



Your Council

Chairman

Cllr Bill Budd
2 Forge Cottages
Fenn Street
St Mary Hoo
Rochester ME3 8QT
01634 270192

Vice-chairman

Cllr Bob Beckey
5 Forge Cottages
Fenn Street
St Mary Hoo
Rochester ME3 8QT
01634 272804
bobbeckey@madasafish.com

Councillors

Cllr Paul Hassell
Fenn House Farm
Fenn Street
St Mary Hoo
Rochester ME3 8QT
01634 270374
paul.hassell@virgin.net

Cllr Mrs Kit Johnson
1 Hopper's Farm Cottages
Barn Street
St Mary Hoo
Rochester ME3 8RJ
01634 271246

Cllr Bill Khatkar
Bush House
Barn Street
St Mary Hoo
Rochester ME3 8RJ
01634 272366

Clerk

Mrs Roxana Brammer
53 Capelands
New Ash Green
Longfield DA3 8LQ
01474 872729
clerk@stmaryhoo-pc.gov.uk

Medway Councillors

Cllr Phil Filmer
Bridgewater House
Parbrook Road
High Halstow
Rochester ME3 8QG
01634 254196
phil.filmer@medway.gov.uk

Cllr Ken Bamber
Cllr Mrs Janice Bamber
5 Aveling Close
Hoo St Werburgh
Rochester ME3 9BZ
01634 252394
ken.bamber@medway.gov.uk
janice.bamber@medway.gov.uk

Village Pond

The pond was the main item of discussion at the last meeting of the Parish Council. The meeting was attended by four residents who live near the pond and formal proceedings were suspended for a general discussion on the way forward.

It is obvious to all that the pond is choked by leaves, vegetation and silt. It contains a weed called "parrot feather" that is not indigenous and is a species that is illegal to introduce into water courses. It is perhaps fortunate that the culvert to prevent flooding is blocked at the moment, although this is also something that needs sorting out.

The first thing seems to be to deal with the overhanging trees as it will be difficult to get to the greater part of the pond until this is done and of course more leaves will fall in next autumn. The Parish Council has been advised that the three weeping willows and one crack willow that have been pollarded in the past should be kept as pollarded trees.



Weeping willows overhanging the Pond

Apparently pollarded and coppiced trees, once done, must be kept that way. Unfortunately a pollarded tree looks stark for several months and naturally the residents closest to them don't want to have the effect of World War III in front of their windows.

The residents who attended the meeting have all volunteered to carry out much of the work on the pond and its surroundings as they can themselves. Two have asked to join the Pond Warden scheme and two the Tree Warden scheme, run by the Kent branch of the BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers). These schemes provide

training and advice on tree and pond management. In addition, Cllr Beckey will join the scheme for both pond and trees. The village will undoubtedly benefit from their expertise when they have completed the training.

Struck by this willingness to volunteer for the benefit of the whole community, Cllr Beckey proposed the Council set up an Amenity Committee to concentrate on the management of the Council's property, which includes the green by the church and conservation area at Fenn Corner as well as the pond. This proposal was seconded and

(Continued on page 2)

