



## SOUTH HANNINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL



## NEWSLETTER WINTER 2017



If you have any comments, please contact the Parish Clerk, Mrs. Julie Moule: Tel 01268 710820

### CHRISTMAS CHEER VOUCHERS

Christmas Cheer vouchers will be delivered to all of our residents who are aged 60 years or over and who are registered on the Electoral Register. The voucher is worth £10 per household.

With the kind co-operation of the following proprietors, you may present your voucher to: Elite Hair Studio and Barbers, Hall & Co, Hemmings Stores Too, Images Beautique, P M Andrews, The Bell & Chimes Pub & Restaurant, The Nags Head Public House and The White Horse Public House.

If any resident has not registered their details with the Clerk, please do so no later than 30th November 2017. You can email her at [shpc1@hotmail.com](mailto:shpc1@hotmail.com) or phone 01268-710820.

### DOWSETTS LANE CLOSURE

Not sure whether it will be quite in time for Christmas, but following ongoing representations to Essex County Council Highways Department and with the support of Cllr Ian Grundy, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways, work has started on rebuilding the culvert in Dowsetts Lane and reopening the road is scheduled for this year! In the meantime could residents please ensure the safety of children by ensuring they do not play on the road.

To report any highways issues go to  
[www.essexhighways.org](http://www.essexhighways.org)



### CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

This year's Christmas tree lighting in Ramsden Heath will take place at 7pm on Friday 1st December. Downham School Choir will be singing for us this year.

After the tree lighting has taken place you are all invited to the Christian Growth Centre where Father Christmas and his reindeer will meet us and where mince pies, mulled wine, tea and coffee will be served.

The Parish Council wish to thank the following sponsors of the 2017 Christmas tree: Carroll Cupcakes, Elite Hair Studio and Barbers, Hall & Co, Images Beautique, Nags Head Public House, P M Andrews, Ramsden Cupcakes, Ramsden Motors, Lambourne Caterers, Deborah Jane Massage and the White Horse Public House.

At South Hanningfield St Peters will lead the carol singing around the tree on Friday 8th December at 7pm.

# WANTED

## VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY SPECIAL CONSTABLE

The Parish Council is seeking to fund a Volunteer Community Special Constable within the Parish.

You would hold the same office and the same powers as regular officers. You would wear the same uniform, carry the same equipment and will be deployed to the same incidents. You will not be paid, but you can claim mileage and duty allowances.

You will need to volunteer at least 16 hours per calendar month, plus time for training. On average a Special Constable in Essex volunteers 24 hours a month.

Special Constables are bound by the policing Code of Ethics and the Standards of Professional Behaviour. These apply whether the officer is on or off duty.

Roger Hirst, the Police and Crime Commissioner has made the commitment to double the size of the Special Constabulary by 2020. This means the force is looking to achieve a headcount of 700 officers. The PCC has also committed to having a Special in every community.

If you are interested in this position you can apply via the police website: <https://www.essex.police.uk/join-the-police/special-constabulary> or please contact Julie Moule on [shpc1@hotmail.com](mailto:shpc1@hotmail.com) or phone 01268-710820.

The recruitment process involves a fitness test, a test to check basic literacy and numeracy skills and a structured interview. Subject to success in this process applicants undergo a medical and extensive vetting. Successful applicants will then undertake initial training at Essex Police Headquarters. They have the option to take part in an intensive 3 week course or to undertake their training on 7 weekends spread over a 14 week period.

## 2018 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Next year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Friday April 27, 2018 commencing at 8.00 pm in Ramsden Heath Village Hall.

Relating to the Parish Council's efforts to find a volunteer Community Special Constable, Katy Seymour who is a Volunteer Special Constable will provide an insight into her roles and duties.

Please put this date in your diary.



## PLAYING FIELD AWARDS



The parish has once again won awards from the Essex Playing Fields Association - Gold for the Best Kept Football Pitch in Essex, Silver for the Best Pitch serving a population of 2,500 or less. The children's playgrounds at the Recreation Ground and South Hanningfield Tye both won silver awards. Our thanks to the Parks and Open Spaces Committee and our groundstaff for their continued excellent work.

## DOG FOULING - DON'T BLAME THE DOGS!

Many, many residents complain about dog fouling in the parish. There is no excuse - a supply of dog litter bags is always available from the Parish Office and your council has spent a lot of money installing dog bins in the parish.

It is not pleasant for others, especially children, to tread in dog mess - please clear up after **YOUR** dog.

The Parish Council has a supply of fluorescent marker sprays to mark fouled areas so pedestrians do not tread in it! If this is something you feel you could help with (perhaps while walking your dog), please contact the Clerk

We would like to thank the following residents who spray the footways: Pauline Revere, Janet Elliot, Susan Dobinson and Kevin Black for helping to raise awareness regarding dog faeces.

Also Linda Wright who continuously picks up litter whilst walking her dog..

## Landowners and householders asked to tidy up near roads ahead of winter

As the weather turns colder, anyone with a garden or land bordering the road is being asked to make sure that ditches are cleared and overhanging trees and hedges are cut back.

Cllr Ian Grundy, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways, said:

“Ditches are the responsibility of landowners, even if they are next to the road. Blocked ditches cause flooding which in winter can turn into highly dangerous ice on the road so please do clear them now to avoid putting drivers and pedestrians in unnecessary danger.”

Cllr Grundy added: “Landowners also have responsibility for any trees near the road. These should be regularly checked and cut to prevent large branches or the whole tree blowing down and blocking the road. People walking along the pavement or verge shouldn't have to avoid overgrown trees or hedges.

Pavements should be entirely free of plant growth up to a height of 8ft (2.5m). The road should be clear to a height of 17ft (5.1m) and 1.8ft (0.5m) from the edge of the road towards your land.

## 2018 Coffee Mornings at the Christian Growth Centre, Heath Road, Ramsden Heath

8th & 20th January	9th & 21st July
12th & 17th February	13th & 18th August
12th & 17th March	10th & 15th September
9th & 21st April	8th & 20th October
14th & 19th May	12th & 17 November
11th & 16th June	3rd & 15th December

## PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

The Parish Office is open between 12pm and 3pm Tuesday to Friday.

Please try to call the office before a visit as Julie often needs to visit residents or attend meetings.

Tel: 01268 710820 ; email shpc1@hotmail.com



## MAKE YOUR HOUSE MORE SECURE FROM BURGLARS

Walking down the road and with the darker nights now, it is easy to spot that empty house; there is a line of houses, lights within and signs of occupancy. In the middle of these houses is a house in darkness with no signs of occupancy. Easy to spot the empty house and chances are the burglar will too. At this time of year an increased number of house burglaries occur between dusk and when you get home. You don't have to be a magician to create the illusion of occupancy and it may help protect your house.

Make your home appear occupied even when you are out. Simple things like lights on timers in rooms that you would normally occupy and a TV simulator for the evenings. You can now even get a timer that fits over your light switches (search on the internet for light switch timer). During the day leave a radio on, boots outside the back door, newspaper over the arm of the chair with a drink on the table and a pair of spectacles, the list goes on. Don't leave garden tools out in the garden though or you may find the burglar uses them. Lock tools securely away in a secure shed or garage.

To become a member of the Ramsden Heath Neighbourhood Watch community, please contact Terry Lowing (01268 712827) or Peter Huntington (01268 711357)

**And finally the Clerk, Councillors  
and Staff of South Hanningfield  
Parish Council would like to wish all  
Parishioners a very Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year**