753 605 850
Ichthus After School 07946 322835
Slimming World 07960 603621

Fridays

Roding Valley Hall
Creation Station –
 0789 625 5126

Woollard Centre
Ichthus After School 07946 322835

Saturdays

Roding Valley Hall
Redbridge Classical Dance Studios (Ballet and Tap classes) – 020 8488 3066

Woollard Centre
M E A D (Miss Elizabeth’s Academy of Dance)
 07913 667340 / 07986 909398

Sundays

Roding Valley Hall
Roding Valley Church

Woollard Centre
Good Success Assembly

Information correct at time of going to press.
 However, we would remind readers to contact organisations to confirm precise details. Please mention the magazine when contacting organisations,
 Organisations – are your details correct?
 If not, let us know on 020 8498 9933
office@buckhursthillpc.gov.uk

The views expressed in BHPC magazine are not necessarily those of Buckhurst Hill Parish Council and the inclusion of advertisements does not constitute an endorsement by the council of any products or services.



National Trust

for ever, for everyone
Woodford Green Centre

Evening meetings at
Trinity Lower School, Sydney Road
Afternoon meetings at
All Saints, Inmans Row, Woodford

Wednesday 20 April 2016
8pm
A.G.M.

Followed by a talk on
Epping Forest
by Judy Adams

Tickets £3 for non-members of Centre.
Refreshments.

Enquiries **020 8508 9541**

Buckhurst Hill Baptist Church

Are you aged 9-13?

Come to **The Hub** Fridays in term time.
Fun, games, activities and food.



More information

www.bhbc.org.uk or @BHBaptist

Useful numbers

COUNCIL, SUPPORT & ADVICE SERVICES

Buckhurst Hill Parish Council	020 8498 9933
Epping Forest District Council	01992 564000
Buckhurst Hill Library	020 8504 0810
Education/Welfare	0845 6032200
Registrar of Births,	
Deaths & Marriages	01992 572789
Social Services	03457 430430
Essex County Council	0845 7430430
London Borough of Redbridge	020 8554 5000
London Borough of Waltham Forest	020 8496 3000
Citizens Advice Bureau	0344 477 0808
Department of Work & Pensions	0845 8500293
Samaritans	116 123
Child Line	0800 1111
NSPCC	0808 8005000
Age UK	01245 346106
Rape Crisis Centre	01296 392468
Epping Forest Careers Centre	020 8508 4110
Epping Forest Volunteers Bureau	01992 564424
Epping Information Centre	01992 564288
Epping Forest Countrycare	01992 788203
NHS	111 111

The Willows Centre

(Counselling room at St Stephen's Church, Alfred Rd)
Support for unplanned pregnancies, free pregnancy testing,
confidential care and advice, free counselling

For advice and appointments 0800 1214898

www.willowscentre.org

Affiliated to CARE Confidential –

National Helpline 0800 1214898

www.careconfidential.com

Red Cross 0844 871 8000

FloodLine 0345 9881188

Essex County Fire & Rescue 01376 576000

LOUGHTON STROKE CLUB

Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday
of the month (except August) at 2.00pm 020 8508 1100

MOTOR NEURONE

Meetings held at the Woollard Centre

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

National helpline 08457 616262

– for people with MND and their carers

ALZHEIMERS SOCIETY

01279 427522

HOSPITALS

St Margarets 01992 902010

Princess Alexandra 01279 444455

Whipps Cross 020 8539 5522

King George 0845 130 4204

Newham General 020 7476 4000

Holly House (private) 020 8505 3311

Roding Spire (private) 020 8551 1100

GPs

Kings Medical Centre 020 8504 0122

Palmerston Road Surgery 020 8504 1552

River Surgery 020 8504 7364

CLINICS

Buckhurst Hill Clinic 020 8504 0405

Marie Stopes Fairfield Clinic 0345 300 8090

DENTISTS

Gill, Patel & Anand 020 8504 9393

Queens Dental Practice 020 8505 8008

Valley Dental Practice 020 8504 5787

White House Dental Practice 020 8504 9393

NURSING HOMES

Forest Place 020 8505 2063

Queens Court 020 8559 0620

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Chabad Lubavitch –

Jewish Community Centre 020 8554 1624

Details: Rabbi Brandman www.chabadonthehill.co.uk

Ilford Hindu Centre 020 8553 5471 or 020 8478 6049

SCHOOLS

Buckhurst Hill County Primary 020 8505 7300

St John's C of E School (Primary) 020 8504 2934

Braeside School (Private) 020 8504 1133

The Daiglen School (Private) 020 8504 7108

Loyola Preparatory School (Private) 020 8504 7372

Chigwell School (Public) 020 8501 5700

Bancroft School (Public) 020 8505 4821

West Hatch High School 020 8504 8216

Roding Valley High School 020 8508 1173

NURSERY SCHOOLS

Buckhurst Hill Baptist Pre-School 020 8505 9299

Asquith Nursery 020 8501 1085

Queens Pre-Nursery 020 8505 0005

ADULT EDUCATION

Buckhurst Hill Community Association 020 8504 6668

Epping Forest College Loughton 020 8502 0186

ESSEX POLICE

Neighbourhood Policing 101 ex 313603

Springfield (HQ) 01245 491491

Non-emergency 101

Loughton Police 01279 641212

Harlow Police 01245 491491

YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Air Training Corps 020 8505 3353

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Stansted Airport 0844 335 1803

Gatwick Airport 0844 335 1801

Heathrow Airport 0844 335 1801

Luton Airport 01582 405100

TFL Customer Services 0343 222 1234

National Railways Enquiry Line 03457 484950

City Link (bus & coach) 0871 2663333

Kentish Bus & Coach (Arriva) 01274 681144

Metrobus 01293 449191

National Express 0871 7818181

ANIMAL WELFARE

Palmerston Veterinary Group 020 8505 1435

RSPCA (Veterinary Advice Line) 0300 1234 999

Chestnut Cat Sanctuary 01992 560510

PUBLIC UTILITIES

British Gas 0800 048 0202

Emergency Line 0800 111999

Thames Water 0800 714 614

Leak Line 0800 714 614

EDF Energy 0800 056 7777

Emergency Line 0800 028 0247

SPORTS FACILITIES

Bancroft Rugby Football Club 020 8504 0429

Buckhurst Hill Cricket Club & Lacrosse 020 8504 5652

Buckhurst Hill Bowling & Lawn Tennis 020 8504 0780

David Lloyd Centre 0345 129 6783

Epping Sports Centre 01992 564564

Essex School of Swimming 07772 108855

Loughton Leisure Centre 01992 564574

Roding Valley Cricket Club 020 8506 1001

Roding Valley Tennis Centre 020 8505 4008

MINI CAB SERVICES

Mason Car Services (Woodford Green) 020 8504 1685

Mayflower 020 8502 1111

Buckhurst Hill Cars 020 8505 1111

Woodford Radio Cars (Chingford) 020 8559 1111

CHURCHES

St John's/St Stephen's 020 8506 2150

Buckhurst Hill Baptist 020 8559 0222

St James United Reform 020 8505 0300

BUCKHURST HILL VILLAGE FORUM

(formerly Town Centre Partnership) 020 8504 6611

Buckhurst Hill Parish Council

165 Queens Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5AZ

tel: 020 8498 9933 email: office@buckhursthillpc.gov.uk

web: www.buckhursthillpc.gov.uk

Summer Reading Challenge 2016

Children across Essex are being encouraged to get involved in this year's Roald Dahl-themed Summer Reading Challenge. The Big Friendly Read will invite children into the wonderful world of Roald Dahl, where they will meet and rediscover many of his best loved characters, such as The BFG, Matilda and The Twits.

2016 marks 100 years since the birth of Roald Dahl and The Big Friendly Read is a celebration of his stories and the amazing artwork of his principal illustrator, Sir Quentin Blake.

Children will be encouraged to read any six books of their choice to collect character cards, stickers and a medal.

In each library children will be able to hunt out Roald Dahl characters, scan them on smart phones or other devices and then watch as the characters come to life through augmented reality.

The Big Friendly Read is aimed at children aged 3-12 with a special early years version for babies and toddlers. It runs from 16 July to 3 September.

The challenge will encourage children to expand their reading, explore new authors and discover facts, characters and stories across the best contemporary children's writing.

For those aged 10 or about to start secondary school, there will be a special activity called

My Zine offering older kids an opportunity to create their own mini magazine, or 'Zine', on a subject that interests them.

Cllr Anne Brown, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Corporate, Communities and Customers, said: "In 2015, 42,000 children in Essex took part in the Summer Reading Challenge, improving their reading skills and confidence and having a great time sharing books and celebrating their achievements.

"We want to encourage even more children to take part in this marvellous free summer activity in 2016."

Village Forum

As a successful local business owner in Buckhurst Hill for the last 5 years, I am thrilled to be taking over from Peter Angel as chair of the Buckhurst Hill Village Forum (formerly Town Centre Partnership). We thank Peter for his service over the past 7 years, during which time he has overseen some fantastic events, including the Queens Jubilee celebrations and the Christmas Fayres, which have gone to show just how vibrant our community can be when we come together. We are looking forward to planning further events to bring our residents and traders in the area together, the first of which will be to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday in June, and to attract more visitors to our historic and picturesque streets. I am extremely proud to be part of a community that sees so many independent businesses given a chance to flourish, and I am keen to both protect this unique character and find new ways to attract interest and opportunities to the area. There are too many empty shopfronts, and it is heartbreaking to see both established businesses forced out of the area and new businesses fail before they really have a chance to prove themselves. An important item on our agenda is the support and use of Queens Road, the centre of our Village. Other interests for BHVF include investigating activity groups for children, free parking and the production of a local directory. We aim to find ways to unite residents and businesses in pursuit of common goals in order to ensure Buckhurst Hill is known to be a prosperous community, and a wonderful place to visit, work and live in. We warmly welcome Traders, Residents, School representatives, Religious Leaders and anyone with a keen interest in supporting their area to join our meetings. Email me, Glenys Reynolds if you would like further information glenys@reposestudio.co.uk.

Village Forum contact details –

Glenys Reynolds glenys@reposestudio.co.uk

020 8559 0520

Neighbourhood Watch

During WWII, the civilian population had a hard time. There was rationing, shortages and genuine hardship quite apart from the bombing and all this was endured by, in the main, single parent families with the men in the services. Despite this, morale was always high and this was in great part due to the very high sense of community spirit that was generally felt. Everybody looked out for each other and helped each other. There was of course a specific reason for that and as the years have gone by that spirit has been to a large extent lost.

However, there is now a concerted attempt to resurrect some of that same community spirit and the modern name for this is Neighbourhood Watch. This involves small groups of citizens gathering together to help one another and look out for each other. There are a variety of ways in which this can operate, with the obvious being in regard to security. Safety of the premises should always be paramount and letting the others know when you are going to be away is a basic way in which we can all help each other. This is a nation-wide initiative and in the Epping Forest District there are many such NW groups with an overall District Committee helping to establish new groups and encouraging their development.

Some areas also have Neighbourhood Action Panels aimed at being concerned with issues of safety and security as they affect the average citizen and all this entirely volunteer force is working to help citizens with concerns over safety and security matters. Issues such as speeding, parking, abandoned vehicles and, of course, burglary are regularly addressed. Statistics have shown that the number of burglaries in premises in a Neighbourhood Watch area are considerably less than outside it. Mostly, it is found that premises that are broken into are not fitted with burglar alarms and, as the first positive action taken by home owners after a break-in is to fit such equipment, the way to prevention is to fit before the event. This is one of many positive actions constantly being promoted by these groups.

Is there a NW group in your area? Are you, dear reader, a member of your local NW group? If not, contact Steven Neville tel 020 8504 5325 who will be able to put you in touch.

LITTER PICKS

I would like to thank everyone who took part in last year's litter picks. Together we collected 50 bags of litter in those areas that are not easy for the district council to pick up from.

With more people we can do much more and help to ensure that Buckhurst Hill is a nice and clean place to live in. I would like to thank the Parish Council for their support in this effort providing equipment and allowing it to be advertised.

With that in mind I'd like to advertise the next Litter Pick which will be on Saturday 14th May beginning at 10am at Buckhurst Hill station. We should finish up about 12 noon. Best Wishes, Steven

Councillor Steven Neville, Buckhurst Hill East Ward, Epping Forest District Council

ALZHEIMERS SOCIETY

A diagnosis of dementia can be very hard to take in. People who are diagnosed with the condition and their relatives can feel frightened and apprehensive. However, each family affected by dementia in our area can be reassured that help and support is available. The Alzheimer's Society offer a range of services that may be helpful. We understand that adapting to a new stage in your life can be difficult, but we always recommend that each family talk through any concerns with the Society before they become a problem or indeed, a crisis.

The Alzheimer's Society in Harlow, Epping Forest, and Uttlesford offer a range of services to anyone with a diagnosis of dementia and their carers. We offer information and a support service as well as a range of groups in West Essex. Don't be discouraged if you are not normally a "joiner" of groups and local activities. We always encourage people to keep an open mind, simply because many people who attend our services have said they do not feel they want to join groups, then they come along and meet with us and find that attending our groups can be a highlight in their week.

We provide a post-diagnostic support service, as well as our Community Dementia Support Team that offers information, guidance, signposting and support for people with dementia and their families throughout the course of the condition. We have Memory Cafes in Loughton, Harlow, and Saffron Walden and are also opening a new café in Waltham Abbey on

23rd February. Our cafes are informal and people can drop in at their own convenience to obtain information and advice on strategies about how to live well with dementia. The cafes also offer information for the general community and those working in dementia care. We also offer Carers Support Groups, activity groups and our trademark Singing for the Brain services across the West Essex area, along with a service delivered in partnership with Age UK called Dementia Connections which provides short term support to enable people with dementia to continue hobbies and interests in their local community.

For more information, please telephone
01279 427522
Alternatively, please email
Eppingforest@alzheimers.org.uk

PUMP HUNT FOR SEWAGE STATION

- **Thames Water to take on the responsibility of 4,000 sewage pumping stations from property owners and managers**
- **Utility will take over electricity and maintenance costs under new legislation, potentially saving customers thousands of pounds**
- **Firm appeals for help tracking 1,800 'missing' stations**

Thames Water is appealing to customers to help identify privately owned sewage pumping stations.

The utility, which serves 15 million customers across London and the Thames Valley, will take responsibility for around 4,000 pumping in October 2016, but needs to track down 1,800 currently off its radar.

New legislation means sewage pumping stations, which power wastewater away from properties and out into the public sewer pipe network, currently owned and maintained by customers will become legally owned and operated by the local water company.

The pumping stations are found in all shapes and sizes, and can be in places where there are a number of properties needing to connect to the public sewer network. Customers will know they have one as they'll be paying to maintain and power them.

Jerry White, of Thames Water, said: "This is really good news for customers. We'd urge anyone who thinks they may have one to get in touch so we can check they are eligible for the transfer of ownership. In some cases, as well as electricity savings, maintaining and replacing pumps can cost thousands of pounds so it's an excellent deal for them.

"We believe we know where approximately half of the stations we need to take over are, but really need help to find the other 1,800. Please get in touch if you think this applies to you and we can take on the responsibility forever."

Anyone with a private pumping station can make Thames Water aware at thameswater.co.uk/pumphunt

Notes to editors

A sewer pumping station is likely to be 'adopted' by Thames Water if it:

- was in use before July 2011 (and)
- serve a single property, and is outside the property boundary (or)
- serves two or more properties

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RIBA





Christmas on Queen's Road 2015

See also Chairman's Report and From the Clerk



Winter Warmer/Older Peoples Forum

On November 6th Buckhurst Hill Parish Council hosted the initial 2015 Older Peoples Forum "Winter Warmer" community health and wellbeing event in Buckhurst Hill Library. The Parish Council worked in partnership with the West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group and Epping Forest District Council to deliver the event.

The proceedings were opened by Cllr Aniket Patel, Chairman of Buckhurst Hill Parish Council and was very well attended by a number of local residents. Those attending received talks and information from a range of different health professionals and community safety officers including the Essex Fire & Rescue Service, Trading Standards, Voluntary Action Epping Forest, SEPT, CARE and Neighbourhood Watch.

There were also a number of information stands and demonstrations of seated exercises.

The day was hailed a success by all those who attended and as a consequence, plans are well advanced for a similar event in 2016.



(Some of the providers who attended pictured with Cllr Patel second from left).



The dreaded potholes!

I've been a Parish Councillor for almost two years. Believe it or not the most frequently discussed topic whenever I meet local residents is the state of potholes! It's often pointed out to me that there are several along the street. Sadly, this is one area that even us Councillors wish we had more powers to deal with.

Potholes is one for Essex County Council (in the case of Local roads, B roads and smaller A roads) or for Highways England (Motorways and trunk roads; major A roads). Once a member of the public reports this to a Councillor, we'll ensure it is brought to the attention of the Parish Clerk who will diligently inform the County Council. Repair times can vary, but rest assured that we make every effort to report and follow up with the County Council.

If you do wish to report any such issues, it's best to call on **0345 603 7631**, go to ECC's website – <http://www.essexhighways.org/Report-a-problem.aspx> or write to Essex County Council, County Hall, Market Road, Chelmsford CM1 1QH

On a parting note, I've been fortunate to be elected as Chairman of the Website Sub-Committee. One of the things we'll be doing this year is launching a dedicated website for the Parish Council and in turn the local community. We've got some exciting things in mind for the site, but I write to you today to ask for **your** ideas and comments about what **you** would like to see on the website. It is, after all, a site to serve you, the local residents, business & community as a whole. Please send your comments to the Parish by the end of March 2016 by emailing office@buckhursthillpc.gov.uk or writing to Buckhurst Hill Parish Council, 165 Queens Road, Buckhurst Hill IG9 5AZ

Cllr Bobby Nagpal



Looking for an opportunity to meet new people or gain experience and develop new skills?

If so, why not come and join our team by volunteering as a **Customer Services Library Volunteer?**

Buckhurst Hill Parish Council currently manages and supports the "Self-Service" provision in Buckhurst Hill Library on Mondays and Wednesdays. We are now planning to extend this provision further and are seeking a team of volunteers to assist us in delivering this additional service.

Volunteering has a meaningful, positive impact on our community and there are so many benefits for you too!

Be part of and have a direct impact on your local community

Learn and develop new skills

Gain a sense of achievement and motivation

Boost your career options

Discover new interests and hobbies

Live new experiences

Meet new people

A regular commitment would be required but there is flexibility as long as you are willing to make a regular contribution.

INTERESTED?

Find out more about volunteering in the Library by contacting us on 020 8498 9933 or office@buckhursthillpc.gov.uk

Crossroads Improvement

Good things do come to those who wait and in this instance Essex County Council are delighted to tell residents that work will at last start on the 4-way crossing for the Palmerston Road/Loughton Way/Roding Lane/Albert Road junction. The work is expected to start around mid-March and take 4 weeks to complete.

Councillor Neville Wright said: "The improvements to this junction are a much needed road safety feature for Buckhurst Hill residents, especially for parents taking their children to school or nursery or just the general flow of pedestrians crossing to or from the tube station or Queens Road shops."

County Councillor Valerie Metcalfe added: "Essex Highways are hoping it might also help improve the flow of traffic crossing at this major intersection. Whilst appreciating that there may be some disruption whilst work is proceeding, they hope to keep any inconvenience down to a minimum. The aim is therefore to carry out the majority of the work during the schools' Easter Holidays."

The total cost of the crossing is around £160,000, partly financed by the Epping Forest District Local Highways Panel which aims to use its limited funds on local improvements that residents have been requesting.



THIS MAGAZINE

This edition of the Parish Council magazine is the last one planned. Councillors want to totally review the magazine. What do you think? Should the magazine continue? Do you want something else? Are there other ways in which you would like us to communicate with you? We welcome your thoughts and ideas, please email us at office@buckhursthillpc.gov.uk or write to us at 165 Queens Road, Buckhurst Hill IG9 4AZ

NEW WEBSITE

The Parish Council is to have a new website. Our existing website provides lots of information but needs modernising both visually and technically. Councillors have agreed to spend up to £3000 on Phase 1 which will give a modern look and feel with greater online access for councillors and capability to expand in the future. This will start the reduction in copying and printing not only making savings but allowing funds to be better used for the people of Buckhurst Hill, and also giving a presence on social media.

We want it to be used by the whole community. It's not just about the Parish Council but all of Buckhurst Hill with its varied and vibrant characteristics.

It's your website – what do you want to see on it and what do you want it to deliver?

LET US KNOW – email office@buckhursthillpc.gov.uk giving us your thoughts and ideas

LITTER PICK

Saturday 14th May
10.00am to 12 noon

Equipment provided
Led by District Councillor
Steven Neville

