

GREAT YELDHAM PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17



Chairman's Report

Working Groups continue to work on their activities around the village, helping to solve any issues that may occur and working on the environment for all to enjoy working within a set budget.

Village Maintenance. The grass areas within the village continue to be maintained by the Contractor and have improved the village appearance. Leaves from the path areas/roadside were removed in winter to prevent blocked drains. Tree pruning and pollarding throughout the village has taken place. The Access Road and footpath to the Sports and Recreation Ground has been resurfaced and the boundary fencing on the grounds reinstated. Footpaths are regularly checked and necessary work is reported. Facilitated the 'Big Tidy Up Day' for the village, providing skips for parishioners to use. Worked with key partners in keeping waterways clear, reducing flooding in the village, maintaining road surfaces and highways.

Burial Ground. A new area in the Glades Natural Burial Ground, the 'Bluebell Glade' has been bordered by a small fence where, with permission, the scattering of Ashes may now take place. The Council has introduced 2 new memorial schemes: the memorial bench scheme enables applicants to purchase a memorial bench in memory of a loved one; the memorial plaque scheme enables applicants to purchase a plaque either to be placed on a memorial bench or on the boundary fence surrounding the Bluebell Glade. Memorial bases have been purchased and laid within the Garden of Remembrance.

Highways. Our Speed Watch Team continue to work towards reducing speeding through the village. New speed signage for the main road and the crossing sign by Toppesfield Road is still being sought through ECC Highways. The lay by opposite the Post Office which has been a great asset is still being used by many people, the layby has now been cleared and work on the replanting of the vegetation is being planned for 2017.

Emergency Plan is updated each year and thanks to our volunteers who willing donate their time to be part of this if the need arises. Thankfully there were no incidents reported this year. An additional salt bin has now been placed at the junction North Roads/Highfields.

Web Site is kept up to date with current information being published and forthcoming events are also circulated via the Parish Council facebook page.

Village Magazine. The magazine continues to be self-funding and work continues to produce an interesting and valued magazine. A copy of each edition is available on the Parish Council website.

Parish Councillors

- **Cllr Marlene Broomfield**
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- **Cllr Philip Rawlinson**
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7 Little Hyde Road
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- **Cllr Colin Brooker**
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- **Cllr Pat Slimming**
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- **Cllr Barry Sargeant**
Lovingtons Farm, Poole
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236041
- **Cllr Lewis Mundy-Gill**
Bellin House High Street
237872



Welcome Pack has been gratefully received by newcomers into the village and includes information on the village, details of local clubs, societies and services with useful contact information and a brief village history.

Parish Plan. The Parish Council continues to monitor the Parish Plan to help meet the wishes of the Community; a progress report is issued quarterly at the Parish Council meetings.

Events. Social events this past year have been well attended by the community,

- The Easter Egg Hunt was attended by forty children, after making baskets and cards they all set off to the meadow where the hunt began, returning to the Reading Room for a drink and Easter eggs.
- In April the Annual Parish Assembly celebrated the Queen's 90th Birthday, a birthday cake was kindly made by a local parishioner which was served with tea. Children from St Andrews School were involved in designing a birthday card for the queen and entries were exhibited, all participating children were presented with a commemorative medal. A lighting of the beacon ceremony was held on Whitlock Green.
- Queen's 90th Birthday Street Party was held in June. There were plenty of things to do and parishioners were entertained by a traditional Punch & Judy Show, Magician and local singers. A bake a Birthday Cake for the Queen Competition was held and it was lovely to see the community getting involved and showing their baking skills; the delicious cakes were then shared as part of afternoon tea.
- A Pirates and Princess Summer activity day was held with lots of games and crafting activities.
- A Halloween party for the children in the village was held and everyone dressed for the occasion, there were party games, arts and crafts, plenty to eat and drink and was enjoyed by all.
- Christmas time and our Christmas tree was erected on the green. Families and friends from the village gathered in the Reading Room due to the wet weather. Carols were sang in the hall followed by a big count down for the lights to be switched on, afterwards everyone enjoyed refreshments whilst listening to Christmas songs and chattering amongst friends.

Key Actions for 2017/18

- Continue working with Braintree, ECC and other key partners in development opportunities for the village including new housing, employment and health services.
- Developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. This document will set out planning policies for Gt Yeldham which will be used to decide whether to approve planning applications. The Plan will involve and be written by the local community, the people who know and love the area, rather than the Local Planning Authority. The Plan will ensure the community gets the right types of development, in the right place.
- Reviewing the play area/equipment for young children. Providing facilities for Youth activities/Youth Club.
- Continue to work with the Recreation Ground Management Committee for the provision of new sporting facilities including tennis courts, football pitches, zip wire, Multi Use Games Area, improving and expanding the Skate Park and BMK track.
- Investigating provision of Allotments. Improve planting area around the lay-by opposite the post office.
- Investigating improvements to boundary fencing and car parking facilities at the Cemetery.
- Working with Braintree Council to combat dog fouling in the village. We have purchased a dog bag dispenser which will be installed near the dog bin next to Bowtells Meadow.
- Appropriate signage around the village: speed awareness, road crossing signs, Cemetery and Recreation Ground, the revamping of the village sign.
- To continue investigating opportunities for Superfast Broadband. We are working towards adopting the BT Payphone Kiosk located outside the Reading Rooms, the kiosk will be used as an information/notice board.
- Continuing to develop a programme of events for the village including organising a Tea Dance.

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