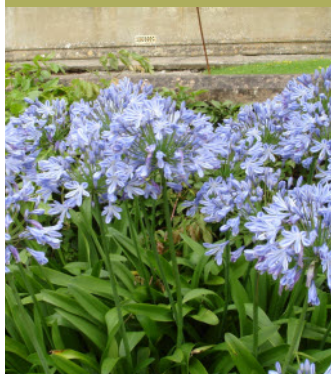


No. 131

August 2008



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHIGNALS WITH MASHBURY

Chignal News

Three Elms Charity Cheque Presentation



Pictured: Robin Hume from the Helen Rollason Charity, Team captains representing - Chignal Chaps, Dwarves, Crucial, Three Amigos, Barking Mad. Bar Flies and Going for Green and Mark & Tina from the Three Elms, with the cheque for a £1000 raised from “quizzers” since Christmas.

**Macmillan Coffee Morning
Friday 26th September 2008**



In the Village Hall

**10am - 12pm
Bring n' Buy stall
Raffle
Cakes**



**EVERYBODY MOST WELCOME
Please feel free to tell your friends.**

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St Nicholas Services

August 31st
September 7th
September 14th
September 21st
September 28th

All Services start at 11 am

**October 5th at 3 p.m.
Festival of Harvest Thanksgiving
Followed by tea
in the Village Hall**

Farming Diary

Last year we finished combining all of the wheat on the 6th August. As I write this on 11th August this year we still have two thirds of the crop still to harvest. What a difference a few weeks of rain can make at this critical time of year. The weather really does have complete control over our daily and even hourly work schedule. Yesterday for example we tried combining the fields behind the United Reform Church for the third time – and got rained off – again! “Poor” weather at this time of year has a number of knock on effects – the current crop deteriorates in the fields – you may have noticed instead of being “Golden” the wheat is starting to look “black” this is a sign that the crop is losing quality. On the farm we grow milling wheat – which is for bread, this is lower yielding than feed wheat (for animal feed) but normally has a premium attached to it if it can be harvested as soon as it is ripe. Leave it – because of workload or adverse weather conditions means it very quickly (over a matter of days) deteriorates and gets down graded to feed wheat. The difference in values between milling and feed wheat is currently £30/tonne. You spend several months planning, then 12 months growing the crop – only to fall at the last hurdle!

The window of opportunity for cultivation is also closing in on us – next years crops still need to be planted by certain dates (subject to weather conditions etc). We need to get the 2009 crop of Oil seed rape planted by 25th August and Wheat planted by 10th October to maximise yield potential. This means the staff will be working longer hours over the next few weeks to fit everything in.....

Talking of staff I am very pleased to say that we have this year been able to employ David Anstey from Chignal St James to help out at harvest. A chance meeting with his father, who also worked on the land when he was younger, led to a job interview and the possibility of us employing David while he waits to start his Army career. I must say for someone with absolutely no practical agricultural experience he is doing fantastically well – and is driving tractors much better than some who are at agricultural college. If you happen to speak to David at any time about his experiences here I am sure he will tell you about the hours he is putting in – often not getting home until very late in the evening (or even early morning)! If you have a family member who might want to work on the farm in the future please do not hesitate to contact me – no experience necessary – just a willingness to learn.

Bowls Club



An enjoyable evening was spent playing bowls against Black Notley in July. Alas a few of our members were on holiday and our numbers were a little low, nevertheless we had several good games. Black Notley ended by winning the match. Our next matches are against Broomfield on August 21st followed by an away match against Ford End in September.

During the summer months, the first Tuesdays are Target Bowls Evenings, where a “Bulls Eye” type target (as played at the Fete) is placed on the mat. The highest score of the evening wins a bottle of wine! This continues until October when the serious business of Club Competitions begins.

Our Charity of the year is the “Js” – this is a Charity which is raising money for a Hospice to be built locally, exclusively for young adults. Monies from our Strawberry Supper Raffle, book sales and other sundries go to this.

Sadly this week, we heard of the death of our older member, Jack Robson. Jack has been ill for some time and our thoughts are with his widow Edna. We are always pleased to see any people interested in playing bowls. Our playing nights are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7.30 – Come and watch, have a cup of tea, you may decide to join!

Contact:- Ann or Geoff Coates on 01245 441515 or Gordon Hillyear on 01245 231406

Wine Discovery

Our last meeting of the wine club calendar took place in July. We had collected a number of bottles throughout the year’s tastings which we enjoyed alongside a barbeque at Dave and Gills. Despite the rain, which was unrelenting, the event was enjoyed by all. It rounded off another successful year for the wine club. Many thanks to all those who supplied the food, salads and puddings, to Dave and Graham for

cooking the food and to Joan for holding the umbrellas!

There was no meeting in August. We meet next on 9th September for the AGM followed by a blind tasting to be presented by Sue and Pauline.

If you are interested in joining the group please contact Dave on 442474 – new members are always welcome.



Gardening Club

On 15th July, 20 members visited the Marks Hall and then the Barn, Great Tey for the annual club supper. We all had a enjoyable evening and if you get a chance both venues are well worth a visit!

Autumn Programme 2008

Wednesday 17th September Patrick Hughes will give a talk on **Seed Saving at Home.**

Wednesday 15th October Mick Lavelle, the well known lecturer from Writtle College, will talk on **Organic Gardening.**

Wednesday 19th November

Robin Carsberg will talk on **Tropical Tresco.**

Wednesday 10th December - Deb Hart will get us working on making **Christmas Decorations.**

All meetings in the Village Hall starting at 7.30 p.m.

Village Hall

Although we are now in the middle of the holiday season, the Hall continues to be in regular use by local Groups and the occasional children's party.

The Committee met on the 30th June and subsequently an application has been lodged for funding for the new Car Park with disabled spaces. A decision will not be known until at least November so we have to hope the weather is not too bad when the work starts. In the meantime a volunteer work party have been painting the exterior of the Hall.

The Hall has its own page on the Chignals web site and this is regularly updated. There is also a selection of photographs that were taken at the fete.

Special dates to be noted:

20th September Barn Dance

3rd October Whist Drive

21st November Whist Drive

6th December Coffee Morning

Full details will be advertised locally.

Gordon Hillyear, Chairman, Management Committee
01245 231406

Women's Institute



On June 20th 31 members and friends gathered at Writtle College for an evening of dowsing with Gordon Ingram. As usual most people were totally sceptical about it and as usual some surprising results were obtained. Much dowsing has taken place in the Chignal area since then!

In July we were very fortunate to have a glorious Summer afternoon for our garden meeting at St. James' Church. Many thanks to Michael and Gill who made us all feel very welcome to their interesting home and beautiful garden. We were joined by husbands, friends and members of Great Baddow & Broomfield W.Is. The committee provided an excellent tea, there was a board displaying a brief history of the church and a quiz to tackle just in case there was not enough to see and do!

It was with great sadness we heard of the death of a very long standing member, Gwen Marriage. Gwen

was very talented in so many ways and she had the right commitment to the organisation. Gwen was an excellent president of our W.I. from 1972 to 1976, she will be greatly missed.

In September we have a members' meeting called 'This is where I was born', we will be marking our origins on a map, we will be marking Brighton for Gwen.

September 4th 'This is where I was born' members will be telling us about the area where they 'arrived' and a map will be marked.

October 2nd History of Gardening Mrs. Anne Newman.

November 6th A.G.M. and Beetle Drive!

December 4th Christmas Social

You would be most welcome to join us at any of these meetings.

Myra Wilkins 440 659

Art Club

We have many new people who have dropped in, some only once, others on a regular basis. This is a very relaxed group, but as with all art forms success only comes when you work at it!

Art at the Fete was very successful this year, 8 paintings were sold costing between £10 and £75 and as usual over 100 greetings cards were sold and £169

was raised. A big Thank You to Beryl and Norman who let me stage the exhibition in their conservatory.

We meet on the 4th Thursday at the Village Hall between 12 noon and 4 p.m. (start and leave when you like)

Myra Wilkins 440 659

County Council

Following the announcement that 31 post offices in Essex are to close, the County Council has introduced an "Essex Model" to work with Post Office Ltd to develop a way to provide the service in those areas most affected. This means that local community facilities such as pubs, village clubs, shops etc could become home to a post office. Those larger post offices, not affected in the last round of closures would act as hub locations running and managing smaller facilities in the community. I will keep you posted on developments.

The post office closures in rural areas are perhaps symptoms of a gradual and sustained loss of key community services such as access to transport, schools, health care, shops, community facilities - including pubs - and the availability of affordable housing. These are all issues that are raised with me when I visit the parishes in the Broomfield & Writtle Division. The County Council is seeking to redress these problems by setting up a Rural Commission that will help it assess and champion your needs. The Commission will be run by independent commissioners and expects to report back to the Council early in the New Year.

You may have read in the local press that the County Council Highways & Transport officers are now testing new procedures for inspecting and repairing holes in roads. Designed to be more efficient and responsive to the needs of residents, these procedures will be first piloted in Harlow and

Braintree. Encouraging residents to contact the County Council will be a crucial factor if this scheme is to be successful. If the scheme is embraced by the parish, town and district councils along with residents, it will be a great opportunity for the County Council to respond to the needs of the people of the Essex and will be rolled across the county from October this year. For everyone who wishes to report road faults the number to ring is 0845 6037622 or report via www.essexcc.gov.uk/highwayfaultreporting

On a lighter note whilst it is still summer as I write, now is the time to prepare for autumn. In order to meet its pledge to plant 250,000 trees in 2008/09 the County Council will be providing grants to organisations that wish to help it meet the target and improve the ecology in Essex for everyone. For details of how to apply contact Emma Simmonds on 01245 437655 or email

environmental.management.web@essexcc.gov.uk

Finally, I must say how much I have appreciated the invitations to your fairs/fetes this summer, though I have not always been able to come along. What pleases me particularly is that this tradition has never been stronger and indicates that the heart of our communities still beats as strongly as ever!

If you have any problems about County Council matters please let me know on 01245 421524 or cllr.john.aldridge@essexcc.gov.uk

Public Meeting

Standing Room only at Village Meeting on Major Planning Application

The village hall was full to bursting on 5th August with over 90 people attending the meeting to discuss the proposed gravel extraction and reservoir on Chignal Hall Farm. The meeting had been arranged by a group of residents keen to give further information about the planning application. Unfortunately, none of the applicants were able to attend the meeting. Maria Tourvas and Claire Tomalin (Essex County Council planning officers in charge of the application) were able to attend to share information regarding the planning application process.

Councillor Nicolette Chambers attended and Councillor John Aldridge sent his apologies.

The meeting was chaired admirably by Geoff Coates. In the absence of the applicants the meeting was naturally one sided as questions could not be put to them. Nevertheless, there were many questions and statements of concern from the floor. The key points of the application causing disquiet were:

1. Size of proposed extraction site in comparison to final reservoir
2. Site in the centre of the village
3. Timescale which potentially could easily stretch on past the proposed 5 years
4. Environmental damage - noise levels, dust, light pollution
5. Access points to the site – crossing of the Mashbury road and conveyor belt
6. Potential threat if this application is accepted and the infrastructure installed for further gravel extraction following the gravel seam east of the Mashbury road towards Chignal Smealey.

The overwhelming feeling from the floor was opposition to this application.

Any objections/representations should be made in writing by August 25th 2008 to:-

Mr P Thomson

Head of Law and Administration

County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1LX

Or by e-mail to mineralsandwasteDC@essexcc.gov.uk or fax to 01245 493474

Chignal Parish Council

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 14th JULY 2008 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

P.C. Alan Davey attended the meeting to update parishioners on local issues and reported that there have been badge thefts from motor vehicles in the Parish. He explained that there is a Neighbourhood Action Panel which meets every three months and local issues are dealt with at these meetings. The next meeting will be held on 2nd October and the Chairman will represent Chignal at the meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Delivery Lorries to Nursery – it was reported that steps have been taken to alleviate the problems with some success.

Publication of the Newsletter – a request was made by a parishioner for the date of publication of the newsletter to be brought forward and it was agreed that the editor be contacted to see if this is possible.

Hedges – thanks were expressed to landowners who have cut back their hedges and a request made to those who have not done so to carry out the work.

Pot holes – C.C. Aldridge was thanked for contacting the Highways Department regarding potholes throughout the parish, some of which have now been filled.

Planning application for gravel extraction and formation of a reservoir – it was explained to the parishioners present that the Parish Council has, to date, not received a copy of the application so is unable to discuss the proposals. A letter was read out from a group of residents concerned about the proposals and further meetings will be arranged when appropriate.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – The Chairman reported that there would be refuse strikes on Friday 18th July and Thursday 24th July 2008.

SUB COMMITTEES –

PLAYING FIELDS – the contractor was requested to submit his invoice for cutting the grass at the Village Hall.

VILLAGE HALL LIAISON – there was nothing to report.

NEWSLETTER incl. WEBSITE – it was suggested that, to bring forward the date for circulation of the Newsletter, the cut off date for items for inclusion be strictly adhered to.

GRAVEL LIAISON – it was suggested that the proposed increase in height following the scooping operation needs further clarification as an extension of time of 18 months has been applied for.

A smell of gas was reported recently from the site and this was investigated by the environmental officer from Lafarge and the problem solved. Any further problems should be reported either to Dave Benfield from Lafarge on site, to Gail Harvey from the Environmental Agency or the environmental team from the Borough Council on 01245 606246.

HIGHWAYS – it was reported that some potholes still require infilling and the Highways Department will be contacted by the Clerk regarding the progress made in providing flashing speed signs in Chignal Smealey.

FOOTPATHS – no problems were reported with footpaths but it was explained that there is a broken bridleway sign and an arm missing from the road sign pointing to Great Waltham near the Pig and Whistle.

VDS – it was reported that further guidance has been received from the Borough Council and a meeting is to be arranged between the Borough Council and the VDS Group for further discussions.

PLANNING

Chignal Hall Farm – change of use of redundant buildings – information is awaited on a site visit by the Planning Officer.

The Bungalow Chignal St. James – approval has been given

The Old Rectory – extensions – approval has been given.

Broads Green – quarry restoration through importation of inert materials – a meeting has taken place between Chignal and Great Waltham Parish Councils, Planning Officers and other interested parties and subsequently a joint response from both Parish Councils has been forwarded to ECC objecting to the proposals. A letter has been received from the owner of the site and an appropriate response will be sent.

CORRESPONDENCE – A letter has been received explained that a £1m bonanza has been provided for projects for highways improvements and Parish Councils are invited to submit an application for projects costing no more than £25,000, for consideration.

TELEPHONE KIOSK CHIGNAL ST. JAMES – it was reported that the application for the kiosk to receive listed building status is still ongoing but a decision should be made shortly. A parishioner has replaced some broken glass and has offered to clean the kiosk.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – the next meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 8th September 2008.

St. Nicholas' Church

Greetings to you all from the Church Warden and Congregation of St. Nicholas Church. A very big thank you for those of you who help us maintain St. Nicholas. We especially thank Philip Clarke who has offered to continue in helping by cutting the grass in the church yard. The Clarke family have been associated with keeping the church yard tidy for thirty years, a very long time of committed hard physical work. We are truly grateful to Philip, his brothers and his father Erick; who many of you will remember, for their long and faithful service. There are very few families who have given such long service to any community or organisation.



It was encouraging to learn that several people took an interest in the St. Nicholas display board at the fete. A big thank you to Myra and Tony Wilkins for their hard work in compiling the information. It is now on display at the back of the church. It is well worth visiting. We have had in the region of sixty visitors to the church since it was displayed, many of who have made very favourable comments.

Editorial

I hope you notice the addition of some new material in this edition - luckily some of the clubs have submitted shorter reports, which meant I have managed to fit everything in - just! But don't let this stop any budding writers out there - I will add extra pages if necessary.

The articles depict a snapshot of the villages and the activities in which our villagers are involved. They demonstrate commitment to the community and our environment, where people want to get involved and try to make a difference. I would encourage you to try to attend the various events that are happening in the coming months so we can keep our community thriving. I hope as many people as possible will support the Macmillan coffee morning, I went last year; as

Tony is looking after the Church Recorder book. This too is well worth looking at. Should you wish so to do please contact him on 440639.

Despite the holiday season ill health of visiting clergy we have managed to continue to hold a weekly service, many thanks to Myra, who stepped in and led us in Morning Prayer.

By the time this letter goes out many of our field will have been harvested. We have much to be thankful for: family, plentiful food and fellowship. You are all invited to join us in giving thanks to God, at our Festival of Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday October 5th at 3 p.m., followed by tea in the Village Hall. Whether you have just moved into the village or have lived here for many years, you are welcome.

We trust you are all well. As we worship on a Sunday morning, our prayers and thoughts are with you all, especially those who are sick or have been bereaved in recent times.

Hoping to see many of you at Harvest Thanksgiving.

"Come Ye Thankful People Come"

well as helping to raise money, it was a good opportunity to get to know other villagers.

It was interesting to understand more about how the weather affects both the quality and the commercial value of the harvest and hence the livelihood of the farmers in our community.

The next edition of the Chignal News will be published in October, so please get any articles to me by the end of September. I am off to Rome with my girlfriends in the 2nd week of October to celebrate reaching a "significant" birthday, so please do get your articles in on time. Remember that by the time the next edition is printed and distributed, any dates for events should be towards the end of October and beyond or they will be out of date by the time villagers receive their newsletter.

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHIGNALS & MASHBURY

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