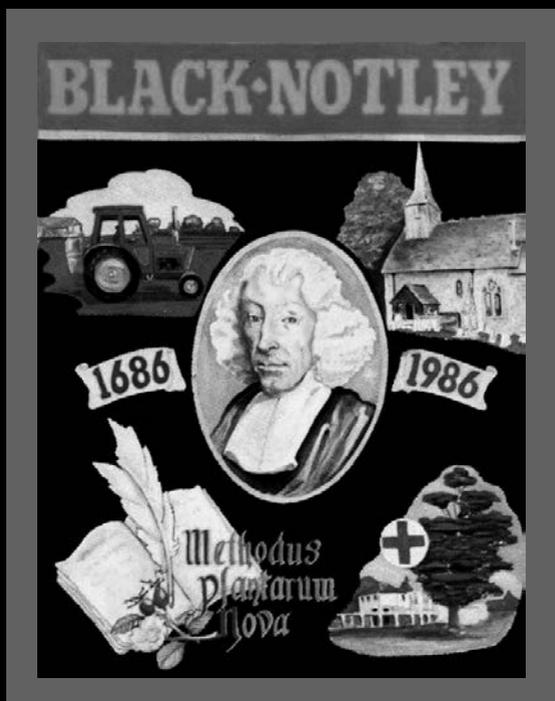


# Black Notley Parish **NEWSLETTER**



**SPRING MAGAZINE**  
**FEBRUARY/MARCH/APRIL 2015**

# B.N.C.A.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

7th March	Evening event. TBA. Live band
4th April	Family evening event
5th April	Easter hunt/Childrens party
2nd May	POOL OPENS + evening event
23rd May	Family day (mini fun day)
29th August	Evening event
30th August	Fun day
31st October	Halloween party
12th December	Christmas party

For details of all our events visit [www.thebnca.co.uk](http://www.thebnca.co.uk)  
or follow us on twitter.

## Community Carol Singing

Thank you to all who turned out to the Village Carol Singing at Bedell's Avenue

The Parish Council welcomed everyone to come back to the Pavilion for refreshments and it was a very friendly time for local residents to meet up with their neighbours and councillors.

There was an opportunity also to donate to the Children's Society and the sum raised was £54.12, thank you for your generous support.



# Village News

*Didn't the Christmas tree at the bottom of Bedells Avenue look amazing this year? Our thanks go to Neville and Steven Byford and families who donated it to us, Kay in the hairdressers who donated the decorations and Andrew & Eileen Adair who decorated it for us.*

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*We are looking into tidying up the old duck pond in Bakers Lane. This used to be a lovely sight – complete with ducks, but over the years it has become overgrown and has been taken over with weeds. Before we can do anything we need to establish ownership – which is proving rather difficult. Do any of you older residents know who it may belong to? Any information would be appreciated.  
Please get in touch with Helen.*

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*We would like to support another village garage sale this year. The date suggested has been 6th June. All that's involved is putting your name/address on the list, sorting out your un-wanted articles and putting them on your drive, and then waiting for someone to come along and buy them. There is no cost involved and all the money belongs to you. To register your interest go to [bngarage@hotmail.com](mailto:bngarage@hotmail.com), and look for the poster in the next newsletter.*

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*The salt bins in the village are full so we hope to be covered in the event of a heavy snow fall. This salt is for the footpaths and roads only and not for private use.*

*In the event of heavy rain, sand bags are available from John Cousins.*

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*The deadline for the May newsletter is 24th April.*

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*The dates for the next Parish Council meetings are 25th February, 25th March & 22nd April (Which also includes the annual assembly).*

# Parking update

Since my article in the last edition of the newsletter, parking issues have occasionally dominated conversation in some parts of the village. I am aware of at least two rumours/stories which need addressing concerning parking, and I'd like to mention some potential 'movement' on the issue from our local authorities.

Immediately after the distribution of the last newsletter I was contacted by a resident who informed me that it was "general knowledge" within the village that the Hospital estate was being used as part of an "Airport parking scam". I assured the lady that the local police had not informed the Parish Council of any such thing, but she insisted that she had solid information that this was true and that this was why we had parking problems in Black Notley. Since the conversation, I have liaised with the local police. The police were indeed contacted about one particular car left unattended over a long period of time on the Hospital estate, which a resident had said may be due to "airport parking". However, the car turned out to be owned by a local person. I would like to inform residents that rumours of Airport-Parking-Scams on the estate appear to be false.

I was also contacted by a resident who was very disappointed in me for being a "pacifist" and having

undertaken a "wishy washy political exercise". I am always happy to listen to everyone's viewpoint, and I was informed that the parking problem here was due to "migrant tenants" in "leased flats" with "no long term interest in the wellbeing of our village". Normally I'd ignore comments like this, which try to divide our community, but occasionally I feel they need challenging and I would like to advise residents that blaming specific groups of people helps nobody and appears to be based on false propositions. There is absolutely no evidence that being a tenant, or being a home owner for that matter, has any impact on car ownership and hence any impact on parking issues in this community. The same applies to the idea of "migrants"; there is simply no evidence that migrants in any way contribute to the parking issues any more, or any less, than anyone else in the village, me included. Thank goodness we also had several positive comments, from residents, concerning the article.

On a more positive note, the Parish Council were also contacted by a concerned member of the community who himself had been in touch with Essex County Council Highways about parking on mini-roundabouts. There is a possibility that Essex County Council Highways department may have a different viewpoint to the police, concerning the 'features' of the estate. The Parish Council are currently investigating what line Essex County Council Highways would be prepared to take on the matter.



**BLACK NOTLEY  
PARISH COUNCIL NEEDS  
YOU**

**Are you a British subject or  
citizen of the Irish Republic or  
a member state of the EU?**

**Are you an elector of the  
Parish?**

**Are you interested in the  
community and what happens  
in the Parish?**

**If so, have you thought about  
becoming a Parish Councillor?**

**The Parish Council  
has one vacancy.**

**If you are interested, please  
contact the clerk for the  
further details**

**Mrs Helen Waterfield  
26 Bulford Close  
Cressing, Braintree  
Essex, CM77 8HH**

# THE STORY OF PEDRO

*"You can take the man out of the black country but you can't take the black country out of the man"*

Pedro is from Gornal in the west midlands. His forefathers use to stand on the wall to watch the band go by.

In the nineteenth century Gornal was a coalmining village with more pubs than shops - not even a Tesco! The residents generally produced what they ate. Pigs were often kept in their back yards.

In Gornal the Collieries had their own brass bands - just as the mining communities in the north did. On special days the bands processed through the area playing loudly. Being very curious animals, the pigs often ran to the stone walls surrounding their pens and stood on their hind legs to look at what was happening. The saying *"The pigs stood on the walls to watch the band go by"* evolved in the Gornal locality.

Today no pigs remain, but some residents have replaced them by putting stone pigs on gateposts – far more appropriate than the lions, unicorns and other more often found images on gateposts!

One such pig is found on a neighbour of my sister who still lives in Gornal. They dress the pig and, when visiting, we always look out to see what the pig is wearing and make comments to my sister.

Dorothy, my sister, surprised us one birthday by buying us Pedro. We duly cemented him on a defunct gatepost. Muriel, my wife, has great fun dressing him – which she tries to do daily. On special occasions and when major sporting events are taking place, Pedro is dressed in suitably appropriate clothes. We have had clothes donated and he now has a considerable wardrobe.

Pedro has gratefully received Christmas presents, letters and requests for assistance on 2 occasions. The first was to wear a veil for a wedding being held at St Peter & St Paul church across the road, the second to display a request for a girlfriend to reconsider the breakup of a relationship by her boyfriend. Pedro gladly supported both!

We are so pleased that Pedro brings great joy to passers by. He has asked me to convey his many thanks to everyone who has given him presents.

He is a constant reminder of the roots from which I have come.

This is dedicated to Muriel Chadd who sadly passed away in January.



# A Skate Park For Black Notley?

In the Autumn of 2014 Black Notley Parish Council was handed a petition from villagers requesting a skate park be built in the village.

The petition was signed by 80 names of people living across the village.

Skate parks are popular amenities for young people who have grown beyond the use of swings and other play facilities, and they give strong incentive for them to put the games console down and get some fresh air, amongst other beneficial attributes. The Parish Council is very aware that new skate parks need careful positioning to make sure they can be properly managed, and proper design so that they do not become a problem for the potential users or neighbours.

## Next Steps

We are aware that Skateparks are expensive to build properly, and that defining what is proper is something that must be done with local people to ensure we find the best fit. We have contacted the District Landscape Architect at Braintree District Council for advice on possible location, and the next step will be to speak with the people who signed the petition to establish what kind of park they would like. We have not decided if we are going to try and build a skatepark yet, however, in respect to the petition we need to explore the details to know if one is feasible or not and we will keep speaking with local people as we take things forward.

## Where in the village might work?

The two possible sites that we initially identified were the playing field at the north of the village, and green space at the 'Old Hospital site' off of Hadfield Drive. The District Landscape Architect does not support the playing field site for a few reasons – it is too isolated if there is a problem, the young people will have to cross a busy road, and it is too far outside the heart of the village for convenient use and less easy to police or monitor due to the lack of surrounding housing (natural surveillance). He believes because of these things a skatepark could easily become a problem here.

The opposite may be true of the site off of Hadfield Drive, and given the expanse of open space, he believes there is enough room to create a suitable separation between the housing and the new skatepark that would reduce the impact of any potential disturbance, whilst stopping it from becoming too isolated for safety. There is also enough space to landscape around the park to reduce its visual impact – should the project go ahead.

If you wish to speak with us about it, get involved or make a comment, please contact Helen our Clerk.



# Opportunity Knocks once every 4-years!

**Are you interested in helping out in your community?  
Do you have a willingness to represent others?  
A desire to make a difference?  
Spare time?**

**Yes?** Then read on...

...Because being a **local councillor** serving on **Black Notley Parish Council**, after the May 2015 elections, may be something you wish to do.

Black Notley Parish Council consists of 9 councillor positions which were last 'contested' in May 2011. Parish Councillors are elected to serve for four years at a time, so a quick bit of maths tells us that in May 2015 the local community will get a chance to elect the councillors for the next Black Notley Parish Council.

If 9 or less people are nominated for election they are all automatically elected uncontested. If more than 9 people stand the process goes to an election which will run alongside the General Election in May 2015. At present the Parish Council age range is not reflective of the make up of people in the village; it would be great to see a Parish Council reflecting the full diversity of the village and it's to this end that I'd like to encourage people of all ages to stand-up and become local councillors. It's a very rewarding thing to do.

## **What does a Parish Council do?**

- It meets formally once a month.
- It provides some local services to the area.
- It represents people, without discrimination, and takes (some) decisions on behalf of the community.
- Works in partnership with other local authorities, public bodies, voluntary agencies etc, when necessary.
- It contributes to the economic prosperity of the area.
- It is the first layer of local government.
- It helps keep the parish a place where people want to live, work and enjoy themselves.

## What does Black Notley Parish Council do?

Examples of things that the Black Notley Parish Council have been involved in over the last four years include:

- setting up salt-bins for winter road conditions all over the village & keeping them filled with salt
- getting a bus shelter built in the community
- helping local residents investigate the idea of setting up a skate park
- taking over ownership of the village allotments
- ensuring the village is litter free on a day to day basis
- helping establish green areas and areas of beauty within the Parish
- regularly publishing a parish newsletter
- we are also responsible for some of the lighting in the village (easily identified as the lighting which stays 'on' after midnight!)
- we regularly liaise with the police on crime prevention
- we have a footpath committee who endeavour to keep an eye on local footpaths
- we have a planning committee who comment on local planning to District authorities on all planning within the Parish. (We don't make planning decisions but we lobby for, or against, them.)

*(NB This is only a small section of what we do.)*

## What do we not do? (Common misconceptions.)

- the word 'parish' in 'Parish Council' has nothing to do with the local church.
- we aren't the government; generally party politics stays out of Parish Council meeting.
- we aren't Braintree District Council or Essex County Council; but we do liaise with these bodies.
- we have no connection to anything remotely which looks like the 'Parish Council' from the BBC series: The Vicar of Dibley. (Honest!)

## Any restrictions?

You must be 18 or over & a British subject; or a citizen of the Commonwealth or EU.

You must also pass certain criteria for having a connection to the area.

You may be excluded from standing if you've been bankrupt or had certain convictions or work for a local council.

Otherwise anyone, and I mean anyone, can do it. There is ample councillor training available if you feel you may not be 'qualified' to stand as a councillor... come on, you know you want to!

You can find more by searching on: [www.braintree.gov.uk](http://www.braintree.gov.uk)

or looking at [www.cpalc.org.uk/becoming-a-parish-councillor](http://www.cpalc.org.uk/becoming-a-parish-councillor) or even Asking a Parish Councillor "What's it all about?".

# COUNCILLOR'S CONTACT DETAILS

## **John Cousins**

Cressing Lodge,  
Long Green  
Braintree, CM7 8DL  
**01376 326656**

## **Kathy Jiggins**

(Vice Chairman)  
Buck Farm, Buck Hill  
Black Notley,  
CM77 8LA  
**01376 322683**

## **Isobel Reid**

4, Derwent Way  
White Court,  
**01376 330155**

## **John Clarke**

(Chairman)  
17, Hospital Field  
Black Notley,  
CM77 8FB  
**01376 348922**

## **Alison Hunt**

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White Notley,  
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**01376 323856**

## **Susan Pedder**

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Black Notley  
CM77 8LR  
**01376 348963**

## **Trevor Martin**

3, Row Green,  
Bakers Lane  
Black Notley,  
CM77 8QR  
**01376 346951**

## **Jacky Smith**

Badgers, Bakers Lane,  
Black Notley,  
CM77 8LB  
**01376 326513**

## **Helen Waterfield**

(Clerk)  
26, Bulford Close,  
Tye Green Cressing,  
CM77 8HH  
**01376 550309**

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[info@blacknotley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:info@blacknotley-pc.gov.uk)

**[www.blacknotley-pc.gov.uk](http://www.blacknotley-pc.gov.uk)**

Parish Council meetings are held in the Pavilion,  
Black Notley playing field, Witham Road.

Public question time is held for 15 minutes at the beginning of each meeting.  
Please do come along if you have any concerns with any village matter.