

## Herongate and Ingrave Parish Council

### CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Looking back over 2022-2023, I am amazed at how remarkable it has been. We could not have predicted the death and funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, following so soon after her 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee year of reign. We had a hot summer that scorched our lawns and dried our gardens and farms, but led to a grey winter and wet spring. The Parish Council (PC) has successfully held new community events - despite inclement weather!

#### **COUNCIL BUSINESS**

During this year the Council has welcomed new councillors, Mark Pearce, Graham Hyams and Joanne Wats and await the appointment of our ninth councillor soon. Each Councillor has an area of responsibility, and were available to listen to their neighbours' concerns, to report back to the PC and look for resolutions. In addition, this busy year meant a lot of new tasks were to be undertaken. Their dedication and commitment is commendable. **I personally thank Cllrs. Piggott, Davey, Baldock, Flood, Hyams, Pearce, and Watts.**

Ex Parish Cllr and Borough Cllr. Marie Pearson stood down as she and her family moved out of the area. Marie gave many hours of her time to both Council roles and worked closely with many residents in our area. We wish Marie good luck in her new home and with new ventures. After a brief period on the PC, Pat Stoneham resigned. We thank them for their contributions and participation on the Council.

I thank Stephanie Robinson, who, as Responsible Financial Officer, has ably managed the Council's finances, and as our Parish Clerk, guided the Council on legal matters.

We welcome **Fiona Marsh** as our new Borough and Ward Councillor. We look forward to working with her along with Cllr Sheila Murphy in the forthcoming year.

#### **CHARITABLE DONATIONS**

The Parish Council has made donations to the Ingrave and Herongate Flower Committee, Animal Aid, and Ingrave Scout Group.

#### **EVENTS DURING 2022-2023**

Queen Elizabeth II, 70<sup>th</sup> **Jubilee** celebration in June, was time to get to gather after two years of isolation for many, and lockdowns and restrictions due to Covid. The PC arranged firstly, a Beacon Lighting up event on the Cricket Green. Followed by an open-air picnic on the School Playing field. Over 500 attended.

**Halloween** in October saw 100 children arrive at Herongate Football clubhouse, to join a Halloween party. Several different activities were arranged for them by the Parish Councillors.

As before, Calcott Farm provided a freshly cut tree, which we had selected, for our **Christmas Tree Lighting-up**. Many residents turned out and enjoyed the sing-along carols, wine and mince pies. New for this year was a Santa's Grotto that I know all the children loved.

**Easter Egg Walk.** What a wonderful turnout we had for this event despite having bad weather on the day. Though not all of the expected 90 children joined the walk due to the foul weather, many did, along with their supporting families. Unfortunately, many Councillors got very wet!

Sadly, Queen Elizabeth II passed away in September and we welcomed her successor, King Charles III. I attended the **Proclamation of the Succession of King Charles III** at Brentwood Town Hall, as the representative for the PC. The Proclamation was read out by the then Mayor Cllr Olivia Francois.

**40** or so residents turned out for crucial training in First Aid, CPR and DEFIB held at Herongate Football clubhouse. With 5 defibrillators around the two villages, knowing how to use

them with some confidence means their usefulness is markedly improved. Roy and Penelope Tyzack led the training over two sessions. We hope to run another one in the not-too-distant future.

The PC decided to hold a **Coronation Party for King Charles III**. We planned for bad weather, and it was awful; raining all day. We sold over 1500 tickets and had a wonderful day under cover in an 80-metre marque. From time to time the PC rely on outside help and this huge event needed lots of extra hands. Many thanks to our family members and friends who helped out over that weekend. It was lovely to see so many residents, families and friends enjoying themselves.

### **PROJECTS**

In 2022 the PC planted **3000 daffodil** bulbs around Herongate that produced flowers this spring. We plan to plant 3000 bulbs this autumn around the Ingrave area, which should flower Spring 2024.

We are currently liaising with Brentwood Borough Council about the future of **Herongate Village Hall**. A formal notice period by the Charities Commission proposing that the Brentwood Borough Council become the official Trustees to the building was posted around the villages. That notice period has now expired and we wait for information regarding the next steps. The PC will keep you posted.

### **GENERAL MAINTENANCE**

The Parish Council engaged a new contractor to maintain Peartrees Pond. On their first attendance they found it had been polluted by a rainfall drainage system being used for oil, paint and other pollutants. It is now being cleaned and checked regularly since the Environmental Agency inspected it.

Various grass verges are being maintained around the area by another contractor.

Potholes and footpaths are reported to Essex County Council for Highways when found to be a problem. Thanks go to Essex County Councillor Louise McKinlay who has always offered advice and assistance when dealing with these County issues.

### **PLANNING**

We are aware of local developments throughout Brentwood. Although there are currently no plans for new housing to be built within either village, the other developments will impact on infrastructure – e.g. schooling, doctors, traffic etc. – and will undoubtedly have an impact on us. We will continue to liaise with Brentwood Borough Council and update residents in a timely manner.

### **Law and Order**

The PC will keep close ties with Essex Police, about criminal activities, as well as Brentwood Borough Council for local issues.

### **NEWSLETTER**

Special thanks go to the newsletter editorial team, Keith Bradfield and Helen Kingsford. Having covered the publication of the PC newsletter for many years, they have decided to stand down. We look forward to working with a new editorial team.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

The use of Facebook has proven to be a useful tool in communicating information to its users. I would like to thank non-councillor and resident Neil McGuinness for his assistance in maintaining Facebook.

The Parish Council will endeavour to continue to work in the interest of all the residents.

**Cllr. Alan Kingsford**  
**Chairman**  
**Herongate & Ingrave Parish Council**

**Date: 23/5/2023**