



# Doddinghurst Parish Council



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Parish Office (adj. Village Hall)

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[www.doddinghurst-pc.gov.uk](http://www.doddinghurst-pc.gov.uk)

## Summer Newsletter from your Parish Council

Parish Council activities so far this year:

- Replacement and repair to lighting on Scout Path
- Provision of dog lead hooks located outside Budgens near bike racks.
- Sponsoring the May Day Fair and hosting a stall to raise the Council's profile
- Meeting with Brentwood Council to try and establish ways to stop anti-social behaviour by youths blighting our village
- Working with Borough Councillors to ensure the new Doctor's surgery goes ahead
- Providing new wood chips for children's play area

## May Day Fair

Another successful May Day Fair took place at the Village Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. The Parish Council had a stall to publicise their contribution to village life, helped in no small part by our very own eye-catching blue balloons! Thanks to all the village organisations that took part and a big thank you to the Infant School for providing such a professional team of maypole dancers.

## Old School Photographs

We have recently received a request for photographs of the school in Doddinghurst from the "olden days". If you have any in your possession and would be happy for them to be used during a presentation to current village school pupils then please get in touch with the Parish Office.

## Travellers

Let's hope that the warmer weather brings people out of their homes to enjoy our village's open spaces. However, there is also the possibility of travellers looking to enjoy the summer in Doddinghurst! We would ask all residents to report any suspected traveller activity to Brentwood Council's dedicated Gypsy and Traveller hotline number **01277 262728**.

Not long after penning the above, travellers decided to pitch camp on Peartree Playing Field on the sunny afternoon of 15th April. As this field is a local authority amenity site the police were able to escort them out of Brentwood about 3½ hours after their arrival. The Parish Council would like to extend their thanks to all who helped resolve the matter quickly and with minimum fuss. This includes our Borough Councillors, Brentwood Council enforcement officers and the Police. We are also extremely grateful to the vigilant villagers of Doddinghurst as many people telephoned the authorities as soon as they became aware of what was happening.

## Dog Fouling

Unfortunately we have once again been receiving complaints about people leaving doggy bags (and I don't mean the food kind!) in bushes and hedgerows around the village rather than taking them home or using the bins specifically provided for disposal. A particular hot spot for this type of unsavoury activity is the un-adopted section of Peartree Lane at the end of Lime Grove. We ask all dog owners using this area to have consideration for the nearby residents as we are sure nobody would want this sort of decoration around their own property! If the culprit(s) can be identified they will be reported to the police as this is a criminal offence under the Litter Act 1996 which carries a hefty fine.

## Update on Village Hall and Priest House refurbishment

The Parish Council is pleased to report that all the £100,000 provided in Grant money has been spent on these buildings and enabled the refurbishment work to be completed.

## **Dogs around Children's Play Area**

Now that the summer is almost upon us can we remind dog walkers to be aware that the amount of children in and around the play area increases significantly particularly after school and at weekends. If dogs are off the lead where the children play then they can be tempted to join in the fun and this can be quite distressing for a small child faced with a big dog intent on jumping up at them.

## **Priest House Grand Re-opening**

This is due to take place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June and our Chairman, Mrs Debbie Dicker has been given the honour of cutting the ribbon at the re-opening ceremony. Please come along to celebrate the achievements of a joint effort between the Parish Council and All Saints in refurbishing one of our valuable community buildings.

## **Parish Council Coffee Mornings**

The Parish Council will be holding informal councillor surgeries in the Parish Room on the first Saturdays in June, and July. Everyone is welcome to pop along for a coffee and a chat with our Chairman, Cllr. Mrs Debbie Dicker. There may even be some cakes available too! The dates and time for your diary are June 5<sup>th</sup>, July 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9.30 to 12.00 am. The Parish Council wants to hear your thoughts and ideas about how we can best represent you.

## **Allotments Waiting List**

Our "waiters" currently have an average wait time of between 6 months to 1 year. This is short compared to some parishes where the wait time can be over ten years! Please contact the Parish Office for further details if you are interested in having your name added to our much shorter waiting list!

## **Doddinghurst Books**

New village residents reading this may be unaware of the existence of a book entitled “Doddinghurst – A Place in the Country”. It is an extremely interesting read, packed full of village history. Copies have even been requested from as far afield as Australia! Priced at a very reasonable £4, copies are available from the Parish Office.

**For further information on any of the items in this newsletter please contact the office or email us. A great deal of information is a on our website including Community Bus Timetables.**

**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**

Roger Blake  
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Deborah Tonkiss Deputy Clerk

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## **Doddinghurst Parish Council**

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