

Marks Tey Parish Council Newsletter

August 2014, Edition 2

Chairman's report to the Annual Assembly

This report to the Annual Assembly covers the year 2013/2014

As I write notes for my 15th and last consecutive Annual Report and look back at reports over the last 14 years, I feel somewhat disillusioned at the lack of support Parishes now receive from higher authorities i.e. Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council. Our grants and allowances have all been reduced or cancelled and we have to raise any necessary funds via the precept which amounts to unfair double taxation on village residents. Marks Tey is fortunate in as much that we have profitable halls we are able to hire, so easing the burden on Marks Tey & Little Tey ratepayers.

Borough and County Councillors get paid, Parish Councillors do not receive any payment whatsoever, our councillors do not even claim out of pocket expenses, their time and labours are given freely with a genuine community spirit. Parish Councillors rewards are what we have achieved and the facilities we have provided for the village over the years. I have now completed a total of 22 years as a Councillor, the last 14 as Chairman. On my watch I have overseen many projects on behalf of the Parish Council including the A120 pedestrian gate and footpath to the hall, the millennium garden, 12 mature trees at the rear of the hall, a £60,000 children's playground, a new basketball pitch, a £40,000 skateboard park, car park resurfaced and lined, complete decoration and new windows in the main hall, building of a £300,000 Recreation Hall and new Council Offices, Fire Alarm System and Colour CCTV system with 24hr recording.

I hope I hear you say "Not bad for an unpaid Parish Council".

I have decided to vacate the Chair following periods of illness for myself and my wife. We intend to spend more time on holidays and days out in the future. I am very grateful to all Councillors for the support they have given me over many years and very proud of what we as a Council have achieved in difficult times. I am happy to hand over the wheel knowing the ships in good order and with a healthy bank balance.

We have maintained a full Council of 11 members during the year although we have had a few changes, Ward Councillor Elizabeth Blundell retired from the Parish Council in November and Cllr. David Moules retired in March after 40 years' service to Marks Tey and Little Tey on the Parish Council, a record that is unlikely to be broken in the foreseeable future.

David's memory and long term knowledge of Marks Tey has been invaluable on many occasions, he will be very much missed but I am sure we will be contacting him if we need to know anything about yesteryear in Marks Tey.

We are still at full strength and have co-opted 2 new Councillors; both have lived in the village for many years. Malcolm Bailey a resident for 22 years is a retired Banker and Allan Walker a retired Architect and resident for around 30 years. We heartily welcome them both to the Council and hope they enjoy their time as Councillors.

We have also had some staff changes in the past year, our new clerk Abi Howe has taken charge of administration and has already made her mark in setting up organised systems for every aspect of Council procedure. This is Abi's first post as Council Clerk and she has fitted seamlessly into the system. Abi was a member of Boreham Parish Council for 2 years which gave her an insight into the job.

I would like to welcome Abi to Marks Tey and hope that she will be happy to remain our Clerk for many years to come.

Gill our booking clerk continues to manage the hall bookings and together with Abi and the caretaking staff they make an excellent team.

Tony our head caretaker had an accident and damaged his leg which unfortunately forced him to retire last month after several months off work. I thank Tony for many years dedicated service to the Council. Anja our deputy caretaker has been on maternity leave and we were very fortunate that Chris Sharman came along to save the day. Chris has been wonderful and we are most grateful to him and welcome him as a new member of our staff. He has managed to keep our hirers happy and somehow found time for some maintenance work as well. The halls are kept clean and cared for thanks to Chris assisted by Roberta Francis and Judith Perrin.

I don't have much to report on in the way of progress, in the past year mainly due to the Government, the County and the Borough Council's financial restraints, but one "evergreen" that hopefully is reaching conclusion is repairs and parking restrictions on Old London Road, following a recent meeting with the residents the Parish Council and the Highways Agency, where agreement was reached and the work is promised for this year after 15 years of meetings and letters!

I conclude by thanking my fellow Councillors, past & present members of Council Staff and the residents of Marks Tey for the support I have received over the past 14 years as Chairman and wish my successor every good wish.

POST SCRIPT

As you will have gathered from the Chairman's report you have just read, it was my intention to retire from the office of Chairman of Marks Tey Parish Council after 14 years and have a break.

However, at the Annual Parish Council Meeting last week, the first item on the agenda, was and had to be by law, "Election of Chairman". As there was no member prepared to accept nomination I had no choice but to agree to continue for the time being, as it is illegal to hold a Parish Council meeting without a Chairman that has signed the "Acceptance of Office" document.

I am pleased that Cllr. Rachael Moore was elected Vice Chairman, as Rachael is very involved in village life and the school and has many ideas to promote and further the aims of Marks Tey.

Cllr Nigel Fitch, Chairman Marks Tey Parish Council

Monday 19th May 2014

Marks Tey Parish Council Playing Field and Public Toilet

It has been brought to the Parish Council's attention that there are a small number Parishioners who are treating the Playing Field like a rubbish bin and that unhygienic and inappropriate items have been found that could easily be picked up by children. Unfortunately we are also experiencing an increase in dog owners not cleaning up after their dogs and the public toilet is also being regularly vandalised. These issues have been reported to the Police and the Council is maintaining the CCTV system for this purpose.

Are you expecting a baby or have a child 5 or under?

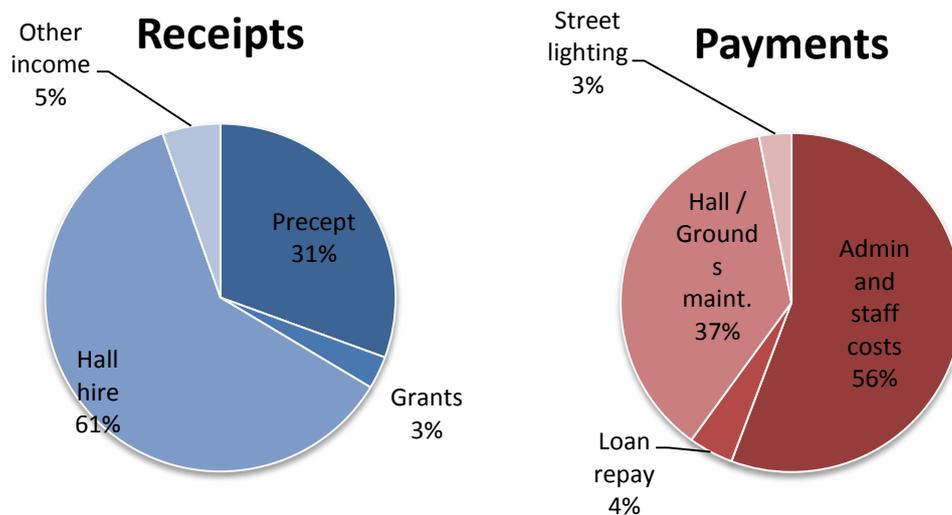
Little Hands & Discovery Children's Centre is here for you. We offer a range of fun groups and services for all families. We run two groups in Marks Tey – **Baby Drop-in** for baby weighing and meeting other parents on **1st Friday of every month 1.30-2.30** and **Physical Fun** (singing and movement) **Tuesday mornings all year round 10.00 -11.00** - both groups in Marks Tey Parish Hall. No need to book, just come along. Pop along to one of our groups and pick up a timetable for full information about our services or call the Centre on 01206 216240.

Colchester Jazz Club

Colchester Jazz Club is pleased to use Marks Tey Parish Hall for their Traditional Jazz evenings which take place every **Sunday from 7.45pm to 10.30pm**. The Club has been established since 1956. All are welcome to listen and dance to a variety of traditional and New Orleans jazz bands with approximately 40 difference bands playing over the year.

See our website: www.colchesterjazzclub.co.uk

Parish Accounts – 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014



Receipts	Amount	Payments	Amount
Precept	£36,816.00	Administration and staff costs	£59,608.24
Grants	£3,660.00	Loan repayment	£4,547.52
Hall hire	£73,418.55	Hall / Grounds maintenance	£39,565.76
Other income	£6,451.37	Street lighting	£3,261.21
Total	£120,345.92	Total	£106,982.73

The balance left is being incorporated into a hall and grounds refurbishment scheme covering the whole of 2014/15 financial year as well as investing in solar panels for the Hall to bring running costs down.

Mobile Library Services

Essex County Council mobile libraries carry a wide range of books and other items, but if you can't find a particular title you can reserve a copy. All mobile libraries are wheelchair-accessible

Aug: 14, 28 Sept: 12, 26 Oct: 10, 24

The mobile library visits St Andrews School, 13.20 – 14.10 and Leyfield, 16.40 – 17.15

For more details or help please phone The Answers People on 0845 603 7628.

FoStaps (Friends of St. Andrews Primary School)

chairperson1@gmail.com

Saturday 28th June was the day to be at St Andrew's Primary School for the annual summer fayre. Despite the two rain showers the event was well attended by both the young and older in the community. The children were entertained with the bouncy castle, the slide and tea up ride, and could have a go at splat the rat, hoopla, tin can ally and many more fun filled games to play. The arrival of Elsa, a character from the hit film Frozen was very popular, as was the arrival of the fire engine. Creepy crawlies could be handed, the tombola was a sell out and the Great St. Andrews Bake Off saw a fantastic array of cakes made by the children. One lucky raffle prize winner has walked away with a land rover experience worth £250!!

At the time of publication £1502.73 has been raised to buy a log cabin for the school grounds, this is going to be known as the "Reading Shack", a quiet place for children to read at break time and to provide another space for one-to-one teaching. This really was a community event, and we could not have done without the support from local businesses and friends. We have received some very positive comments....roll on 2015 so we can do it all again!

'Clean Essex' Campaign (taken from CBC website)

Litter poses serious social, economic and environmental costs. Colchester's Zone teams clean up, enforce, manage and monitor litter in Borough wide. The cost of clearing up litter costs taxpayers almost £1 billion a year. Cigarette butts, crisp packets, drink containers, newspapers, in fact, anything that is dropped, thrown, left or deposited causes defacement in a public place. If you are caught littering - and this includes littering from a vehicle, CBC works closely with the DVLA, PCSOs, and Park Rangers and can trace people who drop litter from their cars, which can result in a potential fine of £75 or, if prosecuted in court, a conviction of £2500.

Litter bins are available throughout the borough for you to place your rubbish in and if there are no bins available, please take your rubbish home with you.

Contact us

www.essexinfo.net/marksteyparish

Parish Councillors

Nigel Fitch (Chairman)	Marks Tey Radio, 40 London Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1BE	210285
Malcolm Bailey	47 Godmans Lane, Marks Tey, CO6 1NE	212341
Bill Bateman	2 Cornwallis Drive, Marks Tey, CO6 1XP	
Danny Cooper	The Gatehouse, 1 Francis Court, Marks Tey, CO6 1FR	212050
Martin Cowan	Poplar Nurseries, Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1HR	210374
Ron Ettridge	8 Badgers Green, Marks Tey, CO6 1XH	213097
Dave Johnson	2 Brickwork Cottages, Church Lane, Marks Tey, CO6 1LN	211652
Rachael Moore (Vice Chair and Staffing Committee Chair)	36 North Lane, Marks Tey, CO6 1EG	210025
Jim O'Neill	2 Francis Court, Marks Tey, CO6 1FR	210105
Allan Walker	71 Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1LS	211424
Dave Wrenn	23a Coggeshall Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1LL	212320

Office Staff

Abi Howe	Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer	213250
Gill Sargeant	Hall Bookings Manager	213250

Address: Marks Tey Parish Office, Parish Hall, Old London Road, Marks Tey, CO6 1EJ

Email: Parish.clerk@marksteyparish.org.uk Bookings@marksteyparish.org.uk

Parish Council meeting dates for 2014 – all meetings are at 7.30pm

Members of the public are warmly invited to attend

Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 12th May 2014

Annual Assembly

Monday 19th May 2014

Full Council

Monday 6th January
Monday 3rd February
Monday 3rd March
Monday 7th April
Monday 12th May
Monday 2nd June
Monday 7th July
Monday 4th August
Monday 1st September
Monday 6th October
Monday 3rd November
Monday 1st December

Planning and General Committee

Monday 20th January
Monday 17th February
Monday 17th March
Tuesday 22nd April
Monday 19th May
Monday 16th June
Monday 21st July
No meeting
Monday 15th September
Monday 20th October
Monday 17th November
Monday 15th December

What does the Parish Council do?

Parish Councils are the closest level of democratic government to the community they represent. They are statutory bodies and subject to statutory requirements; they only have the powers or functions vested in them by Acts of Parliament. Parish Councils raise their money from the local community through the Council Precept and this is used to improve facilities and services for the community. Marks Tey Parish Council is responsible for Bus shelters, Litter and Dog Bins, Public Seats, Public Rights of Way, Owned Parks, Playgrounds, Public Toilets, and the Village Sign within the Parish.

**Would you like to hire one of the Parish Halls or Playing Field for a family event, society gathering or business meeting? Please contact Gill at the Parish Office.
Competitive rates and flexible booking arrangements available**