

No. 207
November
2021



Harvest Celebration in the Orchard



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHIGNALS WITH MASHBURY

Chignal News

Chignals & Mashbury WI

On the 7th. October members and friends met in the Village Hall for an excellent lunch cooked for us by Jean's Caterers.

Gloria Nichols provided a Dingbats Quiz which caused much laughter especially when the answers were revealed.

For our November meeting the speaker will be Tony Tuckwell, a former Headmaster, no doubt his talk will bring back many school day memories.

Thursday, the 2nd of December, we will be holding our Christmas party, as always, there will be lots to eat, some silly games and lots of fun.

Please join us if you would like to.

From December to April our meetings will be starting at the slightly earlier time of 2pm for 2-15.

Wendy Steele and Gloria Nichols, Joint Presidents.

Carpets Bowls

We are all enjoying being able to play Carpet Bowls on a regular basis again and have been pleased to welcome two new players. We would love lots more of you to come along to give bowls a try. Here are the details: -

**Chignals and Mashbury Carpet Bowls Club
meets at Chignals and Mashbury Village Hall
Chignal St. James CM1 4TS**

Mondays 2.00pm to 4.30pm and Thursdays 7.30pm to 10.00pm

All equipment is provided and tuition will be given.

For more information contact Gordon 01245 231406 or Yvonne 01245 440189

“FRIENDS OF THE CHIGNALS WITH MASHBURY”

Do you have an occasion when you need a helping hand?

If so, we can offer for example:

Assistance with Light Shopping

Help With Attending Appointments (Doctor, Dentist, Vets etc.)

Prescription Collection / Library Book Returns etc.

Help With Seeking Advice or Filling In Forms etc.

Companionship / Someone to Talk to

Light Domestic Duties etc., etc.

We realise that you may already have a kindly relative, friend or neighbour helping you in some way. However, on the odd occasion, there may be times that they are unable to be there for you. If so, please contact us between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. on one of the following telephone numbers:

01245 440241 - (Helen), 01245 443497 – (Sarah),

07798 922219 - (Julia), 07856 951245 – (Maggie),

01245 440880 – Lynn),

01245 440339 – (Joan), 01245 440528 – (Barbara)

We will call you back as soon as possible to discuss your individual needs. Please leave your name and telephone number if we do not answer your call immediately.

Note: Please keep this notice handy as it might be useful one day.

Chignal Parish Council

C/O 45 Cherry Garden Road, Great Waltham, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 1DH

Tel: 01245 360811 Email: Chignalpc@gmail.com

Clerk: Will Adshead-Grant

Chair: Lynn Ballard

Website: e-voice.org.uk/Chignal-Parish

Vice Chair: Linda Nelson

Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Meeting of the Chignal Parish Council held on Monday 13th September at **7.00pm** in the Chignal & Mashbury Village Hall

2021/324 Chairman's Welcome

Community Picnic, Monthly Village Coffee Mornings. Visitors to the Orchard and a forthcoming Bat Walk.

Good to see the Community getting back to normal.

Chairperson: Ballard

Councillors Lewis, Elwick, Towns, Nelson, Stainton

2021/325 Apologies for Absence

No apologies

2021/326 Register of Declarations of Interests and any requests for dispensation

No declarations.

2021/327 Public Open Session for any matters that need to be drawn to the Parish Council's attention. The item does not need to be on the current agenda.

Six residents attended.

Chignal Road Issues

The white gates proposed either side of the road on the Chignal Road supportive but concerned about the cost of £10,500. The gates will be a deterrent for speeding drivers. This should be of utmost importance.

Could this estimate and the contractor be challenged?

Challenge on the white gates and an objection to the cost. Request to consider a consultation.

Can we get more support from the residents and wider afield? Previously this has been undertaken with a good response.

If LHP are placing road traffic indicators, will they differentiate between road users? Yes, the traffic survey does note the different axle weights.

Gardening Express

Has all their work been completed to create a proper surface inside their site and for all cars to not park on the verges? Cars are still being parked on the road.

An update provided by Gardening Express was read out.

Internals at GE.

Weather permitting, complete the greater extent of these in the next fortnight, most preparations have now been completed. Provided the concrete can be delivered, an absence of rain and temperatures not too cold or hot this will be completed.

Site entrance.

The bell-mouth entry to the property lays outside the curtilage of the property and is under their jurisdiction. What everyone sees as they drive past is the highways responsibility.

Chelmsford Governance Review

Is the removal of Little Hollows from the Parish of Chignal likely to happen? 2021/340. Concerns raised about leaving the Parish and the loss of being part of the Rural Parish.

2021/328 County and City Councillors' Reports

i. Essex County Councillor Report – Cllr Mike Steel

Afghan Resettlement:

UK Govt have made an extra £5M available for Afghan resettlement to provide housing support.

Mid and South Essex Hospital Trust: (includes Broomfield Hospital)

No of patients waiting for more than 52 weeks for treatment increased to 8,557 in March 2021 as opposed to May 2020 figure of 2,209. The Aug 2021 figure has fallen to 4,277 and MEHT are aiming for 1,900 by Dec 2021. However, a difficult winter is expected, and this may change.

A&N consultation (essexhighways.org)

Open until 3rd Oct – down to remaining two choices – Hamburger or T-Junction.

Residents invited to have their say on the library service

Two online sessions are taking place on Monday 20 September

Cllr McKinlay wants to see libraries at the heart of our communities which is why they plan to invest in, enhance and protect the library service.

Residents wishing to attend the sessions can register their interest via the following links. They will then be contacted by email with full joining instructions prior to the event they have registered for:

Morning session 11:30-12:30, 20th September: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/have-your-say-on-the-library-service-tickets-169622719119>

Evening session 18:00-19:00, 20th September: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/have-your-say-on-the-library-service-tickets-169624544579>

Hollow Lane – closures and 40mph approved and it is planned for October half term.

Village Gateway – LHP - All funds are used up this year if wanted this year, the only way to do it is to fund.

As a total request or match funding, it would need to be a candidate for next year. There are 5 ECC, 5 CCC, and 1 EALC (PC) reps on the Chelmsford LHP, all fighting for their divisions! With requests at 10 times the available budget, match funding requests get a more favourable view as they clearly show that the requester is committed to the scheme. My understanding is that it will be £10,500 for gates either side of the area – with such gates having a left and right side – so four separate structures. The design stage would finalise this as it also includes checking land ownership, permissions, utilities. Note this is an estimate – so could increase or decrease.

30mph – The application is ready to be submitted, once you approve at your PC meeting

Home to School Transport – ECC are only responsible for transporting entitled children to school for free.

Entitlement is Govt set criteria where a child under sixteen has the **nearest** school is more than three miles away, or it is less than 3 miles but there is not a safe walking route.

Chelmer Valley High School (CVHS) has been served by a coach company for over 5 years, but this year competition from cab companies has brought in alternatives to larger school buses. The CVHS contract was still won by the coach company, but at a lower price. Consequently, the coach company has had to replan routes and vehicle sizes and the number of unused seats, which can be sold to non-entitled children, is less.

ECC has not changed its position – it continues to meet its obligation to transport entitled children, but the sale of unused seats beyond this is a commercial decision by the coach operators.

It is likely that if the coach company had not won the contract, there would not have been any unused seats for sale.

However, we have been in ongoing contact with the coach operator to try to maximise the number of seats for sale. The net result is that the CVHS contract accommodates 158 entitled children who have applied (contractual capacity was 170) and the capacity has been enhanced to two hundred by allowing standing and conditional offerings, meaning forty-two seats were available for sale. It is believed that this means that the Chignals, Boreham, Leighs, Great Waltham non-entitled children have been accommodated.

To address another misunderstanding, CVHS does not have a catchment area (formally known as defined priority admissions area). The school has listed the primary schools that have a relationship with Chelmer Valley High School as part of the River Chelmer Partnership.

ii. Chelmsford City Councillor Report - Cllr Nicolette Chambers

No report.

2021/329 Confirmation of the minutes of the Bi-Monthly meeting of the Parish Council on 28.07.2021

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Resolution **The Minutes were confirmed**

2021/330 Note the Orchard sub-Committee minutes of 20th August 2021.

Resolution **The Minutes were noted**

The next Orchard event is on the 17th of October for a fruit celebration (Village Hall has been booked in case of inclement weather)

Planning

2021/331 Planning Decisions:

19/01522/S73	The Orangery the Green Chignal St James Chelmsford Essex CM1 4TY	Application Permitted
20/02039/FUL	Woodfall Chignal Road Chignal Smealy Chelmsford Essex CM1 4TA	Application Permitted

2021/332 Planning Applications:

Reference: 21/01545/OUT

Address: Land North of Warren House Roxwell Road Writtle

Description of works: Outline application for Strategic Growth Site 2 comprising up to 880 new homes, primary school with co-located early years and childcare nursery, travelling show persons site for five serviced plots, sports facilities including a pavilion/community centre, neighbourhood centre (including retail, community, healthcare, office and residential uses), plus associated landscaping and habitat creation, public open space and play facilities, roads and infrastructure (all matters reserved except access), together with a detailed scheme in the south east corner for Phase 1A comprising 177 no. houses plus associated roads, parking and infrastructure (Landscaping reserved for Phase 1A).

Phase 2 is closer to Chignal Parish. There are multiple pages of reports for this application. Each report runs to several hundred pages.

Resolution **Chairperson to contact the Chelmsford City Council Planners to confirm the details of landscaping along the northern edge of the site.**

2021/333 Update on Barn Conversions, west of Beaumont Otes Cottage

There have been a series of minor changes to the plans on the portal. Key issues are the discharge of conditions. Of the fifteen materials requested only three have been approved by the Planners. There are no deliveries and no work on going.

Resolution **The Chairman to update after discussion with the planning officer.**

Finance

<u>2021/334</u> Account Balances:	Cheque Account	£1,569.37
	Income Interest	£1.01
	Reserve Account	£ 43,358

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Orchard Account	£412
Cil Account	£22,800
Parish Reserve	£20,146
Total	£ 44,927.37

2021/335

To approve Cheques to be signed and issued:

Date	chq no	Details	Total	Budget heading
04.08.21	100994	M G Howard	£150.00	Audit
04.08.21	100995	HMRC	£80.00	PAYE
04.08.21	100996	Taylor Agricultural Engineering	£384.00	Playing Field
04.08.21	100997	CHELMSFORD DBF- Footpath Maps	£100.00	CIL
04.08.21	100998	Essex pension fund	£210.04	Pension
04.08.21	100999	Clerk (back pay)	£326.28	Salary
05.07.2021		BANK CHARGES	£2.00	bank
04.08.2021		BANK CHARGES	£2.00	bank
05.09.2021	100000	Essex pension fund	£144.40	Pension
05.09.2021	100001	HMRC	36.80	PAYE
05.09.2021	100002	Clerk Salary	159.86	Salary
			£1,595.38	

2021/336 Review of the Bi-monthly bank reconciliation

Resolution *The reconciliation was approved and signed with Zero variance.*

2021/337 Update on getting the Parish Councillors online banking with Barclays Bank
Discussed and e-mail information sent to the cheque signatories.

2021/338 Update on Climate Change Community Meeting, Sat 2 October

Article posted in the September issue of Chignal News. Local business in the Parish being contacted and offered a meeting to discuss how they can work together on climate change. Gardening club to help to promote measures. Orchard Committee has discussed potential training on using a hand scythe. A presentation has been prepared to guide on small quick wins through to longer term items.

2021/339 Discuss the new code of conduct from Chelmsford City Council

Resolution *The New code of conduct was adopted.*

2021/340 Discuss the provisional Chelmsford Governance review

Parish area: Chignal

Feedback from informal consultation: no change necessary. Feedback from first formal consultation: forty electronic responses received advising they are from this parish, although some were from the neighbouring unparished area of the City Centre. Most were supportive of retaining the status quo. The following comments were received: One respondent felt the Little Hollows development was separate from the rest of the parish and should therefore no longer be part of the parish. However, several

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respondents from that area advised they feel more part of Chignal than the neighbouring City. It appears a level of concern has arisen in this area that the city would 'swallow up' Little Hollows, and a number of respondents from that area advised they wish to remain in Chignal parish. One respondent advocated for the abolition of the parish council. Several respondents advised they would prefer to be part of the Chelmsford parliamentary constituency, although this is outside of the remit of the CGR (and is the responsibility of the Boundary Commission for England).

Development: no significant new housing development is noted within the parish, other than in the Hollow Lane area.

Assessment: the development around Hollow Lane, Dogrose Close, Foxglove Avenue and surrounds is currently divided between Broomfield and Chignal parishes. This is unlikely to reflect the interests and identities of the local community. As there will be no vehicular access from this area to the rest of Broomfield, it would not be logical for this community to be included within that parish. That leaves two options – to include the area within Chignal parish, or to amend the boundary such that it becomes part of the unparished area. Some submissions were received from residents in this area not wishing to be part of the unparished city centre. However, Members at the Connectivity and Local Democracy Working Group noted that the number of properties expected in this development site would, if they became part of Chignal, comprise around two-thirds of the total number of households and would therefore change the nature of Chignal. Access is primarily to the south, into the unparished area of the City Centre, and the development is considered more likely an extension of the City Centre rather than an extension of Chignal. As such, the recommendation is that this area should become part of the unparished area.

Draft recommendation: given the current community governance arrangements meet the statutory tests, there is no expected major new housing development that would disrupt those arrangements, and no identified support for changing arrangements, we recommend:

Amend the parish boundary such that the Hollow Lane area becomes part of the unparished city centre area, as shown in the map below. No change in electoral arrangements, so retaining a parish council. Area CB is currently split between Chignal and Broomfield. The proposal is that this becomes part of the unparished City Centre.

Governance arrangements: Electorate 396. Changes in electorate due to proposed boundary changes – 170 to city centre Proposed electorate 226. Current number of parish councillors seven. Ratio (electors per parish councillor, rounded) as NALC recommendation (1988 guidance). Notes on recent elections. No recent contested elections. One unfilled seat in 2019 Proposed number of parish councillors 7 – no change

Draft recommendations: (1) No change in parish boundary, other than as noted in Broomfield section of this report. (2) No change in parish name. (3) No change in the number of parish councillors

Mashbury (parish meeting) – no changes to boundary or governance arrangements, but a targeted consultation of residents to take place regarding whether residents feel local community governance would be more effective and efficient by being part of Chignal parish.

Resolution *Clerk to write to the Committee to highlight that some residents of Little Hollows are keen to remain in the Parish and to request information on the criteria used to determine the removal of this area and an explanation as to how the “targeted” consultation on the recommended changes will be managed to ensure that residents’ views are taken into account.*

2021/341 Representatives’ Reports: to discuss and debate any items.

A) Little Hollows / Copperfield Liaison - Cllr Elwick

Update on the Persimmon Homes development: completions, landscaping, road signs and Chignal Road/Hollow Lane’s junction

- A few houses still to be completed. Link footpath is complete. Landscaping area has been cut in preparation for the tree planting scheme in the Autumn.
- 2nd Phase is awaiting occupation – In Broomfield parish.

B) Playing Field - Cllrs Elwick, Towns and Nelson

Update on Gazebo – The bench has been repaired and enhanced.

- Information Board – The artwork is still in production.
- Car Park security – new bollard installed.
- Tree works – Additional Hedge cut approved

C) Village Hall Liaison - Cllr Towns

Progress report on construction of the storage building

- Item Complete – Electrics to be installed.
- Lease for the Parish Council to use the storage building to be drafted by the Village Hall Committee.

D) Community Engagement – Cllrs Nelson and Stainton

- Digital Engagement Review
- Website tweaks, Navigation links improved.
- Update and standardise the 'Brand' of Chignal Parish.

E) Community Safety – Cllr Lewis

Update on installation and policy for collecting and using data from security cameras to deter fly tipping and other crimes.

- Policy on the cameras has been drafted
- Chelmsford City Council are reviewing the draft and map.

F) Highways (include Hedges) – Cllr Ballard, Towns and Elwick

Update on responses from Essex County Councillor to issues raised on highway drainage, verge and road surface damage, road signs and road names across the parish

Update on permanent extension of 40mph signs on Chignal Road, north of Hollow Lane. See Cllr Steel's report item 2021/328

Update on proposal to restrict vehicle access to Hollow Lane. See above.

Discuss LHP application for a 30mph speed limit on Chignal Road

- Application passed to Cllr Steel of ECC.
- Breeds Road to Woodside cottage
- The application will take several years to complete.

Resolution **The application to the LHP for a 30MPH speed limit was approved**

Discuss funding of the village entry gates in Chignal Smealey. Estimated cost £10,500

Resolution **Proposal for the consultation at the next meeting to be drafted by the highways representatives.**

Report on site meeting with City Council's Address Management officer re: new road name signs and actions to remedy incorrect road names

Resolution **Chairperson to follow up with the Officer on his recommendations.**

G) Footpaths/Bridleways – Cllr Nelson and Cllr Towns

Consider measures to promote the Countryside Code.

H) Tree Warden - Cllr Ballard

Application made for a Greener Chelmsford Grant for tree planting scheme

Concern about damage to mature Oak Tree on building site adjacent to 213 Chignal Road.

Resolution **Chairperson to contact Chelmsford City Council Tree officer.**

I) Countryside conservation and climate change (Inc Friends of the Nature Park)
Cllr Ballard, Lewis, Nelson, and Stainton

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2021/343 Update on the Three Elms.

Gardening Express had reported that a meeting was held with the city council last week: they seemed happy with the proposals. Surveyors on site last week to make their report on the suitability of the plans for the property and a planning application will be forthcoming.

2021/344 Applications for CIL funding from the Parish Council

- Orchard Committee – Grass Collector

Resolution The application was approved

2021/345 Items for the next Agenda

- Budget for 2022-2023
- Precept for 2022-2023
- Chelmsford Governance Review.

Meeting close 21:45

Will Adshead-Grant

Clerk to the Council

Budget Meeting to be arranged – Wednesday 6th October at the Coffee Morning

Community Meeting booked for Saturday 2nd October 2021.

Next Monthly Meeting Monday 8th November 2021



Chignals Table Tennis Club

The Chignals Table Tennis Club has now been established for a year. We have a current membership of 28 ranging in age from 14 to a lot older and we meet once a week in the Village Hall on Wednesdays from 4.30 to 6.30 in the afternoon. We have 3 tables and we mainly play doubles which ensures that everyone gets plenty of games as we probably average about a dozen players each week. Expertise varies considerably but there is enjoyment whatever the ability and a great deal of noise and fun is had by all.

We have enjoyed our first function which was a barbecue after a table tennis session. The weather was perfect and we set out the tables on the terrace at the back of the Hall to enjoy the salads brought by the members, barbecue food and strawberries and cream in the early evening sun.

New members are welcome, not just from the Chignals, and we have several people who live outside the villages but close by.

Annual membership is only £5.00 with a £2.00 playing fee. If you would like to join us please just come along to one of our sessions.

Chignal Parish Council

C/O 45 Cherry Garden Road, Great Waltham, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 1DH

Tel: 01245 360811 Email: Chignalpc@gmail.com

Clerk: Will Adshead-Grant

Chair: Lynn Ballard

Website: e-voice.org.uk/Chignal-Parish

Vice Chair: Linda Nelson

Summary of the Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Meeting of the Chignal Parish Council held on Monday 8th November 2021 at 7.30pm in the Chignal & Mashbury Village Hall.

Full minutes on www.e-voice.org.uk/Chignal-Parish

Governance

2021/346 Chairman's Welcome

Chair: Ballard. Councillors: Lewis, Elwick, Stainton, Towns and Nelson

2021/347 Apologies for Absence

City Councillor Nicolette Chambers. Cllr Lewis (departed at 9PM)

2021/348 Register of Declarations of Interests and any requests for dispensation

None requested

2021/349 Public Open Session for any matters that need to be drawn to the Parish Council's attention. The item does not need to be on the current agenda.

17 members of the public attended

Concerns raised about speeding, road use, danger to cyclists and walkers – 25 houses in Chignal Smealey area affected. Resident witnessed a near miss incident between a cyclist and van on Chignal Road. Road Traffic levels are higher than previous years. Volume high on Chignal Road to Chelmsford. Examples provided of White Gates fitted in other areas, (not Essex) that cost £2000 for 2 pairs of gates.

Offer to fit them by a member of the public. Confirmation that White Gates reduce speeding but do not eliminate it. The amount of rubbish collected every week on the road to Chelmsford is up to a black bin bag.

Parish Council Survey on list of priorities for community projects: concerns about the Priority that may be given to the White Gates.

Change in the Parish Boundary. Little Hollows residents have been contacted directly by the City Council. New suggestion to move the Parish Boundary to include Little Hollows but not the Persimmon part of the Parish. Field opposite Little Hollows is not allocated for housing in the approved Chelmsford Local Plan.

21st November Chelmsford 10k Run around the Chignals 2-4pm

2021/350 County and City Councillors' Reports

i. Essex County Councillor Report – Cllr Mike Steel

North East Bypass Consultation

The North East Bypass consultation closes 13th Nov. Details of the application are here

<https://planning.essex.gov.uk/planningapplication.aspx?AppNo=CC/CHL/85/21>

Meeting with Highways Cabinet Member

I have arranged for the Highways Cabinet Member to meet 5 of my 10 Parish Councils on 19th Nov (GW, LW, Chignal, Writtle and Broomfield). These 5 have the most queries on Highway maintenance and LHP requests submitted. The meeting will look at the gap between PC/public expectations and Highways delivery and what can be done about it.

White Gates

Promote at the LHP meeting on the 17th. Cost covers Traffic Road Orders, Utility searches and approved contractors. Essex does not support a self-installation model.

Chelmsford Local Highways Panel (LHP)

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The latest report for all schemes can be accessed by the Chelmsford LHP website. The report is updated in the first week of each month.

<https://www.essexhighways.org/highway-schemes-and-developments/local-highway-panels/chelmsford-lhp>

The website also contains information on the types of schemes in a series of Members' Guides, including the required criteria. My approach is to take recommendations from the PC, rather than individuals, and support ones that align with the objectives and criteria of the LHP.

It should be noted that the LHP is not an enforcement agency and speeding issues, or other traffic violations, need to be reported to the police via 101 or report on line

<https://www.essex.police.uk/ro/report/>

You can also report it to SERP and ask them if they will arrange some speed traps

<https://saferessexroads.org/>

The 30mph request has been submitted, but has not yet been validated, so doesn't have a reference number

40mph and closure Hollow Lane:

The 40mph on Woodhall Hill (sic) has been partially implemented. Hollow Lane closure is still awaiting delivery of the gate.

Post

Contacted CEO of Royal mail to raise concerns with the situation covering a lot of the Chelmsford area. Covid and staff issues potentially. The postman has to sort his own mail before doing the delivery.

- ii. Chelmsford City Councillor Report

Boundary Changes:

City Council Parish Boundary change recommendations were approved to go to consultation at the City Council meeting of 22nd Sept. All residents potentially affected will get a written correspondence and invitation to comment. Others who are not directly affected (i.e. not changing parish, even if the parish is affected) can still comment via the website, but they will not be individually contacted.

Bin Collections

So far bin collection has not been affected by the national HGV driver shortages.

Covid

Post Covid car park income recovery is not going too well. Whilst short term retail car parks have returned to 80% of pre-Covid levels, Park & Ride and long term commuter car parks are around 20%.

2021/351 Confirmation of the minutes of the Bi-Monthly meeting of the Parish Council on 13th September

Resolution Confirmed

2021/352 Note the Orchard sub-Committee minutes of 1st November 2021.

Resolution Noted

2021/353 Chelmsford Governance Review: public consultation

Parish area: Chignal (Parish Council)

Chignal is one of the parishes where the boundaries are proposed for change: removing the new housing areas of Little Hollows and a part of Copperfield Place from Chignal parish to join the unparished built-up area of Chelmsford. Individual letters explaining these boundaries changes and asking for views have been sent by the City Council to residents in the affected areas bordering Hollow Lane but it does not appear that residents in the rest of the rural parish have received this direct communication.

The consultation asks 3 simple questions:

- Do you agree with the change?
- Why do you feel this way?
- Tell us anything else to help make a final recommendation for this area?

The consultation questionnaire can be completed on-line at www.chelmsford.gov/cgr before **30th November 2021**

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Residents of Mashbury are also being asked whether they would wish to continue as a Parish Meeting or join with Chignal Parish.

Recommendation

That the Parish Council informs the City Council that it does not agree with the proposed removal of the new housing areas bordering Hollow Lane from Chignal Parish and that it is prepared to consider amalgamating with Mashbury to improve governance arrangements for that community.

Parishioners in Little Hollows have made it clear they wish to stay in the Parish. The Residents of the Persimmon houses in the Parish are not fully occupied and we do not know their preference.

2021/354 Agree the Parish Council Meeting Dates for 2022 to 2023

Dates to be advertised on the Agendas, Minutes, Website and Noticeboard.

2nd Monday of the Month: 10th Jan, 14th March, 9th May, 11th July, 12th September and 14th November
Community Meeting to be agreed

Planning

2021/355 Planning Applications:

1. **21/01545/OUT. Land North of Warren House, Roxwell Road, Writtle.** Approval of Parish Council comments:

We feel strongly that the northern boundary tree buffer which the Parish Council has proposed should be shown clearly on the plans accompanying this application. We should like to be able to comment on a detailed landscaping plan that includes this tree buffer before permission is granted for this development.

Recommendation

That permission should be conditional on the inclusion of a substantial tree buffer along the northern perimeter of the site as described above in accordance with landscaping provisions agreed in the approved Masterplan. This should be of sufficient size to mitigate the impact of this urban intrusion on the rural landscape of Chignal St James or to provide a meaningful corridor for wildlife.

2. **21/05254/TPO. The Old School Mashbury Road Chignal St James Chelmsford.**

Resolution

The mature trees in the garden of The Old School are significant and attractive landscape features which can be seen from the adjacent playing field and village hall. Six of these trees are deemed to have outstanding or special amenity value and have been given special protection through the attachment of Tree Preservation Orders. This application proposes significant reductions in size to three of the protected Limes T1, T2, T3.

The applicant proposes to reduce the canopy of the Lime T1 at the front of the property up to 6 metres. It is considered that this scale of reduction is too drastic and could eventually kill the tree. The proposed reduction of the Limes T2 and T3 up to 4m is considered unnecessary and would have a detrimental effect on the health and appearance of the trees.

Recommendation

Lime T1 should only be reduced through an overall gradual crown reduction of 20% with a possible crown lift and epicormic growth removed. Any dead, diseased or dying wood to be removed from the upper canopy. The proposed reduction of Limes T2 and T3 should be refused. The trees should be left alone.

Other Planning Information

Update from Planning Officer on Barn Conversions, west of Beaumont Otes Cottage

Some works have therefore begun on site. The conditions relating to large scale details and materials have yet to be discharged. Any public health nuisance issues on the site can be raised with the City Council's Public Health and Protection teams.

Update on change of use of The Three Elms

The change of use from a public house to an office does require planning permission. It is understood that the owner's agent is currently preparing an application to seek consent for the change of use.

Finance

Chignal Parish Council November Summary Minutes continued P4

2021/356 Account Balances: **Cheque Account** **£4,732.88**

Included in above Figures Income 50% precept **£3800**
Orchard **£57.86** (to move to Orchard Reserve)

Reserve Account **£ 43,358**
Orchard Account £469.87 (£57.86 to move from Current Account)
Cil Account £22,800
Parish Reserve £20,146
Grand Total **£ 48,090.88**

2021/357 To approve Payments:

Essex pension fund	£144.40	PENSION
HMRC	£36.80	PAYE
CLERK SALARY	£153.26	Salary
Village Hall Hire	£200	Council Meeting Hall Hire
CLlr Towns - Keys	£10	Reserve

Total **£544.46**

Resolution ***The Payments were approved***

2021/358 Review of the Bi-monthly bank reconciliation
Resolution ***The Bank reconciliation was approved with Zero Variance***

2021/359 Confirmation of the closure of the external audit 2020 to 2021
The audit was passed with no concerns. The high level of reserves was noted.

2021/360 Update on getting the Parish Councillors online banking with Barclays Bank
The Councillors have been issued with membership numbers and cards. Most waiting on the card readers.

2021/361 Agree and Confirm the Parish Council budget 2022-23
A budget of £8000 was discussed. This is an increase of £400 per annum.

Resolution ***The Budget was approved***

2021/362 Discuss and approve the Parish Council precept 2022-23 to be placed on Chelmsford City Council
A precept of £8001 will be placed on the City Council (must be divisible by 9). This is an increase of 5%. However with the increase in the Council tax base the Average Band D increase is 0%

Resolution ***The Precept was approved***

Reports and Updates

2021/363 Report on the outcomes of the Community Meeting on climate change and ecological emergency (report attached).

19 people attended the Community Meeting from Chignal St James (8); Chignal Smealey (8); Little Hollows (2); Newlands Spring (1). Presentations were given by parish councillors on:

Climate change key facts and how they link to our daily lives;

Chignal Parish Council November Summary Minutes continued P5

Community renewable heating initiatives;
Individual actions that could make a difference;
Gardens, gardeners and the community orchard;
Parish-wide climate change mitigation projects.

A range of suggestions were generated by the break-out groups on community-wide and individual actions that could contribute to mitigating the impacts of climate change. These will be reported in full in Chignal News.

Recommendations

Residents to be consulted through Chignal News and email on these suggested actions and invited to comment and rank in order of priority those potential projects which might require funding from the Parish Council.

2021/364 Consultation on proposed Community Projects: residents' questionnaire.

The questionnaire will be included in Chignal News

2021/365 Ideas for celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, June 2022

For example, a Community Party/Picnic and dedicating a new "Queen" apple tree in the orchard.

2021/366 Representatives' Reports: to discuss and debate any items.

- A) Little Hollows / Copperfield Liaison - Cllr Elwick
Persimmon development (in Chignal Parish) is 90% complete.
Landscaping has continued and some planting has been maintained.
- B) Playing Field - Cllrs Elwick, Towns and Nelson
Trees along the southern perimeter were cut back.
The Parking Bollard is in place but no update on the information board.
Consider a memorial plaque for the gazebo.
- C) Village Hall Liaison - Cllr Towns
Bookings back on track. Looking for some grants to improve several spaces around the Village Hall.
- D) Community Engagement - Cllrs Nelson and Stainton
Meet in the next few weeks to review status. Facebook page to be discussed with Council on process and governance. Parish News print cost increase of 9% - requires a tender.
- E) Community Safety - Cllr Lewis
Awaiting a response from Chelmsford City Council to discuss the legal position Laws on the trail cameras on the sites with a CCTV Sign.
Spare set of Defibrillator pads - £78. Unit is now on the national register.
- F) Highways (include Hedges) - Cllr Ballard, Towns and Elwick
 - a) Essex Highways webinar for Parish Councils: 73 attended. Highways reduced the time from 3 hours to 2 hours, limiting time for questions.
 - b) Update on traffic calming measures on Chignal Road
 - c) Closure of Hollow Lane
 - d) Meeting of Chelmsford North West Parishes with ECC Highways Cabinet Member - Friday 19th November.
- G) Footpaths/Bridleways - Cllr Nelson and Cllr Towns
Footpath still obstructed at the rear of Brittons farm
- H) Tree Warden - Cllr Ballard
 - a. Tree planting due to start on Chignal Road/Hollow Lane before Christmas. No news on the Green Grant application: to be escalated.
 - b. Webinars organised by ECC on the Essex Forest Initiative and the Tree Council on the importance of Hedgerows.
- I) Countryside conservation and climate change (Inc Friends of the Nature park)
Cllr Ballard, Lewis, Nelson, and Stainton

Chignal Parish Council November Summary Minutes continued P6

30 people now on the membership list of the friends of the Nature park.

2021/367 Items for the next Agenda

- Community Engagement paper – Cllrs
- Questionnaire on the community projects: feedback
- Tender on the printing of the Parish news
- Update on the Chelmsford Governance Review

Next BI-Monthly Meeting Monday 10th January 2022

Meeting Closed 21:38

W.Adshead-Grant, Clerk to the Council

2022 Meetings

10th January; 14th March 2022; 9th May; 11th July; 12th September; 14th November

Gardening Club News

Our winter programme is held in the Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from October to March excluding December. Start time is 7.30pm prompt and each session ends with refreshments. There is no need to pre-book, just turn up on the night. For new members, we offer your first evening free as a taster session. If you would like further information, please email Elaine at gardening.chignalsmashbury@gmail.com.

Our final talk for 2021 is on Wednesday 17th November. The speaker will be Sheila Dearns who will entertain us with a talk on hedgehogs. As a representative from the Hedgehog Haven Rescue charity, she will speak about hedgehogs in general and why they have declined in numbers in recent years. Plus the dangers they face and how they can be helped depending on the time of year, as well as how they in turn can help us gardeners. Doors open at 7.10 p.m.

Details for the talks in early 2022 will be published in the next edition of Chignal News.

CHIGNALS & MASHBURY VILLAGE HALL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY 28th FEBRUARY 2022

at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Mashbury Rd, Chignal St James CM1 4TS

All Welcome

Report on the Community Meeting on Climate Change, 2 October 2021

19 people attended the Community Meeting from Chignal St James (8); Chignal Smealey (8); Little Hollows (2); Newlands Spring (1). Presentations were given by parish councillors on:

- Climate change key facts and how they link to our daily lives;
- Community renewable heating initiatives;
- Individual actions that could make a difference;
- Gardens, gardeners and the community orchard;
- Parish-wide climate change mitigation projects.

A range of suggestions were generated by the break-out groups on community-wide and individual actions that could contribute to mitigating the impacts of climate change

1. Increasing bio-diversity and carbon capture

Tree planting: greatly appreciated that the parish has supported tree planting and happy with the way the council have looked after and watered the trees. Suggestion to plant some trees close to the gazebo on the playing field to act as shade in the summer.

Road verges: would like to see them left longer with wild flowers and not trimmed as often. Note: the Parish Council reached an agreement with the City Council and Essex Highways about 4 years ago to have a half cut of the verges in the spring to give the less vigorous wild plants a chance to flower in line with Plantlife's recommendations and road safety requirements.

Proposal to survey wild plants and wildlife in St Nicholas churchyard: funding would be available through the St Nicholas Bat Conservation project to carry out the survey and to produce an information board in the churchyard.

Community orchard: encourage more volunteers to help with the practical tasks of managing the orchard and wildflower meadow in a low carbon way. E.g., canvassing interest in a training session on using and maintaining an Austrian scythe to carry out the annual meadow cut.

Wildflower meadows: advice requested on how to establish and manage a wildflower meadow. Orchard Committee and Gardening Club could consider:

Organising practical demonstrations on ground preparation and seed sowing in the autumn in individual gardens and on the annual meadow cut and removing the hay in the community orchard.

Producing a guide on establishing and managing a wildflower meadow in printed form and on the Chignal website.

Soil protection: advice requested on the benefits and practicalities of sowing and managing green manures. Gardening Club could consider:

Sharing experience of sourcing green manure seeds, e.g., www.sowseeds.co.uk

Chignal Parish - Climate Change (Page 2)

Visiting members' gardens to see green manure plants growing.

Home grown food: share surplus with residents who may not be able to grow food themselves, such as elderly pensioners.

Gardening Club could consider working with the Friends of the Chignals and Mashbury Group to distribute surplus vegetables and fruit plus produce could be collected at the monthly Coffee Mornings.

Save seeds and distribute to residents.

Traditional ways of farming and gardening: research needed in the parish to learn how food was grown without chemicals and modern machinery. Many of the older properties were connected to farming and have an interesting history. Old field names are cultural indicators, such as "Empty Purse" behind St Mary's Cottage which records a time when surplus crops produced on this fertile ground were distributed to poorer residents.

2. Options for home heating and insulation (see attached Powerpoint presentation)

Group heat/ground pumps and solar panels: consensus to do a feasibility study (Phase 1) for parish wide application and also consider heating schemes in clusters rather than individually to benefit from economies of scale etc. Consult residents and invite interest in Chignal News.

Insulation of attics/walls: should also be considered to help with the effectiveness and efficiency of all the above projects.

3. Transport

Cycling and walking: consider ways of making cyclists and walkers feel safer on the parish roads and on routes into Chelmsford.

Cycle paths: check progress on the cycle path proposed on the west side of Chignal Road from Trent Road to Roxwell Road. Note: maps showing current cycle routes around Chelmsford can be printed from:

<https://www.essexhighways.org/uploads/files/chelmsford%20cycle%20map.pdf>

Traffic calming: continue with efforts to implement measures such as a new 30mph limit on Chignal Road and village entry gates

Electric Car Charging: advice on costs, community schemes etc

4. Keeping it Local

Promote local traders: decorators, electricians, gardeners, plumbers, general jobs – Chignal website, community page and Chignal news

Encourage locals with “skills” to volunteer to help: skills audit and register, similar to Friends of Chignals & Mashbury

Ensure succession of community volunteers: consider ways of engaging the interest of young people and their parents in community projects.

5. Reusing/Recycling

Repair Shop: community sessions to repair rather than throw away – advertise repair skills - – website, community page and Chignal news

Jumble sales: recycling clothes and goods – Modern twist - consider setting up a parish marketplace where goods could be advertised for swap, purchase or “free” to a good home. Note: there is a Chelmsford Freecycle group, www.freecycle.org

Borrowing: community scheme to loan equipment – website, community page and Chignal news Borrow tools/ equipment through the library:

<https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/news/essex-library-of-things/>

6. IT Technology

Recycle equipment: communicate where to recycle phones, laptops, printers, cables etc

Re-furbished equipment: encourage rather than purchase new

Community IT: workshop at Coffee Mornings

Recommendations

Residents to be consulted through Chignal News and email on these suggested actions and invited to comment and rank in order of priority those potential projects which might require funding from the Parish Council.

Chignal Parish: Community Projects Consultation, November 2021

Project name	Project Description	Expected outcomes	Estimated cost, (if known)	Priority for Parish Council funding from CIL and Reserves 0 → 5 (highest priority)
Tree planting	Up to 5 small fruit bearing trees south of the Playing Field Gazebo. E.g., rowan, crab apple, spindle.	Additional shelter for playing field users. Food and habitat for wildlife. Carbon capture. Landscape enhancement.	£750 (purchase, planting, mulching protection and irrigation)	
Community orchard: low carbon management	Training for volunteers to use Austrian scythes to cut meadow areas rather than hiring a power scythe.	Reduction in carbon emissions. Less noise and air pollution. Health benefits from fresh air, exercise and social interaction. Acquiring new skills.	TBC	
Community low carbon heating	Group heat/ground pumps and solar panels: do a feasibility study (Phase 1) for parish wide application and also consider heating schemes in clusters rather than individually to benefit from economies of scale etc. Home insulation is an important component of this project.	Reduction in carbon emissions. Increase knowledge of alternatives to oil and LPG. Economic and social benefits from joining a community approach to changing to low carbon heating.	TBC. Grants would be sought to implement this project. Match funding or pump priming money might be required from Parish Council funds.	
Traffic calming and improved road safety for cyclists, walkers	Installation of Village Entry Gates on Chignal Road either end of the proposed 30mph area through Chignal Smealey. Application made in 2018 to the Local Highways Panel. Estimated cost of both gates to comply with Essex Highways regulations and conditions is £10,500. The LHP budget is overstretched but Parish Council could offer to pay 50% to secure earlier installation of the gates.	Entry gates and a message to drive carefully signal to drivers that they are entering a settlement that is cared for. Evidence that they are effective in slowing traffic and alerting drivers to expect pedestrians, parked vehicles and residents entering and exiting their properties.	£5,250 (50% of estimated costs)	

Please scan your completed questionnaire and email to: chignalpcc@gmail.com or send to the Parish Clerk, Mr Will Adshhead-Grant, 45 Cherry Garden Road, Great Waltham, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 1DH by Monday 6th December 2021

Please note: this questionnaire will also be emailed to residents who have registered to be on the parish council's email list. If you would like to be included on this list please email: lynn_ballard@btinternet.co.uk



Register today (closes 4th January)

www.farleighhospice.org/trees

**Collections on 7th, 8th & 9th January 2022
across mid-Essex**

Donate online and we will collect your tree from your home; 90% of the monies raised go directly to Farleigh Hospice, and the remaining 10% will be donated to other local charities.

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Highways Winter Service – from your Essex County Cllr, Mike Steel

Essex County Council (ECC) move into its Winter Service period from late October to mid-April (weather dependent!). During this period, they grit PR1s and PR2s (Priority Routes) – over 2,000 miles of roads carrying about 80% of traffic and accounting for 40% of the network. They also grit access routes to hospitals, fire and ambulance



stations, public service bus routes (where there are 4 or more a day – 5 days a week), other high-risk sites such as a severe gradient or higher than usual traffic levels, access routes to a settlement or parish of +50 households. Roads with schools are not necessarily included if they do not meet these criteria. Weather patterns over the last couple of decades have varied with mild winters before 2009 (so authorities reduced salt stocks). 2009 to 2013 saw some severe winters and salt demand soared.

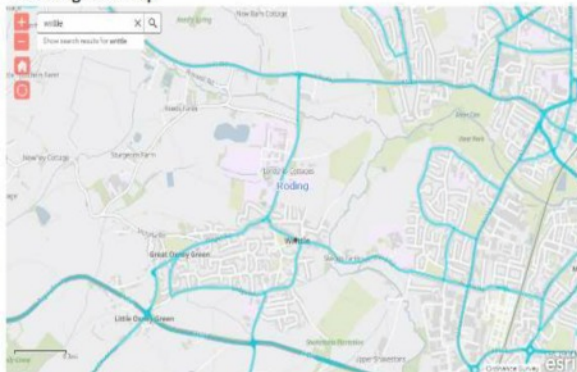
Highways authorities need to predict usage and are applying smarter forecasting. They don't want to waste their salt stocks if the weather is good, nor overstock as it does deteriorate over time. They have switched to mobilising the gritters based on forecast road surface temperature rather than air temp. It does make a difference. Some roads hold heat for longer depending on location and composition so road temp can be different from air temp. Gritting does not remove snow! It is important to lay the grit down before the snow comes, hence the importance of forecasting. ECC have 2 types of gritting trucks – the larger ones can cover 80km of road with a heavy spread, and the smaller ones 55km. They can cover more distance if the spread is reduced when less severe temperatures are forecast.



ECC collaborate with City Council/Parish Councils – they are all invited to join the salt bag partnership. This year we have 72 Parishes and District Councils signed up to organise teams of volunteers to clear the

snow and then apply salt/grit to areas of local concern, such as paths to schools and other important services not covered by ECC. 1 Tonne of salt is provided free of charge plus a support/training pack. I have been a volunteer for my local parish for many years and we have text group set up to get out when the weather deteriorates and we clear and grit the paths to the school, village shop and elderly residents' homes. More info on <https://www.essexhighways.org/roads-and-pavements/winter-travel> which includes a map of the areas that will be gritted but it also allows tracking of the gritting trucks.

Track the gritters map



North Melbourne Library

Open Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday 9:00- 5:00pm.

Visit www.essex.gov.uk/libraries for any information or phone 03330 132682

North Melbourne Library has a wide range of books to loan, DVD's, spoken word, reference titles, and photocopier. Connect to the internet on our 5 Public Network computers with use of a scanner and printing facilities or use our Wi-Fi enabling you to connect with your own laptop, tablet, or smart phone.

PLEASE COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN

Community Tea



Join our group for a friendly and sociable chat over a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit.

Once a month on a Saturday at 2pm.

Starting again October 23rd, and November 20th

We continue to have 6 to 8 ladies who regularly join us for their monthly get together.

Community Led Scrabble, North Melbourne Library



Every Tuesday 2.00pm – 3.30pm

Please drop in for a fun game of Scrabble.

Beginners are welcome!

Rhyme Time & Stories



Every Friday Morning

11.00 -11.30 – Rhyme Time

For our younger customers we deliver a Rhyme Time for age 5 and under and their carers. Come along and join in with popular rhymes, songs, and stories.

Adult Craft & Knitting Club

Get creative and join in the fun twice a month.

Weekly on Tuesday– 10.30 – 11.30

Starting 26th October

For further dates contact the library please.

Come and join our friendly group for a morning of creativity. Have some time to yourself to work on your projects in a social environment. Bring any crafts you have from home such as knitting, crochet, sewing, card-making etc.



Reaping the Rewards of the Community Orchard 2021

It was so lovely to be able to celebrate properly this year's final reward from our Community Orchard with supporters, friends, and new visitors when we held the Fruit Celebration on 17th October. Several people (and some lovely flowers) came straight to the Orchard after the Harvest Festival Service at St Nicholas Church, and we were especially pleased to see Revd. Diane Garfield and Canon Janet Nicholls who blessed the trees for us. Almost all the surprisingly good harvest disappeared into local people's bags which is exactly what we wanted to see.

Although some things about the orchard which we would normally celebrate couldn't happen this year it was still always open for visitors to stop off and enjoy. Hopefully you could visit to see the blossom on the trees in Spring, the incredible display of wildflowers which lasts right up until Autumn and finally the trees laden with fruit. One thing that we notice when working in the orchard is how much of a suntrap it is, which is a good reason to take advantage of the seats we have provided.

Local wildlife notices the richness of the site as well, so we always see abundant insect life on the wildflowers including bright blue Damselflies and butterflies.

Now the hay is cut down and cleared the year starts all over again with pruning and feeding the trees in January. Maybe we will see you there enjoying this priceless open space sometime over 2022.

Moira Tarrant & the Orchard Committee

Photos from the Orchard



Santa Fun Run



For Farleigh Hospice



Bring Me!



Dress festive

Central Park,
Chelmsford

Sunday 5th December

Register today at
www.farleighhospice.org/santa



It is because you care that we can

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Chignals & Mashbury Village Hall



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and search for: **Village Hall**



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older* See website for Terms & conditions. Enter by 1st Jan 2022

DECATHLON

St Nicholas Church Bat Walk

In conjunction with Bats in Churches and The Essex Bat Group

Approximately thirty parishioners met in the church yard on a still calm moon lit September evening to adventure out on a bat walk under the guidance of Stephen and Wendy Donovan from The Essex Bat Group. We were equipped with bat detectors and proceeded down Blind Lane to Bearmans pond, armed with our sonic listening devices listening intently for the inaudible noises bats make, each variant species, brown long eared, common pipistrelle, natterers, to name just a few, producing a different sound. It amazes me how each living individual creature has its own individual tone and pitch. We heard other sounds of night life, owls tooting and saw deer in the distance and of course the noise of well-lit tractors working well into the night. To be expected, it was the busiest time of the farming year.

For many the high light of the evening was when returning to their car, parked in the cricket field, they were greeted with a spectacular visit of an amazing amount of bat activity, a swarming of bats. This is when bats from various areas, near and far come to meet, mate, and find new roosts and hibernate. This maybe a way of mixing gene pools, resulting in strengthening bat species.

A very enjoyable evening was had by all who took part, pre-schoolers to pensioners. Everyone left feeling they had experienced nature in a way they had not done so before, made possible by many of our community enthusiastically coming together to enjoy the night sky.

Thank you to those who attended.

Notes from the Editor

I hope you enjoy this bumper edition of the Chignal News. If you wish to contribute an article please send it electronically to chignalswe@btinternet.com. Should you want to receive the Chignal News in glorious colour, please use the above e-mail to subscribe to receive the Chignal News electronically or you can download it from the website.

As this is the last edition before the New Year I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone **a Merry Christmas and a happy and most importantly a healthy New Year.**

I hope I will see many of you at some of the forthcoming events. Two of my favourites are the carol service and the Christmas eve service at St. Nicholas.

This time of year is often a time for reflection, especially as we try to think of some New Year's resolutions. I think the last two years have taught us all the value of our family and friends and to enjoy the simple things in life, such as, being able to be closer than 2m to each other, should we wish to! I admit, as we came out of lockdown I did not always enjoy this, but it is now feeling more normal (whatever that is!). So remember to be kind to yourself and look after your mental well being and if you need help please ask someone, we have: a friendship group; community groups, the church and chapel, as well as your councilors, who will try to help you, depending on the issue.

Photos from the September Bat Walk



What's happening at St Nicholas Church

Dear Friends,

How time flies! I can't believe that November is here already and Christmas just around the corner. Quite suddenly we seem to be plunged into long, dark evenings and somehow the whole pace of life changes. I know that many people find this time of year very difficult, especially when you live alone, so I do want to take this opportunity to ask everyone to look out for their neighbours over the winter months and keep in touch with those whom you know are alone. A friendly phone call or invitation to coffee means so much. This community has a great tradition of mutual care so let's keep that going over the coming months.

Services at St Nicholas' church are returning to near-normal in these strange post-pandemic days. We enjoyed our Harvest Festival and Fruit Celebration in October very much. A generous donation was made afterwards to the Chelmsford Food-bank, so thank you for your support with that. November is the season of remembrance, and a short service of prayer was held in the churchyard on Remembrance Sunday, thinking of those villagers who gave their lives in conflicts in the twentieth century. Our thanks are due to those who decorated the church so beautifully for both these events. On Sunday November 21st at 11am we have our usual service of Holy Communion and will begin to think about the mighty season of Advent.

Our Christmas plans are in place but of course they are subject to change if Covid restrictions return. On Sunday December 19th we will hold a shared Village Carol Service at Chignal Chapel (CM1 4TE) at 10.45am. All are welcome to attend. On Christmas Eve December 24th at 4pm we will tell The Christmas Story with Carols at St Nicholas' Church (CM1 4TA). This service is for both adults and children, but younger members are invited to come dressed up as a character from the Nativity story – Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, kings, donkey etc. We look forward to seeing how imaginative you can be. Traditional Christmas Communion services will be available at Great Waltham and Broomfield churches. Please check their websites for details nearer the time.

We continue to read Morning Prayer on Wednesday mornings at 9am in St Nicholas except on the first Wednesday of the month when I try and attend the Village Coffee morning in the Village Hall. Do come and join us, have a chat, and let me know your prayer needs.

As Advent approaches, I pray that we may all hear the Advent call to open eyes and ears and recognise those places where we can love and serve Christ in our community. I pray too that you and your loved ones will have a peaceful and blessed Christmas time.

With love in Christ, Diana

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