

No. 187
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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHIGNALS WITH MASHBURY

Chignal News

The Chignal's Litter Pick

Many thanks to all of you who turned out on the 11th March on a lovely spring morning to pick up litter and rather larger items of rubbish from our verges. There appeared to be a record number of litter pickers this year and we're delighted that residents from Little Hollows and Newlands Spring joined us for the first time.

Particular thanks go to Malcolm Feltwell, who did a marvellous job liaising with the City Council to get the pickers etc and organising the day and to Chris Philpot and Tony Towns who drove along relieving us of our full rubbish bags.

Community Event

A highly successful Community Event was held in the new Village Hall on Saturday the 22nd April attracting over 60 people from the Chignals. We were also delighted to welcome some of the new residents from Little Hollows. A presentation was given covering the results of the Parish Plan and the delivery of the action points arising. The latest Chelmsford plan was presented showing the possible locations and numbers of new homes in the Parishes around the Chignals together with concerns over the possible impact on services and transport. After refreshments including excellent cakes were served, progress was made towards resurrecting the neighbourhood watch and to forming a table tennis club.



In Memory of Ted Stearn 1944 - 2017

Ted, who was a Chignal's man, lived at Hawthorn Cottages, Chignal Smealey for nearly 58 years with his younger brother Bruce.

Sadly he died on February 18th in Broomfield Hospital of pancreatic cancer. Ted was one of 14 children, 11 boys and 3 girls. He had never married.

When he was 12, he was ploughing fields at Marsh House Farm near Fambridge.

He used to breed and show canaries with his brother Ray. He loved his garden and grew fuchsias and geraniums.

Ted worked for Hoffman Ballbearings until he retired at the age of 65.

Sadly missed by all who knew him.

Bowls Club

The club are very pleased to now be playing bowls in the wonderful new Village Hall and would like to say a huge thank you to all those involved in providing this community facility.

On Tuesday 18th April the club held their AGM. The evening started with the winners of the ladies and mens singles playing for the Bill Hawkes Trophy. This year Kathleen Huggett was the winner with Gordon Hillyear the runner-up. Presentations were then made to other successful players. Ladies Singles Winner – Kathleen Huggett, runner-up Sandra Francis. Mens Singles Winner – Gordon Hillyear, runner-up John Manning. Pairs Competition Winners – Sharon and John Manning, runners-up Marian and Peter Butcher. Well Done everyone!

The evening continued with the AGM where it was announced that the club finished fourth in the League this year. This was a good result considering we were playing at a different venue. The evening concluded with cheese and wine. We are now looking forward to settling into the new hall and the challenge of the new floor!

Friendly matches against other clubs have begun. We have played away matches at Great Waltham and Broomfield and look forward to hosting our first home match in the new hall against Tipps Cross in May.

Women's Institute



Our first meeting in the New Village Hall was our Annual Lunch, supplied by Mike Smail and his family. As always the tables were laid out to perfection and the meal was excellent. We were joined by twelve friends and new members, and our Essex W.I. Federation Centenary Banner was on show, as well as blankets and jumpers for our Charity in Ukraine and a well stocked Craft Stall. A very memorable and enjoyable meeting

Janet Campen.

Mashbury Maidens

Mashbury Riders swap four legs for two wheels to raise money for women's cancer charities.

Four Mashbury Hall liveries are in training to join 4000 other women to take part in 'Ride the Night – Women V Cancer' a 100km (62 miles) charity bike ride through London on May 27th. The event hopes to raise over two million pounds for three women's cancer charities: Breast Cancer Care, Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust and Ovarian Cancer Action. The ride starts at Royal Windsor Race Course and goes all the way into London to the Aldwych and then returns via a slightly different route through London back to the race course. If you would like to find out more about 'Ride the Night' you can do so on line. <http://www.ridethenight.co.uk>

The four friends all met while they had horses at Mashbury Hall Livery. Linda Nelson of Chignall Smealey, Jan Yeates of Writtle, Louise Claydon of Laindon and Carolyn Edwards of Good Easter, have all had friends or family touched by Cancer. They have designed special Tee Shirts with a night theme. It includes large stars for all of those that the four riders have lost to cancer and smaller stars for all those, that the four riders have, who have fought cancer and survived or who are still fighting cancer. It's a huge challenge and the friends who have called themselves the Mashbury Maidens do not normally cycle, most of them haven't cycled since their teens. They have dusted off their bikes and swapped their horse saddles for bike saddles.

They have a Just Giving page and would appreciate any donations for these three very worthwhile women's charities. Thank you. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/CarolynJaneEdwards>



Chignals & Mashbury

VILLAGE HALL FETE

Saturday 3rd June 2017 from 1 to 5 pm

Village Hall and Playing Field

**A fun day out for all the family
with FREE ADMISSION and PARKING!**

*STALLS • GAMES • PLANTS • BOOKS • CREAM TEAS • TOMBOLA • CAKES
RAFFLE • ART EXHIBITION • WHITE ELEPHANT • UNE LUCKY DIP*

Donations of prizes and items for the stalls would be greatly appreciated

Create your own Village Hall Competition:

Recreate our wonderful new village hall using whatever means and materials you have at your disposal - model it, bake it, paint it – use your imagination and bring along on the day to enter one of 3 child and one adult age categories.

Dog Show:

Bring your dog along and enter one of our dog related competitions: Dress your dog, waggiest tail, obstacle course...

Help and Donations Wanted:

Do you have any good quality books you are happy to donate?
Can you help on the day – either before, during or afterwards?

Please let us know (by 15th May please):

Kate on 0781 8047261 katemiddleditch@hotmail.co.uk

Gill on 01245 442474 thisisgill@hotmail.com

On the day donations of cakes, raffle, tombola and stall items/prizes greatly appreciated.

**Come along and enjoy the fun whilst supporting the Village Hall
We look forward to seeing you there!**

The Chignal Guided Tree Walk

Saturday 13th May, 10.00 – 12.00

This is a reminder of a guided tree walk that was included with Chignal News in March. Come and find out more about our wonderful native trees, plants, birds and other wildlife and the ways that trees and hedgerows are managed.

The Route: this walk starts at The Green in Chignal St James, where there is some limited car parking opposite the former St James Church, and finishes at the “The Three Elms” pub. It offers the chance to see a variety of mature trees, new plantings, meadows and arable land, managed hedgerows, thorn scrub and water areas.

If you are interested in joining this free guided walk, please contact Lynn Ballard, Chignal Tree Warden on Tel: 01245 440880 or by email: lynn_ballard@btinternet.com

Church of England Services in January/February

St Nicholas Church

Sunday 21st May, there will be no service at St Nicholas Church, instead we will be joining with Gt & Little Waltham, Gt & Little Leigh's & Ford End for a Rogation Sunday walk with worship followed by a bring and share lunch & licensing of Rev'd Sandra Sykes as a pioneer minister. She will no longer be our curate.

Meet St Johns Church, Little Leigh's Church car park **11 am**

Sunday 18th June 11am St Nicholas Holy Communion

Sunday 16th July 11am St Nicholas Holy Communion.

Weekly Sunday worship
9.30 am Ford End.
11am Great Waltham

If you would like more details please feel free to phone Helen on 440241.



Chignal Parish Council Meeting 13th March 17

Present:

Cllr Chris Anstey Cllr Steve Middleditch
Cllr Lynn Ballard (Chair)
Cllr Linda Nelson (Vice Chair)
Cllr Malcolm Feltwell Cllr Martyn Towns

In Attendance:

Cllr John Aldridge, Essex County Council
Mrs. Janet Mills (Parish Clerk) and 6 Parishioners

1. Apologies For Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Nicolette Chambers, Chelmsford City Council.

2. Register Of Declarations Of Interests

Cllr. Martyn Towns as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee

3. To Approve The Minutes Of the Monday 9th January 2017

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising From The Minutes

(a) Chelmsford Local Plan.

The timetable had slipped due to the delay in the publication of the new Government White Paper on Housing. The CCC Development Policy Committee on 9 March had agreed a six week public consultation on the Preferred Options between 30th March and 11 May 2017. Members from the Chignal Parish Council would be meeting other North West (NW) Parishes to discuss the Preferred Options, including a proposal to build 800 houses on the Warren Farm site. It was noted that the proposed new North West Relief Road had now been removed from the Preferred Options document. The Local Plan consultation documents would be discussed at the Community Event for Chignal residents which been arranged for 22 April in the Village Hall. A flyer publicising this event would be printed and distributed in the Parish.

(b) Responsibility for Local Ditches

A definitive guide as to who was responsible for the maintenance and repairs of ditches and culverts was needed. Cllr Feltwell would send a map showing the ditches, culverts and pot holes to the Highways department. It was hoped

that the Highways department could identify whether the ditches/culverts were the responsibility of ECC/CCC or private landowners.

(c) Bridleway 33

The Parish Council would need to make a bid to the Local Highways Panel for a "No Through Road" sign to be erected. Cllr Towns and Cllr Feltwell would take the matter forward.

(d) Openreach: phone service update

A good number of local residents had raised concerns regarding the phone services. Openreach advised the PC that they were investing in copper cables and were currently upgrading the cable network in the area: more work still needed to be done. With regard to Superfast Broadband, a survey of the Parish was still required: it was unlikely that this would be completed before the July deadline indicated on the Superfast Essex website. An Openreach representative would be invited to the next Full Council meeting in May.

5. Public Question Time

a) A member of the public gave a note of thanks to Cllr Feltwell for organising the recent very successful village litter pick event and made the suggestion that residents might like to organise another pick in October. The meeting was advised that residents could contact CCC for the necessary equipment or they could borrow the Parish Council's 7 pickers if they wished to undertake another event.

6. Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave the following report:

a) The Parish Council was to make an application for the Village of the Year Competition. Cllr Ballard would complete the application which was to be submitted by 7th April.

b) The Chairman reminded everyone that a Community Event to consult residents on local matters and to encourage volunteers to take the Parish Plan forward, had been arranged for 22 April 2017 in the new Village Hall. Everyone was welcome to attend.

Chignal Parish Council continued

c) The Chairman was sad to announce that the Parish Clerk had decided to retire at the end of March 2017. The Clerk had taken the Parish Council into a new era of governance and would be missed. A replacement would need to be found as soon as possible. The Chairman could be contacted should anyone in the parish was interested in the position.

7. County and City Councillors' Reports

Cllr Aldridge gave the following report.

a) **Rise in Council Tax** – In order to assist with the pressures on the social care budget, ECC had found it necessary to raise its Council Tax by 3%. Despite this rise, the additional revenue would not meet all the funding required to meet the current central funding deficit of some £40M over the next three years. The problem was compounded as there were no current plans to build new care homes and some existing care homes had plans to close.

b) **Accident and Emergency** - ECC were currently being consulted on the reconfiguration of A+ E services across Essex. The meeting was advised that ECC would not support the closure of the A+E department at Broomfield Hospital.

c) **Chelmsford Local Plan** – The Chelmsford City Council had the responsibility to develop and consult on the local housing strategy. There had been some changes to the original proposal set out last autumn. The Hammonds Farm proposal and the building of a NW by-pass had now been discounted. There was to be further consultation on a new proposal to build 800 homes on the Warren Farm site, West of Chelmsford. Whilst the number of homes had been considerably reduced, from the original proposals, local people still had major concerns regarding increased traffic and the existing roadway supporting infrastructure as this was not be fit for purpose.

d) Cllr Nicolette Chambers was not able to attend the meeting but could report that a Planning Officer had visited Gardening Express. It appeared that works are commencing to ensure the cars and other vehicles are parking within the site itself.

Cllr Towns as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee left the meeting

8. Budget Committee

The Chairman reported that the Committee had considered the following items for funding, in line with the Parish Plan Action Plan.

Reprinting Welcome Pack for existing residents: £167.00.

Printing maps and materials for Tree Walk on 13 May: £25.00.

Purchasing display boards: £455.50

Parish Plan Community Event on 22 April: £50.00

Members discussed and approved the funding of each item.

Cllr Towns as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee rejoined the meeting.

9. Applications for the use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funds

The Budget Committee had also considered an application for CIL funding for new chairs and tables for the Village Hall and made the following recommendation.

Recommendation: That the application for CIL funding to purchase chairs and tables for Village Hall at a cost of £5,589.69 plus £1,117.94 VAT be approved. Cllr Nelson raised and Cllr Feltwell seconded a motion to approve the application. With one abstaining the motion was carried.

Chignal Parish Council continued

10. Jubilee Orchard Sub-Committee

The Chairman reported that the hedge at the rear of the orchard had been cut the cuttings needed to be removed. The front hedge had now been cut by the CCC. A Spring Blossom event on 7 May involving traditional Maypole Dancing was currently being arranged. A full public Orchard Committee meeting was to be held on the 8th May at 7pm. Residents were welcome to attend.

11. Planning Applications

Decisions to Note: the following decisions were noted:

16/01093/OUT: Land South West of 213 Chignal Road, Chelmsford. Outline planning application for residential development comprising three dwellings.

Pending consideration.

Application Number 16/02125/FUL – Greenfields, Chignal Road, Chignal Smealey, Chelmsford - Description of works: Single storey front porch, two storey front and side extension, first floor rear extension with first floor terrace and balcony, new roof including a dormer and roof light.

Application Permitted

Application Number 16/02112/FUL - Barn 2, Chignal Hall Farm, Chignal Hall Lane, Chignal St James - Change of use of agricultural building to commercial storage use (B8)

Application Permitted.

New Applications- For Consideration

Application Number 17/00250/CUPAQ

Location: Barn South of Hillcroft, Chignal Road, Chignal Smealey. **Proposal:** Determination as to whether the prior approval of the local planning authority is required for the proposed change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house (Class C3) and for associated operational development.

This application was considered and the following comments were made.

The 'barn' in question appears to be a dilapidated shed on a former smallholding rather than an agricultural barn. We consider that there is insufficient evidence that the building was used as part of an agricultural trade or business. We would also question the relevance of the presence of a farm shop on the site of the neighbouring property "Hillcroft" in the past. The

shed is in a poor state of repair and no structural report has been submitted to demonstrate that the building is capable of supporting the loading associated with the proposed external works. The shed would need to be rebuilt substantially to meet domestic property building regulations. The proposed works, including removing the external cladding and roofing, would leave only a skeletal structure remaining. This seems to go beyond what could reasonably be described as a conversion and is in fact a fresh build. The curtilage of the shed as drawn does not allow any access to the front door on the south east elevation or any access to the north east elevation.

In the Chignal Villages Design Statement, (page 18) reference is made to "the trees and hedges in and around the good sized housing plots in the Woodhall area of Chignal Smealey helping to maintain the rural feel and the gaps between the properties emphasise the rural location by showing that there are no buildings behind". The need for any additional housing in this part of Chignal is being met more than adequately by the new residential development in the parish north of Copperfield Road. Lastly, we have concerns regarding access to this site as it has limited sight-lines on a blind bend, on to the Chignal Road. The Parish Council made similar comments in relation to a previous planning application for a house on this site (14/01320/OUT).

Chignal Parish Council continued

12. Representatives' Reports – To note

- a) **Playing Field** – The hedges had now been cut.
- b) **Village Hall Liaison**- The main building was now complete, the terrace would be completed within the next week.
- c) **Newsletter Including Website** – those present were asked to send articles etc for the next new letter and for the web site.
- d) **Gravel Liaison** – Discussions regarding the pedestrian access and access for horse riders were still ongoing. A progress meeting with Mr Dave Benfield would be arranged.
- e) **Community Safety**- Cllr Middleditch had attended a CCC meeting updating their major incident and local incidents plans. The PC had arranged a Community Day for 22nd April when it was hoped that volunteers could be found to take the village community safety and neighbourhood watch plans forward.
- f) **Highways**- A note of thanks was given to the Highways department for the repair of pot holes near The Green.
- g) **Footpaths/Bridleways** – A note of thanks was given to Highways for the excellent work undertaken to cut back the hedges and resurfacing the bridleways at Beadles Hall and Maple View to Dyers Hall. The damaged footpath sign between Holly Spring and Ivy Cottages had been reported.
- h) **Telephone Box** –A note of thanks was given for the planting of the tubs near to the phone box.
- i) **Tree Warden** – A guided 'tree walk' in the Parish had been advertised for 13 May.

13. Finance - The following was noted and approved

- a) **Balances in the accounts**, as at 31st December 2016 were: Current Account £ 25,371.16 and Savings Account £3,240.93.
- b) **Cheques issued since last meeting**
 - Taylor Engineering (hedge cutting) - £144.00
 - Chelmsford DBF Newsletter - £73.94
 - Cllr Anstey Parish Welcome Pack - £61.16

14. Correspondence for Information

The Clerk circulated local government newsletters and bulletins.

15. Late Urgent Business for Information

There being no late and urgent business the meeting closed at 8pm

16. Date of Next Meeting: Parish Council Annual General Meeting to be held Monday 8th May 2017, 7.30pm in the new Village Hall.

The meeting will be preceded by a Budget Committee Meeting to be held at 6.0pm and then an Orchard Committee Meeting at 7.0pm

The Public are welcome to attend all Meetings.

Wine Discovery

In March it was a delight to have our first meeting in our stunning new Village Hall and many complements were made about the venue.

Toby Webster from The Blackdog Wine Company presented wines from the Loire. Toby was very knowledgeable and gave an interesting presentation. The wines tasted were a Muscadet, a Pinot Gris rose, a Sauvignon Blanc and a Sancerre. Toby also brought along a Sancerre Rouge which was interesting as it is unusual to have a red Sancerre.

Finally we tasted an organic 2013 Cabernet Franc which we were told is a very good vintage.

For our April meeting we were expecting one presenter - Stephen Filbey of C2C Wines in Halstead. However, on arrival we discovered the presenters were in fact a duo from Nethergate Wines of Bury St Edmunds as C2C and Nethergate Wines had merged. Stephen Filbey and Charles Eaton from Nethergate Wines were a brilliant duo. We tasted some wonderful wines from Spain and Portugal which were all reasonably priced.

The wines tasted were:

Rioja Blanco, Conde Bel. 2015 Spain
Godello, Legar da Xestosa. D.O 2015 Spain
Rose, D.O.C Sequerinha 2014 Portugal
Rioja, Crianza 2012 Vina Valoria Spain
Reserva, Douro 2011 Sequerinha Portugal
Mistella, Castell di Siurana Spain – dessert wine
Ruby Port n/v Sequerinha Portugal



During the evening we gained lots of information about the Douro region and some interesting stories about vineyard owners. We are hoping to arrange a visit to one of the Duoro Vineyards next year where we may be treading grapes with our feet. Watch this space!

Joan Smith

Ward Surgery

Councillor Nicolette Chambers Member for Chelmsford Rural West

Will be holding her surgery at the Chignals & Mashbury Village Hall

On May 20th between 11am and 12pm

Please come along if you wish to discuss matters relating to the Chignals or Chelmsford Borough Council



Chignals and Mashbury Carpet Bowls Club

are looking for new members and would love
you to join them.

Where: Chignals and Mashbury Village Hall
Chignal St. James CM1 4TS

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays
7.30pm to 10.00pm

Cost: £5.00 yearly membership
£2.00 per night which includes
Coffee/Tea and Biscuits

Experience: No experience needed as full tuition
will be given

Equipment: All equipment is provided

Contact: Gordon 01245 231406 or just turn up
one evening and we will be pleased to
see you



Chelmsford's planning consultations - get involved!

Do you want to have a say on where new homes should be built, how your local area could be improved and where new services and facilities are provided across Chelmsford?

This is your opportunity to get involved with shaping Chelmsford's future.

Local Plan - Preferred Options Consultation Document

The draft Local Plan – Preferred Options addresses the needs and opportunities for future development growth, while protecting the environment. It sets out the number and locations for houses, jobs and businesses needed in the period up to 2036, along with other things needed to support growth, such as where children will go to school, where people will work, and how they will get around. The Local Plan also includes draft planning policies which will be used to determine planning applications; and boundaries for Chelmsford, South Woodham Ferrers and defined settlements beyond which development may be restricted.

Sustainability Appraisal (and Non-Technical Summary), and Habitats Regulations Assessment

It is very important that the Local Plan promotes sustainable development. To support this objective, an independent Sustainability Appraisal has been undertaken to test the proposals in the Preferred Options consultation. This assesses the potential social, economic and environmental effects of the document. It advises on ways in which any identified adverse effects could be avoided, reduced or mitigated or how any positive effects could be maximised.

It's also important to make sure the Local Plan respects recognised European habitat sites such as Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar sites, so a Habitats Regulations Assessment has also been carried out to identify any effects.

How do I find out more?

You can view and comment on the Local Plan - Preferred Options consultation document, its accompanying Sustainability Appraisal (and Non-Technical Summary) and the Habitats Regulations Assessment **until 4.45pm on 11 May 2017**.

We prefer receiving comments online, using our specially designed Consultation Portal. Using the Consultation Portal helps us to record your comments accurately and process them quickly.

Go to

www.chelmsford.gov.uk/planningpolicyconsult to:

- Read the consultation documents
- Make your comments
- Sign up for alerts to future consultations

For tips on how to register, or what to do if you are registered but have forgotten your login details, read our User Guide to find out more: www.chelmsford.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allId=54663

You can also read the consultation documents during normal opening hours in local libraries and at the City Council's Customer Service Centre, Duke Street, Chelmsford.

Paper copies are available to purchase by emailing planning.policy@chelmsford.gov.uk, telephoning (01245) 606330 or by writing to Planning and Housing Policy, Chelmsford City Council, Civic Centre, Duke Street, Chelmsford, CM1 1JE. Responses can also be made in writing and returned to the above email or postal address. A specially designed response form is available online at www.chelmsford.gov.uk/preferred-options

The Orchard

We have been finalising arrangements for our Spring Celebration in the Orchard to be held between 3pm and 5pm on Sunday 7th May.

We muted the idea of a maypole, but they are hard to get and very expensive, so we are running with a slightly different idea now.

Firstly, there will be a decorated half hoop adults and childrens' competition, whereby you can either bring a half hoop already decorated with ribbons, bells, flowers etc or you can decorate one at the orchard. (the pound shops are often good places to find materials). They will then be judged, before you can use them for a couple of May Day dances (or something similar). All ages are invited to join in the fun.

This event is a bring and share picnic, so we ask that you bring a platter of savoury or sweet for all to share, perhaps decorated with foliage or flowers to enhance the theme of the Spring celebration. The village hall car park will be open, and toilet facilities will be made available too. In the event of bad weather, we will hold the celebration in the Village Hall. Bring your own wine/beer or soft drinks with you.

Tea and coffee will hopefully be provided. You may also wish to bring a garden chair. So, we would love to see as many people as possible for a couple of hours on this Sunday - whether you want to join in the dancing or just come for a chat and a picnic, we look forward to seeing you there.

To prepare for this event we will be meeting at 10am on Saturday 6th May to mow the grass and erect the Marquee. if you could spare an hour to help with this, that would be great.

Our next working morning date is the 20th May at 10 am to do the usual cutting and tidying.

Kind Regards

Sandra and the Orchard Committee



The Chignalls & Mashbury
Jubilee Community Orchard

Table Tennis

Our wonderful new Village Hall is the perfect venue in which to play table tennis and at the Community Event a good number of people said that they would be keen to play. If there is enough interest the aim is to provide at least 2 tables to form the basis of a club to play social table tennis.

Ability levels will no doubt vary from beginner upwards and some of us may need to resurrect long unused skills. I would be really pleased to hear from anyone who would like to play and although I have the names from the Community Event, could **everyone** please say whether they prefer day time or evening.

David_lomas@live.co.uk

Gardening Club

Come and join Gardening Club members on our trips to five wonderful Essex gardens this summer.

Wednesday 17th May, 7pm: Woodhatch Farm Tawney Common, Theydon Mount, Epping CM16 7PU

The owner is a keen plantswoman. The gardens have been developed over a 10 year period including borders planted with Spring bulbs, flowering shrubs and trees. The garden has several landscaped ponds and a lake stocked with fish. Ducks and Moorhens in abundance. An orchard features close to the house. There is a recently developed 5 acre wild flower meadow. The working livestock farm is a short walk away with sheep and shorthorn cattle, and farmer available to advise. Vegetable garden and a greenhouse and organic meat from farm. Incredible views of the Essex countryside. Good flat well prepared paths throughout the gardens.

Cost: £5.00, including garden entrance, tea/coffee and cake.

Tuesday 6th June, 2 – 4pm: Kelvedon Hall, Kelvedon, Colchester CO5 9BN

Varied 6 acre garden surrounding a pretty C18 Farmhouse. A blend of formal and informal spaces interspersed with modern sculpture. Pleached hornbeam and yew and box topiary provide structure. Courtyard walled garden juxtaposes a modern walled pool garden, both providing season long displays. Herbaceous borders offset an abundance of roses around the house. Lily covered ponds with a wet garden. Topiary, sculpture, tulips and roses. **Cost: £7.50**, including garden entrance, tea/coffee and cake.

Wednesday 19th July, 7pm: Paternoster House Barnhall Road, Tolleshunt Knights, Maldon CM9 8HA

Peaceful 5 acre garden rescued from a derelict state 15 yrs ago. It has an enclosed flower garden, 2 meadows, orchards of apples, pears, stone fruit, mulberry trees and peaches. Ornamental kitchen garden with raised beds and extensive lawns with large shrubberies. Some rare and unusual shrubs (large collection of viburnums) and plants, young and mature trees. 3 beautiful ponds. Some vintage tractors and machinery. Chickens, mandarin ducks, guinea fowl, golden pheasants and semi-permanent mallards. **Cost: £8.00**, including tea/coffee and cake

All Day Coach Trip: 9.30am – 5pm, Thursday 27th July 2017

Hoses Hall, Carters Hill, Toppesfield, Halstead, Essex CO9 4LZ

Originally a Saxon manor given to Sir Roger Huse (also spelled Husee, Hose or Hosey) in 1312 by John de Buick, hence the name Hoses Hall. It has previously been owned by Lord Alan Sainsbury, Lord Plummer and Lord Beaverbrook. A large part of the existing building dates from the 16th century. The tythe barn dates from the same period as Cressing Temple. Well-stocked four-acre garden plus four acres of meadows with bulbs. Tour: Ground floor of house, guided tour of four-acre garden and four-acre meadow with stream and thousands of daffodils. Lunch is served in the tythe barn.

Refreshments: Coffee on arrival, two-course lunch with a glass of wine and coffee to follow.

Special restrictions: No photography in the house, no dogs, no stilettos. Because these properties are old and fragile, unfortunately they cannot accommodate children under 14. Disabled access: Wheelchair access to ground floor.

Shrubs Farm, Lamarsh, Bures, Essex CO8 5EA
www.shrubsfarm.co.uk

2 acres with shrub borders, lawns, roses and trees. 50 acres parkland with wild flower paths and woodland trails. Over 70 species of oak. Superb 10m views over Stour valley. Ancient coppice and pollards include largest goat (pussy) willow (*Salix caprea*) in England. Wollemi and Norfolk pines, and banana trees. Full size black rhinoceros. Display of Bronze Age burial urns. Large grass maze.

Tour with the owner, Robert Erith, which lasts about two hours with a gentle stroll to admire the views of the Stour valley, through their rare oaks to a wood which has some interesting trees and back through the park and then the garden. We'll have a look at the Bronze Age Burial Urns discovered by his father. Refreshments: tea in the C18th thatched Essex barn. There are plenty of places to stop and also places to sit for anyone who is not too mobile.

Cost: £45 (including tours, coffee, lunch, tea and coach travel).

To book any of these garden visits, please email: gardening.chignalsmashbury@gmail.com

St. Nicholas' Church

Were you there.....?

...when they performed the Passion Plays over four days leading up to Easter in Great Waltham Church?

The words of "*Were you there when they crucified my Lord*", were sung a cappella by tenor Jack Dixon from the back of the church concluding Good Friday's performance before the audience filed out to follow in the wake of the Roman soldiers taking Jesus (Matt Bradley) carrying the crossbar of his cross to Golgotha (Langleys.)

Over the four days, the players enacted Jesus and his disciples' journey via Bethany, with the help of a donkey, to the holy city of Jerusalem. The main part of Jesus was portrayed with sensitivity, yet occasionally extending into outrage. The iconic portrayal of The Last Supper was presented with the disciples taking part in the first communion which was then transformed by the appearance of Rev Caroline into a Eucharist for the whole audience.

On Good Friday the trail scenes were enacted. The conclusion had Christ leaving the church with a wooden crossbar on his back, accompanied by Roman soldiers. The twelve cottages and houses en route were symbolic of the Stations of the Cross that Jesus travelled to Golgotha. We had been warned by the director, Keith Derry, of the graphic and harrowing Crucifixion scene and so it proved. We saw Christ being hammered onto the Cross and lifted into the air. He hung there for many minutes and asked God to forgive mankind for his death. There was a loud clap of thunder which startled us and rooks from a nearby tree. The centurion (and producer), Michael Proctor, in the final lines asked God's pardon for his part in Jesus's death and somberly dismissed the crowd of over 250 people.

On Easter Sunday a full church was treated to a large stone tomb built overnight in the church. A group of women found the tomb empty and it was down to Mary Magdalene to pluck up the courage to visit and discover the risen Christ. Her joyous walk down the aisle declaring the Risen Lord was a memory to cherish.

This large-scale production was performed by an excellent team on stage and behind the scenes totaling about 90 people who produced realistic sets, scenery and wardrobe. 150 - 260 people both local and from further afield, attended and many spoke to us enthusiastically of the power of this performance.

(written by two people, one of whom was involved in the plays and one who came to see it)



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