

# BARKWAY BULLETIN



A Quarterly Newsletter from the Parish Council of Barkway

Issue No. 12

June 2012

## Parish Matters.....

**Councillor Steve Alsop, Chairman of Barkway Parish Council**, welcomes you to this June edition of Barkway Bulletin - slightly later than usual, but held up on purpose to include details of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations held on Sunday 3rd June, which despite the dreadful weather were enjoyed by all who attended and was a day to remember.



### Meet your new Councillor

Having lived in Barkway for over 35 years I can truly say I love it now as much as when I first came here. Of course, there have been many changes during this time, some good and others not so and it is

### Jenny Warren

for that reason that I wish to serve on the Parish Council to ensure that Barkway continues to be a good place to live and work. I have agreed to look after the planning portfolio. During my time here I have served on various committees and currently am a member of the Village Hall committee, and am involved in the organisation of the annual Market and a member of Barkway Players. I am a manager with a firm of outsource accountants in Stevenage and my hobbies include gardening, travel, cooking and cinema going.

### Chapel Close

#### (formerly Wheatsheaf Meadow House)

The development has been handed over to North Herts Homes by the builders and the process of "snagging" is being carried out. It is hoped that an opening ceremony for the homes and the village garden will take place in the near future - date to be announced. Any Barkway residents or people with Barkway connections who are interested in the rental or shared ownership homes should contact the relevant offices immediately. This priority concession for Barkway connections will lapse and these homes will be made available to the wider community.

### The Pavilion Project - A Top Priority

The Barkway Recreation and Pavilion Project under the Chairmanship of Councillor Simon Taylor continues to progress. Planning consent has been granted, a specification and layout have been agreed, cost estimates have been received, a submission for building regulation approval is being compiled and a programme is in place to ensure we are able to deliver the project on time. However, as always, funding is the most important obstacle facing the completion of the project. The grant we received for £50k is time bound and its validity will expire in April 2013. Within the project timetable we must, therefore, sign a contract to construct the pavilion by the end of 2012. To allow us to do this we need to raise the remaining funds. We still need to raise an additional £50k to meet the full £130k cost for the project. The Project Group is pursuing a number of funding opportunities but would welcome any ideas that residents may have. The 'buy a brick' scheme continues to attract donations and these can be made through the village website. Thanks to Tom Wornham's recent desert adventure, a generous sum of £2205.76 was raised, for which we are extremely grateful, but we still need to attract significant additional funding. **So any inspiration would be most welcome and can be directed to Councillor Andrew Murphy, who is leading the funding drive.**

### Email Database

Councillor Andrew Murphy has now finished compiling a database of villagers email addresses. There are 280 households identified in Barkway/Newsells and over a three month period a little under 250 have been visited. Over 80% of the latter are online and 92% of them were happy to give the Parish Council their email details. It is envisaged that this database will complement and enhance the Council's communication with the villagers in addition to our website. The database is now under the supervision of the Parish Clerk and the law and regulations concerning privacy and information holding are being strictly adhered to.

If anyone else in the village would like their details added or deleted please contact Catharine Toms, the Parish Clerk, in the usual ways.

### Dates for your Diary.....

**Next Parish Council meeting: Mon 9th July in the Reading Room at 7.30pm. Members of the public welcome.**

**Parish Council/Police Surgeries: Held bi-monthly in the Reading Room. Next dates: 21st July and 15th September - between 10 and 11 am.**

**Barkway Forum: Date of next meeting: Wednesday 4th July in the Reading Room at 8pm.**

## Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations 3rd June 2012.....

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June the residents of Barkway, Newsells and Nuthampstead came together to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. A whole day of events was planned on the Rec, but sadly the weather was not kind to us. However, in true British spirit it did not appear to inhibit everyone from enjoying the event. Fortunately, we had hired three marquees, but not necessarily expecting to use them for the whole day!

The celebrations had commenced at the beginning of the weekend as households dressed their houses in red, white and blue. Everyone joined in and the village looked splendid. Thank you for your support. There were some really creative ideas and Christopher and Susan Blount had a difficult task to choose the 'Best Dressed' house. **The winners were Natasha and Alex Cave from Whitehouse Court.** A thank you to John Sizer and the Social Club for donating the bottle of champagne for the winners. The aim of the celebrations was to run a series of individual events throughout the day which would be all inclusive and appeal to all, whether the young or the not so young in the community.

**The day was kindly opened by Christopher and Susan Blount. There followed a Church service in the marquee which was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Mirjam Foot for organising this part of the day.**

Following the service and, taking advantage of a short break from the rain, we were able to run the sports day. This was planned as a traditional school sports event with an egg and spoon, sack race, three legged and mums and toddlers races. There was an excellent response from the all ages especially the children, but, also the teenagers and adults. We were even able to run a five-a-side football competition later on with children

challenging the adults. My thanks to Tony Terry, Vince and Julie Styles and Vicky Galbraith for organising and running this event. Well done also to everyone who took part. We were able to follow this, albeit in the marquee, with an 'Olympic style' medal ceremony, along with a winners' podium (kindly built by Steve Williams), for the Sports event winners. Bob Wilson kindly agreed to present the 'medals'.

**The plan was originally for everyone to enjoy 'The Big lunch' seated outside the gazebos on the Rec. Though some did manage to stay bravely within their gazebos most people came inside the marquees and we were able to eat together as a community.**

The fancy dress competition was initially planned as a parade in front of the gazebos, but this was quickly re arranged and we asked the contestants to present themselves on the stage within the marquee. We had an excellent response and the costumes were fantastic. All were home made and original. Clearly, some time and effort had been put in to make them. Marian Murphy, who kindly acted as the judge, had a difficult job to select the winners and runners up. Well done to everyone who entered and thanks to Marian. Mr Marvel entertained the children during the afternoon. By the noise and activity, I think they clearly enjoyed themselves. Sandra MacDonald was also on hand to complete some face painting. Meanwhile outside, in the rain. Anthony Peters was running a very successful dog show. From early responses he had expected only a few dogs to enter, but, was overwhelmed by the turn out on the day. A big thank you to Anthony, his judges and helpers for this excellent and well run event. Over in the Village Hall the Diamond Residents (those in the community who were born in or before 1952) enjoyed a Jubilee Tea. The hall was beautifully decorated and the food wonderfully presented and delivered to the tables by the waitresses in their smart uniforms. A musical trio played during the tea and then everyone was entertained by the Barkway hand bell ringers. **A big thank you to Jean Pooley and Diane West for arranging this most enjoyable celebration.**

Thanks also to the willing band of waitresses and the hand bell ringers The evening's entertainment in the marquee commenced with an excellent display from a group of dancers from Hoddesdon, arranged by Claire Cook. They were followed by Katie Terry, a wonderful singer with a great voice. The whole day was rounded off by a band that first appeared in Barkway at the Golden Jubilee celebrations, and have been back on a couple of occasions since, Déjà Vu. Though the rain continued to pour down outside, there was a fantastic party atmosphere inside the marquees. The dance floor was continually full, throughout the evening, as the band played the songs from each of the decades starting from the 1950's right up to the present day. A great evening's entertainment with an excellent band. I hope everyone who came along, despite the weather. enjoyed themselves and have some real memories to share of our celebrations of the Diamond Jubilee.

**I would like to take this opportunity to thank personally all of the members of the organising committee: Tony Terry, Catharine Toms, Nicholas Tufton, Jean Pooley, Diane West, Jenny Warren, John Sizer, Anthony Peters, Mirjam Foot, Alison Gower, Steve Williams, Vince Styles, Nicole Spriggs.**

Thanks also to all the helpers who came along on Saturday and Monday to help us erect and dismantle the marquees. Also to the Social Club for running the bar and the School for providing the BBQ. Special mention to John Sizer, as well, for organising the cricket match the week before to provide extra funds for this event. Thank you for all your hard work!

**Steve Alsop, Committee Chairman**

**To mark the occasion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the children at Barkway VA School and Barkway Pre School were presented with commemorative mugs by Steve Alsop, Chairman of Barkway Parish Council on 1st June**

### \*\*\*Diamond Jubilee Photo Competition\*\*\*

Barkway Parish Council is inviting you to submit copies of your favourite photos of the day for a competition which will be judged in August. Entries will be put on display in the Reading Room for all to see. The winning photos will be displayed as a permanent reminder of the event, with your name as acknowledgement.

Please let us have your photos in A4 size by 31st July and send to:

**Catharine Toms - Parish Clerk**

**The Reading Room, 12 High Street, Barkway, SG8 8EE**

### \*\*\*Feature for the Diamond Jubilee\*\*\*

The Parish Council considers that Barkway should have something permanent in the village to commemorate this special occasion. In commemoration of the Silver Jubilee we have a bench by the village pond and for the Golden Jubilee we have the village sign. We would like to invite suggestions from residents as to what they think might be appropriate and where they think it should be sited. Please let us know your ideas by contacting the Parish Clerk or by dropping a note into the post box at the Reading Room. You can also let us know your ideas through the village website.