

No. 125

June 2007



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHIGNALS WITH MASHBURY

Chignal News

Summer in the Chignals

Since the last edition, the weather has been very variable, it felt like Summer had come in April, when we had fantastic weather and then May and June was very variable with some terrific rain storms, which unfortunately hammered some of the more delicate flowers and turned the abundant roses brown. Hopefully the weather will improve and nature, aided by the many gardeners in our villages, will work wonders resulting in some stunning and beautiful displays around our villages. Although, the official start of Summer is the 21st June, I always feels the Village Fete marks the start of Summer. Luckily the weather was superb and the event was well attended. Hopefully, I will receive some photos taken on the day for publication in the next issue.

I have received some positive feedback from villagers regarding the new Farmer's Dairy feature, sadly missing in this edition, which leads me to send out a request for articles and items of interest to be submitted for publication. I am particularly keen that we encourage any budding writers; especially the children of the villages, to submit articles for inclusion in the newsletter. It is much easier if these are in an electronic format via e-mail, but if you do not have a computer then I can re-type items submitted by hand. I am trying to get the next newsletter published two weeks after the next parish meeting, so please get your articles to me as soon as possible, as this gives me more time to complete the "jigsaw puzzle" of fitting all the items into the newsletter.



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At the April meeting Alex Payne and Sandra Pettitt put on a dazzling display of beadwork which they had created. Alex told us about the history of beading from Stoneage times to the present day. Members were able to buy some of the jewellery and 10% of sales was donated to the WI. Also at the April meeting we were pleased to welcome two visitors Becky, the grand daughter of Joy Shipcott and Geryl Scott who has come to live in the village. In May we discussed and voted on the resolution concerning the closure of community hospitals. Everyone was in favour of the available government funds being used to maintain as many community hospitals as possible. A member of Broomfield WI is our delegate to the National AGM at the Albert Hall in June and she will vote on our behalf. This discussion was followed by a talk and visual presentation by Mr. John Watkins from Farleigh Hospice. John showed us the new building and

explained the work which is carried out there. A donation was given to the hospice. In June we are making a second visit to a garden in Good Easter hoping that the weather will be better than the cold day we had there last August!

June 7th Visit to Titus House, Good Easter

July 5th Hypnotherapy Mrs Tessa Bull

August 2nd Craft Dabble Mrs. Sheila Gunson

There will be a change of venue for the last two meetings so please phone 440659 for details.

PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH At Greys Farm on July 13th by kind invitation of Tony and Helen Towns. Everyone welcome to come along to this which promises to be a very pleasant occasion in a very pleasant setting.

Wine Discovery



Luke Mitchell presented an evening on Italian wines in April. We sampled a wide selection travelling from the North West regions of Valle d-Aosta, Lombardy, Liguria and Piedmont – the origin of one of the great Italian red wines, Barolo, produced from the Nebbiolo grape. The vast majority of Italian wine is red, but the Soave region produces many fine white wines as well. From the central regions of Italy we savoured the Chianti - probably the red wine most associated with Italy before moving onto the south. The red wines produced here rival the south of France in terms of interest and good value.

The classification system for Italian wine mirrors that for French. Italian wines typically available in the UK are generally Denominazione di Origine Controllata (DOC) or Denominazione di Origine Controllata et Garantita (DOCG). These correspond with the Appellation (d'Origine) Contrôlée wines of France, the DOCG wines supposedly with an extra degree of quality.

In May we visited Austrian wines. Our resident chef Chris Burford presented the evening. We learnt much about the speckled history of wine producing in Austria, and the very strict laws imposed in the 1970s – stamping out some of the illegal practices that marred the reputation of Austria for some time. Austria has come a long way since then. We sampled the traditional Rieslings, the highly concentrated wines

produced by the noble rot fungus and the late harvested sticky, viscous eisweins. The noble rot (botrytis) fungus affects healthy bunches of grapes. The combination of damp misty mornings and drier, warm afternoons allows the berries to dehydrate and shrivel under the influence of the Botrytis fungus. The grapes are not pleasant on the eye - a mass of brown, shrivelled berries, peppered with fungal growth, but these grapes are not to be admired for their looks, but for the resulting wine they produce. Austria is famous for Eiswein. Grapes used to produce eiswein are harvested late in December/January. The grapes are thus susceptible to birds, rot and mild winters (the freezing process is absolutely essential). Harvesting is often performed at night, or in the early morning to ensure the grapes remain frozen on the way to the winery. The frozen grapes are pressed and the sweet juice, rich in sugar, acids and aromatic compounds, is collected and fermented. The ice crystals are held in the press concentrating the juice and increasing its weight to achieve this sticky sweet wine.

Thanks to both Luke and Chris for two very enjoyable and informative evenings.

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.

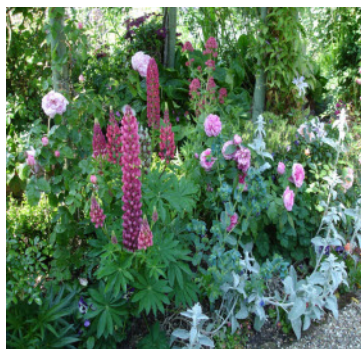
Gardening Club

The Club had a most enjoyable AGM and quiz on 18 April.

We also held a plant swap and plant sale, which again proved popular.

The plant stall at the Village Fete was very successful, raising nearly £500 from the sales of plants and the raffle.

The first of the three events planned for the Gardening Club over the summer had to be postponed but was re-scheduled to 6th when a good turnout of members enjoyed a guided walk of the Writtle College Wild



Flower Meadows lead by Andy Boorman

Future visits are scheduled as follows: on 27 June an evening visit to the Old Rectory Gardens at Boreham and finally Janet and Tony Campen are kindly hosting the Garden Club supper in their beautiful garden on 11 July.

The autumn programme of talks starts with Deep Bed and traditional vegetable growing with Peter Morris (RHS FNVS) on Wednesday 19 September. Since Peter is a qualified Horticultural Judge for vegetables we look forward to a most informative evening. Two popular speakers are returning ; firstly John Walker on 17 October with 'Plants that changed the World' and then on 21 November Margot Bishop with 'Going Dutch'.

Bowls Club

The Club held a Quiz and Ploughman's supper at the Village Hall on Saturday 5th May. After an excellent quiz; organized by Sheila and Yvonne, the food and raffle were much enjoyed.

The Strawberry Supper will be held on July 6th at Martyn and Yvonne's house.



The Club played an away match against Black Notley, always a good evening, we drew on games but won on shots.

Our next match is at Little Waltham on June 29th.

Bowls Club Nights are Tuesday and Thursdays at 7.30 p.m.

Village Notices

Village Cleanup March 31st

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank all those who supported the cleanup. We had an excellent turnout at the Village Hall but not so good at Woodhall. This is still a worthwhile job for the Village,
Gordon Lee

Friends of Essex Churches Sponsored Ride & Stride

Saturday September 8th

For more details phone Helen on 01245
440241

Joy Ball

In early May we sadly heard the news that Joy Ball had died. She had lived in Ivy Cottage, Chignal Smealey for 25 years until she moved to Cambridgeshire in 2003.

As soon as she arrived in the Chignals, Joy took an active part in village life and she eventually chaired the Parish Council for 10 years. Her encouragement resulted in the formation of the Gardening Club and her enthusiasm knew no bounds for a host of other activities. As an experienced water colourist, she was behind numerous art exhibitions and she played a major role in the millennium celebrations.

Chignal Parish Council

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 14th MAY 2007 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Chris Philpot was nominated and seconded and duly elected.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Martyn Towns was nominated, seconded and duly elected.

CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

Tony Mawer, Geoff Coates and Kate Middleditch were co-opted to the Parish Council

ELECTION OF SUB-COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Playing Fields	Gordon Lee/Martyn Towns
Village Hall Liaison	Gordon Lee/Martyn Towns
Newsletter & Website	Will Taylor
Gravel Liaison	Geoff Coates
Village Watch	Tony Mawer
Highways	Gordon Lee/Tony Mawer
Footpaths	Chris Philpot
Rural Transport	Geoff Coates
VDS	Kate Middleditch
Tree Warden	Chris Philpot

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES 12th MARCH 2006

3.8c) Telephone Kiosk Chignal St. James – Ann Salmon will be contacted regarding the current situation on the 'listed building' status.

8.0 Village Clean-Up Day – it was reported that although the Day had been successful, more volunteers would have been appreciated from the Chignal Smealey side of the Parish.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) PLAYING FIELDS – it was explained that cutting takes place when necessary

b) VILLAGE HALL LIAISON – it was reported that work to the toilet block will commence in the second half of June. Full funding for the project has been achieved following approval to a Lottery Grant.

c) NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE – no problems have been reported.

d) GRAVEL LIAISON – the next meeting of the liaison group will be held on 6th June 2007 with an Open Day arranged from 6 p.m when appropriate clothing and footwear must be worn.

e) VILLAGE WATCH – no problems have been reported

f) HIGHWAYS – it was reported that although some potholes have been filled, there are still some needing remedial work. The Highways Department will be contacted to carry out the work.

ECC has confirmed that the village sign between Brettons and Pieces Cottage will be replaced.

Reservations were expressed on the number of big lorries delivering to the nursery who either cause obstructions by turning in the road or on the Green where trees and shrubs have been damaged. It was agreed that a meeting be arranged to discuss the problems with the owners.

FOOTPATHS – no further problems have been reported.

h) RURAL TRANSPORT – the last meeting was held on 9th May and there were no problems with the current services. The next meeting will be held in November.

i) VDS – it was reported that further comments from the Borough Council are awaited. It was confirmed that the Committee has agreed to proceed with the more informal route. The next meeting will be held on 4th June 2007.

PLANNING

Hillcroft – extensions – the application was approved.

Stevens Farm – new timber gates and restoration of railings – decision awaited.

Har Oak – change of use from storage to granny annexe – decision awaited.

Bethel Chapel – the caravans have been removed but the situation will be monitored.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) It was agreed that, as a token of appreciation for all his work as both a Councillor and as Chairman for the last three years, John Denniss be presented with a £25.00 gardening voucher. The Clerk will write to the other outgoing Councillors thanking them for all their hard work.

b) It was agreed that a representative from the Community Police Section be invited to attend a Parish meeting.

c) It was agreed that a time be allocated at the beginning of future meetings for members of the public to register any concerns they may have.

d) It was reported that Joy Ball, Chair of the Parish Council for many years died recently. It was agreed that the Clerk send a card to the family offering the condolences of the Parish Council.

e) Reservations were expressed on the number of charity events which have taken place through the parish which are causing dangerous hazards because of the lack of footpaths and narrow roads. It was suggested that organisers and the police should give warnings before the events take place to minimize the dangers.

f) It was reported that a hedge is overgrown at Pieces causing restriction to visibility and it was agreed that the residents be contacted to alleviate the problem.

g) It was reported that the notice board near the church may need some remedial work and it was agreed to investigate.

DATES OF MEETING FOR 2007/8

Meetings in the village hall were agreed as follows:

7. 30 p.m. on Monday 9th July 2007

7.30 p.m. on Monday 10th September 2007

7.30 p.m. on Monday 12th November 2007

7.30 p.m. on Monday 14th January 2008

7.00 p.m. on Monday 10th March 2008 followed by A.P.M at 8.00 p.m.

7.30 p.m. on Monday 12th May 2008 - Annual General Meeting

Chignal Parish Council Chairman

Hello everybody!

Hopefully most of you will realise that following elections we now have a NEW Parish Council. There have been three members who have decided to stand down; John Dennis, John Gill and Pauline Rye – many thanks to them for all they have done on behalf of the Parish over the past four years.

However, this has allowed one face to return – Geoff Coates and two new ones to join Kate Middleditch and myself. It was decided at the first meeting last week, that I should become Chairman, I was very honoured to be asked and hope I can serve the Parish well over the next few years.

If you wish to contact me at any time please call 01245 248668 or email boytonhall@aol.com.

So you know, the full team also includes Gordon Lee, Tony Mawer, Will Taylor and Martyn Towns. Pat Macdonald will continue to be our Clerk.

At the meeting this month it was great to see more than a handful of local residents attend the meeting – thank you for your attendance.

As a Parish Council we certainly hope to see more of you at meetings in the future – we are there to serve our village. For this reason the first thing we have done is to move “Question Time” or “Any Other Business” to the start of the meeting thus enabling you to come along at 7.30pm and raise any topic / issue you wish your representatives to discuss / research without having to wait until the end – by which time everyone can not wait to get home!

Please come and support us – we can not improve the village without your input and support. The next meeting is on Monday 9th July – put it in the diary now! We meet every other month on the second Monday in the Village Hall. For the July meeting only, due to the very exciting works taking place in the Hall, we may be moving to St Nicholas Church – do come and find us!

Chris Philpot

Mashbury Parish

Mashbury Parish Meeting 20th March 2007

The Mashbury Parish meeting was very well attended and residents were thanked for supporting the Parish. Among the matters raised was a problem with delivery lorries travelling to a nursery in Chignal St James using a route from Great Waltham via Fox Road. Residents reported that the size of the lorries makes it difficult for them to negotiate corners such as the one at Fudlers. The Chair will discuss with Chelmsford BC Planning Control Officers to ensure that a more appropriate route is used.

The meeting was reminded that additional Brown Bins can be requested from Chelmsford BC. Key Fobs with web and telephone contact details for public information in the event of a local emergency situation were distributed. Residents not at the meeting can obtain a fob from the Chair if required. It was noted that roads locally are in a

poor state of repair. Consultation and other planning reports from local, County and regional authorities were shared with the meeting.

A report was received on progress with the modernisation of the Chignal and Mashbury Village Hall and the Committee were congratulated on their successful lottery bid. A report was also received on work following the last Parish Meeting to improve communication within the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Police CSO Lucy Smith had visited both the Chair and the Neighbourhood Watch representative.

As usual, the annual Village Clean-up was organised at the Parish Meeting and all residents who took part are warmly thanked for their help.

Maira Tarrant, Chair

Letter from PCC Secretary

Hello Again,

I commence my letter with my usual remarks about the Churchyard, which at the moment, looks immaculate; thanks to an unknown grass cutter (although we think we know his name). Many thanks for his help.

Mr. Claydon is still looking after his wife who has been very ill, but now seems on the road to recovery. We send her our best wishes.

Pat, the wife of one of our regular readers, Reg Morris, was taken very ill recently and rushed into hospital. She always comes to worship with us on Sunday, when he visits us and we missed her and hope she too will soon be on the road to recovery.

Many thanks to Jane, who; since Pauline retired, comes to play for us twice a month.

After two weeks without music, it makes the church come to life.

After the near disaster we experienced on the day of the Carol Service, when we nearly lost the church keys, we have had an extra light fitted which shines directly on to the steps to the altar, when all the other lights have been switched off in the vestry. The switch to this is under the tower, sharing the same switch as the tower light. We hope this will save anyone from falling down the steps, when the church is in darkness. N.B. Please remember to switch it off before you leave the church.

I finish with a plea to anyone who would like to go on the church cleaning rota once a month. If willing please ring me on 251275

God Bless you all

J. Shipcott Sec. St. Nicholas P.C.C.

St. Nicholas' Church

On May 16th we had the visit from the Rural Dean to check our Registers and in the evening attended the Archdeacons presentment in the Parish Church in Maldon, at this latter we were accompanied by our wives. Since this was a collection of three Deanery areas, Chelmsford North, Chelmsford South and

Maldon with Dengie, it was not surprising to find the Church full.

Unfortunately, the sound system did not appear to be working, so that much of the Archdeacons address was missed.

You will see from the Service list that we continue to worship every Sunday at 11a.m.

St Nicholas Services

June 17 th	Reg Morris
June 24 th	Canon Appleford
July 1 st	Joan Goode
July 8 th	Canon Thompson
July 15 th	Reg Morris



*Church of
St. Nicholas*

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