



Baddow Life

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The Life of Great Baddow

www.baddowlife.org.uk

Autumn 2004

Issue 5

Councils' Plans For Park-and-Ride

With the introduction of the suggested Park and Ride from Great Baddow to Chelmsford town centre, what actually does this mean for our small Village?

Although it may not start operating for around two years, plans are already in the pipeline for changes to the Baddow By-Pass. At present it is envisaged that the Park and Ride will be situated on the junction where the Maldon Road joins the A12 (the old "White House" corner). The buses will then travel along Maldon Road to the slip road, and there will then be a dedicated lane for buses into the town along the A130/ Yeomanry Way (Great Baddow By-Pass). It is not felt at this stage that an extra lane is needed out of the town, as traveling times are more staggered.

Although plans are only in their initial stages, the need for an extra lane into the town has already been surveyed. Some residents living adjacent to this road have expressed concerns regarding this development. However, it has been stated by the Council, that the extra lane "will be constructed within the existing highway boundary", which one assumes includes the grass verge.

There has also been a concern that there was to be lighting along the By-Pass. It appears, though, that any extra lighting will only be in the vicinity of the Army and Navy, and possibly only during the construction of the bus lane. It is not envisaged that the whole route will be affected.

by June Davidson

The Traffic Engineering Team Leader of the Borough Council, Simon Rudge, has stated that "one of the many factors in the detailed design is to consider environmental issues."

This work is being financed jointly by the County Council, Borough Council and the Government, and the hope is, of course, that it will reduce traffic and therefore the noise to those living adjacent to this road. The current noise level to local residents is already very high to the extent that holding a conversation both in the house and garden proves difficult. One resident commented that a noise reducing surface would be very welcome, so maybe this could be incorporated in the new road or possibly by some form of sound barrier?

This is all still at the planning stage, and possibly the best chance to influence any design or plan. We have been advised that there will be a Public Information Exhibition later in the year, the date of which has yet to be fixed. Any comments or questions regarding Highway matters should be addressed to: Head of Engineering Ser-

vices, Chelmsford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Duke Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1TN. Councillor Maureen Miller has also said that she will be pleased to answer any queries.

This article is based on information to hand at the time of publication.



The slip road from Maldon Road onto the Baddow by-pass, leading to the Army and Navy. Picture by James Millham

Alpha: An Answer To Prayer

October sees the start of a new batch of Alpha courses running in many of the local churches. If you were ever interested in knowing a bit more about God, then this could be the course for you - it certainly was for Giles. However, he was unprepared for what was in store.

Giles had been attending Meadgate Church for a few weeks before the course, and only agreed to go to Alpha to back a friend up. "I thought I knew what to expect from the Alpha Course," he explains. "I expected a lot of friendly Church people telling me where I was going wrong in my life. What I got though, was a group of people happy to discuss and answer the most awkward questions I could ask. And a tasty meal every week,



with good company."

What Giles was unprepared for, was for God to have something to say just to him. During an Alpha Course away-day, he sensed something unusual.

"For the first time for me, I could feel that God's Spirit was with us. God spoke to me very clearly, revealing the answer to a prayer one of the others there had been secretly asking.

"No one could have been more surprised than I was. That God would choose me to help encourage another, and in doing so, show that He wanted to be part of my life too.

"I'm glad I accompanied my friend to Alpha: to find that God actually has plans for me. And a relationship that will grow in the future."

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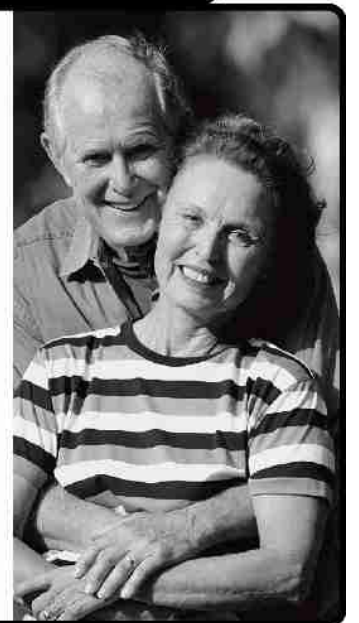
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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I read your article in 'Baddow Life', ["Vineyards Development", last issue]. Did you ask what happened to the previous tenants of the Vineyards? They lived in affordable housing. Their landlord began an improvement to their living conditions and they lived through a very hot summer of curtailed scaffolding and mess, promising themselves it would be worth it in the end. For their pains, as the scaffolding began to come down, they all received three months notice to quit unless they wanted to buy at £100,000+. It was not good business to tell the tenants beforehand; they might have left and no rent would be forthcoming, plus the difficulties of selling a half completed refurbished building to prospective buyers. Cynical, who's cynical?

The article by Matthew Curties shows a photo of a view through trees to Marrable House and blue skies. In its place, we are

told, is to be built a series of blocks - not buildings, but blocks - which will now encompass this vista. How do you descend 'smoothly' from 5 or 6 blocks to 3 or even 2 blocks? What is a tired exterior? Perhaps St Paul's could be improved with plastic double glazed windows. And what is an untidy car park, or better still what is a tidy car park? 'A job is not for life', 'affordable housing', 'learning lessons', 'moving on', 'at the end of the day' How they knock these meaningless clichés out for our understanding and approval!

We may search our hearts about housing, but property developers and politicians know exactly what to do without the slightest worry.

In your position you may meet these people of vision for the Vineyards, if you do take a very, very long spoon with you as company.

Name and address supplied.

Baddow Kids Help Out In London

In August this year, ten thousand young Christians from various denominations took part in an initiative called 'Soul In The City'. The youth of our churches banded together and took to the streets of London purely to show God's love in action. Their service, which took place in two of the hottest weeks of the year, ranged from gardening and litter picking to catering.

My fourteen-year-old daughter and myself joined a group of twenty or so young-

sters working near Canary Wharf. Three parks on the outskirts of London were used as campsites, ours being Gilwell Park. Each morning after a time of worship and teaching, the kids made the often well over an hour trek to their project area, and then proceeded to work in some of the roughest parts of London for the next two and a half hours. After stopping for dinner, they then proceeded to help out at evening events, often put on for the local youth in the area in which they were working. The young people would not be able to return to their tents much before eleven thirty in the evening.

I have to say that what I observed of these young people brought tears to my eyes. Hour after hour in the heat of the day, young people down on their knees scrubbing graffiti off a urine soaked wall, purely because they wanted the people of the areas to know that God hasn't forgotten them. This was impressive, this is the church of today.

For further information visit www.soulsearching.co.uk



Youngsters from Soul In The City

The Rise of Great Baddow

Maldon Road In The 19th Century—Part 1

How different would Great Baddow have looked in the latter half of the nineteenth century? Great Baddow was still a relatively small village, having a population of about 2000, which included Galleywood. Here you could go and watch the Chelmsford Races and lose your money on the favourite, together with the toffs and gentry from London. But let us concentrate on Great Baddow itself. What was it like walking up Maldon Road in those days?

We might expect to find families who had lived in the village for centuries, and some did. Certainly the Linns, Pattens, Everetts, Mumfords, Copseys, Polleys and

Sparrows stayed for generations, but at any one time only about one in four people in the village would have been born there. This particularly applied to the wealthier group for whom Great Baddow was a place to retire to and become a gentleman landowner.

Most of the houses that were then in Maldon Road are still there. As you turned into Maldon Road to go up the hill, on the right there would be no modern Marrable House and shopping centre, but a fine old house named the "Vineyards", occupied by the Rev. Bullen and later his widow. This house would remain the centrepiece of this part of the village up to the late nineteen fifties. Near it,

Life's Road

Did you watch the TV series 'Grumpy Old Men' and if so, did you clap your hands in agreement with their criticisms of today's society - you, me and everyone else? They were right, weren't they - all the nasty habits and bad behaviour we have to put up with, the peculiar clothes they wear, etc. etc.

But how do they or we, know how to behave—how to relate to others if we, or they, have never been told? Right from childhood we need to be instructed on how to relate to others, how to know right from wrong, how to react to people and situations, or how not to - in short, we need what today's politicians describe as a "road map". So how about this for starters? Just follow the signs.

Worship only God	L	Don't idolise anything
Don't swear in God's name	I	Keep one day special
Respect your parents	F	Don't murder
Don't commit adultery	E	Don't steal
Don't lie	S	Don't envy what others have
	R	
	O	
	A	
	D	

A pretty tough set of rules, wouldn't you agree? But what a wonderful world it would be if we acted upon them and taught our children to do so. To follow them, just look in one of the world's bestsellers - the Bible. Put in slightly different form perhaps, but the meaning is the same. Why not give them a try - you won't regret it.

Irene Duke

Ode to a Changing Village

Great Baddow was a village.
It's now a "mini-town"
No wonder "older" residents
Just walk about and frown!

Gone are all the good days,
The days when it looked pretty,
It's not a village anymore,
It's a suburb of a "city"

Every little tiny plot....
Is sold, to build upon.
I'm afraid "the heart" of Baddow,
Has well and truly gone!

The Parish Council tries so hard,
Opposes applications,
But Borough Council over-rules,
This makes for "bad relations"!

We have our Parish Council,
That really understands,
They listen to objections,
But they're taken from their hands.

So many "buyers" come in here,
They don't care very much,
They carry on regardless
And never keep in touch.....

With the "neighbours" that they have next door,
The ones they seldom meet,
They've only bought "the property"
They've bought their "country seat"!

They decorate and "do it up"
We know they will not stay,
They'll sell off half the garden,
And then they'll move away.

To them, it doesn't matter,
They've made "a bob or two",
They made your life a misery,
The rest is left to you!

Eventually, you just give up,
You think "oh what the hell"
Perhaps, one day, they'll feel the same,
They'll want to shout and yell!

They'll sit and write their letters.....
To the Council and the such,
They too, one day, will realise.....
That "people" don't care much.

I've written you this letter,
It's different, it's in rhyme,
Please read it and digest it.....
If you can spare the time!

Dilys Edwards ©2004

in the 1880s, was housed the village letter-box, which was emptied twice a day but just once on Sundays (the good old days). This was probably by Mr. Warricker, the Postman, before being taken into Chelmsford by Mr. Wilder the 'Letter-carrier' and no doubt checked by Mr. Stannard, the 'Post Officer'. The road had also just recently been lit by gas-lamps.

On the corner with Baddow Road, we would pass Valley Cottages, nestled between what is now the Interiors Shop, and Manor Place and Manor House. Behind these houses, stretching across to what is now Longmead Avenue - but then only an unmade track- was Manor Farm and a large gravel pit, now of course filled with the houses on Tyrell's Way.

This was followed by houses that are now occupied by the funeral directors; then a couple of cottages followed by Beech House with its tall chimneys, all having been occupied for at least two hundred

years before the eighteen hundreds.

The scene up to Beech House must have looked much as it does now, but the space behind has been filled. However, from here on, the view along Maldon Road looked significantly different from the way it does today.



Price Spoke of Jesus

Continuing on from his story last issue, Canon Philip Price, recounts his experience in Kenya, meeting Kewasis Nyorsok for the first time.

It took me about two hours to climb to the home of Kewasis, high up on the mountains of the Mwino Valley in the Pokot country of NW Kenya. When I arrived, tired and dusty, Kewasis ran away in fear to hide: he had never seen a white man before! But the rest of his family welcomed me.

His parents were animists, constantly fearful of malevolent spirits which interfered with life at every point; offering sacrifices seemed the only way to placate them. However, in some ways I admired their simple culture. They soon called their neighbours to hear what I had to say. At that time, I was struggling to learn their language, and my ability to share the Gospel story was rather limited. It went something like this:

"God made the sky, the earth, the mountains, trees, grass... and cattle (the 'currency' of the Pokot). God made us. Everything He made was good.

"But the people became sinners by disobeying God's Law. The wages of sin is death.

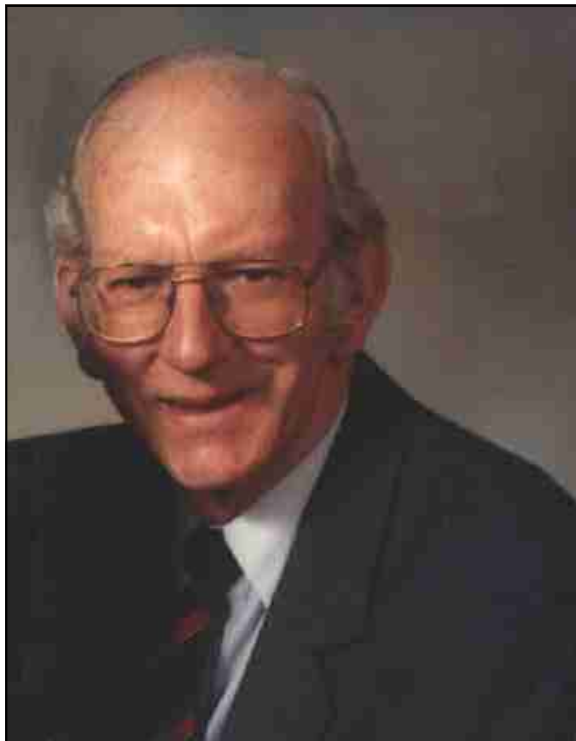
"God had a Son called Jesus Christ and because He loved us He sent His Son to die for our sins and become our Saviour. Repent of your sins and trust in Jesus.

"If we believe, God will forgive our sins.

"Receive God's gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ now."

My wife and I, with our two young children, lived in that beautiful valley at 'Tamkal' for several years before we saw our first convert, but when we left to work elsewhere in Kenya, the Church numbered ten baptised believers. The message of Jesus had changed their lives, releasing them from the fear and power of evil spirits. That was nearly forty years ago. No white missionaries followed us.

In 2002, Bishop Stephen Kewasis, invited us to visit the newly created 'Parish of Tamkal' with its own priest and about eight established congregations along the length of the valley. What a joy it was to meet with hundreds of Pokot Christians enthusi-



astically praising Jesus. The Church in Pokot country is growing fast, mainly because its members are verbal about the reality of Jesus as Saviour and Lord in their lives.

Consequently, we noticed several church-initiated developments from early beginnings when we were there. We ran a small primary school - it was a struggle to get boy scholars let alone girls. Now there is a double-stream primary school bursting with scholars of both sexes. It has one of the best academic records in the whole of Kenya. Since 2002 a secondary school has begun. All the buildings have been constructed by the local community. Next year it will have reached Form IV. It is currently raising money to buy a strong vehicle to cope with the very rough track through the valley. I also ran a small dispensary; now the government have both a dispensary and a day ward and employs a full time medical assistant. Moreover the Church is under the pastoral care of the Revd Sarah Khisa (a Pokot lady). It is currently building a stone church to hold 300 people: Meadgate Church is helping with this.

Philip Price

A festival fun day was held at Meadgate Car Park on 22nd August; a joint venture between Chelmer Housing partnership, Meadgate Church Centre and the Residents forum. The activities began at 11.30 am and finished at 3.30 pm. Bouncy Jousting, Bouncy Castle, Free BBQ, Craft stalls, music and a puppet show were some of the activities held that day. A total of £127 was raised for Farleighs.

THE ALPHA COURSE explore the meaning of life



Looking for answers? The Alpha course is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed, non-threatening manner over ten, thought-provoking weekly sessions.

It's low key, friendly and fun. And it's supported by all the main Christian denominations. You're not on your own either. Over 6 million people worldwide have already found it to be a worthwhile experience.

Attending an Alpha course felt like a frightening step to begin with, but I soon found myself looking forward to the next session.

There is no pressure to join in with the conversations, and it is not a case of trying to force you to commit to something that you are not certain of. But it does provide a great opportunity to meet like-minded people, have interesting discussions and debates on Christianity and its role in modern life, and often to confront issues that have been holding us back in life.

I would recommend Alpha to anyone; from people who simply want to find out more about the faith, to those who wish to make a full commitment to becoming a Christian and are not sure where to start. Whatever the reasons for going, I believe that nobody will find it a waste of their time.

Donna

A few years ago, if you'd told me that by now I'd be a Christian, I'd have laughed at you. I knew the world was round, I knew that money didn't grow on trees, I knew ice cream for breakfast, lunch and dinner was a staple diet, and I definitely knew that Christians were boring.

Surprisingly, Alpha changed that! When I first went, it was simply something to do — a way to meet new people and to get a free meal. But I soon discovered that Christians aren't always boring and I actually found myself wanting to go to Church and to learn more.

I discovered that you don't have to go to Church and sit in silence and wear a suit, but you can enjoy yourself, meet new people and make great new friends.

Alpha opened so many doors for me. Go — I'll bet you enjoy it!

Tom

I had been going to church with a friend for a while before I was invited to do an Alpha course, but I always felt like a bit of a 'tag along', as I hadn't really developed my own identity as a Christian. When I decided to give it a try, Alpha became my much-needed step forward as it provided me with opportunities to explore Christianity for myself and make a proper commitment to God. I learnt that it was OK to have doubts and fears, and as the course progressed, I found answers to my questions and met people that could relate to the issues I had. Alpha opened doors that have since allowed me to learn more about God through meeting with the friends I made and going to church. In essence, Alpha gave me the sense of belonging that I had been looking for, and if anyone is thinking about going, my advice would be - stop thinking and just go!

Emma

Alpha Courses

Tuesday, starting 28th September at Meadgate Church Centre, Great Baddow
Contact Mones Farah, tel. 01245 471516

Wednesday, starting 29th September at St Paul's Church, Great Baddow
Contact Tricia and Tudor Roberts, tel. 01245 269026

Wednesday, starting 6th October at St Mary's Church, Great Baddow
Contact John and Heather Ansell, tel. 01245 359872

Contact for Central Baptist Church,
Pat Seeley, tel. 01245 264163/231373



Alphacourse.org

Marriage Course

Meadgate Church Centre, starting on 30th September, 7:00pm
Starts with supper.
Total cost for a couple is £60,
which includes all meals and course material.
Registration essential.
For further information see www.meadgatechurch.org.uk
or telephone 01245 471516

The marriage course is an opportunity to spend time together as a couple. It is a course that is run over eight evenings; the first four are weekly while the last four fortnightly.

Meadgate Church has run three courses so far, attended by eleven couples and there are plans to start a new one this September. The course is limited to five couples at a time, so places are limited and are allocated on a first come basis, therefore pre booking is essential. There is a cost to the course to cover course manuals, course book and all meals.

Topics covered are as follows:

- Building Strong Foundations
 - The Art of Communication
 - Resolving Conflict
 - The Power of Forgiveness
 - Parents and In-Laws
 - Good Sex
 - Love in Action
 - The Marriage Course Supper
- This course is designed to strengthen and enhance any marriage, and it is highly recommended.

'We attended the Marriage Course recently at Meadgate Church Centre and found it very helpful. We enjoyed a lovely meal all together each time, then watched the video. Each couple then moved off to separate tables for our own discussions and to use the workbooks. It was good because it made one sit down and discuss important topics which one might otherwise avoid.' Diana and Phil Goatly

Great Baddow Parish Council 5-A-Side Shield

Report by Billy Radford ('Captain Marvellous'— football captain)

It was 19th June and all the Larkrise football team were very nervous because they were playing in a football tournament against Baddow Hall Junior School for the Baddow Hall Shield. The 5-A-Side match kicked off and at first, everyone was confused, but soon everyone was all right. Everyone in the team played well; the defence was strong (Billy Radford and Billy Wilkinson), the keeper was amazing (Jamie Wilkinson), the midfielder made all the play (Jordan Miller), and the striker had some cracking shots (Adam Jarvis). As a result of this, Adam scored a blasting goal followed by a shot by Jordan, which put Larkrise in the lead 2-0. After half time, everyone was very confident, but sadly, soon after, Baddow Hall scored a goal. However, the team spirit didn't fall. Soon, Jordan Miller scored another great goal to make the score 3-1. Ben Brown and Dean



The Winning Team

Jones both made some inspired tackles and created even more chances before the final whistle came. Everyone was thrilled, but the team could not have done it without the fantastic supporters.

Football Sees The Girls Fight Back

Two teams from Meadgate Primary School took part in a Girls' Football Tournament, involving twenty Essex schools. Both teams played brilliantly, with one team reaching the quarterfinals, and the other team coming first and winning the cup. Many thanks are due to Mr. Bennett for his hard work and enthusiasm and all the parents who came to support.

The girls who took part were: Lizzie Smith, Emma Beadle, Rosie Yates, Lucy Amiss, Maisie Tuckett, Emily Caleno, Hannah Gilvear, Charlotte Fox, Alex Whitelock and Helen Wyatt; along with the winning team pictured below: Allannah Buckroyd, Amy Hayes, Ellie Miners, Hannah Mortlock, Daisy Palmer, Emma Reardon and Amy Woodard.



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If you wish to have a letter printed in the paper, address it as below, or e-mail letters@baddowlife.org.uk.
Alternatively, please visit us at www.baddowlife.org.uk

Local Information

Doctor's Surgery

"The Surgery"	Dr Russell and Partners
Address	16 High St, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex. CM2 7HQ
Telephone Numbers	Surgery: 0870 2851990 / 01245 473251 Dispensary: 01245 472449 Out of Hours Answerphone: 01245 473251 (for duty doctor's number)
Opening Hours	Surgery open Monday to Friday: 8:30am-11:50am and 4:00pm-6:30pm Practice closed: 12:30pm-1:30pm Emergencies only: Saturdays 9:00am-11:00am Test Results: After 3:00pm

Local Churches

St Mary's Church	Minister: Revd Alistair McGregor (St Mary's team Rector) Tel: 01245 471740 E-mail: amcgregor@care4free.net
Services each Sunday	8:00am Holy Communion 10:00am Morning Worship 6:30pm Evening Worship
Special services for the coming weeks	Harvest Festival Family Service: Sunday 26th September at 10.00am Memorial Service: Sunday 17th October at 6.30pm Remembrance Service: Sunday 14th November at 10.00am Gift Service: Sunday 28th November at 10.00am
St Mary's Church Office	Tel: 01245 477501 E-mail: stmaryschurchoffice@care4free.net Opening Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays: 9:30am-12:30pm & 1:30pm-3:00pm Wednesday: 9:30am-12:30pm only Also for Weddings and Baptism enquiries: Tuesdays 7:00pm-8:00pm
St Paul's Church	Ministers: Revd Tudor Roberts; Revd Tricia Roberts Tel: 01245 269026 E-mail: tudorandtricia@ezekiel124.fsnet.co.uk
Services each Sunday	9:30am Family Praise 10:30am Morning Worship
Special services for the coming weeks	Harvest Service: Sunday 3rd October at 9.30am with a Tear Fund Harvest Lunch at 12.30 St Paul's invites people to an evening at an Indian Restaurant with the opportunity to hear about the Alpha course. Meet at St Paul's Church 7.30 pm Wednesday 22nd September. Phone 01245 269026 to reserve a seat.
Meadgate Church	Minister: Revd Mones Farah Tel: 01245 471516 E-mail: monesf@yahoo.com
Services each Sunday	10:30am Morning Worship 6:30pm Evening Worship
Special services for the coming weeks	Harvest Thanksgiving Service: Sunday 10th October at 10.30am
United Reformed Church	Minister: Revd David Pennicott Tel: 01245 472356/473057
Services each Sunday	10:45am Morning Worship 6:30pm Holy Communion (1st Sunday of each month only)

Please send comments and suggestions to:

Baddow Life, 162A Meadgate Avenue, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex. CM2 7LJ

Produced by Great Baddow C of E. Printed by Newsquest (Essex) Ltd.

Deadline for the next issue: 21st November 2004

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See **Geoff Hurst** at 3 Gilmore Way, Great Baddow, Chelmsford for the Christmas Light "Switch On" at 6.30pm on 4th December 2004.

Geoff will also be doing a couple of sessions, where he will be signing various items raising valuable funds for our ESSEX AIR AMBULANCE.

If all goes well we will raise close to £5,000 for this day (12 hours of flying for our Helicopter). BE THERE!