

October 2019



What a Cracker!

ON THE last Saturday of September Birdbrook Parish Council hosted around forty guests for the long awaited unveiling of the Birdbrook Village Sign.

The honour of unveiling the stunning new sign went to Cllr. Alan Cook, who was the driving force behind the

project from initial grant application, through to the final installation. Indeed the sign was stored, under wraps, in Alan's conservatory for over a year while the *finer points* of the planning application were resolved.

Back in 2017 The Parish Council, with the help of District



Cllr. Diana Garrod, secured a grant of £4,500 from the Essex County Council, Community Initiative Fund for the erection of a village sign. The tradition of decorative village signs started in Norfolk in the early years of the last century, when the then Prince of Wales commissioned four signs for villages on his Sandringham estate. He believed the signs would be a feature of interest

and provide a navigation aid to early motorists. King George V continued the tradition and, after the Second World War, the practice spread from Norfolk to other counties in East Anglia. Many of the signs, as does ours, depict local landmarks; typically the parish church, village hall or pub. The two sides of the Birdbrook sign are different, to maximise the number of land-

marks included. It also has the Moyns Park Gates and peas, in recognition of the tradition with the flower. The Birdbrook sign, which aluminium was made by Tom, who are based in Great. The plinth, designed to m



is a representation of
 and a garland of sweet
 parish's long associa-
 is hand painted, cast
 The Village Sign Peo-
 at Hockham, Norfolk.
 match the churchyard
 wall was built by father and son team, Grahame
 and Matt of GK Landscapes, who were on hand
 for the unveiling ceremony [bottom right].
 Finally, King George VI once described the vil-
 lage sign as 'a welcome guide to the visitor in a
 strange land.' Let's hope our village sign will
 provide visitors to Birdbrook with a warm welcome
 for many years to come.

Get Ready for Winter

Pick Up a Bag of Salt



10:00 - 12:00 noon
Saturday 7th December
Community House Shed

Donations in aid of Essex Air Ambulance

Dates & Info...

Mobile Library

14 November 2.55pm

Birdbrook Ladies Group

14 November at 7.30pm

Chat and Stitch

Tuesdays at 2.30 Community House

Birdbrook Parish Council

5 November at 7.00pm

St Augustine's Church

Sundays at 11.00am

Last Green Bin Collection

Monday 25 November

British Summertime Ends

Saturday 27 October

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For rates and details
Contact Richard Walker
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NEWS**