

AGENDA OF THE ANNUAL CHIGNAL PARISH MEETING
TO BE HELD MONDAY 11TH MARCH 2024 AT 20:00
At the Chignal & Mashbury Village Hall

1) Welcome.

The Chair of the Parish Council will open the meeting on behalf of the parish.

Briefing on Essex International Scout and Guide Jamboree, Boyton Hall Farm 27th July – 3rd August: by Paul Walker, Joint Jamboree Chief

2) Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Assembly held on 13th March 2023.

3) Parish Chair's report.

4) Chignal & Mashbury Gardening Club.

Secretary 's Annual Report March 2024

Our summer programme was due to kick off in April with a visit to Warley Place near Brentwood. Sadly, this was cancelled due to bad weather. In May we visited a beautiful garden called Blunts Hall in Witham. With three acres to explore along with enthusiastic owners, the gardens were a delight. In June we went to Feeringbury Manor near Feering, a peaceful 10-acre garden with two large ponds. Well stocked with perennials, shrubs, and mature trees, again we were blessed with a gorgeous summers evening. In July we visited a small walled garden in East Street, Coggeshall. Again, crammed full of plants, all members enjoyed refreshments after a walk around the garden on a pleasant summers evening. Unfortunately, our September visit to Walnut Tree Cottage near Dunmow was also cancelled due to bad weather, however we hope to visit this garden later this year in September.

The Club held a plant stall at the Village Fete in June, which raised just over £200. We also held our annual club supper evening in late July at the Village Hall and enjoyed a pleasant evening.

This winter's programme in the Village Hall kicked off in October with our annual AGM. In November, sadly our speaker cancelled at short notice due to a family illness. Unfortunately, we cancelled our January meeting due to inclement weather once again. In February we were visited by a local photographer Ray Lawrence, who delivered an entertaining talk called 'Dig or no dig.' This informal, engaging talk took a light-hearted look at the trials and tribulations of his involvement with the allotment site just up the road in Melbourne, including growing on his own plot for donating produce to a local charity, plus history of the site. Later this month, we will be revisiting Blunts Hall in Witham, the garden that we visited in May last year. It will be interesting to see the garden in a different season and to admire the spring colour.

The club has a new Chair this year. Sue Davis took over from Jean Watson late last year. Jean remains on the committee. We also sadly lost Steve Middleditch

as a committee member in January. The rest of the committee remains unchanged.

Elaine Hinchliffe, Club Secretary, 5 March 2024

5) The Chignals Croquet Club.

2023 saw another very enjoyable year of croquet. This season we had six new members join the group – Elaine and Allan Hinchliffe, John and Kim Groom who had moved into St. James Church earlier in the year and Bridget and Andrew Wright who moved in to the Saracens. 26 members in total now, fielding around 16 people for each meeting, we managed to meet on 1st Sunday in the month, from April until October without having any meetings called off due to bad weather.

We played a di. rent format this year – playing as random pairs rather than couples. Everyone agree. hat this formula worked really well.

We continue to play on two courts and the mowing rota, organised by Andy Scheidegger has worked well this year. We were fortunate enough to have the use of a new ride on mower, which is owned by the parish council which has the added benefit of collecting the grass. This makes it easier for some less physically able members to share in the grass cutting. David Lomas took on board the instructions of how to use the mower which was extremely helpful. We experienced a few teething problems with the mower, but it is running properly now.

Many of the members of the Croquet club helped with the village fete again this year and the croquet group were therefore able to share in the profits from the fete which helped the croquet group pay towards the maintenance of the new mower.

At the end of the season, we had an end of season bash at the village hall, catered by Mandy Bellman who supplied fish pies and desserts. It was an enjoyable evening with Lee Bailey taking the winning trophy for 2023.

It continues to be a fun and friendly morning/afternoon but with a competitive edge – the scoreboard is keenly watched over by many!

It is with great sadness that we lost one of our founder members – Steve Middleditch – who passed away suddenly in February this year. We will all really miss his company, enthusiasm, and hope that Kate will still come along to our meetings.

Our 2024 season starts on 7th April at 10.30 – weather permitting - and continues to run on the first Sunday in the month until October. New members are always welcome.

Many thanks to the parish council for their continued support of our club.
Lee Bailey - organiser

6) The Table Tennis Club.

Our membership remains steady, and we have occasional additional players from Bat and Chat to swell the numbers. A proposal to increase the number of tables to four was considered recently but the members decided that they are happy with the number that we currently have although we could sometimes make good use of a fourth.

Although play is competitive, members very much enjoy socialising during our sessions and newcomers of all abilities are made most welcome. Our

sessions are from 4.00pm to 6.00pm on Wednesdays and new players are free to just turn up on the day.

7) Chignals & Mashbury Community Group.
Report from January 2023 to date.

We are a great group of 12 ladies who meet every other month to assist events that go on in the village and also to put on events for the whole village to take part in. Two others do not attend the meetings but are there to help when needed.

Unfortunately, our quiz night that we were due to hold in January 2022 was cancelled due to community members not being available.

Nonetheless, it was going to be a busy year as King Charles was having his coronation in May. We held a very successful screened event of the proceedings with over 50 villagers bringing their own lunch and sharing in a wonderful cake made by Barbara Miller.

It was proposed that the Community group would join forces with the village hall committee in getting the once annual fete back off the ground. It took place on 10th June – a very hot day! For a first run for our group, it went well, and we have joined with the Fete committee in running another fete on the 1st of June this year. The village would be affected by the proposed pylons if they were to go ahead, so with Vicky Botham steering the local campaign we all delivered leaflets to both villages to raise awareness amongst the parishioners.

The group is also part of the Emergency plan, being co-ordinated by Jon Lewis. A few of us are on the telephone tree list, should an emergency arise that everyone needs to be aware of.

It was agreed this year that we would assist the Orchard committee in helping with their events and also join forces with the monthly coffee morning organisers. All the ladies that run the coffee morning are on this committee, so it made sense to come under one umbrella.

The committee helped out at the parish council village event, providing refreshments to attendees.

The biggest event in our calendar was the Race night held on 26th January this year. Over eighty people attended, and it was a very enjoyable event, raising over £1400 to be donated between the firefighter's charity and the Salvation Army – two groups that saved the village from an enormous fire back in the summer of 2022.

We welcome new members and also any ideas for future events we may want to run. The idea of the group is to keep our community alive and bring together the various other social groups that many of us are part of.

- 8) Chignals & Mashbury Orchard & orchard friends.
- 9) Chignals & Mashbury Village Hall.
- 10) Chignals & Mashbury Carpet Bowls Club.
- 11) Chignals & Mashbury Women's Institute.
- 12) Chignal Cricket Club.
- 13) Chignals Wine Discovery Group.
- 14) St Nicolas Church

- 15) Chignal Chapel.
- 16) Essex County Council.
- 17) Chelmsford City Council.