

KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELD

The Rayleigh Lions put on their usual fabulous Fireworks display on 5th November and received tremendous support from the public to raise funds for local charities. We thank the Lions and all of their helpers for their hard work on this very enjoyable event.

The Lions will celebrate their 100th anniversary in 2017 and are very much in need of new members to help them to continue their good work. If you would like to become a 'Lion' please contact rayleighlionsclub@googlemail.com The football season is well underway and the ground conditions are excellent, despite the recent footfall from the fireworks event. We still have a spare football pitch available for matches on Saturday afternoons and if your team is interested contact the Town Council office.

Events in 2017

We have already received 2017 bookings for the King George V Playing Field. Following the success of their first event in May this year, Rayleigh Football Club will hold another Fun Day on Saturday 7th May 2017. The Christian Churches Ministries Fun Day will be held again on Saturday 15th July and the Bouncy Castles are set to return in the summer holidays.

An Award Winning Playing Field

Following on from receiving the prestigious Green Flag award for the fourth year running, the Silver Gilt award from Anglia in Bloom for the town and also for the playing field and Silver for Lower Wyburns Woodland, we achieved further success when the Essex Playing Fields Association acknowledged the Town Council's good management of the playing field at its October AGM when we were presented with:

Gold Award for our Children's Playground
Winner of the Best Kept Football Pitch with presentation of a trophy and Ernest Doe Vouchers
Runner Up in the Playing Field serving a population of 2,500 category.

Reporting Incidents

Fortunately we do not suffer from very much vandalism in our town but recently there has been graffiti on the Skate Park and criminal damage to rubbish bins and the roof of the sun canopy in the play area. Any information about this should be forwarded to the police or the Town Council to help identify and charge offenders. Due to a general increase in anti-social behaviour we invited Police Inspector Fergus Caulfield to come to our October Committee meeting and have also engaged the services of Essex County Council Youth Workers, who are currently visiting the playing field and Websters Way car park on Thursday evenings when the Bar'n'Bus is in town to liaise with young people.

A.R. ADAMS, ABC RAINBOW DAY NURSERIES, AMOS ESTATES, BARRETT PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, BYRONS NEWS, BUTLERS FINANCIAL, CMIS INDEPENDENT ADVISORS CO - OPERATIVE FUNERALCARE, COUNTRYSIDE ESTATES, DEDMAN PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, FAVORIT CHICKEN, FEATHERING YOUR NEST, GAINSBOROUGH CARPETS, HEADLINES HAIRDRESSERS, JOSEPH LAMB, JUST PAMPERED, KINGFISHER HOME IMPROVEMENTS, LIFE CHIROPRACTIC CLINICS, LLOYDS BANK, LOCAL TUITION, LOVELY HOME

Rayleigh Town Council Newsletter

December 2016

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REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE CALLIS

It was wonderful to see the crowds of people at the Christmas lights switch on event last month. The lovely singing from the school choirs, the Mushroom Theatre Company and local singer Reggie Manus really brought the community together to celebrate this very special time of year.

It was good to see Southend United Football Club players and to have BBC Essex presenters Steve Scruton and Ian Wyatt with us again, along with our very popular Town Crier Jim Shrubbs. Our thanks go to the volunteers who helped Councillors and staff to set up and marshal the event, particularly Concert Services who have diligently provided our PA system and stage lights for many years. The Town Council tries to keep costs down by inviting sponsors to contribute and we are very grateful to all those shown and especially to our main sponsors, Mark Worship from Marcos Bar, Joseph Lamb and Rayleigh and District Chamber of Trade.

Thomas Millar from Edward Francis Primary School drew a beautiful picture of 'Rayleigh at Christmas' and was the winner of our competition to design the Chairman's Christmas Card, which will be sent out to local organisations and dignitaries. Thomas won 4 tickets to the this year's panto, which were generously donated by the Cliffs Pavilion.

The Town Council has a budget of £10,000 to give to local charities and community groups and will present this year's grants allocation at the Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday 26th April 2017 at FitzWimarc School.

Also at this meeting we will present our awards and you are invited to make nominations in the categories below. We have introduced a new award this year for the 'Best



The winners of Colin MacLean's Amos Estate Agents Colouring competition were: Katie Millar from Edward Francis Primary School, Felix McQueen from Downhall Primary School and Lois Pankhurst from Grove Wood Primary School. They each received Argos vouchers, which were presented by Amos Estate Agents on the night.

The Town Council is due to judge festive displays by our local shops and pubs during December and each will receive a trophy and hamper kindly donated by our new Marks and Spencer Food Hall.

On a more serious note it was a great honour as Chairman to be asked to lay wreaths at the Royal British Legion Hall and Lych Gate on Remembrance Sunday last month. Since arranging the traffic man-

agement last year, the Town Council has now become the lead authority to organise the day as a Civic event and we thank Reverend Canon Mike Lodge, Mrs Joan Crick and the Royal British Legion for their involvement.

We have received many kind comments from residents in appreciation of the knitted poppies on railings in the High Street and King George V Playing Field and thank Town Councillor Bruce Smart and Mrs Linda Smart for their work on bringing this wonderful display to our town. We also thank the many local residents who knitted the poppies and Mr Colin Page who helped to research the names of local residents who lost their lives in the two World Wars and other conflicts, which you may have seen attached to some of the poppies. The poppies are not for sale and will be stored by the Town Council for use in future years.

Looking forward to 2017 the Italian Market is coming back to our High Street on Saturday 18th February and the Town Council is set to revive the Trinity Fair, which will take place in the High Street on Sunday 11th June 2017.

We will arrange all of our usual events including the Crucial Crew for Year 6 students, the Senior Safety Road Show and the Annual Town Meeting (details below).

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all staff and Councillors to wish everyone a very happy and safe Christmas and a successful 2017.

Disabled High Achiever (other than sport)

Best Youth Project

Best Community Volunteer

Citizen of the Year

Chairman's Award

If you know a deserving individual or group of people please pass their details onto the Town Clerk.

ANNUAL GRANTS AND AWARDS 2017

Community Volunteer', which is being sponsored by former Town Council Chairman Miss Patricia Weaver. The awards are in age groups under 11 years, 11 - 18 years and adults for the following categories:

Sports Person of the Year

Disabled Sports Person of the Year

Best Sports Team

High Achiever (other than sport)

MANY THANKS TO ALL THOSE LOCAL COMPANIES WHO HAVE SPONSORED THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

INTERIORS & GIFTS, MARCOS, MARCUS BAUM, MB DESIGN & SURVEYORS, PEAK SECURITY, PINK TOOTHBRUSH, RAYLEIGH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, RAYLEIGH CONSERVATIVE CLUB, RAYLEIGH LIONS, RAYLEIGH HI FI, RAYLEIGH MOTORIST CENTRE, RUDDS, SILVER SPOON, THE RONA PARTNERSHIP, SQUIRES COFFEE SHOP, SUBWAY RAYLEIGH, THE SWEYNE PARK SCHOOL, THE SMILE CENTRE, TODMANS, CLIFFS PAVILLION, BOOTS THE CHEMIST, CONCERT SERVICES HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, BBC ESSEX, MARKS AND SPENCER.

COUNCIL BUDGETS

It's that time of year when Councils start to look at their budgets and we invite you to let us know which facilities are important to you.

We are not a refuse clearance or highways authority and we do not fund road repairs but are you happy that we spend your Council Tax on other facilities such as maintenance of the King George V Playing Field, Heritage Plaques, Rayleigh Town Museum, Allotments, Events, Floral Displays, CCTV and Christmas lights etc. Tell us what you think?

The Town Council always strives to obtain grant funding to help keep Council Tax down and we have applied to Essex County Council's Community Initiatives Fund for a grant to help fund new play equipment in playing fields that are owned by Rochford District Council at Grove Wood, Fairview and John Fisher. We have been awarded a £3,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery for a new double sided notice board to be installed in the forecourt of the railway station, which will have a map for visitors to our town as well as community information.

Community Speed Watch

Community Speed Watch is a partnership between the local community, local authority and Essex Police.

Volunteers are trained to use speed detection devices for the purpose of gathering data on motorists who are speeding and we are intending to hold a training session early next year. The objectives of the scheme are not to catch people speeding but rather to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding and anti social behaviour on the roads.

Winter is coming - Salt and Sand bags

We have further supplies of rock salt in 20kg bags for residents who live in areas of most need eg on hills or near schools etc. to collect, store and spread on pavements as necessary. This salt is not for private use. We also have a stock of sandbags which may be given out to the public as needed. If you would like to participate in this scheme please contact the Town Council office.

Talk to Your Town Councillor

You can meet your local Town Council representative at Councillor Surgeries in the foyer of Rayleigh library on the first Saturday of the month from 10.00am to midday. The next Surgeries will be on 3rd December 2016 and 7th January 2017. We will soon recommence our programme of meeting School Councils in the Spring term when our Chairman and Town Clerk discuss local matters and the work of Rayleigh Town Council with the students.