



## 11th November 2018

The Parish Council makes no apology for being sentimental at this special time of year. Remembrance Day events have been publicised in the village and we hope that all residents, young and old, will take

the opportunity to remember those who are no longer with us.

Remembrance Day has been observed in Commonwealth of Nations member states since the end of the First World War to remember those in the armed forces and civilian occupations who died in the line of duty. A tradition inaugurated by King George V in 1919, Remembrance Day is observed on 11 November in most countries to recall the end of hostilities of World War I on that date in 1918. Hostilities formally ended "at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month", in accordance with the armistice signed by representatives of Germany and the Entente between 5:12 and 5:20 that morning. The First World War officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919.

During the year we have lost a number of Stisted residents and each will be remembered for their special qualities. Many residents will also have lost friends or members of their family. The two-minute silence at 11.00am gives everyone the opportunity to focus on their loved ones as well as those they never knew, so please, even though we all lead busy lives nowadays, two minutes out of your day is not much to ask to honour those that cannot be with us.



## Fly-tipping

There has been another increase in the amount of fly-tipping in Essex. If you find fly-tipped waste, please:

**Do not interfere** with it in any way - it could be hazardous and moving evidence could affect the ability to prosecute if the perpetrator is found.

## Report it immediately.

If it looks like a lorry load or that it may contain hazardous waste you can report it to the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60.

If it looks like a van load, report it to Braintree District Council on 01376 552525 who aim to remove it within 24 hours, or in the case of excessive amounts, within five working days.

You can also report it on-line at BDC's website, [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk)

## Parish Council Vacancies

In September, Cllr Richard Hughes tendered his resignation as a Councillor due to increasing work pressure. Richard had been a Councillor and the Responsible Finance Officer for many years and will be greatly missed by the remaining Councillors.

In October, Cllr Stuart Tyler also tendered his resignation as he is moving out of the area. Again, Stuart had been a valued member for many years and his experience and wisdom will be missed.

Due to this, there are two vacancies for councillors in Stisted.

Being a Parish Councillor gives any qualifying member of the parish an opportunity to help shape the future of the village. Although a parish council is the bottom tier of local government, it is responsible for setting its own annual budget and ensuring that any money spent is accounted for and obtains value for money. It sets the precept which is collected by BDC as part of your council tax bill and last year was equivalent to £33.09 per Band D property. Until the current financial year, the Parish Council was also in receipt of a payment under the Localism Fund. This amount has been decreasing over the last few years and will cease to be paid from 2020.

Any spend above £500 requires three quotations to be obtained and the one that provides best value is the one that is accepted.

Parish Councillors are duly elected volunteer positions. When a councillor resigns during the four year period, if ten local government electors in the area request an election, then this is undertaken. However if ten written requests are not received, the remaining Parish Council can co-opt to the position.

You can be a councillor, if you

- Are over the age of 18 and a registered elector in the UK
- Have lived in or within 3 miles of the Parish of Stisted for the last 12 months, or
- Have worked in the Parish during the last 12 months

If you would like to know more, please contact:

Alan Moor, Chairman – 07721 512064, or

Christine Marshall, Parish Clerk – 07933 306927, or

By email: [Stistedparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Stistedparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk)

## YOUR COUNCILLORS

Alan Moor **Chairman**  
David Burge **Vice Chairman**  
Melissa Hewitt  
Xavier Hodgetts  
Hayley Waine

## YOUR COUNCIL CONTACT

Christine Marshall **Parish Clerk**  
Telephone: 07933 306927  
Email: [stistedparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stistedparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk)  
Web site: [www.essexinfo.net/stisted-parish-council](http://www.essexinfo.net/stisted-parish-council)

## Stisted Parish Council Website

The new website has been finished and is being populated with lots of information ready for a formal launch in the New Year. As well as information about council business, we are pleased to welcome Howard Hollands and Derek Pryke to the team who will be managing the Archive section of the site. You will have seen some of their work in our Newsletters as well as at Neighbourhood Plan events.

The website has a feedback section and we would love to hear what you think of it once launched and also any suggestions you might have for additional information.

## Community Bus

We need more volunteers to drive the Community Bus. One of our experienced drivers, Simon James, has been unavailable for a while but our volunteers were able to step in to keep it running - for which we are grateful.

To be a volunteer driver, the first requirement is that you can drive and have a full, clean, driving licence. You will be trained under the MiDAS scheme (Driver Awareness and Assessment training) through BDC. The more volunteer drivers we have, the better the service can be.

The Community Bus operates on a Saturday to take residents in to the centre of Braintree and bring them back after they have had the chance to do their shopping. The bus also provides special trips out as part of the Stisted Community Partnership. Recently these trips have included visits to the sea-side, a country show, shopping trips and garden visits. Enjoyed by everyone, including the drivers!

If you would like to know more about how to become a volunteer driver, please contact Xavier Hodgetts, the Parish Transport Representative on 07809 342074.

## 2018 in summary

The Parish Council has had a busy year and these are just some of the tasks they have undertaken:

- Playing field - pavilion has been completed with bench seating provided and the windows secured to withstand footballs or other balls that find their way to this corner of the field
- Additional security has been put in place at the entrance to the field to prevent vehicle access
- The Neighbourhood Plan has been fully launched and work continues to provide the base information needed to move forward in preparing policies for Stisted. While the Parish Council can only comment on planning applications (it is the planning authority, Braintree District Council, that makes the decision of whether an application is granted permission or not), the adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the statutory decision making process.
- Defibrillator is fully operational. Having had a few issues with electricity supply and connectivity, patience won through and we got everything resolved. Training is being arranged and notices will be put up around the village once dates have been agreed.
- Emergency Plan - this is being reviewed and expert advice has been obtained to guide us through the process to ensure it is fit for purpose. In due course, the Parish Council will undertake a test exercise to judge its effectiveness.
- We have lost count of the number of reports submitted to Essex highways to fix pot holes, broken drain

covers, etc. Some do get fixed, but unfortunately many others don't as they are inspected and deemed safe by the engineers who undertake six monthly checks.

- Speed devices and other road calming measures are being investigated with a view to reducing speeds through the village in 2019.
- New signs are being made for the playing field reminding visitors not to leave litter or glass on the field, and most importantly, to clear up after their dogs!

## James Cleverly, MP

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October, the Chairman and Clerk met with local MP, James Cleverly, at the Montefiore Institute to talk about Gulls Meadow, Twin Oaks and the A120.

The background to the planning permission at Gulls Meadow was explained to Mr Cleverly and our concerns about the renewal of the permission due at the end of this year. The Parish Council is concerned that on two previous occasions we were not invited to comment as is the norm with planning applications. The other major concern on this site is that the approval, which is due to expire on 31st December, was given for one mobile home to be on the land solely to the person undertaking an agricultural operation on the plot. At the end of the permission period the mobile home was to be removed and the site reinstated to its former condition. Mr Cleverly agreed to raise this with the planning authority as the Parish Council has not received any update from Braintree District Council.

The Chairman shared our disquiet about the amount of money that had been spent by BDC on improving the access to Twin Oaks and that minimal financial recompense had been received from the residents. It is also understood that the tall fence was in fact erected incorrectly and it should have been further back from the road. Again Mr Cleverly agreed to raise this with BDC.

Whilst we have to wait for details of final route of the A120 and particularly its junctions with the A12, Mr Cleverly assured us that one of his major objectives in this respect is to "future-proof" the road and to ensure that junctions are the best design possible.

Finally, Mr Cleverly said that he will look at his commitments over the next few months and if possible will arrange an Open Surgery in Stisted when residents can meet him and raise any concerns they may have.

## The Village Green

Have you noticed some changes on the green?

First, the beech tree had to be felled. For the safety of villagers we had no choice other than to remove the old beech tree. In its place a fresh tree will be planted early in 2019.

To commemorate WW1, a group of "Tommies" has been installed. These will remain in place for a while and we hope that everyone will take the opportunity to look at them and spend a moment in reflection.



## Christmas 2018

The Parish Council will be providing a tree for the village to enjoy again this Christmas. As usual this will be situated on the village green and decorated with festive lights and decorations made by pupils of Stisted Primary Academy. As yet, no date has been decided for when this event will take place, an announcement will be placed on the notice board outside the Montefiore Institute.



### From the Stisted Archives

Derek has been preparing a wonderful slide presentation of historic images of Stisted around the period of The Great War for the commemorative events at the Church in November.

One of the photos we have in the archive shows two WW1 soldiers and we are keen to identify them.

Do you know who these men are? Do let us know.

Howard Hollands [howardhollands@gmail.com](mailto:howardhollands@gmail.com)  
Derek Pryke [dwpryke@gmail.com](mailto:dwpryke@gmail.com)

### Stisted Wildlife Ponds

Two overgrown wildlife ponds have been given a new lease of life by volunteers from the Parish Council, School and Village Hall.

One is in the school grounds and now made accessible for the teachers and children to use. The second is the Community Wildlife Pond opposite the Village Hall. Do take a look.

Thanks to volunteers Tim Noonan, Howard Hollands, Joe Bunyan and David Taylor.



### Parking

Villages, by their very design and age, have little space to provide parking for the multiple vehicles that most families now have. So, when parking, please consider others who may have mobility issues or may be pushing prams. Do not park across driveways/access to properties or on footpaths and green verges.

## “Essex Clay” - a review by Howard Hollands

In his new book, 'Essex Clay', Andrew Motion re-visits his childhood in Stisted and the traumatic events surrounding his mother's riding accident that led to her long slow death. He has been here before, in 2006, in his powerful prose autobiography 'In the Blood'. This time he uses a spare and concise poetic form to distil the emotions so evident in the earlier book.

I am new to Stisted, and appreciate the generosity of those in the community willing to share their own histories, so I already understand many of the references Andrew Motion makes. These will strike a deep chord with those in the village who have lived here through the period Andrew Motion is reflecting on.

The reader becomes acutely aware of the way that the writer is laying bare the process of writing poetry in just the same way as the Essex clay itself is laid bare. The Essex clay that smears his father's shoes at his mother's graveside; 'yellowing the heels of his highly polished shoes'. And, again at his father's funeral, of the sexton's spade which; 'opened the Essex clay to a depth of six feet....the spade blackmails the earth'.

Then there is Juliet, a story of an awakening that becomes momentarily entangled in the tragic event. She is revisited at the end of the poem which allows this book of memories to find its own resting place, of sorts.

Yes, it is dark, but there is the light of lyricism and a mysterious joy in these memories. It goes to the heart of things. A great read and a personal history that has real meaning for Stisted.



# STISTED PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEES

Sub-committee/ group	Scope	Chairman	Councillor/s involved
<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b>	Neighbourhood Plan	Melissa Hewitt 07711 690852 melissa3d@aol.com	Melissa Hewitt Alan Moor Christine Marshall (Clerk)
<b>Community Engagement</b>	Youth Club	David Burge 07931 519994 scrim73@googlemail.com	David Burge
<b>Community Safety &amp; Awareness</b>	Neighbourhood Watch Safety Parking Speedwatch	David Burge 07931 519994 scrim73@googlemail.com	David Burge Alan Moor
<b>Contingency Planning</b>	Defibrillator Life Belts Emergency Plan	Hayley Waine 07939 037045 hayleywaine@hotmail.com	Hayley Waine Alan Moor Christine Marshall (Clerk)
<b>Events</b>	e.g: Litter pick/dust cart Easter Egg Hunt Duck Hunt	David Burge 07931 519994 scrim73@googlemail.com	David Burge Alan Moor Christine Marshall (Clerk)
<b>Finance</b>	Budget Audit Banking Grant applications	Christine Marshall (RFO) 07933 306927 stistedparishcouncil@ yahoo.co.uk	Alan Moor Christine Marshall (Clerk/RFO)
<b>Planning</b>	To consider planning applications prior to presentation to full council or between meetings		All Councillors
<b>Recreational (playing field) Maintenance</b>	Playing Field Inspections Pavilion Rights of Way Grass cutting/ vegetation/ bins Access Surface quality Repairs Benches	David Burge 07931 519994 scrim73@googlemail.com	David Burge
<b>Social Media</b>	Publicity Village Newsletter Website Broadband	Xavier Hodgetts 07809 342074 xavier.hodgetts@talk21.com	Xavier Hodgetts Melissa Hewitt Christine Marshall (Clerk)
<b>Street Maintenance</b>	Verges / Overgrown vegetation (e.g. river) Litter Road Signs Street Lighting Footpaths Trees	David Burge 07931 519994 scrim73@googlemail.com	David Burge Xavier Hodgetts <i>Footpaths</i> - Bob Powers <i>(resident)</i> <i>Trees</i> - Roy Edwards <i>(resident)</i>
<b>Village Groups</b>	Joint initiatives for the benefit of Stisted	Rotates between: Parish Council Parochial Church Council Stisted Academy Stisted Village Hall	Alan Moor Christine Marshall (Clerk) Councillors as available.

## YOUR VILLAGE CONTACTS

<b>Village Hall</b>	Telephone: 07716 990599	Web site: <a href="http://stistedvillagehall.org.uk">stistedvillagehall.org.uk</a>
<b>All Saints Church</b>	Revd. Christopher Davey	Telephone: 01376 561234 Email: <a href="mailto:vicarbradwellandstisted@btinternet.com">vicarbradwellandstisted@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Stisted Academy</b>	Telephone: 01376 325116	Web site: <a href="http://stisted-academy.co.uk">stisted-academy.co.uk</a>
<b>Allotments</b>	Telephone: 07716 990599	
<b>Neighbourhood Watch</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:stistedneighbourhoodwatch@gmail.com">stistedneighbourhoodwatch@gmail.com</a>	