



**WOODHAM FERRERS &
BICKNACRE PARISH COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT 2007



**PUBLISHED BY WOODHAM
FERRERS AND BICKNACRE
PARISH COUNCIL**

**VOLUME 1
EDITION 1**

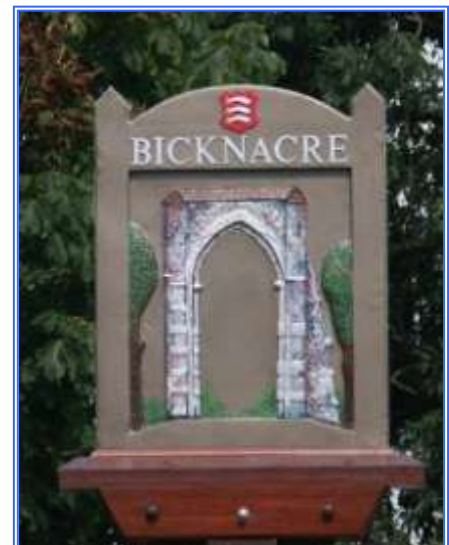
JUNE 2007

BUILDING BRIDGES IN THE COMMUNITY – SEE STORY PAGE5



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CONTACTS

Name	Tel Number	e-mail
Councillor B. Arnold, JP – Chairman	01245 223469	barryarnold@talktalk.net
Councillor R. Blanks – Vice Chairman	01245 327215	
Councillor J. Bishop	01245 222543	bishopja@btinternet.com
Councillor L. Carroll	01245 321054	lucycarroll@btinternet.com
Councillor A. Mair	01245 222232	apeas@btopenworld.com
Councillor C. Saltmarsh	01245 224975	cjandjpc@yahoo.com
Councillor J. Saltmarsh	01245 224975	cjandjpc@yahoo.com
Councillor G. Woricker	01245 323190	
CBC Councillor R. Poulter	01245 223743	r.poulter@chelmsford.gov.uk

INFORMATION

You are welcome to discuss Parish matters informally with any Councillor or the Clerk:

Phone/Fax 01245 328988 PC Mobile (Emergencies only) 07918648699

(Mon – Fri 9.00am – 12Noon)

E Mail wfandbpc@kuderovitch.fsworld.co.uk

ORGANISATION	CONTACT	TEL.NUMBER
ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR	LORD HANNINGFIELD	01245 430396
WOODHAM FERRERS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH	REVD. MARY COTTEE	01245 224895 /07879 813598
PRIORY COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL, BICKNACRE	MISS R. PLUNKETT	01245 224250
ST MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL, WOODHAM FERRERS	MRS S. GROCOCK	01245 320505
BICKNARE PRE-SCHOOL	MRS J. HAGGER	07887 920334
FRIENDS OF PRIORY FIELDS	MR P. ATHEY	01245 222608
WOODAM FERRERS WI	MRS J. SCHRODER	01245 222349
BICKNARE BABY & TODDLER GRP	MRS C. PRIOR	01245 226614
SCOUTS	MR R. HENDERSEN	01245 320617
CUBS	MRS L. CLEMENT	01245 321038
BROWNIES	MRS C PEASE	01245 223269
BEAVERS	MRS J. PESSELL	01245 284468
JESTERS KID CLUB	MRS A. DOHERTY	01245 225899
NATIONAL CHILDBIRTH TRUST	MRS J. WEBSTER	01245 226521
MOTHERS UNION	MRS P. TURNER	01245 223642
NATIONAL TRUST	MRS R. WHITEMORE	01621 772564
YOUNG PERSONS SEXUAL HEALTH & FAMILY PLANNING		01621 727333
WOODHAM FERRERS VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS	TBC	01245 320480
BICKNACRE VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS	MRS S. GREEN	07999 536751
DENTIST	MR C. ROOME	01621 851003
DOCTOR	DR. WAGLE	01245 224253
CHURCH & HAWES ESTATE AGENTS	MR S. HALLIDAY	0800 0268007
VET	MR S. NIMMO	01245 329942
WOODHAM FERRERS BRIDGE CLUB	MR L. THACKER	01621 779385
ARTFULL SPODGERS	MRS N. LACEY	01245 225841
ANIMAL RESCUE		01701 544720
AEROBICS	MRS C. JUDD	01621 838607
BADMINTON CLUB	MR D. COGGINS	01245 224203
DANCING CLUB	MRS J. BLANCHFIELD	07863 179563

CHELMSFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL
 ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
 ESSEX POLICE
 CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

01245 606606
 08457 430430
 01245 491212

<http://www.chelmsfordbc.gov.uk>
<http://www.essexcc.gov.uk>
<http://www.essex.police.uk/>
<http://www.direct.gov.uk/>

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Welcome to the first publication of our new initiative to communicate on a regular basis to inform everyone on what is happening within your Parish Council and also other organisations linked to the Council.

This has been a very busy year for all of us in the Parish Council. Since the meeting last year, all Councillors and other members of sub-committees, working parties and groups have all been working hard on the behalf of you all. I would like to thank them for all the unpaid work and time they have given, without any thought for themselves in a very generous manner to make our lives better in the Parish. They really do deserve some recognition from all of us for not just talking about an idea, but taking action as well.

Since the Annual Parish Meeting there has been an election in the Village Ward (Woodham Ferrers). Congratulations to Lucy Carroll, Ray Blanks and Geoffrey Woricker on their election. We offer our congratulations to our new councillor Albert Mair from Bicknacre. We also said a sad farewell to two councillors who retired after many years of service. On behalf of the rest of the council, and I am sure the Parish, we thank Jennifer Rushworth and Tony Dawkins and send them our best wishes. Thank you for all your time and input over the years, you will be missed. This leaves us with a vacancy in Bicknacre Ward for a councillor, if you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact myself or Karen so we can discuss your application by 30th June 2007. Alternatively you are welcome to come along to a council meeting, as these meetings are open to all.

[Bicknacre & Woodham Ferrers Community Project](#)

After the vote in May 2006 to proceed in investigating the possibility of building a Community Centre (with sports facilities, meeting rooms, café, children's play centres, organised groups for our teenagers and our elder residents) the Bicknacre & Woodham Ferrers Community Project group was formed. A complex survey was carried out and the plans were revised to take into account the views and opinions expressed by the local residents. On 19th January 2007 another meeting took place where the revised plans were made available for inspection and questions could be answered. A final vote of confidence was asked for and was given by an overwhelming show of hands. Since this meeting the plans have been compiled, but there is a lot more work to be done with some highs and lows ahead. Other members of the group have been investigating, and applying for grants to help pay for the building of the centre. This is a long process and we wish them the best of luck in their work. Part of the plan was to erect a building as 'green' as possible, with low energy costs and insulation. We envisage water ducts to keep the costs as low as possible for the running of the centre. We anticipate organising local markets, jumble sales, dances, and will encourage as many local organisations to make use of the centre for a wide range of activities. I

believe we are well on that road and I look forward to the future with lots of confidence.

[Community Pay Back](#)

This is where people who have committed an offence are instructed that they will do their sentence in the community. I have been able to acquire the help of this group for the benefit of the Parish over the past year. They have helped replace the pathway into the village hall and school, helped with St. Mary's Churchyard, the Congregational Church, repainted St. Andrews Church and helped with the fields in the villages. They have been a great asset and I would like to thank them and their supervisors for all of their help and for the quality of their work as well.

[Traffic Calming Measures](#)

Over the past year we have been, once again, talking to Essex County Council highways department on helping us with traffic calming measures and we have finally made some progress. You would have noticed the traffic island near Priory School and soon you will also see Speed Indicator Devices in Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre. Our thanks go to Lord Hanningfield, Cllr. Rodney Bass and our local Borough Councillor, Richard Poulter, who has been striving for achievement on our behalf. We also have new bus shelters in Woodham Ferrers and new bus stops installed throughout the villages.

Owing to the opinions expressed with some of the speakers in the Annual Parish Meeting I would like to make an offer for you to come forward and be part of a working party to look into the traffic calming for the villages and bring it to the Parish Council Committee. We will invite the representatives of the Essex County Council and Chelmsford Borough council to attend a meeting where you can present your findings and recommendations on what you think is the way to solve the problems. We will also inform Lord Hanningfield about the proposed meeting to ensure representatives will be sent. So if you feel you wish to be part of this, please contact Karen or Myself to put this working party together.

[Have your Say](#)

The dates of the meetings of the Parish Council are always posted on the notices boards so why not come along and see how the PC works for the Community? If you have something to input, there is always time at the start of the meeting for anyone to address us on any matter. The meetings are the 1st Tuesday of the month (Parish Council) and the 3rd Tuesday (Planning), but do check the boards.

[Vandalism](#)

Vandalism in the village seems to be reaching its heights again after the winter. I would ask you all to report to the police any vandalism you see. Please don't wait for the next person to report it,

pick up the phone, as this costs us as a community thousands of pounds which we as community tax payers all pay for. This money could be spent on much better things. The main places for the attacks are our open playing fields at the Hooe where we have a BMX ramp. This has been the site of many acts of vandalism together with the play area's, so please be extra vigilant.

Our next problem with our open fields is dog waste which is not picked up by the owner. The Hooe,

Priory Fields and Lodge Road have the most problems and we have installed dog bins at these locations. We even supply doggie bags for waste so there is no excuse for not picking up after your dog. There is an £80.00 fine that can and will be imposed! Our children are running round these fields and they should be kept clean.

Barry Arnold
Chairman of the Council

A NOTE FROM RICHARD POULTER



I would like to thank all residents for re-electing Mike Harris and myself to serve as your Borough Councillors for the next four years. It makes me feel very proud and yet humble at the same time.

Our role is to represent you to the best of our ability. This is a duty which we both take very seriously. It is important for us to keep in touch and to be able to see you when you need us. Mike is primarily responsible for East and West Hanningfield whilst I look after the needs of the residents of Bicknacre and Woodham Ferrers. Mike can be contacted on 400142. My number is 223743. I will continue to hold regular ward surgeries. These are always on a Saturday morning between 10 and 11a.m. No appointment is necessary. The next one is in the Pitman Room at Bicknacre Village Hall on 7th July. After that I shall be in Woodham Ferrers Village Hall on 4th August,

8th September, 15th October and 17th November. I look forward to seeing you.

Most residents concerns involve traffic calming. Some progress is being made. We have a safety refuge in Bicknacre and Vehicle Activated Display Signs are planned for Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre. All highway matters are the responsibility of the Essex County Council so what we get is not always what I have asked for. It is however a start. Other issues involve planning in which I now have a greater involvement as vice chairman of the planning committee.

I will continue to write monthly in the parish magazine to keep residents informed about what is happening and what is planned. I will work closely with the Parish Council as together we can achieve more.

Thank you very much for your support. It is a great privilege to be your Councillor.

Richard Poulter.

JUST BIN IT

The Parish Council ran a 'Just Bin It' Campaign in an aim to try and tackle litter and dog mess problems in the villages. The Clerk offered the opportunity for free dog litter bags to everybody and invited entries from Priory Primary School and St Mary's School and the picture to the right is our Chairman presenting the prizes to the winners from St Mary's School

Please contact the Clerk if you require some free bags.



TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY





This time last year the Friends of Priory Fields were actively planning for the future and pursuing funding opportunities to support our plans - which included our aim to build an access bridge and to

purchase an additional 25 acres of land.

We had submitted several grant applications – Heritage Lottery Funding being the primary submission but also included applications to Chelmsford BC, Brambles Corp and Barclays Bank. We had also gained the active support of local businesses, parishioners, schools, youth & group organisations and the continued backing from the Woodham Ferrers and Bicknacre Parish Council.

At the time we advised –

- *“The wheels of grant funding do tend to move very slowly (cautiously some might say) – as such we were unlikely to receive any firm news regarding Lottery funding until the middle of 2006”.*
- *“Planning permission for (the proposed new bridge) “is ‘progressing’ – initially we required approval from English Heritage & Rivers Authority before formal planning approval could be submitted.*

This year we are pleased to advise that we have achieved a high level of success.

- a) We have continued to receive the active support of the community – *for which we are very grateful.* The list is such that we would not wish to miss out anyone – however it includes many local businesses, the two local primary schools, two local secondary schools and many local youth groups & community groups.
- b) We held an Art Exhibition in July 2006 celebrating our local Heritage. The standard of the children’s work presented by St Mary’s School and Priory School together with that of the members of the parish who entered our competition was outstanding.
- c) We have been awarded Grant approvals from Chelmsford Borough Council £1440, Brambles Plc £3300, Barclays Bank Plc £750, Essex County Council £2,819 and a donation from the Bicknacre Festival.
- d) Planning permission for the bridge has been granted not only from the local authority but from the Environment Agency and The Secretary of State responsible for English Heritage Sites.
- e) The bridge is built. Whilst it still awaits the fitting of safety guards, under the hand rail, before formal ‘opening’ it is already much loved and well used.



- f) Work on the new entrance to the site has commenced
- g) We have purchased a site mower, trailer and other equipment to assist our work parties to manage the site.
- h) Designated footpaths have been prepared, environment maintenance and Health & Safety work has commenced.
- i) Since October 2006 regular working party weekends have been actively supported and we would welcome any additional assistance anyone can give us - information for such can be obtained from -
Ian Read: Telephone 01245 224225
www.i.read@fsmail.net
Or any Committee Member.

Working party weekends will continue to be held on the weekend of the second Saturday in each month.

The really exciting recent developments are: -

1. **Following submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund, in April 2006, for a grant of £130,000 towards BOTH the purchase of the additional 25 acres of land adjacent to the Monument Site and towards developing the meadows and protecting the environment, we received outline approval in September 2006 followed by formal APPROVAL in January 2007 for a grant of £130,500.**
2. **Negotiations with the land owner are now at an advanced stage. Subject to contract, we hope to be able to complete the purchase of the additional 25 acres within the near future.**



There is still much to be done. Our aims over the forthcoming 12 months include:

- To continue to develop, for the benefit of all the community, the existing 7 acre site and we hope to be able to announce shortly when a formal opening day will be.
- Work towards an early completion of the purchase of the 25 acres and then adopt maintenance and development of this are also for the benefit of all the community.
- Commission notice and display boards.
- Provide rustic seating, picnic tables, litter bins, sign posts etc.
- Develop our web site which we have registered as - www.prioryfields.org.uk.

The committee and active members are grateful for all the support we have been given.

A NOTE FROM THE PARISH CLERK – KAREN KUDEROVITCH



Over the last year, in conjunction with my busy role as Clerk to the Council, I have been studying to achieve the Certificate in Local Council Administration so it's been a very busy year for me. This is the recognised qualification in the Governments Quality Parish Status initiative which was launched in June 2003. It involved attending monthly training sessions and home study which has amounted to over 100 hours so far! For those of you not familiar with the Quality Status scheme - it is designed to provide benchmark minimum standards for parish and town councils, and enable them to be in a better position to influence the decision making process and to better represent the communities they serve. The scheme also aims to enhance relationships between local councils, principal authorities and community and voluntary sector organisations.

There are a number of different tests the Council has to pass and the tests exceed the statutory duties of parish and town councils and represent the standards that an efficient, well run parish council should achieve. Your Parish Council has been working hard over the last year to achieve certain aspects of the criteria needed.

I am pleased to report that I have completed the course and my portfolio has been handed in and, providing I pass, you will have a Clerk who is qualified, and the Council will then be full steam ahead to apply for Quality Status this September.

We hope to develop our own web site soon giving you easier access to information and the Council will commence a quarterly newsletter to keep you in touch with what we are doing. Don't forget, I am always available to listen to any views you may have, no matter how big or small. Please use me as your voice to the Council!

GOING TO THE DOGS

Now an annual event, this year's **Woodham Ferrers & Bicknacre Dog Show** is to be held on the 7th July at Lodge Road Playing Field in Woodham Ferrers

We always ask the Parish Council to nominate a local charity to benefit from the proceeds from the show and this year the nominated charity is the Danbury, Bicknacre and Little Baddow First Responders who are unpaid volunteers, trained by East of England Ambulance Service in Emergency Life Support and CPR. They take it in turns being 'on call' to respond to emergency calls to patients in our area who are suffering from potentially life threatening conditions.

The show is organised totally by volunteers who beg for prizes both locally and nationally, beg for financial contributions towards rosettes and other expenses, design and distribute flyers and posters, arrange advertising, send out schedules and so much more. If there is anyone out there who would like to lend us a hand on the day, or make any donations, please contact us on 07703 170512. We are also online at

www.wfandbdogshow@btinternet.com and can be emailed on wfdbogshow@btinternet.com.

Living in the Parish of Woodham Ferrers & Bicknacre, you will have not failed to notice the new "Priory Pet and Country Supplies" store recently opened in Monks Mead, Bicknacre. We are delighted that they have made some very generous contributions and will be at the show on the day.

So do please come along on the day and if you don't own a dog, then bring someone else's! There really is something for every type of dog imaginable from pedigree dogs to crossbreeds and mongrels, from waggy tails to appealing eyes and lovely legs, from veteran dogs to child handlers (whose classes are sponsored by Priory Village Stores and South Woodham Pets!) and so much more. With all the donations received already, you'll be hard pushed to go away empty handed!

BICKNACRE COMMUNITY PROJECT – IMPORTANT NEWS

On behalf of the Bicknacre & Woodham Ferrers Community Building Project the Parish Council, Jesters and (St Martins Parish) have agreed to help fund an innovative solution to help ensure the project has the best people to deliver it and this could mean you achieving a paid local job which will be rewarding and exciting!

Both the Parish Council, (the Church), Jesters and the Project Group have identified some funds to help

recruit and train four key posts from within the villages for a four month period in the hopes that the posts will kick start more funding to take them through the life of the project.

A truly exciting community partnership project with the involvement of the Parish Council, a Community Interest Company and the Church, all working together to deliver benefits for the whole community.

The key posts are:

Fund Raising Coordinator

To help arrange events and enthuse people from the villages

Treasurer

To help ensure the Project group stay within the limits of their resources

Funding Identifier

To look further afield for funding opportunities and ensuring funding applications are on time and consistent with the aspirations of the villages.

Clerk

In such a project, communication is a key part, someone with excellent communication skills and a thorough understanding of Committees, formal meetings and action is vital!

There is a trial period to see how we can grow our own talents within the villages, hopefully giving at least three people skills that they may not have realised before.

Barry Arnold commented "this is a significant move for both the Parish Council and the Project team. Developing our people is the start of the opportunities such a project should and will deliver!"

Chairman to the Group, Steve Bates confirmed "the support of the Parish Council in delivering this project has always been high. The commitment and enthusiasm of volunteers is always welcomed, hopefully this will spur a few more people into action if they see that the Project is realistic and achievable and hold benefits for all of us"

Jesters Community Interest Company Director, Alison Doherty supported the action "this is a really exciting prospect for local people, opportunities such as this should be really embraced. There are a lot of really committed parents within the villages and home working is the only choice for some. Supporting learning and development and local skills for all our people is key to the Jesters philosophy"

The project team have had their first funding application accepted by the Big Lottery Fund and hopes are high that the acceptance of this bid will be a major step forward.

Meeting every month the team are keen to make sure opportunities are given where possible to develop local talent and give skills to ensure the sustainability of the project.

The posts are envisaged to be part time with an allowance of around 4 days a month for the project, although this is early days! Skills and capability are important, so too is energy and enthusiasm. Further details for the posts are available from

PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

WOODHAM FERRERS & BICKNACRE PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL AND PLANNING REPORTS FOR 2006/2007

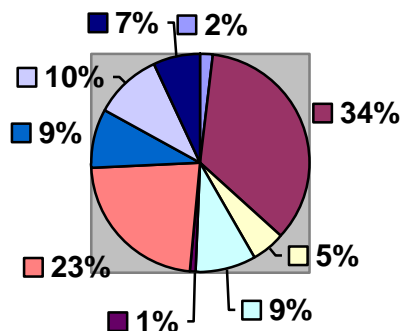
PROVISIONAL PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2006-2007

The annual audit for the year 2006 – 2007 has not been completed. Below is a provisional and unaudited statement for the year ending 31.3.2007 (not including VAT figures)

Notices will be posted in due course when the final audit is complete and the accounts are available for viewing.

Barclays Community Account	£
Opening balance at as 31/3/06	2,908.34
Receipts	
Hire of Football Pitch Fees	2,539.00
Chelmsford Borough Council Precept	39,000.00
Grants	350.00
Deposit/Bank Interest	1,784.00
Miscellaneous	2,894.00
	46,567.00
(opening balance & receipts)	49,475.34
Transfers from Barclays Business Bonus Account to Community Account	5,000.00
Total Receipts	54,475.34
Expenditure	
Year end figure as at 31/3/07 (from cash book)	42,586.46
Transfer from Community Account to Business Bonus Account	4,075.00
Total Expenditure	46,661.46
Balance Carried forward to 2007-2008	7813.88
All Accounts (balances as at 31/3/2007)	
Post Office	£49,281.35
(£13,000 contingency reserve/£36,281.35 allocated projects)	
Barclays Business Bonus Account	£4,292.84

Note: The Parish Council has set its Budget for 2007/2008 with an increase of approx. 10.7% (3.6% inflation)



- Petty Cash
- Payroll
- Insurance
- Admin
- Grants
- Community Expenses
- Priory Field
- Lodge Road
- The Hooe

Karen Kuderovitch – Parish Clerk

THE VILLAGE HALLS

Woodham Ferrers Village Hall, Main Road, Woodham Ferrers



The Village Hall has been operating fully since the opening in August 2005 after the major rebuild. Our renters tell us how much they enjoy using the new hall, which is so much brighter and bigger (and warmer) than the old, as well as more convenient.

In the last eighteen months the number of renters has increased, which naturally, has increased the amount of income. This has enabled the Committee to look at acquiring new equipment and to plan new projects for the future. We are also very pleased to announce that we now have an Entertainments Committee which has a number of events planned for the coming year. The first of these is a Family Night for parents and children, to be held on Saturday 29th July 2007. Everyone is welcome. It is not necessary to purchase tickets although there will be a nominal charge at the door for adults. Further information about this will be in the July In Touch magazine and we will be distributing notices throughout the Parish. We hope that it will be well attended and we are planning to have regular Family Nights in the future.

We are now 'online' with a website wfvh.org.uk detailing the activities which are held at the hall. We hope that you will use the website for information about the hall and to contact us.

The Committee is also pleased to announce that we have finally found someone to clear and tidy the land around the hall and to erect signs at the front. This should provide a much more attractive setting for our hall.

If you wish to make a booking at the hall, please contact Anne Jackson, on 01245-323173, or through the website.

Jill Oliver, Chair, Woodham Ferrers Village Hall Committee
01245-320037

See you all in our next issue – WF&BPC

Bicknacre Memorial Village Hall Bicknacre Road



Chairperson: Sharon Bridge (formerly Bookings Secretary), Vice Chairperson - Eddie McCall (also representing Scouts & Beavers) Treasurer - Sheila Marks, Bookings Secretary - Sue Green, Secretary - June Saltmarsh (representative from WFPC).

This volunteer group run the Bicknacre Memorial Village Hall for the use and benefit of local and non-local users. The BMVH is set up as a Charity with the WFPC as the Trustees. There is a Main Hall - Jubilee Hall and a smaller room - The Pitman Room available for Hire for either regular or one-off occasions at very reasonable prices. It is one of only three joint-use Community / Essex County Council Halls in existence and as a consequence of this can be hired for much larger functions in conjunction with Priory School, Bicknacre.

Day to day running of the Hall is managed by the above volunteer group with the regular paid assistance of a Cleaner / Handyman. Committee Meetings are held every six weeks or so to review the facility and agree any remedial or improvement works. An AGM is held in October each year.. We cordially invite everyone to these AGM's but attendance is always very minimal.

If you wish to make a booking at the hall, please contact Sue Green on 07999-536751

AND FINALLY!



PLEASE!

CSJun07