

THE ANNUAL CHIGNAL PARISH MEETING
TO BE HELD 11 MARCH 2019 AT 20:00
IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

Welcome

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting 12 March 2018

The Minutes were approved.

2. Chairman's Report

Several Clubs reporting new members. Community Group Very active with Litter Pick, Table top sale and footpath reviews. Community Event 40 people from across the Parish. Cricket club offering some taster sessions and maybe some chances to work together

3. Club and Group Reports

a) The Chignals and Mashbury Community Group

The Group now has around 10 members who are already members of other Social groups in the village and e meet around every two months to discuss and arrange things that benefit the village as a whole. Members come from both villages, but it would be good to try and involve little hollows at some point.

Last year we organised an interim litter pick and collected around 20 bags of rubbish from our verges. We promoted people picking litter outside their own homes as well as coming on the Saturday and for a while the villages looked smart!

The group organised the first table sale in November which was a big success and with he profit of the sale we managed to buy dinner plates for the village hall which was greatly received.

The Group went on a few walks around the village – with the purpose of seeing where signage was lacking, or paths needed cleaning. Since our first walk we have revised a section and added more markers onto posts. More walks are planned for this purpose in the future.

The group previously met in members houses but thanks to Kate Middleditch and the parish council we can now meet in the meeting room of the village hall.

In April we are organising another Table Sale- anyone interested in having a table needs to contact Julia Emberton.

If any villagers have ideas of events that they would like to have in the Village, then we would like to hear from them.

b) The Chignals and Mashbury Village Hall

It does not seem possible that we have been in this lovely new hall for 2 years.

I am glad to report that the hall is proving to be a popular venue, we have had wedding receptions, anniversaries , parties for both young and old, quizzes and wakes and the period leading up to Christmas was fully booked.

The Carpet Bowls Club , Table Tennis Club use the hall weekly (the Bowls Club twice) , WI, Gardening Club, Wine Group and Coffee morning meet most months, the Parish Council uses the hall every two months for its council meetings plus other interim meetings.

A Yoga group has just started using the hall on a Friday morning.

We are getting letting inquiries from other possible users some of which may result in further bookings, we are always looking for further day time bookings during the week.

We held our annual fete on the 2nd June which attracted similar numbers to previous years.

We would like to thank all those who helped in the preparation leading up to the day and on the day itself, we could not run the fete without your help.

We shall be holding the fete again this year on the 1st June, so please put that date in your diaries.

The Christmas mince pie / coffee morning was held on the first Saturday of December.

We would thank the Chignal Community Group for providing 100 matching dinner plates to the Hall.

We must give special thanks to the Parish Council for providing funding for the all-weather overflow car park which I know will be of great benefit to the users of this important village facility.

The Committee are currently looking into making further improvements to the halls, improvements to the audio system and the replacement of the storage shed to name just two of the items on the list.

To keep this hall running smoothly requires a lot of input from the Committee members, much of which goes unnoticed, we could not run this hall without their continued commitment; but we are looking for new members to join the Hall Committee. We have a great new hall here and we would like more committee members to take the running and management of this hall into and through the next decade.

c) Chignals and Mashbury Gardening Club

Our gardening year started in May 2018 with a visit to Rookwoods in Sible Hedingham. Rookwoods is a tranquil garden with a mix of mature /young trees and shrubs. The herbaceous borders feature columns of tumbling Madame Alfred Carriere roses. Two pleached hornbeam rooms lead to a wild flower bed, buttercup meadow & ancient oak wood. Then in June we visited Dragons, in Boyton Cross. A plants woman's ¾ acre garden, planted to encourage wildlife, it has sumptuous colour-themed borders with striking plant combinations, featuring specimen plants, fernery, clematis, and grasses. July featured a visit to Jericho Cottage (and Megarry's Antiques) in Blackmore, Ingatestone. A small walled wildlife, woodland garden with mature trees, shrubs, bamboos, palms and ponds, it has a restored historic Romany Caravan and a Victorian Glasshouse. Finally with an extra fourth garden visit added in September to replace a meeting in the Village Hall, the club visited Hannams Hall in Tendring. A 17th century house set in 6 acres of formal and informal gardens and grounds, the garden has herbaceous borders and shrubberies, plus many interesting trees including flowering paulownias. It features lawns and mown walks through wild grass and flower meadows and has a walled vegetable potager and orchard.

The winter programme of talks in the Village Hall kicked off in October and the last meeting in February was well attended, with quite a few new faces who will hopefully become club members. In the March meeting we will be welcoming Lorna Shaw from the Essex Wildlife Trust who will be delivering a talk on 'Gardening for Wildlife'. The April meeting will host our annual AGM and quiz.

Thank you to Barbara and Robert Miller for hosting a wonderful cheese and wine evening in June. All members that attended had a wonderful time on a glorious summer's evening. Thanks also to those club members who have made delicious cakes and covered refreshments for us over the year.

The Gardening Club hope to organise a plant stall once again at the Village Fete on 1st June, subject to enough volunteers to man the stall.

The garden visit programme for May to September 2019 has been emailed to club members and features a good mix of local gardens and some gardens a bit further afield.

d) Chignals and Mashbury Carpet Bowls Club

The last year has been a busy and enjoyable one for the Carpet Bowls Club. Last March saw the end of our League Matches for that season, leaving the club in fourth place in the League Table. So far this year we are in a similar position with two games still to play.

Friendly matches against other local clubs provide a great opportunity to meet other bowlers. Clubs we have played include Ford End, Black Notley, Tipps Cross, Great Waltham and Broomfield. These games are always enjoyable and end with us sharing supper together.

The usual internal club competitions have taken place including Singles, Pairs, Bill Hawkes Trophy, Mike Bell Trophy, Forget-me-Not Trophy and Christmas Shield and have been won by many different members.

Essex Competitions at Braintree have been entered but without huge success. Due to illness only one pair went to Potters Leisure Resort for the pairs competition this year but they had a good weekend.

As well as bowls, social events play a huge part in the life of the club. We have been Ten Pin Bowling twice which was very enjoyable, made two visits to the theatre to see Top Hat and My Fair Lady and went to the White Hart, Little Waltham for the annual dinner. Other events have included Fish and Chips, Strawberry Supper, Christmas and Valentines Social. As you can see food features highly!

Members also help run some of the games at the annual Village Fete.

The club has a membership of 22 including 1 new member and meets in the Village Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 7.30pm to 10.00pm.

We are a very friendly club and would love to have lots of new members join us. Just drop in or speak to a member for more information.

e) The Chignals and Mashbury Women's Institute

There is a lot of new members coming from Broomfield and wider afield. Local membership is a bit lower than in previous years.

f) Chignal Cricket Club

g) Chignal Wine Discovery Group Report

Group had a trip to Portugal. They picked the grapes and drank them! This was on top of the usual meetings.

h) St. Nicholas Church

i) Chignal Chapel

Well supported by a church in Chelmsford, Up to 20 people going.

j) Croquet Club

Next game 1st Sunday in April 10.30

k) Chignals & Mashbury Orchard and Orchard Friends

The Orchard Committee of the Parish Council have run several successful events over the year. Many thanks for the support of Orchard friends and villagers over the year.

There was more orchard produce than last year at the Fruit Celebration. We had a very large crop of quinces. The quinces that were left over after the event were given to Lathcotes who gave us a donation.

Orchard Friends attend many days maintaining and enjoying the orchard.

We have been working to improve the health of the trees, particularly the apples, by removing the plastic mulch mats and using organic matter as a mulch. Four of the trees that were not thriving have been replaced. The shed has been replaced with a larger more robust one so that equipment can be stored more securely and safely. Special thanks for all the support laying the extended foundations and erecting the shed.

Hedges have been trimmed back at a new Hedge Social event; tea and coffee was on offer.

We are planning three advertised Orchard events this year, a Spring Blossom event on Sunday 14th April from 3 to 5, a Mid Summer Picnic on Sunday 23rd June, and our Fruit Celebration in the autumn.

Please use the Orchard; it is always open and has a picnic table. We are planning to put in two new benches this spring.

I) Chignal Coffee Mornings

1st Wednesday of the month in the Village Hall

Well attended 3-4 Parish Councillors regularly attend. The City Council information service attends every 2 months.

M) Chignals Table Tennis Club

Good solid membership. Steady numbers. Some members from outside the Village. No members from Little hollows.

N) The Chignals with Mashbury Friends Group

Group of people within the parish who are able to support each other.

Meeting closed 20.37