

intouch

NEWS FROM ST LAURENCE WARD

Editor: Mark Flewitt

 **Conservatives**

SOUTHEND WEST CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION, 67 LEIGH ROAD, LEIGH ON SEA SS9 1JW Tel: 01702 472394

LAND OF HOPE AND GLORY

Shockingly, the BBC should even propose to remove our heritage by ditching the Land of Hope and Glory from the Last Night of the Proms. Of course it follows the insidious left wing and infiltration that is happening all around us, unless we stop that and keep politics exactly where it should be, at arms-length from our lives. The song was first performed at the Proms in 1905. Now there have even been calls to sack BBC Songs of Praise producer, who compared people who sing Rule Britannia to Nazis and said the Proms anthem should be rewritten.

It's as well to remind ourselves that the words from the song, are actually words of liberation, not pro-slavery of any sort, and a testament to this are the sheer number of people who have settled in this country and who still want to.



*Land of Hope and Glory,
Mother of the free,
How shall we extole thee,
Who are born of thee,
Wider still and wider,
Shall thy bounds be set,
God who made the mighty,
Make thee mightier yet!!,
God who made thee mighty,
Make thee mightier yet!.....*

and god is obeying that wish as England gets mightier as each day passes



Of course Rule Britannia came in for the same treatment, for exactly the same perverse reasons. Britons are hugely diverse and for so many, the fight against the Nazi regime was a totally common cause. It's not just a piece of our culture but a saving grace used in the spirit by so many in fighting the COVID 19 pandemic in the NHS and elsewhere. The BBC have not come out of this in a good light, its time for a complete rethink about their status!

THERAPY IN GARDENING



Social and therapeutic horticulture is the process of using plants and gardens to improve physical and mental health, as well as communication and thinking skills, improving mental health through a sense of purpose and achievement; the opportunity to connect with others – reducing feelings of isolation or exclusion.

Steve Buckley says, "The garden has proved an absolute refuge during this pandemic or the parks for those living in flats or apartments. Getting out in the open and being able to see greenery of whatever kind has helped so many people".



Trust Links (<http://www.trustlinks.org/>)

Trust Links is a local independent mental health and wellbeing charity working in South East Essex to support people experiencing mental health problems. Trust Link's vision is to provide safe, welcoming, nurturing and supportive environments to develop strong, resilient and healthy people and communities.

Cllrs Mark Flewitt, Dave McGlone with Steve Buckley have all worked with Trust Links to establish a lease on the St Laurence Orchard. All three say, "Trust Links is a real asset to not only the St Laurence community but much further afield as well". You can call us on: 01702 213134.



Cllr David McGlone updates on two hot topics in our area.....



Traveller injunction urgently required...

The unacceptable situation of travellers encampments continues. Southend Conservatives have proposed a Borough wide injunction (last year), a recent proposal to issue a PSPO (Public Space Prevention Order) and a chance to collect evidence of traveller incursions, all of which have been dismissed or voted against by the current Labour led Administration and Council.

Independent Councillors are now swerving the issue by calling for national legislation before taking local action while Labour continue their ineptitude to do anything positive and Liberal Democrats, who like to tell us that open green spaces are safe in their hands, are allowing their Labour chums to disregard their promises.

Amongst all of this confusion and side stepping by the Rainbow Coalition, the Conservatives are clear and determined on this issue. A Borough wide injunction is the only way that will stop travellers from pitching up on Council land. This town needs a resolute policy that deters travellers from thinking they can come to Southend and then shift from one open space to another. The cost to the taxpayers of cleaning up even one or sometimes several sites as the travellers move around within the town is enormous. Add to that the noise nuisance and anti social behaviour that residents incur. An injunction would eradicate all of these unnecessary problems. Let's have a safe and pleasant environment to live and relax in!

Green open spaces under threat... Lundy Close residents will be aware of the problems of the proposal to build a number of homes on their green open space. For other St Laurence residents who are not familiar with this area, the open space is a narrow strip of land containing approximately 45 mature trees at the rear of Lundy Close that is used for amenity and leisure. The situation has now been worsened by a statement on 16th July 2020 from the Leader of the Council (Cllr Gilbert) which classifies the open space as :

“NOT DESIGNATED AS PUBLIC OPEN SPACE “.

The Southend Conservative Group, who have been totally opposed from day one to any build on this land, find the Council's statement extraordinary, given that the amenity space is an integral part of the design of the estate and also that the Coalition Administration (Labour, Independent and Liberal Democrats) have just issued a report (16 June) highlighting : “the importance of access to public open space, the beneficial impact on the health and wellbeing of residents and those who enjoy the public open spaces and the wider benefits of these spaces to the environment”.

The report also contains conditions that can make any open space subject to exemption from its intended use. This leads us to believe that it's not only Lundy Close that is under threat. It can happen anywhere in our town if this Administration deems necessary.

We will continue to campaign to keep the green open spaces of St Laurence as they were intended to be.



EKCO PARK ESTATE

Our lovely new estate is having some good news, with the very fine statue of Eric Cole now in position and draft legislation due on the leasehold and land reform. Anglian Water are working with all three councillors to eradicate with other agencies any nuisance factors.



At the time of publication, the tragedy of the pandemic is still with us. Our condolences are offered to all who have lost loved ones and friends. The following information will link to whatever the current status is: <https://www.southend.gov.uk/health-wellbeing/coronavirus/13?documentId=1002&categoryId=200233>. Call the Southend Coronavirus Helpline on 01702 212497.



YOUR ST LAURENCE WARD CONSERVATIVE TEAM



Cllr Mark Flewitt

Tel: 07918 360 399

Email: cllrflewitt@southend.gov.uk



Cllr David McGlone

Tel: 07855 281 493

Email: cllrmcglone@southend.gov.uk

Sir David Amess, MP for Southend West

Sir David's constituency surgeries are held every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month, between 10:00 and 13:00. The surgeries are being held in four different constituency locations to cover the wards that are within Southend West Constituency.

Following the new Government guidance, physical surgery appointments will now be available to those who would like them. To book a slot in advance call 020 7219 3452 or email amessd@parliament.uk.

Please do not attend a physical surgery if you are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms.

