

Three Elms Charity Cheque Presentation

No. 128

February 2008



Representatives from Little Haven, were invited to the Three Elms on the 18th December to receive a cheque for £1,700. This money was raised from the Charity rounds of the regular Tuesday night quiz. So if you want to have some fun and help a good cause, pop into the Three Elms on a Tuesday night and join in with the quiz.



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHIGNALS WITH MASHBURY

Chignal News

Inside this issue:

Village Hall	2
Gardening Club	2
Editorial	2
Bowls Club	3
Women's Institute Kids Zone	3
Parish Council	4
County Council Diary Dates	5
PCC Secretary	6
Church Warden	6

St Nicholas Services

February 17th

February 24th

March 2nd

March 9th

March 16th

Easter Sunday

March 23rd

Service of Holy Communion

All Services start at 11 am

Village Hall

The Hall is now back to functioning normal after the building work. All the regular Groups and those who have attended the various functions (Coffee morning, Whist drive) have been very impressed with the improvements so far carried out. There is still much more programmed to enhance the facilities and appearance. Replacement windows have been ordered and are due for installing very shortly, new curtains will follow. Work has still to be done on the inner entrance and porch plus the other exit doors. Then once the weather improves we move outside to complete the disabled parking plus improving the general parking and surrounding area.

Gardening Club

The January talk entitled 'The Jungle in your home and garden' by Lin Blunt was very enjoyable and fun. Lin used her considerable slide collections from various trips around the world to illustrate her theme and to keep members on their toes by issuing us with a quiz. The answers to which were in her slides. She also bought some plants which were sold at the end of the talk. Lin supports a charity that helps to provide schooling for children in Nepal. She donated her fee for the evening and the money from the

Please bear in mind that a lot of the work to be done will be voluntary and the Committee would welcome offers of help. Our A.G.M is on MONDAY 25th FEBRUARY at 8.00 pm, so come along to support the Hall and to put forward any comments you may have.

Other important dates for your diary:

Saturday 5th April - Official open day for the Hall

Saturday 1st June - Village Fete at Woodhall

Gordon Hillyear, (Chairman)

Editorial

In the absence of an "official" report from the Wine Club - I thought I would do a personal one, as Graham and I attended our first tasting evening at the end of January.

When you go to a wine tasting you need to take six glasses per person, so you have a fresh glass for each wine.

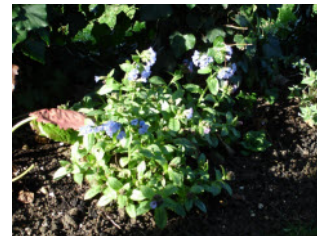
I had to resort to searching through the garage to find some of my glasses that had been stored there since we moved in, nearly five years ago! I managed to find 12 "assorted" glasses and we duly set off to the tasting evening. We were made very welcome and it was interesting trying the variety of wines we had to taste (although we actually got to taste eight wines not six). The theme being the best wine drunk over

plants sales to the charity, raising about £88 for this worthy cause,

The next talk; entitled "Colour Theming" by Tim Carter, will be at the Village Hall at 7.30 on Wednesday 20th February

New members and guests are most welcome.

Contact John Dennis 01245 440289 or Richard Dinnen 01245 358360



Christmas/New Year period. I am not sure I could sense all the flavours as described on the bottle, but it was fun trying! The supper of cheese, pate, meats, french bread and biscuits was also a welcome surprise. All in all a very enjoyable evening.

I would encourage readers; if you don't already, to take part in some or all of the Clubs at it is really a good way to get to know people in the area.

I would also welcome articles, photos, recipes or other items you might like to see in this newsletter, so please have a go if you want to contribute.

Linda Nelson

Bowls Club

The year ended with the Club playing Purleigh in the second round of the West area Knockout Competition which we won, and are due to play High Easter in the semi-finals in February.

We started the new year with a Ladies versus Gents fun evening, the theme being "pantomime". This was great fun, all players arriving with imaginative costumes;- two Dick Whittingtons, two cats, the odd Pirate and Witch and to keep all in order Little Red Riding Hood. The bowls match was won by the ladies (helped by the odd spell!) followed by a buffet provided by the members.

The Mike Bell Trophy will be played for on Saturday 23rd Feb. in the Village Hall. This is a day event, lasting all morning and early afternoon. In the evening all players and friends are meeting for a meal at the Three Elms, where the presentation of the Trophy will take place.

Bowls nights are Tuesdays and Thursdays 7.45 until 10pm

Contact:- Ann or Geoff Coates - 01245 441515

Gordon Hillyear - 01245 231406



Women's Institute



The December Social made a very happy end to an interesting and successful year. Before our splendid tea the members did some quizzes with much laughter and chat and this was followed by carol singing accompanied, very skilfully, by Kitty Roberts on keyboard. The Village Hall had been beautifully decorated by the Bowls Club and the atmosphere this creates is much appreciated. The annual cup for points gained in the competition was presented to Audrey Willmott. The January meeting had to be delayed by one week due to illness, so it was good to see over twenty members at the meeting on January 10th including one new member, Pat Bruce from Pleshey. After a short business meeting Myra Wilkins gave an illustrated talk on the fascinating

subject of 'The Language of Flowers' The competition was for a flower which had been painted by the member competing, the display of art work was excellent and a worthy winner was Janet Campen. At the next meeting we have Barry Moulton from Wakes Colne demonstrating the art of encaustic painting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Details Myra Wilkins 01245 440659

February 7th Encaustic Painting Mr. Barry Moulton

March 6th 19th Century Silk Industry in Essex and Suffolk Mr David Possee

April 3rd The Healing qualities of Aloe Vera Member of Aloe Vera Research

Art Club

ART GROUP ' Chignal 4Art' Meets on the 4th Thursday of the month, hence the name. The next meeting will be on February 28th at the Village Hall from 12noon to 4pm. Anyone can come along and 'have a go' at any point during this time.

Tuition for beginners. £2 per meeting to cover the cost of the Hall.

Details Myra Wilkins 01245 440659

Kids Zone

Chignal St James By Owen Thomas age nine.

The village hall is lovely and we like to play in the playing field on sunny days. It is a great area with no trees to fly a remote controlled plane.

The village has lovely countryside and it is a great place to be. The Three Elms is a great place to call in and have a drink and a snack and maybe a meal. I think it is a welcoming village and a pleasure to live in.

Chignal Parish Council

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

P.C..Cameron reported that the police mobile vehicle will be present in the Village Hall car park from 10 – 11 a.m. every third Wednesday for parishioners to ask questions or register areas of concern.

Mr. Pandya and colleagues from Mid Essex Highways Department explained the function of the Area Office and the priorities used when carrying out remedial work to roads in the area. Parishioners reported the flooding on the road from the Three Elms to Pieces caused by drainage problems and blocked pipes and also a pipe discharging water onto the road near Brettons. It was agreed that remedial work will be carried out as necessary.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Delivery Lorries to Nursery – Complaints were again received that delivery lorries are still causing damage to trees and fences particularly on the Green and it was arranged for an engineer to examine the damage at the earliest opportunity.

A parishioner reported that the infilling being used by Lafarge is not suitable as dangerous rods are included in the materials being used. Lafarge has been notified of the unsuitability of the materials and has agreed to rectify the problems.

VILLAGE HALL LIAISON – no problems were reported

NEWSLETTER incl. WEBSITE – the latest date for items to be included in the January edition has been confirmed by the editor.

GRAVEL LIAISON – The next liaison meeting will be held on site at 10.30 a.m. on 11th February 2008. An exhibition will be presented by Lafarge in the Village Hall from 12 noon to 8 p.m. on 12th February showing proposals for gravel extraction and formation of a reservoir opposite the Village Hall. Documents submitted to ECC for the planning application will include an environmental statement and supporting documents. A planning application for a shredder on site at Brittons Hall Farm has been submitted and comments on the proposals requested from the Parish Council.

HIGHWAYS – District Traffic Schemes will be discussed at the next meeting.

FOOTPATHS – Complaints reported at the last meeting have been resolved.

VDS – It was reported that a meeting is being arranged with the Borough Council to discuss the way forward to finalising the Statement.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – C.Cllr Aldridge explained that there would be changes to responsibilities from May 2008 and from that date he would be responsible for the environment, highways and adult and social care. He reminded the meeting that the deadline for applications for grants from the Communities Initiatives Fund is the end of June.

PLANNING

Chignal Hall Farm – change of use of redundant buildings – an amended application is to be submitted following discussions between the Agent and the Borough Council.

Broomwood Manor – extensions- the application has been withdrawn.

Brettons – extensions – approval was given on 16.1.08.

Pig & Whistle – Provision of signs – the views of the Parish Council will be forwarded to the Highways Department with a request for information on the criteria used for the erection of tourism signs.

CORRESPONDENCE

The latest traffic survey, which was presented at the meeting by the Highways Department, will be examined by Councillors as soon as possible.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was agreed that Mr. & Mrs. Martyn Towns represent the Parish Council at the Awards Evening on 30th January 2008.

It was confirmed that the Parish notice board near Woodhall House, damaged in the recent gales, is being repaired.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The next meeting will be at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 10th March 2008 in the Village Hall followed by the Annual Parish Meeting commencing at 8 p.m..

From the County Council

You have probably all been made aware of the pressures that County Councils are facing following the Government's Financial Settlement for the coming 3 years.

In Essex we are seeing above average increases in our elderly population, many of whom are ill or infirm, who need and should receive, help. We have always said that services for our vulnerable adults and children are vitally important and cannot be reduced. Yet despite receiving an "excellent" report from the Government Inspectorate (CSCI) on our adult Social Care Service, the County Council will inevitably have to make some tough choices over the extent of the care services it is able to provide.

In many other areas of the Council's responsibilities, the current financial settlement not only fails to meet the steadily increasing cost of essential services but also fails to take account of the impact of housing growth targets that our District and Borough Councils are obliged to meet, as well as other large scale infrastructure projects in the County. I believe that additional government funding is needed to compensate our County for its congested roads and overcrowded rail links together with the ever increasing charges for disposing of the County's waste.

However, as this is most unlikely in the foreseeable future, to balance the budget the Council introduced in 2006 a programme to modernise the way it works to create a leaner and more efficient organisation. It was decided to

focus on those issues that matter most and the County's aim was to save £100million over a 3 year period. To date some £35million of net savings have been achieved with a further £32million in the pipeline. Nevertheless, the Council's spending priorities will continue to be vested in care for the elderly and disadvantaged, young people, children and families and, of course, our environment.

On a brighter note and despite these budgetary constraints the Council remains committed to its Community Initiatives Fund. If you or your organisation is looking for capital funding for a local community project, don't forget that the deadline for bids to the County is noon on 30th July 2008.

For further information telephone: 07929 543523, email:

info@communityinitiativesfund.co.uk write to: County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1LX or visit the website: www.communityinitiativesfund.co.uk

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

Cllr. John Aldridge – February 2008



Dates for your Diary

Village Clean-up

9 a.m. 29th March 2008

Meet at the Village Hall
or
Woodhall House



Village Design Statement

Monday 14th April

7.30 p.m. AGM
8.00 p.m. VDS
In the Village Hall

Letter from PCC Secretary

Hello again,
I hope you all had a Happy Christmas and are looking forward to the Spring. We carefully watch the snowdrops and the primroses. There are already primrose leaves outside the Church door. A good sign that Spring is on its way. We were so pleased to see so many small children at the Christmas Crib service and I think they all enjoyed it. They were all very well behaved, which is usually a good sign. Of course they were accompanied by their parents and it was lovely to chat to them after the service.

Christmas Morning Service went very well thanks to the two Wardens who distributed the bread and wine, previously dedicated by the Very Reverend Canon Thompson. Thank you, Timothy.

We usually glance through names in the visitors book each week. Helen has pointed out that we have two visitors who call in once a month and

sign the book Angela and Trevor. They live in Westcliffe-on-Sea and come over to sit in the church and absorb the peace they find there. It is great to read this in the visitors book, because it makes us feel it is worth the struggle to keep it going. We welcome them.

I have met two people at the Church who said they regularly visit the church, either to sit on the garden seat or if wet in the porch, to eat their sandwiches and soak up the peace. This explains, when it snows, the many footprints on the path. Obviously, we have weekday visitors, which is why the church remains unlocked.

I finish by wishing you all a Happy New Year and hope to see some of you in the future at the eleven o'clock service held each Sunday.

God Bless you all
Joy Shipcott, Hon. Sec. St Nicholas PCC

St. Nicholas' Church

Firstly, we were saddened to learn of the closure of Mashbury Salvation Army. We are aware of the difficulty of maintaining services with limited support.

This closure removes one of the venues for the combined Carol Service. We are prepared to alternate with the URC, if this is their wish. We feel it would be a pity to stop this event.

The attendances during Christmas were encouraging. Our thanks to Diana and Canon Timothy for their help. It is regretted that there was no service on December 30th, with well over half of the regulars unable to attend, we also did not have anyone booked to take the service, so it was agreed to cancel. This is the first Sunday we have not held a service at St. Nicholas.

We welcome the return of Canon Appleford from his visit to Australia and wish Canon Thompson

a pleasant visit to his homeland of New Zealand later on this month.

Tony has made some improvements to the road surface outside the Church gate, since repeated requests to the Borough and County for some action, received no response.

We think you will agree that the Churchyard has been kept in excellent shape by Alan Clayden and Philip Clarke and we hope this will continue in the coming summer.



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**Items for next Newsletter to editor by Monday 24th
March newsletter published w/b 31st March**

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