



Doddingtonhurst Parish Council



Parish Office (adj. Village Hall)
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Spring Newsletter from Doddingtonhurst Parish Council

We trust that residents managed to stay safe and warm during the cold winter. Now our thoughts can turn to the (hopefully!) forthcoming warmer days and being able to get out and about to enjoy the open spaces in our village.

Update - Village Hall Redevelopment

We have recently received some enquiries about the status of the Village Hall redevelopment. You may remember completing a questionnaire and/or looking at the architect's plans at village events last year. It was decided that as desirable as a complete re-build would be, at an estimated cost of £1.3m it was just not feasible financially.

However, the Parish Council remains strongly committed to keeping the village community buildings open and functioning. We have borrowed £100,000 from the Public Works Loan Board to achieve this aim.

£60,000 will go to the Village Hall committee to enable them to go ahead with their much needed refurbishment work. This includes new windows, doors, disabled access, heating, fascia, gutters, carpets, curtains and re-decoration. Last year new wiring was installed and prior to that a new floor installed. The current programme of work started in January and is progressing.

With a new 20 year lease, £40,000 will go towards the Priest House. This represents about 1/3 of the buildings total refurbishment costs.

Update – Senior Villagers Christmas Lunch

On Saturday 23rd January, 60 villagers were treated to a hearty Christmas lunch, followed by entertainment, in the Village Hall. Cllr. Mrs Julia Le Page worked tirelessly to organise the event and was very ably assisted by a team of Parish Councillors and others who prepared, cooked and served the food. A big thank you to all those involved in making this day such an enjoyable one.

Arson Attack in Children's Play Area

On Saturday 15th November 2009 some mindless individuals thought it would be amusing to set fire to the remaining picnic bench in the children's play area. As we had only just taken delivery of a new picnic table and seats to replace the one destroyed by fire two years previously this was quite a blow! Although the loss was covered by our insurers, there is still an excess to pay, the money for which comes out of **your** council tax payments. A considerable amount of time is also taken up in reporting the incident and giving a statement to the police.

Time which we feel could be more valuably spent on other areas of Parish Council business.

It is very disheartening for the staff and councillors to have to deal with incidents of this nature. However, we are determined to keep the play area a pleasant and welcoming environment for families and will definitely be installing the new picnic bench before the summer.

Arson is regarded as an extremely serious offence by the courts and is punishable with a custodial sentence. Therefore, if you have any information about this crime then please contact PC Vicky Wood at Brentwood Police Station on 01277 262212 Xtn. 75106.

Allotments

The renewal season for our allotments is now in full swing. There may be some vacancies arising so if you are interested in "growing your own" now would be a good time to get on the waiting list. Contact the Parish Office for further details.

Essex Home Library Service

Essex libraries are running a new home service, bringing library books and DVDs to people unable to use a library building or mobile library. Volunteers call at members homes at pre-arranged times and will even stop for a chat to offer recommendations. As well as books, including large print, Home Library Service customers can also borrow audio books, music or DVDs free of charge. Contact them on 0845 603 7628 for more information.

Hospital Shuttle Bus

Are you aware that a shuttle bus service operates for the Community Hospital in Brentwood? The services are not particularly well publicised so we obtained the details and these are now posted on the notice boards around the village and on the Parish Council website www.doddinghurst-pc.gov.uk. If you haven't logged on yet try it- it's a community website too!

May Day Festivities

Once again the Parish Council are pleased to be sponsoring the Village May Day event which will be held, rain or shine, at the Village Hall on Monday 3rd May.

Doddinghurst PCSO

Kevin Sanderson is our latest PCSO. He can be contacted directly on 07896 871008. He has recently been seen patrolling Church Lane at school drop off and pick up times in an effort to stop the dangerous parking that regularly occurs. Well done Kevin!

Burial Ground Noticeboard

Anybody visiting the Burial Ground will be sure to notice our smart new noticeboard. It has been updated with a full listing of everyone interred in both the ashes and the burial plots. This information is also soon to become available on our website as well. Hopefully it will prove an invaluable research tool for all those budding genealogists out there.

Annual Parish Meeting

This is the once yearly opportunity for representatives of any Doddinghurst group, society or organisation to come along to a meeting and tell everyone about who you are and what you do.

The meeting is to be held on 15th April in the Parish Room starting at 7.30 p.m.

May Parish Council meeting

Please note that if the General Election is held in early May 2010, the Parish Council monthly meeting would be moved to the second Thursday of the month, the 13th May 2010.

For further information on any of the items in this newsletter please note our office opening times are Tues, Weds and Thurs mornings 9.30 – 12.30. An answerphone service is available outside these hours.

Parish Council Office

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