

Althorne

Village News



Has anyone got the recipe for pasta toilet roll bake?

March 2020

....because it must be a good one!

ALTHORNE VILLAGE NEWS

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CORONAVIRUS NOTICEBOARD

During the present crisis there will obviously be a lot of changes in the village.

I am able to keep the newsletter going (even if I self-isolate) as I mostly work electronically, (that is if I have anything to publish!), but I fully understand that if any of our deliverers would prefer not to go out, it may be difficult to deliver the AVN. If possible try to find someone to take your place, but please ring me if you have a problem.

I have to inform you that several events have been postponed or suspended as follows.....

Services at St. Andrew's Church (situation to be reviewed mid April). Other churches in the area may be open for private prayer

The Harmony Concert in the Church

The St. Georges Day event in the Church Hall

The Salsa classes in the Church Hall

The Ladies Club in the Church Hall

These are the ones I have been informed about, so for anything else, please check before turning up.

Please hang onto this copy of the AVN for the handy numbers and adverts, just in case the AVN has to be suspended.

Let's hope that no-one in the village is infected.

If anyone sees me out walking with the dog, please give me a wide berth, as I'm a poor old vulnerable person!

Linda

Notes on a meeting of Althorne Parish Council, held in the Parish Hall at 7:30pm on Wednesday February 26 2020.

Preliminaries This was penultimate meeting of your Parish Council in the current administrative year, which ends March 31, 2020. Five of the six councillors were present; in attendance were District Cllr. Bob Boyce MBE, Chairman of Maldon District Council, and eleven parishioners. After the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Wednesday January 22nd 2020, were approved, under Declarations of Pecuniary and Other Interests, the Chairman declared a DPI in relation to Agenda item 20/039.01, a claim for Lawful Development relating to land adjacent to Bridgemarsh Marina, where he is a berth holder. The first Public Forum was brief, with just one enquiry relating to a technicality in a planning application approved by MDC.

Finance Total disbursement requested for approval by the Clerk totaled £1,643, covering nine payees. Of these, notifiable amounts included: £234 for the MDC Community Protection Team's quarterly fee; £225 for the removal of a fallen tree in the Recreation Ground; and £240 for the initial annual fee to the hosting service for our new parish council website.

Planning There were three applications for consideration, 20/00269 a claim for Lawful development for an existing grass area adjacent to Bridgemarsh Marina, which the council (ex the Chairman) felt unable to support; 20/00041 relating to trimming an oak tree subject to a Tree Preservation Order, which was supported, and 20/00134 a single story extension in Austral Way, also supported by the council.

Three applications were reported as approved by MDC; 19/01121 and 19/01122 related to technicalities in 1976 and 1987 conditions on agricultural properties on the Burnham Road; 19/01004 was for a change of use of an agricultural barn to a visitor centre on the Fambridge Road. One Appeal decision was reported, approval for an increase to twelve months for compliance with an enforcement notice on a property in Smugglers Club Ground.

Our Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Chairman reported that there would be a meeting on Thursday 27 February, where the main item under consideration would be contents of the Questionnaire, needed to validate the assumptions incorporated in the Neighbourhood Plan.

District Councillors' Report Cllr. Boyce noted that a Commercial Manager had been appointed to ensure that the District received fair value for the use of its venues, and other assets, from commercial and other entities. In part, this was a reflection of the need to boost council revenues to offset loss of government grants. Some events had proved to be commercially successful, to the extent that other venues had been negotiated by the organisers, most notably the Smoke and Fire Festival, held in Prom Park. To offset this, there would be a Food and Drink Festival, sponsored by the Council, being complementary to the last year's successful event, to be repeated in the summer in Burnham on Crouch.

Finally, he reported that it had been agreed that the Council Tax charge for a Band D property for fiscal 2020/21 would be increased by £5. This was permitted under the legislation, albeit it marginally above to 2% cap that would require a referendum to implement. In response to a question he confirmed that a new Director of Finance had been appointed, although he was unlikely to be in post for the preparation of the 2019/20 accounts. Again, a temporary 151 Officer would supervise these.

Transport Report Our Transport Rep's gave his usual comprehensive review of bus and train services, which is posted elsewhere in the AVN.

Health Report Our Health Rep noted that she would be assembling health related leaflets on a table for consideration. She commented on a discussion document regarding changes to the Clinical Commissioning Group. Information was provided regarding the new 3 band tariff charging for NHS dentists. Services at St Peter's Hospital, Crouch Vale Medical Centre (South Woodham) and Burnham Community Clinic were reviewed. Finally, she noted that for those with mobile phones, there are many Apps available to assist with health, including COPD, Diabetes and children, although these must be registered for online.

Recreation Ground The Clerk reported that she had been notified of a fallen tree near the tennis court (felled by the recent storms). Its removal by contractors had been complicated by the sodden state of the field, following heavy rain, which limited vehicular access. A full arboreal survey of the ground was agreed.

Parish Website Withdrawal of the hosting of parish websites by ECC, utilised by your council, was announced sometime ago. Cllr. Lloyd had agreed to develop a replacement site and identify a suitable host. Ownership issues of a suitable domain name: **althorneparishcouncil.co.uk** had delayed its commissioning. These had now been resolved and the site was now live. Initially it would cover statutory disclosure, but it was hoped to develop it into a useful community hub in due course. The first annual subscription would be £240. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Lloyd for her considerable input of time and expertise in preparing the site and commended it to surfers.

Meetings Attended The Clerk had attended an Unauthorised Traveller Encampment briefing. She commented that it had been informative and provided clear guidelines on who to contact and the time/duration considerations relating to enforcement and moving-on of travellers illegally encamping. The parish council owns the Recreation Ground, but when trespass occurs on private property, owners should call MDC or the police; the Clerk is available for general advice and guidance.

Second Public Forum (with respect to matters of mutual interest). Now that the nights were shortening, access safety issues on Summerhill relating to the Recreation Ground were raised. A parishioner enquired if a pedestrian crossing could be installed. It was noted that this was an ECC Highways issue, with very tight validation parameters. The council would approach the Local Highways Panel for a response. The Clerk will also contact County Cllr. Pratt for advice and report back. A discussion regarding narrow pavements overgrown with vegetation was next; possibly a task for the Rangers. A short discussion regarding the issue of traveller encampments and their potential impact on the village concluded the item.

Date of Next Meeting and Closure After confirming that the next Council Meeting would be held on Wednesday, 25th March 2020 at 7.30pm, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9pm.

(No information received whether this meeting will go ahead)

FRIENDLY CIRCLE CLUB

It is with regret that I have to inform our members that the club will be closing on 29th February 2020.

I feel that without Jean's help I cannot carry on. The committee stands with me on this decision.

Eddie Payne (Club Chairman)

TRAVEL CONTACTS: Allan Brignall 01621 744528

Email: transport@vabrignall.plus.com

Public Transport Traveline: 0871 200 22 33 or www.traveline.info

Information: (incurs an extra charge of 12p per minute)

Maldon Tourist Information Centre 01621 856503

Buses: First Essex Buses customer services 0345 6020121 for 31X, 36, etc.

www.firstgroup.com

First Travel Shop Chelmsford 01245 263859

www.firstgroup.com/essex

Stephensons of Essex 01702 541511

www.stephensonsofessex.com

Fords Coaches 01621 740326

www.fordscoaches.co.uk

Arrow Taxis (for DaRT 5 & DaRT 99) - Ken on 07487 511983

Trains:

- Burnham-on-Crouch Station, open M-F 6.30-10.30 am

- Abellio Greater Anglia 0345 600 7245

www.abelliogreateranglia.co.uk

- National Rail Enquiries 0345 748 4950 or www.nationalrail.co.uk

for all information relating to trains, including details of fares

BUS NEWS

Althorne will have two services on a Sunday evening starting 29th March both going to Chelmsford as a 31X service at 19:36 and 21:16. This has arisen as a consequence of the 33 service being replaced by a 31D service Chelmsford to Burnham via Mayland. Broomfield is not covered by the new route. As there is no service 31 to Burnham a return journey is not possible though the Chelmsford bound service may be useful to some. For example, someone may get a lift to visit Althorne and can take bus back toward Chelmsford or visit people and get a bus back from Burnham or Southminster.

Please think how you could use this service to increase chances of keeping it.

The New bus timetables mentioned in previous month's AVN will need to be updated at the Post Office and I will revise my timetable of Althorne travel options. Copies will be made available at Althorne Village Hall, on Althorne Parish Council's new website in the "Local Information" section (website is althorneparishcouncil.co.uk).

Stephensons services to Basildon do not run April 9th, 10th, 16th and 17th due to school Easter holidays.

Fords Service 6 to Chelmsford; next dates are March 27th, and April 24th (no Service April 10th as it is Good Friday).

RAIL NEWS

I am impressed with the Althorne Station new display screen and can confirm the report last month that it can be seen in bright daylight.

March had bus replacements at weekends announced after I submitted article to February's AVN, apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Service Alterations are Buses used at weekends of 28th and 29th March and 18th and 19th April. Trains run over Easter weekend to usual timetable. Memo - Good Friday operates to Saturday timetable. Check times if you plan to travel further on from Wickford as there is some re-timing of these services.

Allan.

Althorne Ladies Club

Ladies, in view of the current situation with regards to the coronavirus, our meetings for April 2020 and possibly our proposed trip in May 2020, are cancelled.

Let's hope we all stay safe and are unaffected by the illness, best wishes to you and your families, keep well and in touch. Hope to see you all in June???????

Watch this space!

ALC.

A BIT OF A DO

Very many thanks to all who made our annual event for St. Andrew's Church and St. Clare's Day Hospice in Maldon another huge fun success. The hall was packed most of the day, litres of homemade soup sold, with fresh bread, gallons of tea and coffee drunk along with dozens of cakes.

The raffle, tombola, books, puzzles, bric.a.brac, craft stalls, cards, all did a roaring trade, as did the plants - a new addition to our tables for which we are very grateful. The soup dog was called Campbell and won by Chris.

The day hospice will soon be re-opening in its new home where the WRVS and Red Cross used to be in Mill Road and will be called Farleigh in Maldon, there are several open days for anyone wishing to view the new facilities. The ladies of the craft circle knit, sew, make cards, etc all year round to raise funds for such a necessary local facility to continue care where needed- and who knows when we ourselves or someone we love may need extra help. We are always pleased to welcome these lovely ladies, who have over the many years become good friends. They raised over £200 for the hospice.

The church funds for the repairs needed is better off by £800 (this includes two cheques from kind friends of £100) after donating £80 to the hall maintenance fund which we also need to keep up to scratch for the clubs, dance classes, parties, etc. it is used for. The hall does have a badminton court marked out that anyone may use when they book the hall.

PURLEIGH AND DISTRICT GARDENERS' SOCIETY

As the days start to lengthen and we begin to see new life appearing in our gardens Purleigh and District Gardeners' Society also resumes it's meetings after it's winter break. Our Secretary, Lindsey Bain has put together another interesting programme and our first meeting of the new decade is on Monday March 16th in Purleigh Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Harry Webber is coming along to talk to us on the subject of Mistletoe Trees. An intriguing title and one I am sure we will all know a little more about at the end of the evening..... I will say no more except that we do hope you will be able to join us on the evening.

The annual subscription for monthly meetings from March to November is just £10.00 which includes coffee/tea and biscuits. However, if you would like to come along and try us out or are just interested in the particular topic the charge for the evening will be £2.00. As a member there are also other perks such as reduced price seeds and garden sundries, outings, plant sales, competitions, mini flower shows, lots of gardening tips and it goes without saying that you will be guaranteed a warm welcome from our friendly group.

We look forward to seeing our regular members again and also hope to see some new faces on March 16th 2020!!

Jill Challis (01621 828330).

A Sad Goodbye

Having lived in Althorne for almost 17 years, we bid a very sad goodbye to friends and neighbours on the 24th February. We spent some of our happiest years in Oakwood Court, making so many friends and becoming involved in village events. The familiar figure of Phil walking Holly, (the crazy Cockapoo), or should I say Holly walking Phil, will be missed by many I am sure. We are starting a new chapter in Cornwall, but will stay in touch, we promise. We would like to wish the new owners of our bungalow as much happiness as we experienced in our time there; they certainly have wonderful neighbours, who we miss so much already.

Sharon & Phil Parker

Sunday opening chemists (and late opening)

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Burnham Pharmacy, situated in the Burnham Surgery,

Monday to Saturday—7.00am to 10.30pm, Sunday—10am to 5pm

Blackwater Pharmacy, situated by the Council Offices in Princes Road, Maldon. Monday to Saturday -7.00am to 10pm, Sunday 10am to 8pm

Tesco Pharmacy, Maldon, Sunday 10am to 4pm

Govani Chemist, Sth Woodham Ferrers, Sunday 10.30am to 11.30am

Defibrillators in the village

There are defibrillators at Riverview Park, on the front of the Parish Hall and in the Three Horseshoes Pub. (At the moment this machine is available to anyone during pub opening times).

Apparently, these machines are easy for anyone to use. They instruct you through the procedure and it is impossible to shock anyone who doesn't need to be shocked.

To all advertisers

Please note that if the AVN is suspended (possibly from lack of content) your advertising period will be extended accordingly.

Maldon & District Citizens Advice Bureau

Opening times - Monday to Friday 10.00am to 4pm in Maldon District Council Offices, Thursday 10am to 1pm in Burnham Station House, Tuesday 9.30am to 12noon in Southminster United Reform Church.

Telephone advice: Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm - 01621 875774

ALTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Contact Details

Address: The Council Office, The Parish Hall, Summerhill, Althorne, Essex. CM3 6BY

Website: www.althorneparishcouncil.co.uk

The Clerk: Mrs Joanna Jeffery. Tel: 744825. email: althornepc@yahoo.com

The council office is open between 1.30pm and 3.30pm each Thursday.

The Council:

Mr Paul Burgess	741319	Chairman
Mr Brian Noye	742060	Parish Councillor
Mr Mark Bassenger	07831 150266	Parish/District Councillor
Miss Nicola Lloyd	07931995584	Parish Councillor
Mr Terry Inkpen	741174	Parish Councillor
Dr Christine Collins		Parish Councillor
Mr Bob Boyce	740671	District Councillor

Council meetings are held in the Parish Hall, on the last Wednesday of the month, at 7.30pm. The agenda, which is published at least three working days before the meeting and contains details of Planning Applications, may be viewed on the Council website, the Parish Hall and the Recreation Ground notice boards. Minutes are posted on the website and on the notice boards at the Parish Hall and Recreation Ground when agreed at the next meeting.

To contact the police on non-emergency matters, please phone 101

Maldon Conservative Constituency Association

If you need help or advice, contact your Member of Parliament John Whittingdale MP. John holds regular surgeries in Maldon, Burnham, Stock and South Woodham Ferrers.

For an appointment ring the Constituency office on 01621 855663