



## Presentation to Ken and Dorothy

As a mark of appreciation for all their hard work in producing the Chignal News for the last twenty years, gifts were presented to Ken and Dorothy Buck at the annual parish meeting. Ken explained that he started the newsletter because he was delivering so many different leaflets to the same addresses! In the early days, cut and pasting actually meant using scissors and glue! I am quite happy, I can now do this on the computer! Ken also acknowledged the help Dorothy gave him, especially in proof reading before going to publication. Once again many thanks to Ken & Dorothy



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At the February meeting we were entertained to an amusing, but quite difficult, quiz organised by Mr. Paul Harden. Paul is chairman of the St Raphael Club which organises fortnightly meetings and other events for disabled people especially those who need help to leave their homes, we gave Paul a donation towards the work of the club. The quiz brought a bit of fun to a Winter day. In March one of our own members, Joy Shipcott, gave a most interesting talk about her childhood in Chelmsford. With the aid of a map Joy took us on a trip through old Chelmsford and brought back memories of streets and much loved shops which have disappeared. As thanks for her talk Joy was given a donation, which she is giving to the local church.

On March the 16th we celebrated our Emerald Anniversary (55 years) with a buffet lunch at the Village Hall. The lunch was catered by Clarke Caterers from Writtle and was most enjoyable. The table decorations were green and most members wore something green, so it was a good emerald event. Barbara Diggins was our delegate to the Essex Federation Meeting where one of the speakers was Edwina Currie.

We are looking forward to a demonstration in April by Mrs Alex Payne a creative artist in beading.

Future Events:

April 5th All about beads - Mrs. Alex Payne

May 10th (One week later than usual) Resolutions will be discussed and Mrs. Christina Evans will talk about Farleigh Hospice.

June 7th Garden meeting at Titus House, Good Easter.

TRIP TO HATFIELD HOUSE. We are visiting Hatfield House on June 16th to see the special 'Rose Festival'. As well as flowers there will be crafts, food & wine tasting, music in the garden and gardening experts on hand for advice. The cost for coach and entry will be £15 only, as we have managed a bargain price! This is open to non-members.

To book a place 'phone 440659

## Village Hall

A.G.M.

The committee was re-elected with the exception of Colin Rye who is shortly leaving the Village. We would like anyone interested in joining the committee to contact the Secretary on 441241, as we now have a vacancy.

Gordon Hillyear has taken over the role of Chairman.

The village hall management committee has been awarded Big Lottery funding of £29,845 towards its rebuilding project, 'A Hall 4 All'. The committee applied to the Lottery's 'Reaching Communities' program which is heavily over subscribed and has a success rate of only 20 per cent. Sufficient funding has now been raised for the first phase of the project - construction of the new toilet block, small second meeting room, storage

extension and porch - to begin in early summer.

Including the Big Lottery Fund grant, £58,845 has been raised by the committee from the Essex Chronicle Achievement Awards, Chignal Parish Council, Chelmsford Borough Council, Essex County Council's Community Initiatives Fund, Essex Heritage Trust and Stansted Airport Community Trust.

The committee gratefully acknowledges the invaluable contribution of:

David Ferguson; resident architect, who provided designs, plans and professional services free of charge, Sue Sheppard of the Rural Community Council of Essex for her assistance with the Big Lottery application process.

The residents for supporting the committee in its endeavours to provide and maintain modern facilities which

will make the hall fully accessible, allowing everyone to join in and enjoy village life.

The work is expected to take about 3 months and there will be times during construction, when for health and safety reasons, the hall will not be available.

A Whist Drive will be held on Friday 20th April 2007 at 7.30p.m

Everybody Welcome

Garden Fete/Vintage Rally will be held on Saturday 2nd June 2007 at Woodhall

The committee would be pleased to hear from anyone who could help in any way at this event.

Gifts for the Stalls can be delivered to Woodhall or collection can be arranged for more information phone 441241 or 440947

### In Memorandum

It is with great sadness, we report the death in February of Melanie Hodge, who lost her long and brave fight against breast cancer. Mel was a young women in her early thirties who was training to be a paramedic. In tribute to Mel, staff and liveries at Mashbury Hall are to run in the Race for Life in June. Any sponsorship would be welcome, so we can help fight this hideous disease.

# Gardening Club

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There have been two talks given since the last edition.

The February talk entitled “Lovely and Smelly” by Aubrey Barker was very interesting and informative.

As well as some comprehensive slides, there were samples of some lovely “smelly” plants. A trip to Hopley’s Nursery is to be recommended.

The March talk, given by Deborah Hart was about Willow Weaving. Deborah is very knowledgeable

and fun speaker who showed us how to “strip the willow” and make a “God’s” knot. As usual, the expert made it look much easier than it was, still everyone enjoyed “having a go”.

Deborah also made a willow obelisk, which was raffled off at the end of the evening.

The next Meeting is on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30p.m. in the Village Hall**

This is the Club AGM, which is followed by a plant swap and Quiz. Please come along as new members are always welcome.

# Bowls Club

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The competition for the Mike Bell Trophy took place in the Village Hall on March 17<sup>th</sup>. A good days bowling was enjoyed by everyone and the winners were Yvonne and Martyn Towns, with Sheila Evans and Kathleen Huggett being runners-up. In the evening, players and guests met for a meal at Channells, where the Trophy was presented to the winners by Margaret Bell.

At the AGM on 27<sup>th</sup> March, the Committee was re-elected en-bloc, with a change in two positions.

The secretary is now Geoff Coates and the Captain, Gordon Hillyear.

Prior to the meeting, the match for the Bill Hawkes Trophy; played for by the winner of the Ladies Singles, Yvonne Towns and the winner of the Men’s singles, Gordon Hillyear was won by Gordon, after a very close and excellent match. Gordon was presented the Trophy by Helen Hawkes.



# Wine Discovery

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Nick Oakley of Oakley Wines presented the February meeting. Oakley wines imports and distributes wines to the major supermarkets. Nick explained how he entered into his business and how the wines he imports have been crafted to suit the English palate, and for some of the wines, how they are tailored to suit different supermarkets. Famous for fortified wine, many in the group did not know what to expect of Portuguese wines, but we were not disappointed. Portugal remains off the beaten track for many wine buyers and so to attract customers good wine can be purchased at reasonable prices – give it a try if you see it in your local supermarket, you may get a pleasant surprise! Charles Hardcastle from Joseph Barnes Wines in Saffron Walden hosted the March tasting. Charles has found a niche in the French market by specialising in wines from the South West of France, a region that had in the past been impoverished by its rich neighbour Bordeaux.

Charles explained how through control of the ports Bordeaux had imposed punitive taxes on the region, forcing many in the Southwest to give up and emigrate to South America where they started new vineyards. The South West of France is now having a revival and ironically, many of the wines are being made in a similar style to those from South America. Production in the region is about 270 million bottles a year, 88% of which is red wine. This was reflected in our tasting where we sampled 4 reds and 2 whites plus, as a bonus, a rare white dessert wine. Charles presented an enjoyable and informative evening and demonstrated again that it is well worth the effort to explore new territories when buying wine. The wine club meet in the Village Hall on the second Friday of each month, if anyone is interested in coming along or would like to know more then please contact Dave on 442474.

# Farmer's Diary

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A number of farmers are trying to create links between themselves and those who live around them. I have therefore written a few lines about what we get up to at Chignall Hall. Hopefully by the time you read this the worst of the wet winter will have passed and the ground will start drying out to allow our potato seed to be planted. We do not plant "seeds" in the true meaning of the word – instead we plant small potato tubers kept from last years crop. Unfortunately due to the warmer climate we have in the south of the country "aphids" or green fly multiply here very readily and transmit diseases to the potato crop which prevent us using

our own "home saved" seed. Instead we have our seed delivered from special seed potato growers in Scotland. They vary in size from 35 – 50 mm. We plant about one tonne in weight of seed per acre. The most popular variety of potatoes grown in this country is Maris Piper. This is the most versatile type being used for processing chips and crisps as well as for fresh consumption. We are unable to grow this variety because slugs which are very common on our Chalky bolder clays on the farm love to eat them! We grow the very old and well known variety King Edwards and a newer one called Ambo. Both

are "parti coloured" which means they are a white potato with some red colouring on them. Personally I think King Edwards are the best, they are great for roasting, which is very popular in our household.

We do not grow any potatoes "under contract" (grown and sold in advance at a pre determined price) to the UK supermarkets. We do however know the merchants who are likely to buy our crop and which market they are being grown for. All of our crop is graded on the farm and sent in containers to the Canary Islands. We occasionally also send them to Spain, Portugal,

The Caribbean Islands and the Falkland Islands!!

Back to the Spring: we try and plant the seed into a warm dry soil, but this is not always possible! Ideal planting time is March – April, but not too early as a late ground frost (in May) once the young plant emerge can easily kill them. They are planted into the soil in ridges about 15cm deep and take about 6 weeks for the first shoots to appear above the ground. It will be another 4 weeks before the "daughter tubers"/ new potato crop start to form and grow. This is when the irrigation starts.... Lets hope for a good Summer and I can update you again in the Autumn. Chris Philpot.

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## Chignall Parish Council

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### REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CHIGNALL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2007 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

#### MINUTES OF MEETING OF 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2007

The minutes of the meeting were read, agreed and signed as a true record.

#### MATTERS ARISING

Traffic Survey – it was agreed that the recent survey received did not clarify the speeding situation in Chignall Smealey and it was decided that the use of a community speed camera be requested. Volunteers will be needed to activate the camera and a report on the situation will be available for the next meeting.

Forthcoming Elections – Forms were available for parishioners interested in becoming Parish Councillors and it was emphasized that they must be returned to the Borough Council by 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007.

Telephone kiosk Chignall St. James – Ann Salmon has agreed to take over the responsibility for applying for 'listed building' status for the kiosk.

#### SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

VILLAGE HALL LIAISON – it was reported that the Committee has agreed that work to the toilet block will commence May/June 2007. Further applications for grants have been made and decisions awaited.

NEWSLETTER incl.

WEBSITE – no problems have been reported.

GRAVEL LIAISON –

a meeting was held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2007 when it was agreed that Lafarge make a presentation in the Village Hall later in the year. There will also be an Open Day on site from 6 p.m. on 12<sup>th</sup> June when appropriate clothing and footwear must be worn. No problems have been reported with working operations but reservations were expressed on the methods of submitting planning applications.

VILLAGE WATCH –

there are no problems with distribution of current information.

HIGHWAYS – it was agreed that the Highways Department be contacted to report on the many pot holes which have appeared throughout the

village. Flooding was reported on the bend near the entrance to the nursery which will also be reported to the relevant authorities.

The sign for Chignall St. James between Brettons and Pieces Cottage has been stolen and a replacement sign will be requested from ECC.

FOOTPATHS – the wires placed on a footpath in the Parish have been removed.

RURAL TRANSPORT – the Chairman agreed to attend the next meeting.

VDS – comments have been received from the Borough Council on the draft copy and work is progressing to bring the artwork and text together. The AGM will be held in the Village Hall at 8 p.m. on 16<sup>th</sup> April and it was agreed to advertise the event on the Parish Website.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Former Great Waltham Quarry – copies of correspondence between ECC Planning Department and the Clerk to Gt. Waltham Parish Council have been received regarding reservations on the future of the former quarry. ECC has clarified the situation and the problems reported have been resolved.

#### PLANNING

Stevens Farm – change of use the application was withdrawn

Dyers Hall – the application was refused.

Hillcroft – extensions – there were no objections to the proposals.

Bethel Chapel – reservations were expressed on the number of caravans parked in the grounds. It was agreed to monitor the situation and take action as necessary.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Village Clean-Up Day – 9 a.m. On Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March - it was confirmed that the

Borough Council will provide the necessary equipment and Lafarge be contacted to provide a skip to be sited in Chignall Hall Chase. Local farmers will be asked to provide tractors and trailers as in previous years with starting places at either the Village Hall or Woodhall Farm.

#### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting and will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2007 in the Village Hall.

**Report of the Chignal  
Annual Parish Meeting held  
on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2007  
in the Village Hall**

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**  
John Dennis was proposed and seconded and duly elected.

**PRESENTATION TO  
KEN BUCK**

A presentation to thank Ken and his wife Dorothy for all their work in editing the Village Newsletter for the last 20 years was made on behalf of the Parish Council. Gifts were presented as a mark of appreciation.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
- were received from Pauline Rye and John Moorhouse.

**MINUTES** - The minutes of the meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> March 2006 were read, agreed and signed.

**MATTERS ARISING –**  
Speeding through Chignal Smealey – it was reported that a traffic survey has been carried out and other actions are being considered to alleviate the speeding problems.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT** -  
The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and also thanked his fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their continuing support. He also thanked the two local councillors John Aldridge and Nicolette Chambers for their help and guidance. John reminded parishioners that the local elections will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May and there will be three vacancies in Chignal. Anyone interested should contact the Clerk for election papers which must be returned to the Borough Council by 3<sup>rd</sup> April. The Chairman highlighted the two most important projects currently underway in the Parish:

1. The VDS which is now in the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> draft and should be completed this year. The AGM will be held in the Village Hall at 8 pm on 16<sup>th</sup> April when the accounts will be available for inspection.
2. Extensions to the village hall – the Committee has

decided to extend the toilet block with a start being made in May/June. Other improvements will include an extension to provide more storage space and improvements to the entrance. Funding has been provided by ECC and the Parish Council and other grants are being investigated.

**CLUB REPORTS -**  
**CHIGNAL & MASHBURY GARDENING CLUB** - John Denniss reported on the speakers in the last year and the variety of subjects from exotic sub-tropical gardens to gardening in the desert. The next meeting is on 21<sup>st</sup> March and future events are displayed on the parish notice boards, everyone is very welcome.

**PILATES CLASS** – the pilates class meets from 12 – 1 pm on Tuesdays in the Village Hall for healthy and often strenuous exercises. Unfortunately, the instructor will be emigrating next January so a replacement is urgently needed if the class is to continue.

**BOWLS CLUB** – The Club continues to flourish with meetings every Tuesday and Thursday from 7.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Village Hall with new members always welcome. There is a full programme of matches against other clubs and a full social diary including a strawberry supper, Christmas party and evenings out at local eating establishments.

**WOMENS INSTITUTE** – Myra Wilkins, the President, explained that 2006 had been a difficult year for the WI both nationally and locally. As a result of decisions made by the National Federation, Chignal has lost some members but in 2007 it will celebrate that the WI has been meeting in Chignal for 55 years. The programme of topics has been wide and varied and there have been visits to Audley End and a garden meeting at a very interesting house in Good Easter. New members of any age would be made most welcome.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**  
– Tony Wilkins, the District

Co-ordinator, thanked the local volunteers for regularly distributing the yellow bulletins. He reported that Chignal has had a virtually crime-free year but urged parishioners to alert the police even if potential intruders have not been successful in breaking in because of the installation of alarm systems.

**CRICKET CLUB** – The Club has been in existence since 1900 and now runs two teams on Saturdays who had mixed results last season with the 2<sup>nd</sup> team being relegated to Division 8 mainly because of being unable to field 11 players on various occasions. New members are urgently needed, practice nights are held every Wednesday evening from 6.30 p.m. from April until September and any new members would be made very welcome. Fund raising events take place regularly and there is an ongoing ‘50’ club, details of which can be obtained from Linda Bird on 01245 263279. The President’s Day will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> July followed by a B-B-Q.

**WINE DISCOVERY GROUP**  
– The Group has enjoyed another good year with membership now over 30. Evenings are both informative and fun and meetings are held on the second Friday of the month in the Village Hall with new members always welcome. Each year there is a weekend visit to actual vineyards and last October some members visited Carcassonne to taste the local wine.

**VILLAGE CLEAN-UP DAY**  
- The Clean-Up day was arranged for Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March commencing at 9a.m at the Village Hall and Woodhall Farm Local farmers will be requested to provide transport and the usual arrangements made for the supply of equipment Volunteers to help would be greatly appreciated.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. VDS – a parishioner asked if the document was available for general viewing. It was explained that although this was the case, the document was being revised and there

would be further comments from the Borough Council. In the circumstances, it was felt it might be better to wait until further progress has been made.

2. Roads in the Chignals – Questions were asked on whether the verges could be protected perhaps by widening the roads and making the verges narrower. It was felt that this was not a viable option.
3. Brown Bins – Complaints were made that the emptying of brown bins was being stopped in November which was too early. It was explained that the recycling programme had been carefully planned by the Borough Council and to extend the dates would have financial implications. It was pointed out that residents could have additional brown bins if required, and should contact the Borough Council who would arrange delivery.
4. It was reported that some farm machinery had been damaged earlier in the year and fly tipping has taken place on regular occasions on the same farmland.
5. Retirement of John Denniss – This is the last meeting that John will attend and thanks were extended to him for all his work on the Parish Council for many years including the last three as Chairman, his efforts have been greatly appreciated.

**DATE OFF NEXT MEETING**

- The next Annual Parish meeting was arranged for 8 p.m. on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2008 in the Village Hall.

# Letter from PCC Secretary

Hello Again,

The arrival of Spring has been heralded with a delightful display of primroses in the churchyard. We have delayed the first grass cutting of the season, as we do not like to cut the grass whilst they brighten the churchyard.

Rev Canon Patrick Appleford recently celebrated Communion for just Alan and myself and three people enquiring about a wedding. Although Rev Appleford always says he enjoys coming to St. Nicholas, I still think he would happier to see a larger congregation.

If any of you have friends or relatives, who are ill or troubled in any way, and would like prayers said for them, please let either of the wardens know on 251275 or 440189.

## St. Nicholas' Church

### CHURCH AGM 2007 - CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

Once again, we have; with the help of retired Clergy and several Readers, held services each Sunday. Special mention should be made of Rev Canon Thompson; who is always ready to assist, he officiated at a Baptism, and held a blessing after the Civil Marriage of his daughter and two family Baptisms. We were very pleased to have these occasions at St. Nicholas. Canon Thompson is a regular on the second Sunday of each month.

The Parish Carol Service was, this year, held in St. Nicholas and we were pleased that The Bishop of Bradwell took the service, which was in the form of Nine Lessons and Carols. There was a congregation of some 70 people, music was provided on the organ and also by the Mashbury Salvation Army Band. Tea and mince pies were organised by Helen Towns and her helpers. (Some of this report is duplicated in the Secretary's report, but the Warden's report has to be provided to the Rural Dean and the Archdeacon.)

We are now entering the seventh year without an appointed priest. Our existence continues to be possible with the support of a small but dedicated congregation. We report that Pauline

Easter is almost upon us so on Easter Saturday (April 7th) we shall be arranging the Easter flowers in the church at 10 o'clock. It will be nice to see some colour in the church again after their absence during Lent. Do come and join us, the more the merrier.

We hope to see more of you at the Easter Communion, which will be conducted by Rev. Canon Timothy Thompson at 11 o'clock.

God Bless you all, Joy Shipcott

Jeffreys has had to resign as Organist, and whilst we have Jane Mitchell for two Sundays each month, unless we are able to find another player, some services have to be "Said".

We have been able to increase the heating in the Church with the purchase of two convector heaters, thanks to a donation for this purpose.

The Diocese has now reduced our Family Purse to recognise the continued absence of a Minister. No doubt the Treasurer will give details in his report.

Thanks are due to the ladies who clean the church, those who provide and arrange flowers and the continued grass cutting in the spring and summer months by Alan Claydon.



*Church of  
St. Nicholas*

### St Nicholas Services

April 5 11am Reg Morris

April 8 11am Reverend Canon Timothy Thompson

April 12 11am Joan Goode

April 29 To be announced

May 6 To be announced

May 13 11am Reverend Canon Timothy Thompson

May 20 11am Reg Morris

May 27 11am Reverend Canon Christopher Sly

June 3 To be announced

June 10 11am Reverend Canon Timothy Thompson

June 17 To be announced

June 24 To be announced

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