

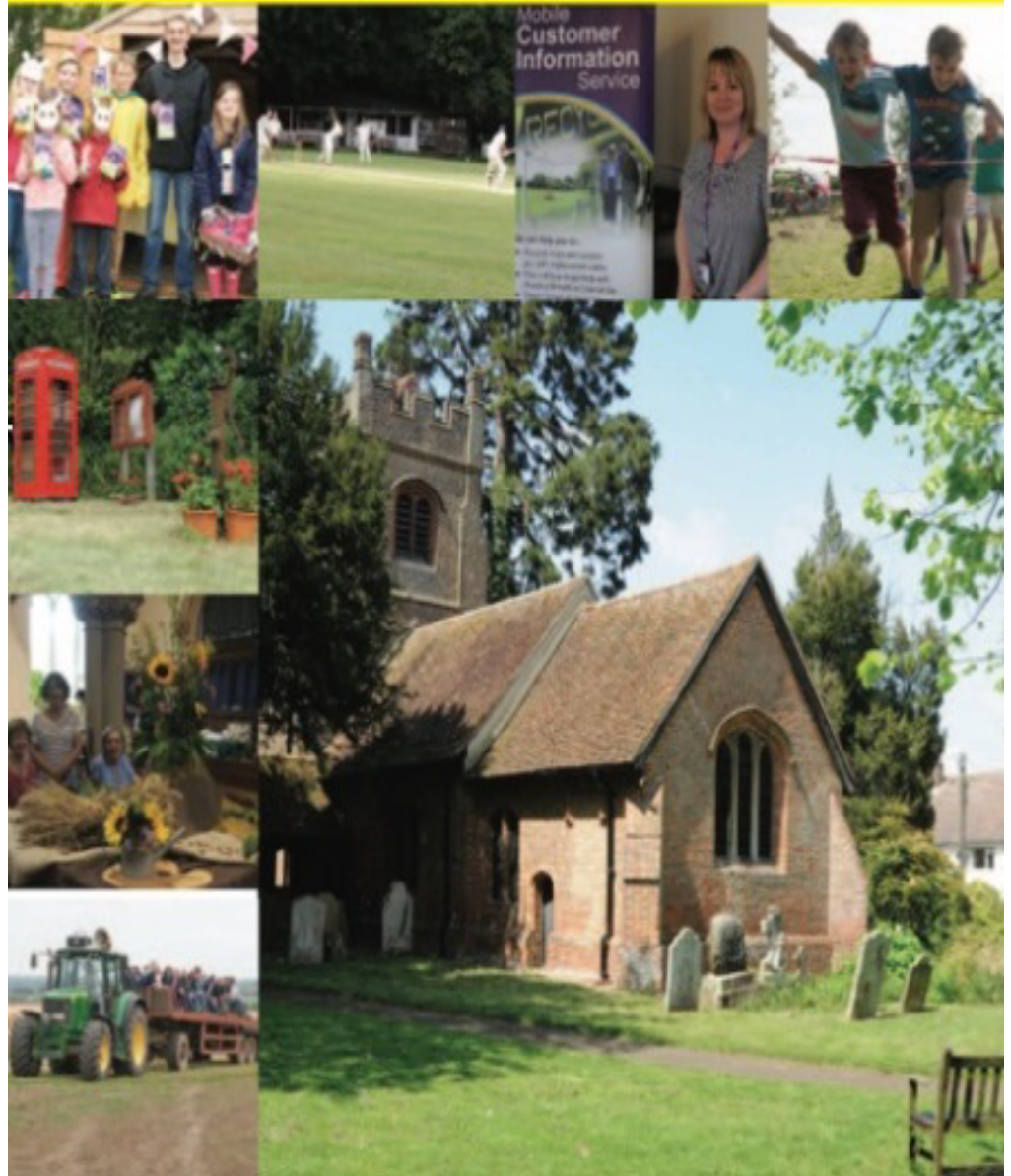
The Chignal's Welcome Pack

No. 186
March
2017



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHIGNALS WITH MASHBURY

Chignal News



The Welcome Pack can be downloaded from the Chignals' Parish Council Website at:
www.essexinfo.net/thechignals/assets/documents/welcome-pack-november-2016

Welcome Pack

One of the Actions identified in the Parish Plan process last year was the need for information to be available to new arrivals in the community. Sandra Bailey coaxed all clubs, societies, churches and Pubs to make contributions and splendid editing work by Steve Middleditch has resulted in the production of a highly presentable document. Future years may require just insert updates and the finished booklet may be of some interest to all existing households.

It is planned to make 'household' copies available at the Parish Plan Community Event at the new Village Hall on Saturday 22 April from 10am to 12 noon. Otherwise copies could be obtained thereafter from Lynn Ballard or Chris Anstey.

Please advise Sandra Bailey or myself (bevittsmith@homecall.co.uk) of any errors, omissions or suggestions for improvement.

Nigel Bevitt-Smith

Help keep the Village tidy and join the

Litter Pick

**Saturday 11th March
9.00 am**

Meet at The Village Hall,
Woodhall Farm or The Three Elms
High Visibility Jackets, Litter Picks,
Gloves and bags provided

A good way to get a morning of exercise.

If you would like to go out in the week
before, contact me

Malcolm Feltwell 441070



Women's Institute

At our recent meeting we had a talk by Linda Blunt who showed us the beautiful mountains and scenery of Nepal, but sadly this is an earthquake country, and the Chelmsford based Charity, Gorkha Development Scheme (info@nepal.co.uk<<mailto:info@nepal.co.uk>>) have been helping in many different ways such as setting up a Hygiene Programme in schools, funding jumpers, and repairs from earthquake damage.

On Thurs. March 2nd we have Pamela Maylin talking about the Life and Achievements of Helen Keller. 2 pm for 2.30 pm in the United Reformed Church.

Thursday April 6th we will be having our **ANNUAL LUNCH**, in the **NEW VILLAGE HALL**, supplied by Mike Smail and family, always a great treat.

Please contact Janet if you would like to join us, you would be very welcome.
12.30pm for 1.00pm

Janet Campen.

Welcome to 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
Joan	on 01245 440339
Gill	on 01245 442474
Lynn	on 01245 440880
Sandra	on 01245 445245
Sarah	on 01245 443497

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 • WINE LUCKY DIP*

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

Community Event

By the time you read this the new Village Hall should be finished and available for use. Our Parish Plan published last year identified a number of possible new activities that this building could accommodate. The Parish Council also has some funding which could be used to purchase equipment such as a table tennis table. Making full use of the new Village Hall, is just one of the actions that came out of the Plan: many of you expressed interest in making better use of our Parish paths, being kept informed about local events and setting up a Neighbourhood Watch network. To progress work on all of the Parish Plan action points we need up to date feedback and volunteers from the local community so will be holding a Parish Plan Community event in the Hall on Saturday 22nd April between 10.00am and 12.00pm

This will be a largely informal event and may for some of you be the first opportunity you have to experience our impressive new facility. Refreshments will be provided and children are welcome. We also hope to welcome some of the new residents from the Little Hollows development.

Bowls Club

The year started with the club playing the quarter-finals of the West Area Cup at White Notley. Unfortunately, we did not progress to the semi-finals.

The internal club pairs and singles competitions have now reached the semi-final stage with the finals being played in the next few weeks. The winners of the ladies and men's competition will play for the Bill Hawkes Trophy at the AGM on Tuesday 18th April.

Three members of the club entered the Essex Singles Competition at Braintree and Kevin Francis progressed to the final rounds. Two teams entered the Essex Fours but didn't progress past the round robin stages.

On the social side the club held their Annual Puddings Evening on 14th February. Our meal started with sausage and mash followed by a choice of around a dozen puddings all provided by the members. Some members managed to sample more than others!

Church of England Services & Activities in March/April

As usual we will have Sunday services at Ford End at 9.30am and at Great Waltham at 11am. We will not have a service at St Nicholas on Sunday 19th March as we will be having one on **Mothering Sunday 26th March** at 11am with the lovely Canon Chris Sly.

We will also be meeting for Morning and Evening Prayer in the week before Easter around the six churches and we will be at St Nicholas on **Wednesday 12 April** at 9am 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 **16th April** and there will be a service at St Nicholas at 11am as usual.

AGM

You are all warmly invited to our AGM which is at the village hall on Wednesday 5 April at 7pm. We will be able to let you know about our building updates including heating and replacement roof.

Passion Play

The rehearsals for our Passion play are going really well, the scenery is being painted and people are sewing loads of costumes. This year the Play will be based in Great Waltham on the following dates. It should be very special and well worth seeing.

6pm Palm Sunday 9th April

6pm Maundy Thursday 13th April – Great Waltham area

6pm Good Friday 14th April - Great Waltham area

11am Easter Sunday 16th April – as part of service

More details on the website for the Passion Play –

just google greatwalthampassionplay (also link from Great Waltham and Ford End Church website)



Chignal Parish Council Meeting 9th January 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
Cllr Nicolette Chambers Chelmsford City Council
Mrs. Janet Mills (Parish Clerk) and 6 Parishioners

1. Apologies For Absence

None

2. Register Of Declarations Of Interests

None

3. To Approve The Minutes Of the Monday 14 November 2016

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

4. Matters Arising From The Minutes

(a) Chelmsford Local Plan

The forthcoming City Council Development Policy Committee meeting of the 19th January had been cancelled. Consultations on the Local Plan had been paused whilst awaiting the Government's Housing White Paper which was now not expected to be published until later this month. The new legislation could change how housing numbers are calculated and in line with other Councils across the country, the City Council was pausing the process to allow a proper assessment, to ensure the Government thinking is reflected in the consultation document. The next meeting of the Development Committee was expected to take place on 9th March.

(b) Damaged Manhole Covers

It was noted that the work to unblock the pipe from the manhole cover on the verge outside Steven's Farm Barns had now been completed. The work on the ditch and piping opposite Stevens Farm was yet to be completed.

(c) Bridleway 33

The Clerk had contacted the Highways department about erecting a "No Through Road" sign: a reply was awaited.

(d) BT Representative

Just under half of the households in the parish (62 people) had been contacted by the Parish

Council via email on 27 November to ask about any current issues with their telephone service: 15 people responded by the next day. This represented a fairly even spread geographically. Their comments had been summarised and sent to the BT operations manager. The Operations manager acknowledged the problems but failed to send the requested update to this meeting. The matter would be progressed.

5. Public Question Time

a) With regard to Gardening Express, a resident advised the meeting that large lorries had been seen coming through the village during 'out of hours when the gates were closed at Gardening Express' premises. The lorries were turning around in Chignal Hall Lane and at the village Green.

b) A resident raised concerns regarding the resiting of a gate and a container full of Scrap Metal at Brittons Hall Farm. The PC agreed to take a watching brief.

c) A resident of Chignal Smealey again raised concerns regarding speeding traffic at peak times on the section of road from Copperfield Road and the Pig and Whistle public house. The proposed investigations into the development of new Green Swathes had not been favoured by residents that he had consulted. In answer to a question, the Parish Council agreed to investigate the installation of White Gates, a proven traffic calming method, at the entrances of the Parish.

6. Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave the following report:

a) The annual litter pick in the Parish would be held on 11 March. Local land owners had agreed to assist. The event would be given as much publicity as possible and will include the new residents in Little Hollows.

b) The Annual Parish Meeting would take place after the Parish Council Meeting on 13 March 2017. The Clerk would write out to local Clubs and Societies.

Chignal Parish Council continued

The new Parish Welcome Pack had been delivered to new residents at Little Hollows just before Christmas. The pack had been very well received. A note of thanks was given to Nigel Bevitt-Smith and Sandra Bailey who compiled the information, to Cllr Middleditch for the design work and to everyone else involved in the production of an excellent pack. This would be promoted in Chignal News and turned into a Parish Information Pack for existing residents.

7. County and City Councillors' Reports

Cllr Aldridge gave the following report.

a) **Flooding Outside Stevens Farm.** Cllr Aldridge noted the work being undertaken at Stevens Farm.

b) **Street Lighting** – In order to reduce electricity costs and improve the night time environment, a number of pilot projects were being undertaken. The new LED lamps which would stay on all night were being installed in Writtle.

c) **Winter Salts** – It was confirmed that in previous years the main roads would be salted as and when required during the winter season.

d) **Independent Living Project in Clacton** – ECC welcomed the project to build 68 independent living apartments in Clacton. This type of accommodation was 'need rather than demand led' and would provide for progressive support for residents during their latter years.

e) **White Gates Traffic Calming** – with regard to the matter of white gates raised in Public Question Time (above) Cllr Aldridge advised the meeting that a number of neighbouring parishes had installed these. A local Highways Panel form needed to be completed and a number of rules and regulations applied to the installation. The cost at other parishes had been between £5,000 and £6,000.

f) **ECC Chairman's Blog**- Cllr Aldridge reminded the meeting that his Chairman's Blog was now up and running and available to everyone.

Cllr Nicolette Chambers gave the following report: -

a) **Riverside Development**- Contractors had now been appointed.

b) **Homeless People** – Temporary housing pods for homeless people had been sited in Beeches Road and Navigation Road in Chelmsford. Having a temporary address provided homeless people access to local services such as schools and doctors' surgeries. The project was being monitored.

c) **The Chelmsford Museum**- The museum had applied and past the 1st stage for lottery funding to develop a new cafe and function area on the site. The museum would need to pass the second stage before funding would be guaranteed.

d) **Fly Tipping**- There appeared to be no real increase in fly tipping in the area. When tipping had been reported it had been cleared very quickly by the council. There had been an increase in the number of deer being killed and dead animals on the B1060.

e) **A&E Petition**- The Council was aware of the petition to down grade A&E services to a minor injuries unit at Broomfield Hospital. The NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be considering the matter.

f) **CCC Local Plan**

Cllr Chambers reiterated that the City Council was pausing the Local Plan process to allow a proper assessment, to ensure the Government thinking is reflected in the consultation document. The next meeting of the Development Committee was expected to take place on 9th March. The situation was unclear and Transport Plan was yet to be issued. Compulsory Purchase Orders by Central Government may occur.

g) **Mayor's Charity Function**- A function would be held in March. In particular, young Volunteers up to the age of 25 were to be celebrated.

Cllr Chambers would be delighted to receive names of those in the parish that meet the criteria.

Chelmsford West End Area- It was acknowledged that the West End area of Chelmsford looked tired and the facilities for coach travellers were less than satisfactory. There were no immediate plans to address the issues.

Chignal Parish Council continued

8. Budget Committee

The Chairman reported that the Committee had reviewed and with a minor change, agreed the format of the new Asset Register. The committee had noted that the new IT equipment and the shed in the Orchard had been included in the Parish Councils insurance policy. With regard to reviewing progress against the Parish Action Plan, all of January targets had been completed. March targets would rely upon the proposed public meeting to be held once the New Village Hall was open.

9. Jubilee Orchard Sub-Committee

The Chairman reported that a Spring Blossom event in May involving traditional Maypole Dancing was to be considered at the next sub-Committee meeting to be held on 3rd February. It was noted that the apple and pear trees in the orchard had been pruned ready for the spring.

10. Planning Applications

The Following decisions were noted:

Application Number 16/01679/FUL: The Willows, Mashbury Road, Chignal St James, Chelmsford CM1 4TX- Proposed swimming pool in private rear garden of existing dwelling. **Approved.**

Application Number 16/01760/FUL: The Orangery, The Green, Chignal St James, Chelmsford CM1 4TY. Proposed conversion of garage to habitable accommodation. **Approved 14/00976/MAT/1 to MAT/9** Western Parcel Land, North of Copperfield Road, Chelmsford - Material amendment to permission reference 14/00976/FUL (Residential development of 60 dwellings together with associated and ancillary development including access, roadworks to Hollow Lane, servicing, amenity space and landscaping.) **MAT 4 Approved**

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

The following New Applications were considered and the following comments were made.:

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 rooflight.

The following policies adopted by Chignal Parish Council are relevant to this application:

The Chignal Parish Plan, September 2016.

Objective 20: To support opportunities for local residents to improve their homes or to move to other properties in the Parish as a result of down-sizing, setting up new households or requiring additional care in line with guidance in the Chignal Villages Design Statement (VDS).

The Chignals Village Design Statement (VDS), page 18, refers to the area of the Parish, around Woodhall, Chignal Road in the following terms: “the extensive views of the fields to the west create an impression of spaciousness. The trees and hedges in and around the good-sized housing plots help to maintain the rural feel and the gaps between the properties emphasise the rural location by showing that there are no buildings behind”. “Extensions should be sympathetic to the property and in harmony with the surroundings. Extensions should not unduly affect adjoining residents and should not completely fill the available space” pages 20,21. It is considered that the proposed increase in the size of the property is appropriate to the plot and will be in keeping with the materials and design of the existing house. **Chignal Parish Council has no objections to this application.**

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). The following policies adopted by Chignal Parish Council are relevant:

Chignal Parish Council continued

Chignal Parish Plan, September 2016

Objective 25: To manage the impact of converting farm buildings for alternative employment purposes by engaging with the City Council to reduce the potential detrimental effects of such development on local residents, the environment and road safety.

Action 25.1 Chignal Parish Council to propose the following conditions in considering a planning application to change the use of a farm building:

1. No deliveries by HGVs using roads in the Parish;
2. No adverse impact on neighbouring properties and the local environment from noise, smell, air pollution and light pollution;
3. No working outside during evenings and week-ends that could have an adverse impact on local residents;
4. Business parking to be on-site.

It is accepted that all of the other barns on the Chignal Hall Farm site have been now been converted to commercial storage uses and that the applicant intends to re-locate his agricultural activities to Boyton Hall Farm.

The main impacts on the local community of this application for change of use to commercial storage in Barn 2 are the expected further increase in vehicle movements, both HGVs and other commercial vans, through the narrow lanes of the village and the potential disturbance to local residents from activity related to the movement of articles in and out of the building. There is no information in the application about the expected occupant of the barn or about the types of vehicles, frequency and likely number of vehicle movements to be able to gauge the likely additional impact on road safety and increased noise in the village. It is noted that the applicant is happy to accept restrictions on the number of heavy goods vehicles that can access the site in a similar way to the most recent planning application on this site for Barn 3b (15/00046/FUL), i.e., “no more than 20 Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) movements shall be made to or from the building per annum (an average of two per calendar month)”.

As each Barn used for storage on the Chignal Hall Farm complex generates its own HGV and other commercial vehicle movements, the impact is accumulative on local roads and increases disturbance to residents in Chignal Hall Lane.

Should this application be allowed, all of the other conditions, including restrictions on the use to long term storage (not distribution) and limitations on working hours and activity on-site, that were included in the decision notice for 15/00046/FUL should be applied to this proposed change of use to B8 commercial storage.

Chignal Parish Council has no objection to this application subject to the conditions imposed for 15/00046/FUL being applied to this application.

Representatives' Reports – To note

- a) Playing Field** – The hedges needed cutting. Concerns regarding damage to Croquet pitches during hedge cutting had been taken into consideration and would be catered for.
- b) Village Hall Liaison**- Internal works at the hall were now in full progress. It was expected that the Hall would be completed in March 2017.
- c) Newsletter Including Website** – The November edition which had been slightly delayed had now been sent out.
- d) Gravel Liaison** – Discussions regarding the pedestrian access and access for horse riders to the bridleway way were still ongoing. A progress meeting with Mr Dave Benfield would be arranged.
- e) Community Safety**- Details of Police contact numbers and emergency meeting places had been included in the Parish Welcome Pack. Community information, giving advice regarding ‘grab bags’ and house buddies, had also been included. With regard to Broadband, BT had completed the last tranche 3 months early and this had resulted in additional funding being available for some areas. North Chelmsford area, which included Chignal, should be connected by July 2017.

f) Highways- No further report at this time.

Chignal Parish Council continued

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. It had been noted at the last meeting that the Footpath sign between Holly Spring and Ivy Cottages in Chignal St James was damaged. Cllr Nelson would look into the matter.

h) Telephone Box – A note of thanks was given for the planting of the tubs near to the phone box.

i) Tree Warden – There had been no response to the letter sent by the Clerk to the landowner regarding concerns about the safety of the diseased/damaged branch of the Hybrid Black Poplar overhanging the highway on the bend between Brickbarns and Pieces Cottage. The matter would be taken up with the ECC Highways Tree Officer. A recent article in Chignal News about local Tree Wardens had proposed a guided ‘tree walk’ in the Parish. This may encourage residents to use local footpaths, learn more about native trees and hedges and the management of the countryside. A walk was to be arranged in May, perhaps to coincide with the school half term in order that local children could be included. Land Owners had agreed to assist with the event.

12. Finance - The following was noted and approved

a) Balances in the accounts, as at 31st December 2016 were: Current Account £ 25,650.26 (included another £3,373.19 Community Infrastructure Levy payment); Savings Account £3,240.93.

b) Cheques issued since last meeting

Sandra Bailey - £8.50 Orchard, Queen's B/Day event

Cllr Middleditch - £38.50 Parish Plan printing, PC Newsletter postage and bus fare to Councillors' workshop

Cllr Feltwell - £167.37 Orchard maintenance and padlock for playing field United Reformed Church - £180 meeting room hire

Chelmsford DBF – £80.39 November ‘Chignal News’.

13. Correspondence for Information

The Clerk circulated local government newsletters and bulletins.

14. Late Urgent Business for Information

There being no late and urgent business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

15. Date of Next Meeting: Monday March 13th 2017, 7pm in the new Village Hall. This will be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting to be held at 8pm.

A Budget Committee Meeting will also be held on Monday 13th March at 6pm in the new Village Hall.

Please note that all of these meetings are open to the public.

Wine Group

November 2016

In November two of our members gave the presentation. Andy Henderson presented three

Sparkling wines. The first was a Cava Conde Haro Brut 2013, the second a Cloudy Bay Pelorus NV and the third a Nyetimber Classic Cuvee 2010. All were very favourably received the third in particular being interesting as it is an English sparkling wine of excellent quality.

John Moorhouse led a vertical tasting which involves tasting three different vintages of the same wine. The wine was a Chateau Ramage La Batisse and we tasted the 2008, 2009 and 2010 Vintages. It was fascinating to see the differences between the vintages.

January 2017

Norman thought he would start the New Year off by doing a blind tasting for a bit of fun. All bottles were wrapped in brown paper so that nothing was revealed until the wine was poured. The idea is to test the tasters' skills by guessing the wine tasted. We all looked at the colour, swirled and sniffed the wine before taking a sip. Then we had to make a choice of Country of origin, Grape type and price range. We were given five choices of country and grape and three categories of price. One would think our wine group members would get a good percentage correct. However, it is not as easy as it sounds and not many of us would have got a distinction if it had been an exam.

The wines tasted were as follows:

White - Spanish Albarino priced at £8, an Australian Semillon at £9 and a Pouilly-Fume at £14

Red - Spanish Rioja priced at £7, a Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon at £7.93 and a French Cote de Nuits at £19.

Andy Henderson was the winner with a score of approximately 70%.

February 2017

This was a new experience for us as six of our female members each presented one wine.

Julia Embleton spoke to us about a Sancerre Rose from France, Pauline Rye's selection was a Macon from France and the final white was an Albarino from Spain presented by Joan Smith. The first red was a Cabernet Franc from the Loire Valley presented by Lynn Ballard, the second a Shiraz from South Africa presented by Sue Davis and the third a Chateau La Rame 2014, which is a dessert wine, was the choice of Sandra Bailey.

Everyone present agreed the evening was a success. Some of the ladies were a little apprehensive about giving a presentation but once the evening started they thoroughly enjoyed it.

The Orchard

Dear Orchard Friends

Firstly, we would like to wish you all a happy new year and look forward to seeing many of you again at the Orchard in 2017.

As we are now in February already, the Orchard committee have got together to put dates in diaries for our events this year.

Last year our cutting days were often hampered by bad weather, but we have put dates in the diary for this year in the hope that we can stick to them! The dates are as follows, with meeting times at 10am on Saturdays: - 18th March, 22nd April, 20th May, 17th June, 15th July, 19th August and the 16th September. Apart from cutting grass, there are often other jobs to attend to, so if you can spare an hour or so on any of these dates we would welcome your help.

Our next big event will be held on Sunday 7th May between 3pm and 5pm. It will be a May Day celebration where we celebrate the freshness of Spring and blossom on the trees. We plan to have a bring and share tea again - savouries plated and decorated with foliage and flowers and cakes similar with pastel coloured decoration as an idea. As for entertainment, we are running with the idea of a human maypole dance! and also a competition to decorate half a hula hoop to be used also in the dancing. (Have a look on Pinterest on the internet for ideas!) This is for children and adults alike! More information will follow before the event takes place.

The last date for now is Monday 8th May at 7.30, which is our Annual Orchard meeting to be held before the Parish Council meeting at the village hall.

Last year the plum trees suffered from what we think were a flock of birds pecking away at the new growth. Before this happens again this year we are looking to hang bird scarers on these trees - this will have to be done in the next few weeks. We are asking that if you can get creative and make a scarer to hang on a tree in the next couple of weeks that would be great. Take up to the orchard any time and leave on the outside table for one of us to hang up. the more creative the better!! Yet again, have a look on the internet for some ingenious ideas from recyclable materials!

So, get googling for inspiration for bird scarers and hula hoop decorating and look forward to seeing you at all or one of these dates.

Kind Regards

Sandra and the Orchard Committee



The Chignals & Mashbury
Jubilee Community Orchard

Gardening Club

Hooray – Spring is on the way. The daffodils on The Green are flowering, the bees are buzzing and our gardens are starting to wake up.

Back in January a bunch of hardy souls braved the cold and damp to get stuck into pruning apple trees courtesy of Elaine, Kate and Steve, three of our members who let us loose in their gardens. Before we wielded our secateurs, loppers and saws, Darren Lerigo from Modern Mint talked to us about why we should prune and how to do it with confidence. It was lovely to finish the morning warming up by the log fire in the ‘The Three Elms’ with steaming bowls of soup.

The morning was deemed a success so we’re looking at other types of practical sessions in each other’s gardens. Ideas welcome!

In February Ian Tinton from Woodview Garden Maintenance encouraged us to sniff and handle samples of composts made in the Lake District that contain wool from Herdwick sheep mixed with bracken and volcanic rock dust which adds minerals and trace elements to soils and composts. Ian, a gardener himself who lives in Halstead, came armed with photos that showed the impressive results from using these peat free composts to grow container plants and to mulch and improve difficult soils. Many thanks to Barbara for baking us some really scrumptious cakes to end the evening.

On next meeting will be on **Wednesday 15th March at 7.30pm** when Richard Ayres will speak about “Anglesey Abbey Gardens”: the stunning winter garden and the snowdrops are well worth a visit. We are delighted that we shall be able to meet in our wonderful new Village Hall although all of us have really enjoyed the intimate and cosy surroundings of the Chignal Chapel over the last year and Irene and Malcolm have made us feel very welcome.

Our AGM will be held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 19th April at 7.30pm**. This is a very sociable evening with a quiz and plant swap.

Our summer monthly garden visits start in May: we’re planning three evening visits and a full day coach trip at the end of July. More details in the May edition of “Chignal News”

We are a very informal club and give a warm welcome to newcomers. All of our meetings are open to guests and non-members and as a special incentive, we can offer you one free “taster” session so you can see whether you’d like to come along more regularly and join the club (a bargain at only £2.00 a year).

For more information, please contact Graham Andrews (Chairman) on 01245 442625 or Lynn Ballard (Secretary) on 01245 440880, email: gardening.chignalsmashbury@gmail.com

Community Coffee Mornings

There are two monthly coffee mornings held in the Chignals on the first and third Wednesday of each month. At the moment, they are both held at the Chignal Chapel, United Reform Church in Chignal Smealey. 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!). The 1st Wednesday in April will be in the new Village Hall..

North Melbourne Library

Hello here is the latest news and events being held at the library:

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 (except this April)

Saturday 4th March – 2.00pm

Saturday 8th April – 2.00pm

Meet the Author – Ben Kane

‘Massacre in the German Forest, AD9’

Come and meet historical writer Ben Kane who will be giving an interesting talk on Rome’s greatest defeat in Germany.

Saturday 1st April - 2.30pm

Free – please call in to book your place

Adult Craft Club

Come and join in with our friendly group for an afternoon of creative craft making. Have some time to yourself to work on your projects in a social environment. Bring any crafts you have from home such as knitting, card making, origami, sewing etc

Tuesday 21st March – 10.30 – 11.30am

Tuesday 25th April – 10.30 – 11.30am

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 may have.

Saturdays – bookable AM or PM sessions

Starting from:

aturday 18th March - 10.00 - 11.00am (then fortnightly)

Saturday 25th March 25 - 14.00-15.00pm (then fortnightly)

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

Progress with the New Village Hall



Letter to the Editor

Having recently come across your website and after reading extracts from your latest magazine I felt I had to reply.

My name is Gordon Gentry and eighty two years ago I was born and lived in Chignal Smealey along with my two brothers and sister, we all lived in Hawbush bungalow Chignal Smealey which stood on the corner of Chignal road and Waltham road I doubt if it is still stands now.

My parents' names were Sydney and Ivy, my sisters name was Eileen and my brothers names were Derek and Brian sadly now all have passed away and there is only me left.

Reading your magazine brought back happy childhood memories and it is good to know that the village is still alive and active.

Sadly most of the people I knew in my childhood will now have passed away but some of the names I remember were the Turners who kept a lot of chickens next to our bungalow and ran the concern as a business, the Frenches who ran the Pig & Whistle pub, the Harringtons and the Staplers and the Pannels who all lived next to each other in the council houses. I can also recall the name of the man who owned the farm at the end of the lane I believe it to be Townes, who had a son whose name was Tony.

I lived in the bungalow until I got called for National Service in 1953 after discharge I found it hard to settle so I left home and got myself a flat in the centre of Chelmsford near the railway station, where I stayed until I moved to my present home here in Pinner in 1979.

I also remember the vicar whose name I think was Mellor. I can remember as kids we used to go scrumping in the vicarage orchard. I can also recall walking to the school in all weathers, no buses in those days, our teachers were two ladies Miss Day and Miss Fewell.

One thing I forgot to mention the cricket club my father play for the team for a number of years and after his playing years were over he umpired for them it was him who got me interest in the game sadly now I am too old to play I can't run fast enough between the stumps.

Good luck in all you and your committee are doing to inform local people of happenings and for keeping village life alive.

Regards Gordon

Gordon (left) and his wife Wendy (right) at his granddaughter's wedding



St. Nicholas' Church

Mothering Sunday

One of the services I love in the year is Mothering Sunday – kids singing songs that include love for their Mums, and giving flowers or simple posies to everyone who'd like one and saying thank you for the people round us who offer us love and care every day, the ordinary stuff of ordinary lives.

And I remember a time when I hated Mothering Sunday services, and found them really difficult. When I was growing up I had just assumed I would be a wife and mother, it was part of the unexamined assumption of who I would be. Yes I wanted a career, but I assumed that this would mesh into family life. It was not to be. When I was 38 I knew I couldn't have kids and I wasn't married anymore. I remember going to a Mothering Sunday service full of flowers and how wonderful Mums are and I felt completely at sea and that where I was being ignored. Then I realised it was a tough day for other people, like a girl who'd lost her Mum to cancer, and someone else whose Mum was still alive but they weren't on speaking terms.

Fast forward to now where I lost my Mum two years ago, as is true for many of us of about my age, and again it is good to be able to acknowledge this together with other people.

While I love the services we will have in the morning of 26 March (St Nicholas at 11am) celebrating Mums and their love for us, and how this gives us a great picture of how God loves each one of us, we will also pray for those of us who find this day difficult. This year for the first time we are trying something new. In the evening at 5pm at Great Waltham church we will have a Mothering Sunday service, (which will include a simple communion but don't let this put you off), which will acknowledge that mothering can be painful and difficult for us, because Mums aren't perfect, or are no longer with us. The service won't last more than an hour and will be followed by tea and cake. We would love you to come.

Revd Caroline Brown

New Noticeboard

You may have noticed our wonderful new notice board – it looks very smart and we are grateful to Ken and Hazel Mead for making it and donating it to the church.

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