



Giving the village a voice

Bulphan Village Community Forum update report in lieu of meeting 14th May 2020

Attendance at our last Open Meeting was down, due in part to Coronavirus restrictions, and the meeting planned for 14th May 2020 cannot take place as meetings are not allowed, and the hall is closed. To try to keep everyone informed, here is an update, with contributions from the usual suspects.



Matters arising and chair's update: Janet McCheyne

Because of the current situation, there has been limited progress on matters arising from the last meeting. However, I can report that a project to drain the playing field has been added to the Infrastructure Requirement List, and that resurfacing of the hall car park was already on that list. These projects are funded from S106 contributions made by developers building properties in Bulphan.

Bulphan had entered the Essex Village of the Year Competition and the Best Kept Churchyard competition, but both were cancelled due to COVID-19.

In response to the restrictions in place, Kelly Fiford and I set up a "Viral Kindness" scheme. We recruited 15 volunteers, who delivered an average of 30 cards each to designated homes. The cards had the volunteer's name, contact details and details of what support they could offer. On the reverse were various helpful 'phone numbers and local services, and contact numbers for Kelly and myself. The volunteers were given guidelines, to protect themselves and the residents they are helping, and they have been delivering shopping, prescriptions and medication and providing a friendly 'phone call.

A couple of weeks after our scheme was up and running, Thurrock Council and Thurrock Community Voluntary Services set up their own scheme (Thurrock Coronavirus Community Action) which mirrored our scheme, and to which we are now affiliated. The response by the volunteers has been outstanding and much appreciated.



Treasurer's update: Annette Miles

Since our last meeting, we have spent £45.68 on refurbishing the flood relief pumps and the balance is currently £4,317.68



Village Hall update: David Hale

The replacement doors to the recreation ground, next to the new table store, have been fitted and due to the enforced closure, I have been able to undertake some bigger tasks that I couldn't normally do: I have re-varnished the main floor of the hall, repaired the non working heater in the ladies toilets at a minimum cost, and stripped down all the heater grids and repainted them. I have also managed many other minor repairs and clean-ups.

A clean and refreshed village hall for when it does reopen.

VE75 celebrations

Jo Goddard



Steve Benn



Iris Aedy



Hollie-Blue



Although the events planned for VE75 which involved people gathering together had to be cancelled (or postponed, as we hope to celebrate VJ75 instead), Piper Jo played the designated tunes at 3pm and Steve Benn proclaimed the Cry for Peace at 3pm and at 6.55pm. Many villagers turned up and spaced themselves to view these historic moments safely.

Luckily, Bulphan Church's bellrope can be accessed from ground level, so Iris was able to Ring for Peace at 7pm. Finally, Hollie-Blue gave a beautiful rendition of "We'll meet again" Thank you Jo, Steve, Iris and Hollie-Blue. Many residents decorated their houses and front gardens and enjoyed an afternoon tea in front of their own homes.

The grant we received for VE75 can be carried forward to our later celebrations, and the decision on a grant we have applied for to fund a commemorative plaque for the Spitfire pilot shot down over Bulphan has been delayed.

Police update: WPC Laura Brady, our neighbourhood police officer

I have had a look at our calls for Bulphan Village for the month (12/04/20-12/05/20) and the breakdown is as follows:



- No burglaries
- 1 false intruder alarm
- 1 assist metropolitan Police
- 1 information incident re possible stolen car in the area – no trace on police attendance
- 1 noise nuisance – referred to environmental health
- 1 nuisance vehicle incident – dirt bikes
- 1 road traffic collision

The Community Policing Team are currently working hard attending reported breaches of Covid 19 guidelines. We urge all residents to adhere to the guidelines and follow the updates from the Government. Any local matters, please report via the usual methods



Bulphan in Bloom update: Lynda Robertson, vice chair

During the lockdown obviously all scheduled meetings and clear ups have been suspended. However, our volunteers are continuing to try and keep the village looking lovely by: mowing the grass in the churchyard, watering and deadheading the pansies in containers, repainting the wooden tubs and generally weeding where needed. A special mention for Dave Skingsley who has stripped and repainted the

three pieces of farm equipment around the village. This job had been on the 'to do' list for several years!

We are planning to complete our summer planting at the beginning of June as plants were ordered last Autumn. This will be undertaken by volunteers working on their own.

Our Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 14th July and we will make a decision if this happens nearer the time.

Finally, a very big thank you to Steve Wall who has given us a Westwood sit-on lawn mower to use, it will definitely shorten the time we have to spend cutting grass!



Councillors update: Barry Johnson and Sue Little



At the moment planning meetings have been suspended: Officers' decisions on small things like a new porch or a garage has still been happening and nothing controversial has happened in the Orsett Ward. One thing that does crop up in our mailbox is the speed of some vehicles through the village with shut down and police are aware of it. Crime in the ward has been better. One other complaint seems to be drones across Bulphan but we have asked residents to report to the police. Then at least the police can let them know if they have been operating in the area because (as you may know they do fly them from Cherry Orchard in Orsett across to Bulphan).

We do hope the shop is thriving and doing well. Sue Mann and Max have been doing a fantastic job with the online church services. There is an increasing need for Foodbank donations (there is a collecting point outside 24 Church Lane).

LAC Pauline White has been very good at pin-pointing those who may need extra support during these times.

We are always so lucky with the ward but particularly with Bulphan as there is always a can do and get on with it ethos.

If anything needs to be done, residents can report it to the council web page and if it is not sorted Barry or I will intervene and it is always helpful to have "report it" numbers.



Shop update: Dave Hale

The shop is a great success, couldn't have come at a better time, very well used, well stocked and convenient (specially to some of us!). Complications have arisen regarding the transfer of the Post Office to the shop, but the shop will be a PayPoint and be able to provide most of the Post Office services, and will also be adding the Lottery soon.



St. Mary's Church, Bulphan: Lynda Robertson, church treasurer

Whilst church buildings are not open at the moment, the church is very much open with on-line services and updates on their Facebook page @HOBNOBChurches. Morning and Night prayers are being live-streamed at 9am and 7.30pm respectively. To access Sunday services you go to hobnob.org.uk/watch and service booklets are available to download by going to the link at the bottom of the coronavirus page on the hobnob website.

Revd Sue is also sending out a weekly email with church news. If you would like to receive this all you need to do is complete an on-line data form, found at www.hobnob.org.uk/data. The form gives us permission to hold your details and enables you to say how the data is used.

During lockdown we are sending out weekly activity sheets for primary age children. If you would like to receive these just complete the on-line data form making sure you add your child(ren)'s names and dates of birth. When this lockdown is over we will then be able to send you news relevant to families and young adults.

Of course, regrettably with all the tragic consequences of so many passing at this terrible time the services of a priest are required by so many families. The Chelmsford Diocese is highlighting the need to continue to raise funds so that churches can continue to pay their Parish Share because clergy stipends (clergy salaries) are the most significant item of expenditure. We appreciate that many people are suffering financial hardship at this time, some have been furloughed or laid off on a reduced salary. If you are in a position to help support the church by making a donation you can deliver or post a cheque (payable to St Mary's Church Covenant Account) to:

Ron Porter – 53, Church Lane, Bulphan. RM14 3TR or
Frank Woollard - Parkers Farm, Parkers Farm Road, Orsett. RM16 3HX

Alternatively, you could make a BACS payment to Barclays Bank PLC Account no 80724408
Sort Code 20-34-69.

If anyone would like to become a regular donor using the 'Parish Giving Scheme' please email me at l.robertson@hobnob and I can send you details.

Finally, Rev Sue wanted to say a big thank you to the members of Bulphan in Bloom who are continuing to cut the churchyard grass, it is very much appreciated and also thank you to those people who are making donations to Thurrock Foodbank. If you would like to donate some food items there is a collection box at 24, Church Lane.

Next events

The Forum AGM was planned for 30th July, but if restrictions mean we can't meet together for that, it will be held on 10th September 2020.

VJ75 celebrations are planned for 15th August 2020 and we hope they will be able to go ahead. If not, we will regroup and let you know.

We will be unveiling the plaque to Gerald Langley, Spitfire pilot at 12.30pm on 15th September, exactly 80 years to the minute when he was shot down.

Hoping to see you on 30th July.

Janet McCheyne
Chair
Bulphan Village Community Forum

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<http://www.thurrockcommunityforums.org.uk/Thurrock-CF/Default-6289.aspx>