



Bowls Club Supper



Villagers enjoying a Bowls Club Supper

There must be something in the water?

Is there something in the water?
(Newsletter October 2007).

There must be!

Belated news has reached us that Kyla Middleditch also graduated this year!

Kyla graduated from Anglia Ruskin University recently with a 2:1 BSc Hons in Forensic Science.



I cannot quite believe that I have been editing the newsletter for a year now - Where has 07 gone? We have another bumper edition with some new contributors - more would be welcome so please do not be shy - send articles or photos into me and I will do my best to include them in the newsletter. Contributions for the website would also be gratefully received.
Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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St Nicholas Services

December 16th
TBC
December 23rd
Village Carol service at URC 3 pm

December 24th Crib Service
Diane Garfield 3 pm

December 25th Short Service of Holy Communion
Churchwardens 9 am

All Services at 11 am unless shown otherwise.



At the AGM in November Anita Howard, (Treasurer) gave a detailed report on all the financial aspects of our WI and showed we are in a 'healthy' financial position. Helen Towns (Secretary) gave the annual report on all the club activities detailing the variety of subjects covered by our visiting speakers and listing all the events we had been involved in. Myra Wilkins then gave the Presidents report thanking members for all their help and commitment throughout the year. Myra then detailed all the individual work carried out by the committee and thanked each one. Glenys Watkins, who is retiring from the committee, was thanked for all her efforts in keeping the minutes. At the ordinary meeting which followed Barbara Diggins gave a report on the Federation meeting at Clacton.

As well as dealing with all the official aspects of WI business there had been a very amusing talk by Zena Skinner one of the first TV Cooks and also the Poet Laureate, Andrew Motion, came along to collect his prize as he had won Essex Federations' Book Award. He read an excerpt from his book which dealt with his early days at Stisted. At the end of our meeting in November Val Simkins from Good Easter showed us how to create Christmas baubles out of polystyrene balls and special fabrics. Val's creations were so professional and looked really beautiful, we all 'had a go' but need a lot of practice! In December we have our Christmas social so why not come along and join us on December 6th. We have a full and varied programme planned for 2008, all meetings will be in the Village Hall at 2.30pm on the first Thursday of the month, everyone is always welcome.

Wine Discovery

The rugby world cup was a real success for the wine club, providing the inspiration for a "Rugby World Cup Tasting". The chairman (an Aussie – oh it was a good night) chose seven wines from the seven better known wine producing nations from the world cup. The labels were hidden behind silver foil and much fun was had guessing which wine came from which country. Needless to say the winner was English and the Aussies were no where to be seen. Guest speaker Peter Kendle presented the November tasting, an excellent evening focusing on fortified wines. We began the evening with four Ports, 1 Tawny and 3 Ruby. The Tawny was a fine wine that while not to everyone's liking was clearly an excellent wine. The Ruby Ports were exquisite, after the first we could not believe that the quality



could improve by much. How wrong we were. The third Port was a rare find, a vintage 1985 Port retailing on the web at £75, and the quality was evident. A deep ruby, powerful ripe berry fruit aroma's – excellent balance and complexity with a big full bodied, well structured palate. I could go on but suffice to say it was the best Port I have ever tasted. We also tasted Madeira, a Muscat and a Sherry that, while too sweet for some, were all recognised as excellent examples of their type. Many thanks Peter, from the members for an excellent an informative evening. There wine group will be having its Christmas dinner in December, but if anyone is interested in joining the club we meet again in the Village Hall on the second Friday of January at 8pm. If you would like any further information please contact Dave on 442474. The wine club wish you all a very merry Christmas.

Gardening Club

Members have recently enjoyed two very interesting talks. Firstly by John Walker in October with 'Plants that changed the World', a whistle stop tour around the world and its history. Then in November a very enjoyable talk entitled "Going Dutch" by Margot Bishop. Thanks to both John and Margot for their time. The next talk, entitled 'The Jungle in your home and garden' by Lin Blunt is on January 16th at 7.30 in the village Hall.

New members and guests are most welcome.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Contact John Dennis 01245 440289 or
Richard Dinnen 01245 358360**



Bowls Club

The Bowls Club still managed to keep bowling during the recent building work in the Village Hall, albeit making it a shorter evening with no tea break. Nevertheless these evenings were well attended and many thanks are due to our members for 'sticking with it' when conditions were perhaps not quite ideal for bowling. Now we are playing in spacious comfort with luxury conveniences!

We had planned several social events during this time, not anticipating we would still be able to hold our bowls evenings, so these were a bonus! We started in June with a Ramble, meeting outside the Viper at Fryerning. We all enjoyed a circular walk of about two or three miles in lovely weather, finishing up with lunch in the pub garden. In July, we held our Strawberry Supper. Martyn and Yvonne hosted the evening with again the weather being kind. Fun and games in the garden followed by a supper indoors made a most enjoyable evening. Later in July we tried our hand at Pitch and Putt in Waterhouse Lane. A very pleasant evening – did Pete ever find that ball? The last of our summer social events was an evening at Ann and Geoff's, with croquet and putting – even the fox came for a look! Beginning our autumn programme was the Club Supper at Channells, for members and their guests. We also managed to play quite a lot of Bowls, with several away matches, including Ford End, Broomfield and Little Waltham and a home match against Ford End and one against Little Waltham on the 20th November, these being the

first home matches since completion of the building works. We played the first round of the West Area Cup against Great Waltham, which we won – well done! We do not yet know who we now go on to play in the next round. Teams from the Club have played and are still to play more competitions run by the Essex Carpet Bowls Assoc. at Braintree Leisure Centre. This is an interesting way to meet other clubs from all over Essex. A new full programme of Friendly Matches has been arranged for next year. We are never short of volunteers to play in these matches and thanks to all who bring food for the buffet after home matches.

Our own Club charity this year is HEAL, to which go the proceeds of some raffles, our book sales and penalties for hitting the block.

The Christmas Season is upon us and the Bowls Club have put up the decorations in the Village Hall. Our Club Supper was held in the Village Hall on December 7th. The Ladies and Gents evening will be on January 3rd, combining this Annual Competition with welcoming in the New Year. The theme will be pantomime. It should be an interesting evening.

Bowls Club evenings are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7.30. If you are interested in playing bowls do come and see us.

Contact:- Ann or Geoff Coates - 01245 441515

Gordon Hillyear - 01245 231406

Village Hall

A lot has happened since my June report .The building work on the first stage at the Hall was finally completed on Monday 29th October. We now have a new modern toilet block, an additional storage room and an entrance hall. Regular users of the Hall are to be thanked for their continued support during the building work and I am sure they are already appreciating the improvements. Our next stage is to replace the windows and doors on the main hall, whilst an expensive undertaking the inconvenience to users

will be minimal. Due to the time of year we have postponed the official opening until April, by then, weather permitting, a considerable amount of more work will have been done to improve the appearance of the Hall.

The Hall is there for you so support it and make use of it.

Gordon Hillyear (Chairman)

The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army Mashbury Corps is closing at the end of 2007.

We would like to thank the people of Chignal and Mashbury for their support over the last 117 years.

A Valedictory meeting will be held on Saturday 2nd February 2008, please contact Jennifer Owers on 01245-231534 for details.

Chignal Parish Council

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONTH AT 12th NOVEMBER 2007 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Delivery Lorries to Nursery – Problems with delivery lorries turning on the Green are still causing problems particularly early in the mornings and it was suggested that the Highways Department be contacted for advice and it may be possible for the Planning Authority to restrict hours for deliveries.

P.C. de Vries reported that a meeting has been held with parishioners and a mobile presence is to be arranged on a monthly basis from January 2008.

Speeding in Chignal Smealey – It was reported that a speed gun used to motorists through Chignal Smealey produced no evidence of speeding but a request will be made to the Highways Department for further monitoring during peak periods.

Parishioners reported that some potholes still need to be repaired and a drain cover has been damaged near the Green. The Highways Department will be asked to take action.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that he had attended a Community meeting recently.

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLAYING FIELDS – The hedge around the field has been cut back.

VILLAGE HALL LIAISON – the building works are completed and it hoped to hold an official opening ceremony on 5th April 2008.

NEWSLETTER incl. WEBSITE – Some problems have arisen with delivery dates for the Newsletter and all items for the next edition must reach the editor by 21st November to alleviate the problems. The editor will be contacted to see if she would appreciate any help with the input to the Website.

GRAVEL LIAISON – the liaison meeting was held on 25th September and it was confirmed that the archeological dig has been completed and Lafarge is proposing a public meeting in the

Village Hall to discuss the scoping document and the formation of the reservoir on the land opposite the Village Hall. The importing of aggregates to the site, together with a crushing facility will cause noise levels above those permitted but screens could be erected to alleviate the noise problems. The next liaison meeting will be held on site on 11th February 2008.

VILLAGE WATCH – No problems have been reported.

HIGHWAYS – the problems highlighted by parishioners will be investigated and the necessary action taken.

FOOTPATHS – Complaints reported have been resolved.

RURAL TRANSPORT – There was nothing to report

VDS – The Treasurer will be contacted regarding any costs incurred during the year.

TREE WARDEN – No problems were reported.

PLANNING

Chignal Hall Farm – change of use of redundant buildings – an amended application is to be submitted.

Beaumont Otes – change of use of outbuildings – approval has been given.

Broomwood Manor – extensions- the views of the Parish Council will be forwarded to the Borough Council.

PROPOSAL FOR VILLAGE MEETING WITH VILLAGE CLUBS

There has been no further action since the last meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting will be at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 14th January 2008 in the Village Hall.

Farming News

Hopefully some of you will have read in the national and local press about "The Year of Food and Farming" (YoFF). This is a National campaign of which Prince Charles is Patron and is being led by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; the Department of Health; and the Department for Education and Skills. The aim of the year is to address the fact that many urban and suburban children have little or no understanding of how their food is produced; many children no longer have the opportunity to learn to cook; children have very little experience of visiting the countryside and have little knowledge of it as a place of food production; and that children do not realise what the countryside can offer them by way of employment, leisure and sporting activities.

Each county is responsible for contributing to the Year in whichever way is most suitable to their local situation. The Essex YoFF Steering Group (made up of many Essex farming organisations and Essex County Council) have decided to organise a large one day interactive educational Schools Event which will invite schoolchildren to leave the classroom and experience the countryside.

The Year in Essex was launched at Boyton Hall in September and I am pleased that 22 pupils and staff from a local Primary School were able to attend. Some of you may have seen the articles in the local press subsequently? While visiting we were able to take them on a tractor and trailer ride to see the potatoes being harvested and loaded into the store at Chignall Hall.

The Essex Schools Event is being run on 1st May 2008 at Writtle College and if you have children at a local primary school (Key Stage 2) can I suggest you get them signed up! Contact cera@writtle.ac.uk.

For more information about the Year please go to www.yearoffoodandfarming.org.uk If we all work together I am sure we can promote healthy living by giving young people direct experience of food, farming and the countryside.

The visit from the local primary school was not the first time we have taken school groups around the farm to show them what we do and why we do it. If your children's school thinks a farm visit would be beneficial please get them to contact me at boytonhall@aol.com.

Chignal Chapel



Hello everyone. After a mixed Summer and a gorgeous Autumn. Christmas is on our minds. For many years we have had a 'Village Carol Service, alternating between St. Nicholas Church of England, Mashbury Salvation Army and the Untied Reformed Church (Chignal Chapel) We are always very please to see so many people supporting this tradition and hope that this year will be no exception. The service will be held at Chignal Chapel this year at 3pm on Sunday 23rd December. The offering will go to St Lawrence Children's Hospice in Romania – a charity we have been interested in and whose progress we have long supported.

We hope as many people as possible will come and enjoy singing and meeting together, There will be tea/coffee and mince pies afterwards.

We meet on Sunday mornings at 10.45am and on Christmas morning plan to have a short Family Service at 9.30am. EVERYBODY WELCOME.

We do wish every household a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Malcolm and Irene Hindmarsh and the congregation at Chignal Chapel

Letter from PCC Secretary

Hello again,

By the time you get this letter, Christmas will be just around the corner.

We shall be having our usual service for the children on Christmas Eve. We do hope you will bring your children and any friends that would like to come. They don't have to live in the village, all are welcome. I enjoy this service as it makes a cosy start to Christmas. We shall not be having the Carol Service in our church this year as it is the turn of the United Reform Church at Mashbury. This will be on the day before the children service at St. Nicholas (23rd Dec), as it is traditional to have it on the Sunday before Christmas. There will of course be a Communion Service on Christmas Day at 9 am. Thank you all for your support at Harvest Festival it was lovely to speak to so many of you at the Harvest Tea, which was as usual provided by Helen and her lady helpers. Many

thanks, Helen. The service was taken by Robin Stevens again. I personally thought it was great. We would not be able to have any of these special services, if it were not for the help of the Lay Readers; who it must be remembered, give their services for free.

There are now silk flowers in the church, they will stay there until Christmas and be put back again after Christmas, when they will come back until Lent. This saves our small rota of Ladies from having to spend two hours in the very cold church at this time of year.

To any of you who have been unfortunate enough to be ill this year I hope you are better and able to enjoy Christmas.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at St. Nicholas

God Bless you all

Joy Shipcott - Hon. Sec. St. Nicholas PCC

St. Nicholas' Church

We are sad to have to say that Reg Morris' wife has recently died and we would wish to start this report by expressing our condolences to him and his family.

As our secretary has said in her letter we will have the usual crib service on Christmas Eve. This will be taken by Diane Garfield. She has, in fact taken this service since before Audrey Cousins retired. We remain ever grateful to her. Whilst on the subject of this service, all, of any age are welcomed and we will be pleased if many of you start your Christmas with this Service.

On Christmas Day, we the Wardens, will hold a short Communion Service at 9am, using a Reserved Sacrament consecrated by Canon Timothy Thompson (what would we do without him!) on the previous Sunday. We must stress that to have a service every Sunday is becoming

increasingly difficult. Canon Appleford is at present visiting his son in Australia. Canon Thompson, who is a New Zealander, is shortly to visit his family in that country. We hope to be able to find other clergy to enable us to have Holy Communion on two Sundays each month. Mention should also be made of Eric Rowley, who has filled in, at very short notice, on a number of Sundays each month.

Advent is upon us and as we enter the Church's New Year may we wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Alan & Tony



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