

No. 191
February
2018



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHIGNALS WITH MASHBURY

Chignal News

Bowls Club

Looking back to last year the club members all enjoyed the Annual Dinner which was held in the Village Hall in November. Mike Smale provided a lovely meal, his last for the club as he was retiring from catering. Thank you for your service to us over the years Jan and Mike.

The Christmas Social was held in December and started with a pairs knockout competition. After some very good bowls the competition was won by Audrey Smith and John Manning. Well done! Everyone then enjoyed a supper of jacket potatoes, various toppings, salads and desserts. Kathleen Huggett won the hamper in the raffle and there was a prize for all. The evening concluded with some Carol singing.

At the beginning January four members went to Potters Leisure Resort for the weekend to take part in the Essex Pairs Competition. Unfortunately, two others had to miss the weekend due to illness. Some very close games of bowls were played and enjoyed. Well done to Sandra and Kevin Francis who progressed to the quarter finals where unfortunately they were beaten by the pair who were the eventual competition winners. Apart from bowls the weekend included far too much food being eaten and excellent evening entertainment!



Litter Pick

Our Spring Litter Pick is here again:

**Saturday 10th March at
9.00am**

meet at The Village Hall, The Three Elms, or Woodhall Farm

Litter picks, gloves, hi-vis vests and bags provided.

The full bags are collected from the verge and disposed of by Chelmsford City Council.

You get a morning of fresh air, exercise, time to chat, and a

Clean Tidy Village.

If you would like to collect before the date contact Malcolm Feltwell on 441070 for equipment etc.

Women's Institute

At our January meeting, one of our members, Anita Howard took us on a visual tour of Saigon and the Mekong Delta where she had spent a memorable holiday.

In February we were much closer to home with Dudley Chignall and his talk "The Four Seasons of East Anglia". His stunning photography was accompanied by a humorous commentary which our members thoroughly enjoyed.

At our next meeting on the 1st of March we have Sheila Gunson, also known as The Bag Lady, coming to talk about her hobby of bag making, which we are all looking forward to immensely.

Our programme for this year is on the notice board in the village hall, so please pop in if there is something that appeals to you, visitors are always welcome. We meet on the first Thursday of the month at 2pm for a 2-30 start.

Wendy Steele.

CTTC - Chignals Table Tennis Club

The Club has now been running for 8 months and has gone from strength to strength. We have 24 paid up adult members and 2 juniors who play regularly. Attendance varies particularly depending on holiday time but we have had as many as 19 playing. We play "fun" table tennis catering for all ages and abilities and indeed the age spread of members is over 60 years! That is not to say that we are not competitive and in December we ran an in house tournament which was well won by one of our juniors, Jacob Heaton.

Currently we play on 3 tables although we could probably just accommodate 1 more and are very happy to welcome new members. If anyone is considering playing, maybe for the first time or wants to get back into it, please just come along on a Wednesday between 4.30 and 6.30 in the afternoon and give it a try. Membership for adults is only £5.00 pa and £2.00 per session with £1.00 for juniors.



David Lomas. Secretary
Graham Randall. Treasurer

The Chignals with Mashbury Friends Group

We are a small group of friends who are pleased to be able to help residents (whether new to the neighbourhood or not), in a variety of different ways. Over the years we have proved that a friendly face can do much to help a person whatever their needs may be. This may be introducing them to village activities, clubs, like minded people etc, or something more practical e.g. companionship, someone to talk to, light shopping etc.

We realise that you may already have a kindly relative or friend helping you in some way, however if you feel that we might be of assistance, please do not hesitate (leaving a message if needed) by phoning one of the following people:-

Helen on 01245 440241 Barbara on 01245 440528
Gill on 01245 442474 Lynn on 01245 440880
Sarah on 01245 443497

Joan on 01245 440339
Sandra on 01245 445245

Wine Discovery

Baythorne Wines is a local independent wine merchant and the product of a local farming family diversifying into fresh areas – they have transformed some of their farm buildings between Halstead and Haverhill into a cookery school, function space and wine shop. We welcomed George from Baythorne to present a range of seven interesting Italian wines to us in January.

These are three of them which really struck me as lovely wines as well as good value - they were all available to us at a discount on the night, for just under £10.



Ribola Gailla, Fantinel - this sparkling wine, from a good Prosecco producer, is a more yeasty, toasty version than usual which everyone liked. Apparently, some 75% of exported Prosecco comes to the UK!

2012 Salice Salentino Riserva, Casato di Melzi - this red wine is from Puglia in the south of Italy and has been aged in oak barrels for 24 months. It was brick red, indicating its age and was smooth and rich with soft tannins.



2016 Passimiento, Baglio Gibellina - Sicily is producing some new and exciting wines now and this Passimiento contains some of the Nero d'Avola grape variety which is big in Sicily. It was rich and concentrated, ideal with game.

Sue Davies

North Melbourne Library

Open Tuesday, Friday and Saturday 9:00- 5:00pm.

Visit www.essex.gov.uk/libraries for any information or phone 03330 132682

North Melbourne Library has a wide range of books to loan, DVD's, spoken word, reference titles, and photocopier. Connect to the internet on our 5 Public Network computers with use of a scanner and printing facilities or use our Wi-Fi enabling you to connect with your own laptop, tablet or smart phone.

Community Tea



Come and join our group for a friendly and sociable chat over a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit.

Usually held on the 1st Saturday of the Month .

March 3rd, April 7th and May 5th at 2pm

Our crime stoppers speaker in the November meeting proved very successful with our members, and the School Choir from Newlands Spring School entertained our members with some amazing singing with their Christmas songs. This proved so popular that we hope to hold another one next Christmas. We are hoping to have some more speakers from time to time at these events.

Community Led Scrabble, North Melbourne Library



Every Tuesday 2.00pm – 3.00pm

Drop in for a fun game of Scrabble.

Rhyme Time & Community Led Stay & Play



Friday Morning

11.00 -11.30 – Rhyme Time

11.30 – 12.00 – Stay & Play

For our younger customers we deliver a Rhyme Time for age 5 and under and their carers. Come along and join in with popular rhymes, songs and stories. This is then followed by a friendly chat and toys available for everyone.

Block Builders Construction Club



Saturday Morning 10.00 -11.30

10th March and 7th April

Get creative at our monthly club with our selection of building blocks. Fun for all children and parents too. Refreshments provided.

North Melbourne Library Continued

Adult Craft & Knitting Club

Get creative and join in the fun twice a month.

Tuesday– 10.30 – 11.30am

March 13th and 27th, April 10th and 24th, May 8th and 29th

Come and join our friendly group for a morning of creativity. Have some time to yourself to work on your projects in a social environment. Bring any crafts you have from home such as knitting, crochet, sewing, card-making etc.

Individual Tablet Taster Session

Have you got a new iPad or tablet and are not sure how to use it effectively. We are holding individual morning and afternoon sessions where you can ask our staff any questions you made have.



Saturdays – these sessions are bookable.

Saturday 10.00 - 11.00am (fortnightly)

Please call to book a slot and bring your own tablet along to the session

Essex County Council want your views on Country Parks car parking

We want to hear from you on proposed increases to car parking charges that will help us continue to maintain and invest in our Country Parks.

Our Country Parks provide valuable outdoors spaces for people to enjoy. There's always something to do at the parks and each season brings something different. We need to make sure that we can continue to maintain and develop these spaces for the 850,000 visitors each year and for future generations.

We've invested more than £1 million pounds in the country parks over the last couple of years with improvements to footpaths and accessibility, signage, facilities and on play equipment and there's more planned.

Between now and the 18th March we are asking visitors to give us their views on the proposed change to charges. Make sure you don't miss out on having your say and email us at Countryparks.carparking@essex.gov.uk

Chignal Parish Council Meeting 13th November 2017

Chignal Parish Council

C/O 45 Cherry Garden Road , Great Waltham, Chelmsford , Essex, CM3 1DH

Tel: 01245 360811 Email: Chignalpc@gmail.com

Clerk: Will Adshead-Grant

Chair : Lynn Ballard

Vice Chair : Linda Nelson

Minutes of the Chignal Parish Council meeting at the Chignal & Mashbury Village Hall, on Monday 13th November 2017.

1. **Chairman's Welcome**

Chair Ballard

Cllr Nelson, Towns, Middleditch, Feltwell, Anstey

Follow up on Telephones and Broadband meeting from October - meeting notes agreed by both parties.
Agreement to prioritising roll-out of fibre Broadband to Chignal.

Persimmon Homes housing development now has planning permission. Lighting of the new road to be reviewed as it's not felt to be in keeping with a rural area.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

None

3. **Register of Declarations of Interests and request for dispensation**

None

4. **Public Question Time**

2 Members of the Public – no questions

5. **County and City Councillors' Reports**

ECC Aldridge – Issues about Countryside putting in a footpath along Chignal Road as there is no access from Little Hollows to Copperfield Road by car. The footpath needs to go in at 95% dwelling occupation. Lighting along the access road to Hollow Lane will be out of keeping. Road resurfacing in Chignal and Mashbury discussed but no immediate prospect. Essex Lottery is open and trying to raise money for good causes within Essex. Essex looking to reduce budgets by £120mil. London has per capita £583 to Essex per capita £193.

CCC Chambers – proposed Business Improvement District (BID) to support retailers. Approximately 465 retailers in the city. A ballot due in February 2018. Suggestions on riverside cafes and other similar enhancements. CCC to install electrical charging points. Pod accommodation has been installed in Fox road (£100k each). Event to be held at Hylands House to showcase business. A ward surgery to be held to discuss any issues at the 3 Jan Coffee Morning in the Village Hall. The issuing of Chinese lanterns in rural areas is a DEFRA issue.

6. **To adopt the Budget Committee minutes of 11th September 2017**

Resolution Adopted

7. **Budget Committee - receive a report of the meeting held 13th November 2017 from the Committee Chairman.**

Slight overspend in some areas due to increase in houses from 135 to 190 houses.

Chignal Parish Council continued

Budget agreed for 2018-201: confirmation of the actual increase due to number of houses to be sought. CIL monies need to be used effectively: potential projects to be discussed at a Community Event on 3 March 2018.

8. To confirm the full Council Minutes of the 11th September 2017

Confirmed and signed

9. Planning Committee

Decisions to Note:

16/02125/NMAT/2 Greenfields Chignal Road Chignal Smealy Chelmsford Essex CM1 4SU Application Permitted

17/01694/FUL 215 Chignal Road Chelmsford Essex CM1 4SS Application Application Permitted

New Applications for Consideration:

A). 17/01789/FUL Single storey side conservatory: Hard Oak, Mashbury Road, Chignal St James

Resolution: No Objection to the construction of a conservatory, provided that the hedge in front of the site of the proposed conservatory is retained and managed on a regular basis to ensure that it does not obstruct the highway.

B). 17/01854/FUL Construction two semi-detached dwellings with parking and amenity areas. Close existing access and create new access: Land Between Marshalls and 4 Ash Rise, Chignal Road, Chignal Smealy

Resolution: No Objections.

10. Representatives' Reports: to note

A) Playing Field - Gateway area has had the ground repaired and potholes filled.

B) Village Hall Liaison – RCCE conference went very well. Mince Pie Coffee Morning on the 1st Saturday in December. External works being considered for the Village Hall Carpark and surround.

C) Newsletter Including Website – Waiting on the printed copies. Digital version has been sent out. Online version is available. Library van service at risk.

D) Gravel Liaison – the permissive bridleway on the restored landfill site is due to open in Spring 2018. Concerns about motorbikes using the new bridleway and causing damage. Gate too narrow for horses.

E) Community Safety – agreement in principle for a defibrillator to be sited at the Village Hall. Community watch / Village Watch has not taken off yet. The Parish still has the second lowest crime rate in Chelmsford. The Crime, Police and Fire Commissioner has stated that he wants to see more police officers

F) Highways- Verges have not yet been done in Chignal. Noted that despite warnings, the owners of Hardoak have allowed their hedge to reduce visibility on the highway.

Resolution: Clerk to report the householder to ECC Highways.

G) Footpaths /Bridleways – no report.

Chignal Parish Council continued

H) Telephone Box - Chignal St. James - Grass been cut by CCC.

I) Tree Warden - 26 people and 4 dogs on the tree walk. Great views from top of the restored pit.

J) Orchard – Wassailing event 6 January.

11. Finance: to Note and Approve

A) To Note Cheques issued since the last meeting.

Date	cheque nr	Item	cheque value
04.10.2017	100724	Clerk's Salary and expenses (Oct)	£178.10
04.10.2017	100725	HMRC	£41.20
04.10.2017	100726	Cllr Middleditch – Parish Projector	£384.97
11.10.2017	100727	Writtle Parish Council – Transport Consultants	£84.00
01.11.2017	100728	Clerk's Salary	£178.45
01.11.2017	100729	HMRC	£41.00

B) To Note Cheques to be signed and issued

Date	Cheque nr	Item	Cheque Value
13.11.2017	100730	Chignals & Mashbury Village Hall	£140
13.11.2017	100731	Chelmsford DBF – November Newsletter	£106.89

12. The budget of the Parish Council has been reviewed and agreed that there is a requirement for a budget of £6680 for the Financial year 2018-2019.

Motion: To confirm the Chignal Parish Council budget of £6680

Resolution Passed

13. The precept of the Chignal Parish Council based on a Council Tax D band is £29.59. This is an increase of £1.51 per household per year.

Motion: To Confirm the precept request of £29.59 per band D property upon Chelmsford City Council.

Resolution Passed and the Precept demand signed

14. Confirmation that the Parish Clerk has satisfactory completed his six months' probation.

Employee committee confirmed conclusion of probation. Requested to update website to keep the parish documents up to date and to agreed timescales. Clerk to ensure all planning information is passed to the council members in a timely manner.

Pay review in April 2018 in line with any agreements made by the Clerks Union.

Chignal Parish Council continued

15. Discussion on the General Data Protection Regulation

- The Clerk has recently attended a training course run by EALC. The first thing to note is that these new regulations are to stop transgressions by large organisations and not a Parish Council. Some recommendations will be taken on board and the Clerk is to release a paper next week.

16. Date of community meeting 2018.

Saturday 3rd March 2018

Discuss agenda at next meeting

17. Policy on the use of the playing field

A revised policy for hiring the playing field was approved and will be put on the Chignal website.

18. Items for next Agenda

- Community Meeting on 3 March – Discuss Agenda

Next Meeting 8th January 2018

Meeting closed 21.20

Will Adshead-Grant

Clerk

Community Photos - Christmas Workshop



Chignal Parish Council Meeting 8th January 2018

Chignal Parish Council

C/O 45 Cherry Garden Road, Great Waltham, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 1DH

Tel: 01245 360811 Email: Chignalpc@gmail.com

Clerk: Will Adshead-Grant

Chair : Lynn Ballard

Vice Chair : Linda Nelson

Minutes of the Meeting of the Chignal Parish Council at the Chignal & Mashbury Village Hall, on Monday 8th January 2018

1. **Chairman's Welcome**

Chair Cllr Ballard

Cllrs Towns, Nelson, Feltwell, Anstey, Middleditch

Clerk

2. **Co-Option of New Member**

David Elwick was Co-Opted on to the Parish Council

3. **Apologies for Absence**

None

4. **Register of Declarations of Interests and request for dispensation**

None

5. **Public Question Time**

5 members of the Public attended. A warm welcome was given to David for being co-opted.

Concern raised about possible work at Brittons Hall Farm Building without any planning approval.

Broadband speed in some areas is below 1 mbps

Resolution: Clerk to contacting Planning about possible enforcement action.

6. **County and City Councillors' Reports**

Apologies from Cllr Chambers

7. **To adopt the Budget Committee minutes of 13th November 2017**

Resolution Adopted

8. **Budget Committee - receive a report of the meeting held 8th January 2018 from the Committee Chairman.**

The Clerk has triggered the Pension clause in his contract. The Committee has recommended £10 a

month payment to the Village Hall to pay for the Parish Council Surgery held every month. Cllr

Middleditch is working on defibrillators. Bank accounts to be viewed at each Budget Committee meeting.

9. **To adopt the Orchard Sub Committee minutes of the meeting on the 7th December 2017**

It was highlighted that a Wassailing event was held on Saturday 6th Jan, Mulch mats around the trees

had been removed and new mulch would be added in spring. Next event will be around May Day. The

Shed survived being hit by fallen conifer branches.

Resolution Adopted

10. **To confirm the full Council Minutes of the 13th November 2017**

Resolution The Minutes were confirmed

Chignal Parish Council continued

11. Planning Committee

Decisions to Note:

Reference ↕	Address ↕	Type ↕	Status ↕
17/01694/FUL	215 Chignal Road Chelmsford Essex CM1 4SS	Application	Application Permitted
17/01789/FUL	Hard Oak Mashbury Road Chignal St James Chelmsford CM1 4TZ	Application	Application Permitted
17/01854/FUL	Land Between Marshalls And 4 Ash Rise Chignal Road Chignal Smealy Chelmsford Essex	Application	Application Refused
17/01688/OUT	Land North Of 2 Whitelead Cottages Mashbury Road Chignal Chelmsford Essex	Application	Application Refused

12. Representatives' Reports: to note

A) Playing Field

Hedge by the layby may require cutting.

B) Village Hall Liaison

Committee meeting next week

C) Newsletter Including Website

February newsletter – input needed by the end of January

D) Gravel Liaison

Concerns expressed about motorbikes accessing the bridleway

E) Community Safety

Break in at Dyer's Hall. Despite this we are still the 2nd safest Parish in Chelmsford.

Noted that there will be additional tax raised through the council tax for Policing, Fire and Rescue.

F) Highways

Noted that traffic on Chignal Road has increased by 37% in the last 3 ½ years.

Resolution: Clerk to contact Essex Highways to point out the issue based on their own statistics.

Resolution: Clerk to contact Highways to highlight concerns with Gullies, (Maple View, Dyers Hall Triangle and near Sunnyside)

Resolution: Clerk to Contact Cllr Aldridge to highlight the waste vehicle and a Lodges Bus both going into a ditch.

G) Footpaths/Bridleways

Fallen branch reported on a bridleway in Chignal Smealey towards Fox Road.

H) Telephone Box - Chignal St. James

No report

I) Tree Warden

Lime tree with two broken branches between Langleys Corner and the Church to be reviewed.

13. Finance: to Note and Approve

A) To Note Cheques issued since the last meeting.

Date	cheque no	Item	cheque value
06-12-2017	100732	East of England - Tree	£23.95
06-12-2017	100733	DM Payroll – 6 months	£36.50
06-12-2017	100734	HMRC – PAYE	£41.20
06-12-2017	100735	Clerk Salary and expenses	£184.55
06-12-2017	100736	Cllr Feltwell – power scythe	£83.40

B) To Note Cheques to be signed and issued

Chignal Parish Council continued

Date	Cheque no	Item	Cheque Value
02-01-2018	100737	Clerks Salary and expenses	£170.65
02-01-2018	100738	HMRC	£41.00
02-01-2018	100739	Taylor Engineering – Grass Cutting	£156.00

Resolution: Cheques were accepted and signed.

14. Agenda for the Chignal Community Event on 3rd March 2018 (10am to 12.30)
15. Agenda for the Annual Assembly on the 12th March 2018 (8pm)
Budget Committee 18:30, Monthly Meeting 19:00, Annual Assembly / Parish Meeting 20:00
16. Update on the Chelmsford Local Plan
Pre-Submission plan due out by the 13th January for the Chelmsford City Development Policy Committee to review on the 18th January.
Northwest Parishes have a meeting on the 16th January to discuss the Local Plan.
17. Items for next Agenda (these cannot be discussed at this meeting)
 - Update on the Litter Pick Planned for 10th March
 - Noticeboard Maintenance (Varnish etc)
 - Chelmsford Plan Update
 - Noticeboard for Little Hollows
 - Feedback on the Community Event on 3rd March

Meeting Closed 20:45
Will Adshead-Grant
Clerk to the Council

The Village Hall

Over £325 was raised for village hall funds at the Festive Coffee and Mince Pies Morning in December. Mulled wine was introduced to the menu and enough volunteers were found to organise and man all the usual seasonal stalls, food and music.

The new hall was decked in great style thanks to the generosity of Sainsbury's, whose Halstead store donated the beautiful Christmas tree and decorations throughout the hall.

During the morning a 400 piece cutlery set was presented to the village hall. The new Chignals and Mashbury Community Group purchased the cutlery which was presented on their behalf by Lynn Ballard, chair of the Chignals Parish Council, to Martyn Towns, chair of the village hall committee. Mr Towns thanked the group for the donation and also for the work they do to help other village organisations.

The village hall committee would like to thank everyone who helped to organise and run the event, all those who provided baked goods and items for sale or prizes, and everyone who came along on the day to support it.

Save the date! The Christmas Coffee Morning always takes place on the first Saturday in December.



WHIST DRIVE

Friday 2nd March at 7pm
in the Village Hall.

£2.50 entrance includes light refreshments

All welcome

****Prizes for the raffle would be welcome****

CHIGNALS & MASHBURY VILLAGE HALL **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Monday 26th February at 7.30 p.m
at The Village Hall, Mashbury Rd,
Chignal St James CM1 4TS

ALL WELCOME

Christmas Table Arrangement Workshop 2017

On a beautiful sunny day in December in our lovely new village hall we were pleased to have the return of Diana Barnes for a one-day workshop for the sixth time. This year Diana demonstrated three Christmas table arrangement designs.

The day started with a cup of tea prepared by Maggy while Diana demonstrated the arrangements. After the demonstration we had a sandwich lunch before starting on our own designs.

The workshop is suitable for beginners although many of the ladies return each year. Diana's designs are easy to follow and she is always around to give a helping hand. We always have a lot of fun and it is wonderful to see everyone take home a beautiful arrangement for Christmas. I am sure we will be arranging another workshop in 2018.

I would like to say a big thank you to Maggy for giving her time so generously to make us lots of tea and coffee and set up the buffet lunch which Norman had collected from Sainsburys.

Looking forward to the next Workshop.

Joan

Community Event at the Village Hall, Saturday 3rd March, from 10 – 12.30.

The Parish Council invites you to come along to the Village Hall to hear about a range of ideas that could make community life in Chignal more enjoyable and help improve our rural environment.

It's your chance to discuss potential community projects that could be developed with support from the Community Infrastructure Levy monies received by the Parish Council and other funds.

You'll also be able to find out more about the Pre-Submission version of the Chelmsford Local Plan and ask questions about the possible impact of proposed housing growth areas on Chignal.

At this event, we'd like you let us know which types of community project should be supported and we hope that some of you will wish to come forward to help make them happen.

If you already have an idea that you would like aired on 3 March, there is a simple "Expression of Interest" form to describe what you have in mind. We'd also like to hear about suggestions for new community projects from village groups and clubs.

If you'd like a copy of the "Expression of Interest" form, please contact our Parish Clerk, Will Adshead-Grant:

chignalpc@gmail.com or download it from the Parish Council pages of the Chignal website: www.essexinfo.net/thechignals

For more information about the Community Event, please contact Lynn Ballard by email:

lynn_ballard@btinternet.com or by phone: 01245 440880

Gardening Club

We meet at the Village Hall in Chignal St James at 7.30pm 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 of May, June and July, plus an annual coach trip, and we host the plant stall at the Village Fête in June.

Remaining diary dates for our 2017/18 winter programme are as follows:

Wednesday 21st February. We are pleased to welcome back Maike Windhorst who will be giving a talk entitled 'Amateur grapevine growing in Essex'. An organic gardener, Maike always delivers an informative and amusing talk with plenty of opportunities for asking questions.

Wednesday 21st March. An in-house session, we will be discovering the merits of Tresco Abbey Gardens located on the island of Tresco in the Isles of Scilly. The 17 acre gardens are home to species from across the world's Mediterranean climate zones, from Brazil to New Zealand and Burma to South Africa. The face of the garden changes throughout the year. In spring flowers bloom weeks ahead of those on the mainland and in the autumn the reds, golds and ambers of the seasonal foliage contrast with the magnificent proteas, aloes and camellias. Come along to find out more!

Wednesday 18th April. This night will be dedicated to our annual AGM, followed by a garden related quiz and a plant swap.

Dates and venues for our summer garden visits will to be announced in the next edition of Chignal News.

The club welcomes new members and we're a very friendly, informal club where you don't need to be an expert to enjoy the varied talks, demonstrations and visits. All our meetings are open to guests and non-members. We offer a free 'taster' session so you can see if you would like to come along more regularly or join the club. For more information, please email gardening.chignalsmashbury@gmail.com or just turn up on the night.

Community Coffee Mornings



There are two monthly coffee mornings held in the Chignals on the first and third Wednesday of each month. The one on the first Wednesday is held at the Village Hall and the one on the third Wednesday in the United Reform Church.

The coffee mornings are a good opportunity to meet and get to know local people. We hope to see you at the coffee mornings - (we also serve tea!)



Damage to Chignal caused by Storm Fionn

As you many of you will be aware, Mashbury Road was closed by "The Rectory" for most of Thursday 18th January following the strong winds brought by Storm Fionn. A mature tree fell across the road, bringing with it a telegraph pole and electricity cable. The Parish Council would like to thank neighbouring residents who alerted the various public authorities to the issue. We were all impressed by the speed and efficiency of Essex Police, Essex Highways officers and engineers from UK Powernetworks and Openreach who responded very swiftly to restore our power and phones and to clear the road and make it safe by the end of the afternoon.



Community Orchard - three ways to help the trees

We have all noticed that the Community Orchard did not fare as well last season as it had the year before and the lack of fruit was disappointing. The ever-vigilant Orchard Committee have identified several factors affecting the trees and have leapt into action with three ways to tackle the problems.

The first is water - or lack of it. Our bit of Essex saw over a year of near drought from mid 2016 to late summer 2017. Visitors to the orchard will see that the mulch mats which are actually quite water resistant have been taken up and the soil around each tree loosened. When the tree roots have absorbed as much rain as this winter brings us we will put down a loose mulch which will make irrigation easier if we get another drought.

The second problem is pests and there are two main culprits. Little birds, which we love to see most of the time, spend late winter and early spring pecking off the highly nutritious buds on the trees. The result is bare branches and no fruit. From late February onwards you will see a variety of flapping, rattling and tinkling bird scarers among the trees. To be successful the element of surprise must be maintained so we will keep moving them around. If you are in the orchard please move them or swap them over to keep the birds guessing.

The other pest is aphid - blackfly and greenfly on the young shoot tips. We will be squishing them as we spot them. If you have work gloves with you please do join in.

The third activity has already happened. We don't know if Wassailing the trees has any impact but it can't do any harm so in January we held a terrific Wassail Night with the help of Good Easter Molly Gang and local residents. The trees were woken up, sung and danced to and wished 'Good Luck'.

Let's hope that all of these things together bring us good results.

The Orchard Committee

If you want faster broadband in the parish you need to take action.

At present only 28% of households in the parish have registered to show an interest to receive an improved fibre broadband service with Superfast Essex.

It Only takes 2 minutes to register on the Superfast Essex website, go to register your interest or use the link below

<https://forms.essex.gov.uk/default.aspx/RenderForm/?F.Name=gzoof7waFK&HideAll=1>

If you run a business from home you can register it in addition to your domestic show of interest.

After the failure to deliver fibre to each house in July 2017 the Parish Council have been pressurising Essex County Council and BT Openreach to install the planned fibre upgrade but at present we still have no firm date apart from the delivery being by Dec 2019.

Registering your interest with the providers does not commit you to a subscription but is used by Essex County Council to identify demand in an area before they commit to releasing funds and the priority for delivering additional infrastructure to provide a better service to the remaining 5% of Essex households without fast broadband.

It is in your interest whether you currently use the internet a lot or not to register. With everything from passport applications to tax returns, school home study and TV streaming being driven online it is in every

household's interest to ensure their house is future proofed. Broadband speeds are also now an important element of maintaining a property's value.

If you need help with registering please contact Steve Middleditch at steve.middleditch@btinternet.com or 01245 440569 I will be happy to assist.

As a possible alternative to waiting for BT/Openreach we have been in contact with FibreWifi Ltd which some households already use. They have told us they are willing to invest in additional masts to give coverage across the Parish, subject to the government grant being available for households with very poor broadband and sufficient houses in the Parish being interested. The Parish Council will continue to pursue this avenue and are currently checking to see if grants are available for properties in the Chignals.

Please register an interest it will not only help yourself but all residents in the parish. The more registrations we can achieve the quicker an upgraded will be delivered

St. Nicholas Church

Film Nights

Come and join us for our film nights

We will be showing The Shack, a powerful film about why bad things happen to good people, does God really care and the power of forgiveness. We are showing it at Great Waltham British Legion (opposite the war memorial) on Tuesday 20th February at 7pm for 7.30pm. The bar will be open, and the film lasts 2 hours with a chance to chat afterwards.

<https://youtu.be/waTEbgLYG-g>

We are also showing Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ on Good Friday This is a graphic portrayal of Christ's crucifixion, but it is spiritually poignant and powerful as a Good Friday meditation

1.15pm for 1.30pm- 4.30.

Again the film lasts 2 hours, with time to talk afterwards.

Rated 15

https://youtu.be/4Aif1qEB_JU

Services and Activities in March and April

As usual we will have Sunday services at Ford End at 9.30 am and at Great Waltham at 11 am.

Our **Mothering Sunday service will be on 11th March** so we will not have a service at St Nicholas on Sunday 18th March.

On Sunday 18th March at 5pm at Great Waltham church we will be having a 'Blue' Mothers service. This is a quieter service and we will be thinking about our mothers, and maybe why mothering is hard.

We will also be meeting for Morning Prayer and compline in the week before Easter around the six churches and we will be at St Nicholas on **Tuesday 27th March** at 8pm if you would like to join us.

As usual we will be having our children's event At Great Waltham on Good Friday from 10-12 and we will be doing craft, stories and a song as well as yummy refreshments. Children need to come along with an adult.

Easter this year falls on **1st April** and there will be a service at St Nicholas at 11 am as usual with Revd Neil Richardson.

Sunday April 29th 10.30am Joint service across all 6 churches with Dan Pierce preaching who is the new pioneer minister at Beaulieu. Venue tbc

St. Nicholas Church - Dates for your Diary

Quiz Night

On Saturday 17th March at the Chignals village hall from 7 for 7.30 pm, we will be having a quiz evening and raffle to raise money for the church. The cost is £5 per person for tables of 6 people. Bring your own nibbles and drink.

Come and join in the fun and support us! Please contact Nigel Bevitt-Smith for tickets on 01245440020

AGM

You are all warmly invited to our AGM which is at the village hall on Monday 16th April at 7pm.

Stewardship event - Save the Date

You are invited to come and join us for supper on Friday 15th June at the Village Hall for a stewardship event to hear about our vision for the future. We will be using this event to raise funds for the church.

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Articles to the editor by 16th April 2018 for next publication 4th May 2018