



Croquet Club by Ann Salmon

Lee and Sandra have set up two croquet rinks behind the village hall. Peter and I joined them one Sunday and it was good fun played in good spirit. Some of us more competitive than others! We brought picnics and a glass or two of wine to enjoy in the lovely sunshine between games. Everyone is welcome to have a go. Please contact Sandra Bailey for details.



Editorial by Linda Nelson

I hope you are enjoying the lovely weather we are having I am sure the farmers are! Hay has been made and baled, the corn has turned golden and has been harvested and the fields have been re-ploughed for winter crops to be sown. Thus the cycle of life continues through the seasons. This may make life in the countryside seem unchanging, but these pages hopefully illustrate the dynamic life of our villages and that surprises do happen as is illustrated by the landing of a "Happy Birthday" balloon on the Village Playing Field.



Chignal Wine Discovery Group

Our June meeting, which is the last of the tastings before our BBQ and summer break, was presented by Sam Brown a young man who has recently opened a shop in Leigh-on-Sea called Vino Vero with his partner Charlotte. They are proud of the fact that they source their wines from small, often family run, vineyards. Sam chose three whites, three reds and concluded the presentation with a dessert wine. The following wines are those Sam selected and are ones that he has discovered himself quite recently.

Quinta da Raza – Vinho Verde, Portugal - £8.50

Chateau Bonneliere, Touraine Sauvignon Blanc – Loire, France - £11

Emiliana, 'Adobe' Gewurztraminer – Cachapoal, Chile - £10

Dominio de Tares, Baltos - Bierzo, Spain - £14

Casa de Saima, Tinto – Bairrada, Portugal - £12

Domaine Pierre Cros, 'Les Mal Aimes' – Languedoc, France - £12

Clos du Gravillas Muscat 'Douce Providence' – St Jean de Minervois, France - £12

Sam and Charlotte have been writing about wines for two years and Sam certainly knows his subject. Those present were most impressed as Sam presented the wines without notes. Everyone had an enjoyable evening.

In July the sun shone for our annual BBQ which we decided to hold at the Village Hall this year as Gill and Dave were unable to host the event as they normally do. Many of our members arrived clutching culinary delights of salads and desserts and the chicken, sausages, burgers and prawns were cooked on three BBQs. Thank you to everyone who helped, brought and/or cooked food on the evening. Everyone merrily tucked into the food and drink while admiring our beautiful countryside and chatting well into the evening. We all agree that we are so lucky to live in such a scenic and wonderful part of Essex.

Our next meeting which is the start of a new session is on Friday 13 September 2013. This coming year is the 10th anniversary of the founding of the group and we hope to celebrate this milestone in May 2014.

Joan Smith



Chignal Parish Council - Vacancy for Parish Clerk

Chignal is a small rural parish to the west of Chelmsford with a population of 311 in 2011. There are seven parish councillors and a precept of approximately £3,400. As parish clerk you will be serving a friendly, active and supportive Parish Council and the residents of Chignal St James and Chignal Smealey. The appointment is to fill a vacancy following the retirement of the current Clerk, who will be leaving in September 2013 after 16 years in the post.

The Parish Council holds 6 scheduled meetings each year on the second Monday evening of the month and you will be responsible for preparing the agendas with the support of the Chairman, writing the minutes, dealing with the Parish Council's accounts and its correspondence and all other administration. The position will also require you to undertake the role of Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) of the parish.

The position is currently for around 4 hours per week. An hourly rate in accordance with nationally agreed conditions is payable, as well as mileage, office expenses and an allowance for the use of the Clerk's home as an office. Previous experience as a Parish Clerk or in Local Government would be helpful but not essential, but good literacy, accounting and computer skills will definitely be required for this post. The new Clerk will serve a six month probationary period with an interim appraisal after three months. The salary and hours will be reviewed if the appointee is confirmed as a permanent employee after six months.

The Parish Council hopes to appoint a new Clerk to start work in October 2013. There is provision for the successful applicant to work alongside the present Clerk to ensure a smooth handover. If you are interested in this vacancy please send your CV to: Lynn Ballard, Chairman of the Council, 3 Pitt Cottages, Mashbury Road, Chignal St James, Chelmsford CM1 4TX, or email to: lynn_ballard@btinternet.com. To discuss this position further, please telephone 01245 440880

Closing date for applications is 16th September 2013

Bowl's Club

The Club recently played a home match against Pleshey, this was a good evening as we had not played them for quite a while, We won the match after some very tough games. We have also played against Ford End and Leaden Roding, winning the former and losing to the latter.

The Strawberry Supper and Quiz in July was very successful, the Quiz being run by John and Sharon very enjoyable, also the Strawberry Cream Supper which followed.

We also had a visit to the Pitch and Putt making quite a change from Bowls, although some of us took quite a long time to get round!

A new competition has been started - a Two Wood Pairs, with a beautifully crafted Trophy made by Bill, and is being called the Forget Me Not Trophy, in memory of members no longer with us. This competition will run until our usual competitions begin in October.

Ann Coates



The Chignals & Mashbury Jubilee Community Orchard

The benches and table are now installed, the great weather has arrived, so what is stopping you taking a stroll or bike ride and using the orchard for a picnic! Amongst the trees are a variety of wild flower to spot and the butterflies are enjoying the sunshine too!

As well as using the Orchard for your own use, the subcommittee have now put together dates for your diary - a mixture of working parties and events for us all to enjoy together. All our events are subject to reasonable weather, so if you are inclined to stay at home so we probably will be too!

So here are the following dates:

Friday 6th September at 7 pm: FAMILY BUG NIGHT especially for the children, an event to spot what else uses our orchard! More information to follow, but bring your torches, insect repellent, suitable clothing and your own refreshment.

Sunday 29th September at 10 am: Grass cutting. This will be an adult only task as we will be using strimmers and scythes to cut the meadow grass. Please bring petrol strimmers, tools and suitable footwear and clothing.

Thursday 3rd October at 4pm: Grass throwing! This is seriously one for the children and energetic adults! Provided that we have had good weather the grass needs to be thrown after cutting to release the seeds for next year. Like all our events, children must come with parents/ carers.

Saturday 5th October at 10 am: Grass collecting. The grass needs to be collected and sacked up for anyone that would like a sack of hay.

Saturday 19th October at 10 am: Fruit Swap and wildflower plug planting. Traditionally Apple Day, as we have no fruit to distribute, please bring along any surplus fruit you may have to the Orchard on this day. Details to be finalized.

Saturday 23rd November at 10 am: hedge coppicing?, pruning and treatment to shed.

Events for 2014 - Wassailing in January and Easter egg hunt in April - still to be finalized.

So, come and throw a bit of grass, check out the bugs and get stuck in!

Sandra Bailey and the Orchard Committee
(chignal.mashburyjubileeorchard@hotmail.co.uk)

“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 at the moment. 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 440528 - (Barbara)

01245 442474 - (Gill)

01245 440241 - (Helen)

01245 440880 - (Lynn)

01245 445245 - (Sandra)

01245 443497 - (Sarah)

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.

Please call us if you need help with transport to the ‘Coffee Morning’ at The Chignals & Mashbury Village Hall. Next date 4th September.

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

Coffee Morning

1st Wednesday of every month at The Chignals & Mashbury Village Hall.

Next date 4th September



Please come & join us for coffee/ tea & cake and good conversation! All welcome.

Admission £1 (includes the tea & cake!)

Don't forget, if you need help with transport you can call on the Friends of the Chignals with Mashbury Group.

Women's Institute

Huge congratulations to the group of new members who created such a wonderful WI stall at the fete. For years just a very few of us have been available to make a WI presence at the fete so this was like a wonderful explosion of top quality crafts and produce and a most artistic quilt was raffled. As usual WI members were busy in all areas of the fete and personally I enjoyed helping Gordon run an art exhibition and as usual sales of greetings cards went well and quite a few paintings were sold. At the June W.I. meeting Cllr. Dick Madden, a former D.I. Essex Police, gave a very interesting account of some of the very serious crime cases he had been involved with in the past. He had obviously been a very dedicated officer. His talk was followed by a report by Marian Garvey, from Walthamby W.I., who had represented us at the National W.I. A.G.M. in Cardiff. This is the most important part of the W.I. when our discussions on the National Resolution which take place in May are represented nationally. As usual Marian gave a clear account of the meeting with details of the speakers and some amusing incidents. On June 20th members went along to the cafe owned by former member Angela Flynn, there they sampled a tea of sandwiches and cakes. We are delighted that Angela's cafe is a success but we do miss her. Janet, Jill and Barbara joined an Essex W.I. trip to the Bure Valley which was greatly enjoyed with a train and boat trip for variety.

In July we had an excellent garden meeting at Blue House, Chignal St. James, thank you John and Wendy for your hospitality. It was a beautifully sunny afternoon and the committee provided a wonderful tea. It was good to be joined by husbands and friends. We are so lucky to have so many lovely venues for our garden meetings. On July 18th we met at The Village Hall for a ploughman's lunch, Janet and her team had prepared the food which was excellent, very fresh with a selection of extras. As a really big treat this was followed by tea and cake. Needles soon started clicking as this was a Knit and Knatter afternoon as well.

My photo of Julie Mawer's parking skill appeared in the monthly Essex W.I (below). Newsletter. Bet she'd never manage to do that again!!! I should explain more about Julie's parking 'artwork!'. At our April meeting it snowed just before she arrived, I decided to take a picture of the snow and it wasn't until I looked at the image I saw what an unusual picture it was.

In August Scuba diver Mrs. Lyn Croot returns to tell us more about Tobago where she dives and there is a coffee morning on Saturday August 17th. The Knit and Knatter group and the Art group continue all details from Myra Wilkins 440 659

We are having a Quiz on Saturday September 14th at The Village Hall starting at 7pm. There will be a light supper so bring knives and forks and your own drinks. The quizmasters will be Anita and Michael Howard from Chelmsford.



Talks Programme: September 2013 – April 2014

Wednesday 18th September 2013

"Garden Pests and Diseases", John Cullum, Writtle College

Bring along any plant specimens damaged by disease or pest for identification.

Wednesday 16th October 2013

"History and development of the National Garden Scheme and the gardens open in Essex", Linda and Neil Holdaway, owners of "Woodpeckers" Burnham on Crouch.

Wednesday 20th November 2013

"The Secret Life of Garden Birds", Mike Logan-Wood, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Wednesday 15th January 2014 tbc

"Tree fruits: selection, planting, pruning, pollination, pest and disease control", Michael Abel, Agrilan

Wednesday 19th February 2014

"New Zealand : plants of the southern hemisphere", Robin Carsberg

Wednesday 19th March 2014

"Wildflowers of the Phyllis Currie Nature Reserve, Great Leighs", Sylvia Jiggins, Reserve Warden.

<http://www.essexwt.org.uk/reserves/phyllis-currie>

Wednesday 16th April 2014

Annual General Meeting, Quiz and Plant Swap

We meet at the Village Hall in Chignal St James at 7.30 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from September to November and January to April for fascinating talks on a wide variety of topics. We also organise three garden visits during the summer months and the plant stall at the Village Fête.

We welcome new members and we're a very friendly club where you don't need to be an expert to enjoy the varied talks, demonstrations and visits. For more information, please contact Graham Andrews (Chairman) on 01245 442625 or Lynn Ballard (Secretary) on 01245 440880

Gardening Club continued

Janet Campen kindly hosted the annual garden supper at her home. Fortunately, the weather remained fine and members enjoyed a magical evening of good food and wine, the opportunity to chat and of course enjoy Janet's beautiful garden – some photos below.

The following week members of the club set off to Shoebury Hall, Shoebury Ness to enjoy a delightful 1-acre garden with an established walled garden surrounding a Grade 2 listed house and bee house. The garden has new agapanthus and hydrangea beds. In July there are usually 120+ varieties of agapanthus in bloom; unfortunately, the unusual weather this year meant that many of the agapanthus were yet to bloom. The garden also had unusual trees, shrubs, rose borders and some 40 year plus old geraniums. As well as the garden we were able to enjoy canapés and wine in the evening sunshine.

Pictures from the Club Supper



Pictures from Shoebury Hall



Chignal Parish Council

UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 8th JULY 2013.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A parishioner complained about low water pressure for residents in the vicinity of the nursery at Pieces Corner. The Water Authority has checked the problem and found no leaks to the water supply and has improved the pressure but there are still reservations as the nursery has positioned a pipe over the road supported by British Telecom telephone lines, to a stand pipe on the opposite side of the road to improve water supply to the nursery. Concerns were also raised about delivery lorries to the nursery, potholes and parking on the road verges in the vicinity.

COUNTY AND CITY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Councillor John Aldridge explained that several motions would be raised at the next full Council meeting including proposals to allow the public to ask questions at ECC meetings. He reported that there are now 22 sponsored apprenticeship schemes locally. Councillor Chambers was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report regarding the recent fly tipping of asbestos in the Parish and Councillor Aldridge agreed to take up the asbestos problems with ECC requesting explanations on why it took so long to clear the asbestos from the road.

REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

PLAYING FIELDS – there are now two croquet pitches and playing takes place on the 1st of each month from April to October.

GRAVEL LIAISON- the site manager has confirmed that work is on target. The height of the infill is as the planning approval and a new planning application will be submitted shortly.

VILLAGE WATCH – it was confirmed that e-mails on current crimes in the area are distributed on a regular basis.

HIGHWAYS – some potholes have been filled but some are still outstanding and an updated map of problem areas has been prepared. Many ditches remain full of water because of

blocked gullies. Broken signposts have still to be repaired and there is no indication from the Highways Department on when the repairs will be carried out. The renaming of the road in the Parish to 'Church Road' has still to be explained and a request will be made for the road to revert back to its original name.

FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS –new walks will be organised to coincide with the coffee mornings held on 1st and 3rd Wednesday in the month.

TREE WARDEN – it was suggested that parishioners check all ash trees to ensure they are free from disease and posters will be made available to identify the signs of disease.

VILLAGE ORCHARD – an invitation was given to all parishioners to visit the orchard and all forthcoming events will be advertised on the newly erected notice board at the orchard.

PLANNING

Hard Oak – temporary mobile home – the application was refused.

Land at Chignal Grange to erect a retirement bungalow – the application was discussed and the views of the Parish Council will be forwarded to the appropriate department.

Woodfall extensions – the observations of the Parish Council will be forwarded at the appropriate time

ESSEX ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS AWARDS

It was agreed that the Village Orchard project be submitted for the Award and the Parish Newsletter be entered for the Newsletter award.

PROPOSED COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME

No further information has been received from the PCC regarding a request for financial help but a new form of guidance for applicants wishing to apply for a Parish Council grant was approved.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 9th September 2013.

Electric vehicles in Essex

As part of a countywide project, **Essex County Council** are asking residents for their views about electric cars. The survey, called “**ChargeAhead**”, which aims to identify key issues or barriers to taking up this innovative concept, will also help guide the development of a sustainable transport policy. Subject to funding, **Essex Highways** plan to create a network of rapid charging point for electric vehicles at strategic locations across the **County**. The proposed network will connect all major towns and ensure that the use of electric vehicles in **Essex** becomes a practical reality.

If the funding is successful, the **County Council** will be working with partners such as British Gas, Renault-Nissan Alliance and major supermarkets in order to implement the network of charging points. It is envisaged that the network would be self-funding through usage.

The Electric Car Survey, which closes on 2nd August can be accessed via www.essexhighways.org and clicking on the Smarter Travel Choices page.

Free Home Fire Safety Visits

Essex County Fire and Rescue Service is looking to expand the number of home fire safety visits it carries out and we are hoping that you can help us reach as wide an audience as possible. Smoke alarms are proven life savers; they give vital early warning at the first sign of fire giving everyone time to get out safely before calling the **Fire Service**.

The free home fire safety visits see the **Fire Service** fit thousands of smoke alarms in homes across the county every year and this year it wants to fit more than ever. The alarms are fitted by trained technicians who will also carry out a full home fire safety inspection.

There is no cost whatsoever to the people receiving the visit and they are left safer in their homes and secure in the knowledge that they are as safe as possible from the risks posed by fire. The **Fire Service** would like you to let them know about any community groups whose members would benefit from one of these free home fire safety visits. Any help you can give the **Fire Service** in contacting these groups would be gratefully received. So, if you have any ideas about groups the Service could get in touch with the offer of a visit, please let Sub Officer Andre Turner know. He can be contacted by calling 01376 376226 or emailing andre.turner@essex-fire.gov.uk

Celebrating 25 years since Her Majesty visited County Hall

As the nation proudly celebrates the 60th anniversary year of Her Majesty The Queen’s Coronation, **Essex County Council** is honoured to remember the 25th anniversary of her visit to County Hall in July 1988 to open the extension of the main County Hall building which houses the Register Office as well as Chelmsford Library. Her Majesty’s visit that day also included a service in Chelmsford Cathedral to mark the centenary of the grant of Chelmsford Borough’s Charter and lunch at Shire Hall.

If you have any problems concerning **County Council** matters please let me know on 01245 421524 or email cllr.john.aldridge@essex.gov.uk

News from Reverend Rose Braisby - Curate

After an amazing, glorious, shattering emotional experience it takes time to settle to ordinary life. The ordination service when I became a deacon was so much more, so much deeper than I had expected. It was wonderful to be surrounded by family, dear friends from way back and recently; to feel supported on a wave of prayer from friends and strangers; to feel the strange weight of Bishop Stephen's and Bishop John's hands on my head; to hear the wonderful singing and the cathedral's organs bellow to one another as the ancient words of worship echoed around... "*Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth*" – "*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts*". Heaven and earth did feel "full of God's glory" in a quite extraordinary way. Even non-Christian friends felt shaken by the "otherness" of it. And then the happiness of greetings and cards and flowers and good wishes from so many – I have been very much blessed and thank you all for such kindness. I feel quite tearful even writing about it – that's how profound an experience it is.

So you can perhaps understand why I've been sort of floating since. Rev'd Caroline, who by putting the deacon's stole on my shoulders in the service accepted me as her trainee and curate, may have an uphill struggle!

It was back to the cathedral a few days later for another celebration as my Course in Christian Studies group received their certificates, another thrilling and joyous occasion. A raft of bishops was in attendance to honour them and the other diocesan groups who had completed their CCS or training as Local Evangelists or Pastoral Assistants.

Bishop Stephen recalled hearing raucous laughter coming from the Diocesan Boardroom: he'd stuck his head round the door to find out who was having such a good time – and it was guess which group? I blame my co-tutors (Rev'ds Carolyn Tibbott of Broomfield and Michael Hall of The Ascension). Michael and I will be starting off another Christian Studies Course in September and it'd be lovely if some people from the parish fancied coming along. There are evening groups all over the place, but our group meets on Friday mornings from 10 to 12 during term times. It's such an interesting and worth-while course, developing knowledge, yes, but still more concerned with the heart and soul and our journeys of faith.

May you feel surrounded by God's peace and love. With blessings Rev Rose



Caroline and Rose
(left)

Rose and Paul
Braisby (right)



St. Nicholas' Church

During the summer we had the pleasure of hosting the marriage of two couples:
Darren Mackay & Catherine Dorothy Fielding, 22nd June, both of Chignal Smealey
Mark James Davis & Susannah Jane Barrett, 3rd August, both of Chignal St James.
We wish both couples God's blessing on their marriage and much happiness.

Joint Service

Sunday 29th September 10am We will be welcoming the congregations of Great Waltham and Ford End to St Nicholas. We very much hope some of you will be able to join us for this historical occasion in the life of our parish. A warm welcome to you all. Coffee will be served following the service. PLEASE NOTE THE 10am START.

Harvest Festival Sunday October 6th 3pm

Our service will be followed by afternoon tea . Non-perishable gifts (to be given to needy families in the Chelmsford area,) gifts of vegetables and fruit (to be made into jam and chutney, and sold in aid of church funds) would be very much appreciated PLEASE NOTE THE 3pm START. We hope you will be able to join us

Rev., Caroline will be officiating at both services and joined by the Rev, Rose at the joint service .A service is held every Sunday at 11am unless otherwise stated. Caroline will be taking a service .of Holy Communion on Sunday 15th September after which coffee will be served.

A WARM WELCOME TO YOU ALL

Friends of Essex Churches Trust SPONSORED RIDE & STRIDE

In aid of historic Churches & Chapels.
SATURDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2013
10 am - 6 pm

Walk or cycle round Essex churches to raise money for your church or chapel and the Friends of Essex Churches Trust. Sponsorship forms are available at the back of St Nicholas Church or by phoning Helen Towns on 01245 440241. Our visiting cyclists always appreciate a friendly face to welcome them, and encourage them on their way. If you are unable to cycle could you spare an hour or two to welcome visitors?

HELP PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE

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