

Featuring Achievements by small, medium and large Councils around Essex in 2013/14

Witham Town Council

Witham's Puppet Festival and the Town Mayor's puppet making competition is held annually. School children were invited to enter for the first time in 2013 and the winning puppets were displayed in the library and town hall with the winners receiving a certificate presentation from the Mayor!



Springfield Parish Council

After five years working in partnership with Essex County Council, Springfield Parish Council celebrated the opening of its Parish Centre extension, consisting of two new community rooms and a library which is proving to be immensely popular.



Cllr Susan Sullivan
Chairman Springfield
Parish Council

Cllr Kay Twitchen
Chairman Essex
County Council

Cllr John Jowers
ECC Cabinet Member for Libraries,
Communities and Planning

Chrishall Parish Council

Congratulations to Chrishall Parish Council who have worked extremely hard to secure the purchase of the former Methodist Chapel. The Council also took on the closed church yard to secure the deal. A substantial increase in precept was agreed by local people through a referendum.



Feering Parish Council

Last summer, Feering Parish Council obtained significant funding from The Big Society Fund to contribute towards necessary improvements to the car park including implementation of drainage and surfacing. The car park is used by both the users of the Community Centre and the local primary school, so has benefited many residents within the village.



Shotgate Parish Council



With the help of grants from Veolia Waste Management and Basildon District Council, Shotgate Parish Council created two new footpaths enabling people to walk around their entire park in all weathers.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS



COUNTY UPDATE

Special Edition

ANNUAL REPORT 2013 - 2014

No. 125

EALC moves to new premises



Cllr Kay Twitchen Chairman ECC, Cllr Mrs Jackman Chairman EALC,
RT Hon Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for
Communities and Local Government

Following the announcement of the intention to close Twyford Court the EALC moved to 42B High Street, Great Dunmow in September 2013. The new premises offer a great opportunity to develop the training and other services to the EALC membership. Essex County Council agreed a grant for the rent for six years, without this support EALC would not have the opportunities to develop.

EALC Executive



Cllr Sheila Jackman MBE FCIH, Chairman of the
Essex Association of Local Councils

The EALC Executive play a very important role in developing a sustainable Association. The Executive Members are appointed by the Local District / Borough Associations and provide a conduit between the Membership and the EALC to direct and manage the work. Through the Executive Committee, the Finance Committee and Personnel Committee they work hard to provide a robust management. Developing services and providing support is key to work undertaken by the County Office.

THANK YOU

The EALC thanks all its partners for their support, including Essex County Council for its support and especially County Councillor Mick Page who sits on the Executive Committee and has contributed to the Association's development.



STAFF UPDATE

Pearl Willcox—Training Officer



During 2013-14 the EALC said goodbye to Alison East, County Training Officer. Alison had developed a comprehensive package of training and leaves a huge legacy of excellence in training. Pearl Willcox continues with this work. The new EALC training room is providing flexible facilities to support new courses and workshops.

Carol Hartley - Finance Officer



In 2013 Mrs Gillian Skinner left the EALC for a new challenge. Mrs Lynda Richardson stepped in to keep the finances in order until Mrs Carol Hartley joined the team in December 2013. Carol has excellent qualifications and brings new skills to the role.

Sian Morris - Apprentice



In February 2014 Sian Morris was appointed as an apprentice. Sian is working at NVQ Level 2 and is assisting in all areas of the Association's work. Her achievements include the development of leaflets and flyers and she has become a competent member of Team EALC. You will meet her at one of our events.

Publications

Two new major publications were launched this year: the ninth edition of the Charles Arnold Baker, and Local Councils Explained by NALC Solicitor Meera Tharamarajah, and we have sold many of these. Local Councils Explained provides an easy to read narrative for Clerks and Councillors and has proved hugely popular. Numerous publications are available through the EALC—please see www.ealc.gov.uk for a full list.

Data Control

The EALC is keen to share your success stories and to celebrate these by publishing them online and in paper form. We take our responsibility for handling your data very seriously, and from this year we now seek your express permission before using your photographs in this way. We also appreciate you letting us know when your contact details change so that we can keep our information systems accurate, and do not share this information with others without your consent.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Larger Local Councils Forum

During the past year the Larger Local Council Forum has gone from strength to strength with many Council representatives becoming “regulars”. There have been speakers from many different backgrounds, stepping away from Council topics on occasions, which have proved interesting and enjoyable. Subjects covered have been The Maldon Mud Race, Apprenticeships, Emergency Planning, The Good Woods Project, Crouch Harbour Master, Highways, Parish Safety Agents. The next meeting in October will prove to be a popular one when we hear from Saffron Walden Town Council on the Tour de France – one not to be missed! There are also the regular updates from the EALC, NALC and ECC. Everyone welcome. Advance notice of a meeting is sent out on the ebulletin. Contact Linda Golding for details.

New Courses

We have had a very busy year with Courses seeing the introduction of several new ones which have been well received. These were the Emergency Planning, Pensions, Risk Assessment, Fire Safety and Code of Conduct for Councillors along with a few others. New ones for next year will be Social Media, Financial Regulations, VAT and others.

The training room at our new offices seating 20 delegates has proved successful and we now have a new projector, wall monitors and screen to help the Tutors deliver the courses. Our new Training Officer, Pearl Willcox, will be putting together the Course Calendar for 2015 and all the regular courses for Clerks, new Councillors and those preparing to be Chairman will be included, along with some special request courses as well. We thank all our Tutors for the excellent service they give our training without whom we would not be able to offer such a good service to our Councils.

New Roles and Responsibilities

During the year the EALC has completed a review of staff responsibilities and to help support staff development and business continuity. Staff roles and job titles appear in this Annual Report. The EALC is a strong committed team of individuals who all work hard and provide professional services. During the year they have achieved Level 2 qualifications in Health & Safety, Fire Safety and Food & Hygiene. Development of staff is key to the sustainability of the EALC.



- Executive Committee Members**
- Chairman**
Cllr Mrs Sheila Jackman MBE
- Treasurer**
Cllr David McPherson-Davis
- Vice Chairmen**
Cllr John Buchanan
Cllr John Gili-Ross
- Committee**
Cllr Alan Acott
Cllr Stuart Berlyn
Cllr Peter Davey
Cllr Helen Edwards
Cllr Tony Hayward
Cllr Brian Hazlewood
Cllr Bryan Ledger
Cllr Roy Martin
Cllr Hamish McIlwrick
Cllr Keith Miles
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Cllr Mick Page
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Karen Plumridge
Kathryn Richmond
Cllr Mel Sullivan
Cllr Michael Talbot
Cllr John Wren
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Chris Manning-Press
- Vice-Presidents**
Margaret Grimster
Dominic Petre
Canon John Brown
Peter Martin

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