

No. 198
May
2019



The Community Orchard in Bloom

Johnny Mount Pear



Apple Blossom



Quince Vranja



Carpet Bowls

The League Season is now over and the club has come fifth overall. The winter internal competitions have also come to a conclusion with the results being as follows:- Men's Singles Winner – Kevin Francis, Ladies Singles Winner – Sandra Francis and Pairs Winners – Sharon and John Manning. The Bill Hawkes Trophy was played for between the Singles winners, Kevin and Sandra. At the end of 7 ends the match was drawn, so an extra end was played with the outcome leaving Sandra as the winner - Well Done Sandra!

The club are now looking forward to the Summer Season playing friendly matches against other local clubs. So far we have played Great Waltham at home and Black Notley away and have won both matches.

Gordon Hillyear and Kathleen Huggett entered the Annual Wimbish Competition where they were very successful in making it to the final. Their opponents just managed to beat them but Gordon and Kathleen were very worthy runners up - well done to both of you.

The club were invited to a Charity Competition Day at Nayland - across the border in Suffolk! A team of 4 entered and had a very enjoyable day playing 4 games against teams unknown to them. The day became even better when it was announced they had come third overall. Very well done to all involved. At the end of April the club held its' 30th AGM. Many people have played Carpet Bowls over those 30 years and a good number of today's members joined on the very first day. Many Friendships have been made over all those years. At the meeting the Committee were re-elected en bloc and are now tasked with the responsibility of arranging events for the coming year. The meeting ended with food - cheese, biscuits, wine and cake to celebrate 30 years.

Socially, 12 members went to the Civic Theatre in February to see an excellent production of My Fair Lady.

As always we would love new members to join us. We are a very friendly, welcoming club.

For more information on the Carpet Bowls Club which meets in the Village Hall on Tuesday and Thursday evenings 7.30pm to 10.00pm contact Gordon Hillyear 01245 231406 or Yvonne Towns 01245 440189. COME AND JOIN US!

Women's Institute

Coming to our meeting on 6th June will be Eve Regelous with a talk entitled "Everything stops for Tea" which promises to be very enjoyable.

On the 4th July we will be holding our annual Garden Meeting at The Blue House. All W.I. members, past and present, and their partners are welcome to join us.

For our August meeting one of our members, Gloria Nichols, will be talking to us about "Town Twinning", a subject on which she has a wealth of knowledge and experience. In September Gordon Bailey, a metal detectorist, will be our speaker, it should be interesting to hear if he has found anything of value locally!

The W.I. will be having an information table at the Village Fete so please stop by for a chat.

Wendy Steele.

St Nicholas Church 'Bats In Churches Project'

See us at the fete on 1st June

An initial meeting was held at the beginning of April when Dr Honor Gay, Engagement Officer for the Church of England Bats in Churches project who visited from the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division, Church House, London. Honor met members of the community who are involved with this important heritage project.

The St Nicholas project aims to preserve the churches heritage artifacts, protect the bats that reside within the building and give residents the opportunity to understand and observe the three types of bats resident in the church.

We would love to see you on our stand at the Village Hall Fete on Saturday June 1st where you can find out more about the project and the bats that inhabit the Church. Representatives from the 'Church of England Bats in Churches project' and hopefully the Essex Bats Group will be on the stand to answer questions. The stand will feature an educational display on all things bats alongside crafty fun bat activities for the whole family.

A number of exciting projects for residents are also in the pipeline over the coming years including:

A Bat Walk:

To be held in September 2019?, featuring a masked family evening walk along footpaths to view



Dr Honor Gay Engagement Officer for the Church of England 'Bats in Churches project' Helen Towns and local residents met at St Nicholas Church.

bats in flight followed by tea and refreshments.

A Bat Detectives In The Church Night:

A family event viewing the known areas of the church where bats reside and exploring the history of the named soldiers on the church memorials.

We have already raised some funds to help with the project through the National Lottery Heritage Fund, proceeds from our table at the community table top sale and some kind donations from local residents. We are also approaching other organisations for grants to help develop and deliver the project and produce a permanent record of the project and a bat information board for the church.

A group of residents are also developing their cleaning and restoration skills by attending a heritage preservation training session at Holy Trinity church, Wimbish near Saffron Walden. Hopefully we will be able to minimise any damage caused by the bats and preserve our beautiful church for future generations.

If you would like to get involved and learn about bats please contact Helen Towns at graysfarmessex@gmail.com



This report will be considered at Monday 13th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Background to the Playing Field

Owned and maintained: by the Parish Council for “recreation

Annual maintenance costs: £700.00, (covers grass cutting only).

Income: hire policy approved 13th November 2017. Fees: £150.00 for exclusive use

Monthly activities: Chignal Croquet Club from April – October

Yearly events: the Village Hall Committee’s annual fête, first Saturday in June.

Other current activities: dog walking and informal recreation by local residents

Past activities: junior football practice; archery; Caravan Club; family fun days; wedding events connected to the Village Hall

Facilities: two benches; one goal post.

Car parking: parking on grass permitted only for organised use of the playing field and the community orchard.

Recommendations on ideas for using the playing field discussed at the Community Event on 9th February 2019

A. Ideas recommended for immediate action

1. Car parking for casual users of the Playing Field and Community Orchard

Vehicle access to the playing field needs to be controlled to prevent anti-social behaviour and illegal occupation. The main entrance gate is kept locked and is only opened for car parking associated with events and team activities held on the playing field and at the community orchard. A pedestrian gate adjacent to the main gate is open at all times. Any proposal which would involve moving the

position of the main gate would require planning permission and approval from County Highways. Given the restricted sightlines in the vicinity of the entrance gate, it is unlikely that permission for a new access would be granted. A possible solution would be to create a lay-bye on County Highways land to the west of the entrance gate, similar to the existing lay-bye on the eastern side of the gate. This might be large enough to park another 2 cars, without provision to turn around.

Recommendation: consult County Highways on options for creating some car parking spaces, such as a new lay-bye to the west of the main entrance gate.

2. Provision of a shelter in the playing field

Suggestions have been made by users of the playing field to erect a structure that could provide shelter from the weather, such as a pavilion or gazebo, with some additional benches. At present, the main use made of such a shelter would be by members of the Croquet Club, plus those visiting the playing field for informal recreation. Consideration should also be given to the needs of other potential users of such a facility.

Recommendation: that the Parish Council engages initially with the Croquet Club to understand their requirements for a permanent structure to provide shelter and then consults the wider community on possible types of shelters and their siting in the playing field.

3. Proposals for improving facilities for playing croquet

A report on the Croquet Club’s proposals was approved at the 11th March 2019 Parish Council meeting with a recommendation that options to improve the existing grass surface should be explored, such as hollow tineing and rolling.

Recommendation: that the Parish Council engages with the Croquet Club to explore possible ways of improving their existing playing surface.

4. New fencing around field to stop balls falling in the ditch.

Some sections of the fencing around the playing field may be in need of repair and some minor pruning may be required to overhanging trees and shrubs.

Recommendation: that the Parish Council undertakes a survey of fencing and hedges around the boundary of the playing field for consideration at its meeting in July.

A. Ideas for recreation facilities which require further evidence of demand

5. Basketball/netball poles and nets with hard-standing.

The introduction of an area of hard-standing for basketball shooting practice would not be appropriate in the playing field. Other options may be considered.

6. Outdoor Fitness equipment

The Parish Council requires evidence of local demand for outdoor fitness equipment. The City Council has installed a well-equipped area for adult fitness in Admirals Park this year and several residents use gyms in Chelmsford. Given the rural nature of the only two possible venues for adult fitness facilities, on the playing field and The Green, only low key fitness stations using natural materials would be considered appropriate.

7. Recreation facilities for young children.

Given the low numbers of young children resident in Chignal St James and Chignal Smealey, the Parish Council would require evidence of local demand for these facilities. Residents of Little Hollows have access to play facilities in nearby Newlands Spring. There are opportunities for children to engage in informal play in the playing field, The Green and Community Orchard. Any such play facilities considered should be appropriate to a rural area.

8. Goal Posts for short football

The playing field has one full-sized goal post which has been used for football practice by junior football teams from outside of the parish. As no teams currently practice on the playing field, consideration could be given to removing the goalpost and replacing it with two smaller ones elsewhere on the playing field for informal games. Costs would have to be obtained for removing the existing goal post.

9. Outdoor Chess.

If supported, this facility should be appropriate to a rural area.

10. Facilities for playing Boules.

The playing of boules requires a firm level surface. It has been played in the Three Elms pub car park. The Village Hall overflow car park may also be an appropriate playing surface for boules. If evidence emerges of sufficient demand for playing boules, the Village Hall Committee and the Three Elms pub would need to be consulted on whether they would accommodate an area for this game.

C Ideas for recreation facilities which will not be developed

11. Permanent outdoor Table Tennis Table in Playing Field.

Feedback from the Table Tennis Club is that they would not support such a proposal. An outdoor table tennis table would need a concrete non-slip surface 8m x 4m and the table itself, also in concrete, would need to be lifted into position by a crane. The total cost would be in the region of £7,000 – £8,000. In addition, the table would have to be sited somewhere out of the wind to provide the right conditions for playing outside.

12. Tennis Courts

This proposal is not supported as there are other tennis facilities that have been offered in the parish.

Conclusions

If approved, recommendations 1 - 4 above will be developed further and possible outcomes and expected costs reported to the next meeting of the Parish Council on 8th July 2019.

“FRIENDS OF THE CHIGNALS WITH MASHBURY”

Do you have an occasion when you need a helping hand?

If so, we can offer for example:

Assistance with Light Shopping

Help With Attending Appointments (Doctor, Dentist, Vets etc.)

Prescription Collection / Library Book Returns etc.

Help With Seeking Advice or Filling In Forms etc.

Companionship / Someone to Talk to

We realise that you may already have a kindly relative, friend or neighbour helping you in some way at the moment. However, on the odd occasion, there may be times that they are unable to be there for you. If so, please contact us between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. on any of the following telephone numbers: 01245 440241 – Helen, 01245 440528 - (Barbara), 01245 440880 - (Lynn), 01245 445245 - (Sandra), 01245 443497 - (Sarah)

01245 231758 – (Anne), Julia - 07798922219

We would especially like to thank Julia who has recently offered her help for the “Friends of the Chignals with Mashbury” venture.

Please leave your name and telephone number if we do not answer your call immediately. We will call you back as soon as possible to discuss your individual needs.

Please call us if you need help with transport to the ‘Coffee Morning’ held on the first Wednesday of every month from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Chignals & Mashbury Village Hall all are welcome.

Note: Please keep this notice handy as it might be useful one day.

Chignal Parish Council

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

Tel: 01245 360811 Email: Chignalpc@email.com

Clerk: Will Adshead-Grant

Chair : Lynn Ballard

Vice Chair : Linda Nelson

Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Meeting of the Chignal Parish Council held at the Chignal & Mashbury Village Hall, on Monday 11th March 2019.

1. **Chairman's Welcome**

Chair Cllr Ballard

Cllr Nelson, Towns, Feltwell and Anstey

Thanks were given for Cllr Middleditch's service over the last 6 years on the Parish Council.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Elwick

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

Cllrs Ballard and Feltwell (members of the croquet club).

4. **Public Open Session**

9 members of the public in attendance.

Concerns on the planning item 5.a. and the location being so close to a footpath

Request for the Parish News be issued a week earlier.

Suggestion for the Parish News be issued via e-mail.

5. **Planning**

a. **Reference: 19/00275/FUL**

Address: The Orangery The Green Chignal St James Chelmsford

Description of works: Proposed outbuilding.

Please return your comments to us by: 15th March 2019

Resolution: The Parish Council objects to this application

The proposed 8m x 5m building to provide storage and a garden room is substantial and large in relation to the garden area at the rear of the house. It appears to be of habitable construction rather than a shed or outbuilding. Conceivably, it could be used as a residential building by a simple conversion of the "Store Area" split into two to make shower room and WC with a small kitchen and then the main area into a lounge / bedroom.

It is noted that there is already a glazed conservatory at the rear of the property.

The outbuilding would have a flat roof which is not in keeping with the house or its surroundings. The rear elevation of the Orangery is already considerably further back than the neighbouring properties so this will impact on the sightlines from neighbouring gardens. The other properties in this row of 4 houses do have buildings in their gardens, but they are small sheds in comparison.

The development would impact on two public Rights of Way. Footpath 24 runs immediately adjacent to the proposed building so walkers would pass an 8 x 2.8m white rendered wall with no other features. The proposed outbuilding would also be visible from bridleway 33 which links The Green to ~~Cengy~~ Mill.

The site is very close to the water meadows bordering the river Can in an area of local landscape value which has a high sensitivity to development. The Chignal Villages Design Statement. (Page 21) recommends that developments such as extensions should not fill the available space as it is important in a rural community to provide views of the countryside

Chignal Parish Council continued

beyond. The scale of the proposed building is considered to be overdevelopment of this garden and a smaller storage building would be more appropriate. There should be a condition imposed to prevent residential occupation of this outbuilding.

b. **Update on the Chelmsford Local Plan**

The understanding of the Council is that The Plan is sound and the growth areas are to be retained,

c. **Progress report on the Persimmon Homes development**

The Haul road is in use. Drainage and roads have been laid and tarmacked. The Showhouse is being built. The revised road lay out is being reviewed for some aspects. Cllr Elwick to meet with the developer on 22nd March.

Chignal road junction has road due to start on the 14th March – 21st July to create the new turning areas.

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

- a. **Essex County Councillor Report** 2.9% Increase plus 1% Social care increase in the Budget has been approved.
Additional Council tax receipts than budgeted £2m.
£1mil to go into mental health
£0.5m going to prevent homelessness
£0.7m to be spend on footways
Library Consultation Tier4 – Broomfield and Writtle – Petition of 57,000 signatures. 29,000 online - survey responses
- b. **Chelmsford City Councillor Report** – Apologies sent

7. **To adopt the Orchard Sub Committee minutes of 4th March 2019**

Annual Meeting 13th May 7pm

Resolution: Adopted

8. **To confirm the full Council Minutes of 14th January 2019**

Resolution: Confirmed

9. **Representatives' Reports: to note**

- A) Playing Field Report on 13th May Meeting
B) Village Hall Liaison Overflow Car Park is in use. AGM has been held.
C) Newsletter Including Website Nothing to report
D) Gravel Liaison A meeting was held with Tarmac.
The Bridleway should be open in the Summer 2019.
There will be a gate at the other end of the Bridleway.
Dogs must be kept on leads.
E) Community Safety Request to sign up for the broad band service.
F) Highways (to include Hedges) No through road sign due to go up before the end of the month.
Potholes have been created by the weather.
G) Footpaths/Bridleways One issue to be passed to local landowner
Community Group have been checking the footpaths.
H) Telephone Box - Chignal St. James Nothing to report
I) Tree Warden 19th March for the wildflower plants at the new tree planting site on Chignal Road

10. **Finance:**

Account Balance :

Cheque Account	£ 6503.73
Saving Account	£ 26,047.04

Income (in figures above)

Chignal Parish Council continued

Income (Orchard)	£50
Vat Reclaim	£1089.99
Interest	£21.42

To Note Cheques signed between meetings

Cheque nr	Item	Cheque Value
100817	HMRC	£40.80
100818	ESSEX PENSION FUND	£57.58
100819	CLERK'S SALARY AND EXPENSES	£179.12
100820	CHIGNAL & MASHBURY VILLAGE HALL - CIL	£17,900

To Note Cheques to be signed and issued

Cheque nr	Item	Cheque Value
100821	Pension	£58.58
100823	HMRC	£41.60
100822	Salary	190.90
100823	Chelmsford DBF – Parish News	£141.55
100824	Cricket Club	£1662

Resolution: The Cricket Club grant is £162 higher than the grant. The Parish Council approved the increase.

Resolution The Cheques were all approved

11. Defibrillator:

Standalone Automatic - £850 and a Solar Panel machine is £1900

Proposal to put one inside the Village Hall with the Village Hall approval

Resolution: Parish Council Supports putting a unit inside the Village Hall subject to the agreement of the Village Hall Committee.

Proposal Cllr Anstey to source some training

12. Croquet Courts proposal

The Parish Council would consider a partial grant for improving the current playing area. They would not consider the full proposal of the croquet club. Writtle has an active croquet club Grants are available from Croquet Club England.

Resolution: The Parish Council report was approved.

13. Feedback from the Community Event, 9th February

To note and consider development of selected proposals at the next meeting
The feedback has been reported in the Chignal news.

14. Approval to purchase software for Chignal news: to be considered at future meeting

- a. CIL Bids proposed by the Orchard Committee: printing new Information Board, up to £230;
lightweight safety 8 foot ladder for pruning, up to £250.

Resolution: Approved

- b. Grant application for hall hire from Chignals & Mashbury Community Group: £120.00

Chignal Parish Council continued

Resolution: Approved

- c. Septic Tank Regulations 2020.
No additional information available at this point.

15. **Quotes on the Benches for the Orchard**

Green Oak Benches made in the UK from Sustainable trees.

Resolution: defer to the next meeting so that comparable quotes can be arranged.

16. **Items for next Agenda**

Items to be e-mailed to the Clerk

Meeting Closed 20:08

Will Adshead-Grant

Clerk to the Council

Next Mtg 13th May 2019 – 19.30

Orchard AGM – 13th May 2019 – 19.00

Chignal Parish Council, May 2019

The following six people have been re-elected as Parish Councillors for Chignal Parish without a contest. There is one vacancy which could be filled through co-option by agreement with Parish Councillors.

<u>Parish Councillors</u>	<u>Phone nos. & Email addresses</u>
Mr Christopher Anstey	01245 441406 chris@ansteyc.co.uk
Ms Lynn Ballard	01245 440880 lynn_ballard@btinternet.com
Mr David Elwick	01245 441138 davidelwick@outlook.com
Mr Malcolm Feltwell	01245 441070 malcfeltwell@gmail.com
Ms Linda Nelson	01245 442625 linda.nelson@btinternet.com
Mr Martyn Towns	01245 440189 the.tudors@hotmail.co.uk
Parish Clerk	01245 360811
Mr Will Adshead-Grant	chignalpc@gmail.com

Do you want faster 55mb fibre broadband ? Little Hollows and the unconnected properties in Mashbury Road* and Chignal Road*

(*From the Three Elms and Pig and Whistle PH's into Chelmsford)

You need to register

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

<https://forms.essex.gov.uk/default.aspx/RenderForm/?F.Name=gzooof7waFK&HideAll=1>

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

At present only a low percentage of households in the above areas appear to have registered their interest in receiving an improved 55mb fibre broadband service with Superfast Essex who are subsidising the instillation of Fibre Broadband.

Registering your interest with the Superfast Essex 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 a fast fibre broadband connection.

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 an important element of maintaining a properties 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.

Gardening Club

The dates for our four summer garden visits are:

Wednesday 22nd May at 7pm. The Gibberd Garden, Marsh Lane, Harlow, Essex, CM17 0NA

A grade II listed garden, it was created by Sir Frederick Gibberd, Master Planner of Harlow New Town and leading post-war architect. Acknowledged to be one of the most important 20th century gardens in the country, the garden occupies 9 acres of a 14 acre site. The garden contains plenty of sculptures for extra interest.

Cost: £8.50 to include tea/coffee and cake and an introductory talk.

Thursday 20th June at 7pm. Caynton Cottage, Church Road, Boreham, Chelmsford, Essex, CM3 3EF

A garden designed and planted since 2013 from a neglected and overgrown plot, it is planted with a good selection of shrubs and perennials for maximum all year interest with a small wildlife pond and dry stream.

Cost: £6 to include tea/coffee and cake.

Wednesday 10th July at 7pm. Keeway, Ferry Road, Creeksea, nr Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, CM0 8PL

Large, mature country garden with stunning views over the River Crouch. Formal terraces surround the house with steps leading to sweeping lawns, mixed borders packed full of bulbs and perennials, formal rose and herb garden with water feature. Plus a productive greenhouse, vegetable and cutting gardens.

Cost: £7.50 to include tea/coffee and cake.

Thursday 19th September at 2pm. Field Cottage, Pound Gate, Stebbing, nr Great Dunmow, Essex, CM6 3RH

Third of an acre plant lovers oasis reinvented in 2010 on a flat sandy site. The borders are packed with herbaceous perennials and shrubs for all year round interest with emphasis on drought and wind tolerance. There are approximately 40 different varieties of hemerocallis, chosen to flower at different times.

Cost: £5 to include tea/coffee and cake.

All our meetings are open to guests and non-members. For more information or if you wish to attend one of our garden visits, please email gardening.chignalsmashbury@gmail.com.

Kind regards,
Elaine

We need someone to become involved in researching Mashbury's World War One casualties?

A group of Chignal residents have been working on researching and preparing a display and exhibition in memory of the young men of Chignal parish who died in World War One.

We would like to invite any residents of Mashbury or the Chignals who would like to become involved and research Mashbury's WW1 casualties and incorporate their findings into the display and exhibition planned for November 2019.

As far as we know three men from Mashbury lost their lives and it would be nice to find out where they lived, what regiments they joined and any local or family history.

We plan to prepare a display and small exhibition to be shown at St Nicholas Church, North Melbourne Library and the Village Fete next year and hopefully The Chelmsford Museum and Highlands House.

If you would like to become involved please contact Helen Towns or Steve Middleditch.

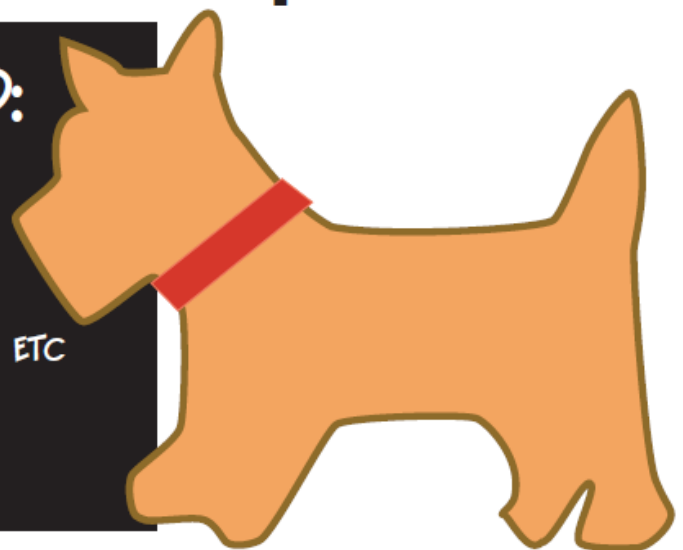
Fun Dog Show

At Chignal and Mashbury Village Hall Fete

Saturday 1st June 2pm

CLASSES TO BE JUDGED:

- 1: OWNER WHO LOOKS MOST LIKE THEIR DOG
- 2: DOG WITH THE WAGGIEST TAIL
- 3: BEST FANCY DRESS
- 4: DOG WHO WALKS BEST ON THE LEAD, SITS ETC
- 5: PRETTIEST/HANDSOMEST DOG



£3 ENTRY FEE COVERS ALL CLASSES. PRIZE FOR DOG WINNING MOST POINTS



WRITTLE GARDENS OPEN DAY



Sunday 9th June 2019, 12 to 6 pm

Opening Ceremony on Writtle Green at 12:00 noon

18 Village Gardens Open

plus

Morris Dancers

Children's Scarecrows

Plant Sales

Art Exhibition & Sales

Floristry Display

Admission by programme

£5 per person on the day from The Green

Accompanied children under 16 free

No dogs please

Refreshments available around the village

***Extra parking at Writtle University College's Lordship Campus
Car park and Brewhouse Hoppit (behind Co-op)***

**Information: Jean Pinkney 01245 421503
Peter Pegg 01245 420200**

***Writtle Gardens Open Day is organised by The Friends of Writtle
Parish Church, a charity that raises funds to help maintain the
fabric of All Saints Church (Charity Number 1130967)***



How will you **care** for your community this year?

Your support goes direct to local
causes in **YOUR** community



- Support Chignals Village Hall and we keep 50p from every £1 ticket
- You choose who you support – you know where your support is going
- Sign-up for £1 a week & support Chignals & Mashbury Village Hall
- There's also a chance to win a £25,000 Jackpot every week
- Start the new year knowing you are supporting your local heroes

To start supporting, visit:

www.essexlottery.co.uk

and search for: **Village Hall**





Are you a good listener?

We are looking for reliable volunteers with great listening skills to join our local team, providing emotional and practical support to people affected by crime.

Help people in your local community and learn new skills.

Full training provided, involving an extensive online learning course followed by a two day workshop on 23 & 30 September.

Interested? Have four or more hours a week to spare? Then we would love to hear from you.

**Call us on 01277 357557 or email:
essexvolunteering@victimsupport.org.uk**

www.victimsupport.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer

As an independent charity, we work for a world where people affected by crime and traumatic incident get the help they need and the respect they deserve. To find out how you can help us help more people visit victimsupport.org.uk/get-involved

Registered charity number 298028
Registered address: Victim Support, 1 Bridge Street, Derby DE1 3HZ
March 2016 | P2076 © 2016 Victim Support

Blossom Event at the Community Orchard

On 14th April we celebrated the beautiful sight of fruit tree blossom at the orchard. People who came along could sit in the shelter of the marquee (the wind was a bit nippy) and enjoy home-made and beautifully decorated cake and drink bountiful tea kindly supplied by Malcolm. Immediately outside the marquee the Improved Fertility pears were looking fabulous. Further down the orchard our now stately trio of Quince trees were in full bloom and hopefully promising another plentiful harvest.

Also looking gorgeous was the carpet of Cowslips which seem to particularly enjoy the wildflower area as that is now where they are most plentiful. Our next event, the Mid-summer picnic on Sunday 23rd June will celebrate the variety of wild flowers which will follow on from the cowslips. (Pictures on front cover)

Lyn put a photo of another pear in full blossom - Johnny Mount - in the invitation which went out to Orchard Friends. The Johnny Mount blossom was finishing by 14th April but every year there is a race between them and the Plum trees to be the first to flower. This year the Plum trees won by a few days. I feel there ought to be a rhyme to recognise this annual race like there is for Oak and Ash trees. Does anyone know of one? Another teaser for us is that we have learned that Johnny Mount pears are very small; about the size of a large gooseberry. So what use was made of the fruit which warranted a variety of pear being bred and grown especially for it? Another local orchard owner who grows Johnny Mount up at High Easter has suggested that this is an English version of the Dutch practice of serving tiny pears cooked whole with cold roast meat. Can anyone suggest another use that we can try?

For any questions (or answers!) about your orchard please contact us at chignal.mashburyjubileeorchard@hotmail.co.uk

Moira and the Community Orchard Committee

Quince Blossom





Future of library services in Essex

Now that the "Future Library Services Strategy Consultation" has concluded you may wish to know where things go from here in respect of the Tier 4 Libraries located in Broomfield and Writtle.

The County Council has invited parish councils and other organisations and groups, who are considering establishing a community managed library or alternative library provision in Tier 4 areas, to submit to the Council an "expression of interest". This offer remains open whilst the responses to the Consultation are evaluated.

Further information on the strategy and other key associated issues are available at the [Libraries Consultation homepage](#) This site will be updated as new information becomes available. To learn more about Community Library Services (CLS) including the tiers and proposals, please visit our dedicated web page at libraries.essex.gov.uk/libraries-consultation/community-library-services

The draft final strategy is expected to be presented to the Council's Cabinet in the summer of this year when it will assess all the consultation information and the proposed final strategy before making a decision on whether to approve this approach. Once a final strategy has been approved the plan is to work with interested parties in developing CLS in Tier 4 locations. Proposals for Tier 4 CLS do not have a specified window for development, but it is intended to work with community groups to ensure a smooth transition wherever possible. However, any Tier 4 library service closure approved as part of a final agreed strategy will start from the Autumn 2019.

Help our area on "Green Claims"

Claims that the County Council makes against a third party who has damaged Council equipment or assets are called 'Green Claims'. Every year Essex Highways writes off more than £500,000 because of damage caused by vehicle drivers to things like bollards, streetlights and guardrails. You can help to claim back the cost of repairs, by reporting details of collisions or other damage you may witness to the Green Claims Team at green.claims@essex.gov.uk. Should you be able to help, it is important to include key data such as:- Location (as precise as possible) • Description of item(s) damaged • Date and time of incident • Registration plate of vehicle and/or the description of vehicle • Photos of incident if possible. With this information the Team can claim from the driver's insurance company. All reports will be treated confidentially.

Essex Children's Social Care rated "Outstanding"

Following a period of assessment in November 2018 Ofsted inspectors judged the County Council to be "outstanding" in its services to children, with consistently high standards applied across the County. This is a testament to the dedication and commitment of all those who work for Children's Services in Essex.

If you have any problems about County Council matters please let me know on Tel. No. 01245 4121524 Mobile 07827 976997 or email cllr.john.aldridge@essex.gov.uk.

John Aldridge CC – May 2019

Mobile Customer Information Service

The Mobile Customer Information Service will be visiting Chignals & Mashbury Village Hall once a month on the first Wednesday between 10.00am and 11.30am, in conjunction with the Coffee Morning. Please pop along if you get the chance and feel free to pass this message on.

This is a free service and offers a range of help and advice to make our services more accessible. The Mobile Customer Information Service (MCIS) provides residents with access to all relevant information on their doorstep.

The team continues to visit 17 communities around the City every month. The service is usually targeted where public transport is perhaps less frequent, to make sure that residents with the greatest need for advice and support, such as the elderly, young families and those with mobility requirements, can access information and advice about Council services locally.

A range of enquiries are covered, including:

- advice on how to seek help with housing benefit or Council Tax
- reporting environmental problems
- FREE replacement recycling sacks and dog waste bags
- providing information on leisure, tourism, local issues and much more

Where possible, partner organisations attend sessions to promote services and to be available for enquiries. These include Essex Police, Essex Fire & Rescue Service, Citizens Advice Bureau and other Council Services.

Popular Misconceptions

It's not a Mobile Unit - Many people think that the MCIS operates from a vehicle. In actual fact, the service is delivered from Village Halls, shops, Post Offices and Churches.

Not just a bag delivering service - Distributing recycling sacks and dog waste bags is not all we offer. The service provides information about council services and events and the knowledgeable team can offer advice and support.

Essex Trail Events

Essex Trail Events will be at the fete again this year. If you fancy a 5.5 mile walk/jog/run on the local footpaths please come along from 12 noon to register, receive route details and participate.

More details at <https://essextrailevents.com/local-events-calendar>

St Nicholas APCM

This has been another good year for the church, and we are particularly grateful to the community for its support in many different ways. We asked you this time last year if you care about your church, and we now know that the answer for many of you is YES! It is so easy when we live in a community and know our neighbours and the beautiful buildings we have around us to take them for granted. Helen Towns and I had a meeting with Dr Honor Gay who is working with us from Bats in Churches and when we told her about the Community Orchard, the support from the community, the nesting boxes that have been made and the interest in our bat project she was amazed. She also thought St Nicholas Church was a real gem and had a lovely warmth, not only because of our new heaters, but the brick gives a warm feel. It is good to be reminded that we have something very special here in the Chignals with Mashbury.

This report is really a big thank you to all of you who support us in so many different ways: by coming to services, by helping to put them on, by flower arranging and cleaning, and by giving money particularly on a regular basis – more details below.

In 2018 we had an average of 10 adults in church, the same as last year. For such a small population this is no mean achievement and a percentage many urban churches would love to have. We had 72 for our Christingle service again, which is a very healthy number which continues to hold year after year. We had the christening of Jemima Reed in June – Mum and Dad, Jenna and Matthew got married here and we welcomed Jemima's 2 older brothers Hugo and Miles. They also came to the Rogation event in May warmly hosted at Grays Farm. Everyone from across the 6 churches enjoyed walking round, finding cider and soft drinks cooling in a stream. We had a feast including toasting marshmallows on a BBQ, but the highlight of the day was the tractor rides round the paddock and for me personally driving the tractor! We have had the weddings of 2 village families: Martin Money married Sarah Mitchell in May and Kyla Middleditch married David Flack in August. Both weddings were really lovely days.

As usual the fete was a beautiful day with sunny weather and we did messy things with paint with children large and small. It is always a joy to be part of the hospitality offered by this village to those who live here and those who come to enjoy the special day.

We had the funerals of three big characters in the villages: Myra Wilkins in April, Malcolm Hindmarsh in July and the service for Eve Pitts in October with the burial of her ashes on Mothering Sunday. Following Malcolm's burial there was a service at the chapel. Our thoughts and prayers are with Huw Wilkins, Irene Hindmarsh and family, Geoffrey, Sheryl and Corinne and all those who miss them.

Last year we had the Harvest Service in September so we didn't all gather at the community orchard and we noticed a drop in numbers so this year we are going back to having the harvest service the third week in October.

We are delighted in the developments of the bat project which is designed to enhance people's knowledge of bats as well as protecting the church and the monuments. We will have information about and experts in bats at the village fete, and are intending to have a bat walk and hopefully we will be learning how to clean the church and care for our memorials in September.

St Nicholas APCM Continued

We are so pleased about the community involvement and interest in this project. Helen has been taking the lead on our behalf, and is grateful for the expertise and support of Dr Jon, Nigel and Steve. We also have important links with the Community Orchard and the Chignal Nesting Box Project, and hope many more of you will get involved as this bat project unfolds.

On Remembrance Day we had a beautiful lightscape of white poppies projected onto the church, devised by Steve with the ingenious use of old overhead projectors. We then lit candles, entered the church ringing hand bells and all from babes in arms to older folk had a time of quiet reflection led by Revd Jackie. Hot chocolate and other goodies were then eagerly consumed.

Another interesting development has been finding out background information about the war memorial, which started with us realising that we didn't have people's first names and has led to so much more. Thank you to Steve Middleditch and Lesley Newell for researching this further and we look forward to the results. At our AGM Helen Towns raised the possibility of being able to archive documents and memorabilia and considering how we can do this.

The community again came up trumps with their support of the church at our vision and giving event on Thursday 15 June at 7.30pm at the village hall. Our keynote speaker was the Revd Janet Nicholls, who is the daughter of a farmer and an advocate for things rural in the Chelmsford Diocese. We were very encouraged by the response of the community which exceeded our expectations. We set out with a target of £3,000 a year as regular income for 10 years. We certainly have achieved that target for 2019 and we hope beyond that and also had one off donations in 2018 of £3,000, up from £200 the previous year. In addition collections in church went from £1,200 in 2017 to £2,300 in 2018. Thank you to all of you who came to our event, for your generosity and especially for those of you who contribute regularly to our church. We couldn't do it without you.

We have a small parish church council of Tony Towns, Linda Nelson, Nigel Bevitt-Smith and Cherry Scott but everyone works hard and brings their gifts and talents to the work of the church in this community. Helen sends out a monthly emails telling us about services and events and Joan Smith's team arrange the flower and we are thankful for those of you who clean and keep the church looking beautiful. After our services we offering delicious refreshments, which gives a good chance to chat and hear each others news. We are also grateful for our links with the Chignal parish council and Lynn Ballard.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to making this community, including the church in our midst, such a special place.

God bless you and those you love.

Revd Caroline Brown

Thanks also go to everyone who helped with the churchyard tidy up and Ken Mead for clearing the church guttering,

St. Nicholas Church Services & Activities

Rogation Service

Last year 62 adults and over 20 children gathered at Grays Farm, Chignal Smealey and walked round the farm finding cider and apple juice cooling in a pond, blowers and bubbles, finger torches for the kids. We blessed the crops and sung some favourite songs. We toasted marshmallows and squished them between chocolate digestives – very indulgent, had tractor rides and a feast!

This year on Sunday 26th May at 10.30am we are going to be hosted by Kate and Sam Squier at Humphreys Farm, Humphreys Farm Lane, Great Waltham, CM3 1EF. Put the date in your diary! Come and join in the fun!

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

Services at St Nicholas:

Sunday May 19th 11am Neil Richardson will be leading the communion service

Sunday June 16th 11am communion service with Sandra Sykes

Wednesday 19th June 9am Morning Prayer

Thursday 18th July 12 Midday prayer with group of 11 local churches led by Jackie Thornton

Sunday July 21st 11am Communion Service

Sunday August 18th 10.30 – all 6 churches coming together at St Nicholas so slightly earlier time

For your diary:

Sunday October 20th 11am Harvest festival – give thanks for the harvest and all our blessings

Note:

We don't have everything worked out yet so we don't know who are leading services after June or where Wednesday Morning prayer will be so we will let you know when we know!

Contact details:

Any questions about this please be in touch with:

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