

No. 197
March
2019

New Trees & Wildflowers on Chignal Road

Before



After



Community Meeting 9th February



Carpet Bowls

Since the New Year the club have played 5 League games, all of which have been enjoyable, friendly and in some cases very successful. At the time of writing the Club are 5th in the League with 3 matches to play. When not playing League games, members are partaking in Internal Competitions and club roll-up nights where we practice against each other and have plenty of fun.

Unfortunately, due to illness only one pair went to the Essex Pairs weekend at Potters Leisure Resort, where they had an enjoyable time but didn't progress further than the round robin games. A team played in the Essex Fours at Braintree but again didn't progress past the round robin games.

Socially, the club enjoyed a Valentines social, when sausage and mash was served, followed by a wide choice of desserts and there were quizzes to keep our brains active! A team of members entered a Quiz Evening organised by Chelmer Village Carpet Bowls Club and narrowly missed winning, coming one point behind the winners. Despite this it was a very enjoyable evening.

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

Our March speaker is Ann Hardy who will be telling us about her life as a Theatrical Costumier.

If any of these talks appeal to you, please come along, visitors are always welcome.

We meet in the Village Hall on the first Thursday of the month, meetings start at 2-30 pm.

Wendy Steele.

Chignals & Mashbury Community Group

Table Top Sale

at The Chignals & Mashbury
Village Hall, Mashbury Road

Saturday 13th April 2019

Sellers 9am-2pm

£5.00 per table + 10% of takings

Free Public Entry 10am-1pm



Tea, coffee,
bacon rolls and
delicious cakes
for sale



To book a table, contact Julia Emberton on:
07798 922219 or
julia.emberton@sky.com

Chignals & Mashbury Wine Discovery Group

The February meeting was led by Dave who presented a range of wines sourced from Laithwaites, all from the Rioja region of Spain. One of the favourites was a young red Rioja, made from the Tempranillo grape, called Baron de Barbon. It was peppery with liquorice overtones and great value at £7.99 in the January sales.

Dave also took the opportunity to remind us about how the cost of a bottle of wine is made up. Hopefully the chart below is clear enough for you to see that the actual cost of the wine itself in a £5 bottle is surprisingly low – just 30p! All the rest of the £5 goes on taxes, transport, packaging and the profits for the various parts of the supply chain. The key message is that by spending a little bit more, the cost devoted to the actual wine jumps dramatically from this low base. You're therefore likely to be drinking a higher quality product – maybe the wine has been aged for longer or made from vines with a lower yield and therefore more intense flavour.

Sue Davies

VINONOMICS AUTUMN BUDGET 2018

UK WINE PRICING UNCOVERED

Following the recent budget announcement, as of 1 February 2019 over half the price of a £5 bottle of wine will be tax and just 30p will pay for the wine itself. The good news is that if you spend just a few pounds more, you get a lot more for your money.



Chignal Community Event - 9th February 2019

Review of potential community and recreation projects

Forty people participated in working groups at the Community Event to discuss potential new community and recreation ideas and to learn about developments in the parish over the last 12 months.

A summary of the comments made on these projects and ideas was emailed to those who attended the Community Event.

A working group of Parish Councillors has reviewed the projects ideas, (and the comments made by residents), and has made the following initial recommendations on how these could be developed.

High Priority

Village Hall

1. Installation of a sound system: *survey required by Village Hall Committee.*

Community Orchard

2. New Orchard Information Board: *bid submitted by the Orchard Committee to Parish Council for CIL funding*
3. Training courses for orchard volunteers: *Orchard Committee in discussion with Chelmsford City Council Parks and Open Spaces service.*

Community Facilities

4. Update the Welcome Pack for new and existing residents in September 2019: *bid for CIL funding to be submitted to Parish Council and financial contribution to be sought from Persimmon Homes.*

5. Defibrillators in the Village Hall but also in other accessible locations in the Parish, along with appropriate First Aid training:

Village Hall Committee to provide information on a defibrillator in the hall and other locations and training to be considered.

6. Small marquee for community use: *Parish Council to establish demand and submit a bid for CIL funding to the May Council meeting.*

Medium Priority

Village Hall

7. Improvements to hot air circulation: *survey required by the Village Hall Committee*

8. New sewage disposal system, if required to comply with new legislation: *survey required by the Village Hall Committee*

Playing Field

9. Small car park, (3 - 6 spaces) to serve Playing Field and Orchard for casual users: *report to the 13 May Parish Council meeting on future uses and facilities for the playing field*

10. Proposals for improving facilities for croquet, although still some concern about sustainability and fencing off part of the field: *separate report to the 11th March Parish Council meeting.*

11. Shelter/pavilion: *report to the 13 May Parish Council meeting on future uses and facilities for the playing field*

Chignal Community Event - 9th February 2019 - Cont

Community Orchard

12. Safety tripod ladder for tree pruning: *bid submitted by the Orchard Committee to Parish Council for CIL funding*

Low Priority

Village Hall

12. Cut back trees between Village Hall and Playing Field to open up views from Village Hall: *report to the 13 May Parish Council meeting on future uses and facilities for the playing field*

13. Move the electricity pole outside the Village Hall: *this work could not be funded by the Parish Council's CIL money.*

Playing Field

14. Basketball/netball poles and nets with hard-standing: *evidence needed of demand and whether a club would be formed to manage the facility.*

15. New fencing around field to stop balls falling in the ditch: *report to the May Parish Council meeting on future uses and facilities for the playing field*

In addition to the projects that were presented to the working groups, several suggestions were generated at the event. Additional information would be required on demand, venues, facilities, management, costs and sustainability to bring these ideas to fruition.

a. Permanent outdoor Table Tennis Table in Playing Field: *Table Tennis Club invited to draft a proposal to be considered as part of the report to the 13 May Parish Council meeting on future uses and facilities for the playing field*

b. Outdoor Fitness equipment: *this should be appropriate to a rural area and possible venues explored such as The Green and Playing Field.*

c. Recreation facilities for young children: *this should be appropriate to a rural area and possible venues explored such as The Green and Playing Field.*

d. Goal Posts for short football: *consider in the report to the 13 May Parish Council meeting on future uses and facilities for the playing field*

e. Tennis Courts: *not supported as there are other tennis facilities nearby.*

f. Outdoor Chess: *this should be appropriate to a rural area and possible venues explored such as The Green and Playing Field.*

g. Facilities for playing Boules: *possible venues in the Village Hall overflow car park and behind "The Three Elms".*

h. Monthly Talks at Village Hall: *Parish Council may consider a grant once the talks have started and demand established.*

i. Improve surface of entrance way to Playing Field: *consider in the report to 13 May Parish Council meeting on future uses and facilities for the playing field*

Lastly, a range of other ideas were put forward at the Community Event held in 2018 which would require champions to develop them: afternoon teas, lunches, tea dances, parasols and crèche for the village hall; archery facilities; and a flag pole, beacon and village signs.

Chignal Parish Council

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

Tel: 01245 360811 Email: Chignalpc@gmail.com

Clerk: Will Adshead-Grant

Chair : Lynn Ballard

Vice Chair : Linda Nelson

Meeting of the Bi-Monthly Meeting of the Chignal Parish Council at the Chignal & Mashbury Village Hall, on Monday 14th January 2019.

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chair highlighted the sad news of the passing of the previous Parish Clerk Janet Mills

Chair Ballard

Cllrs Anstey, Feltwell, Elwick, Towns, Nelson, Middleditch

2. Apologies for Absence

None.

3. Register of Declarations of Interests and request for dispensation

Cllr Ballard, Middleditch and Feltwell – members of the croquet club but non-pecuniary – Item 12

Cllr Towns – Chairman of the Village Hall committee – Item 14

4. Public Open Session

9 members of the public.

It was highlighted that on the Chignal road, near pieces cottage some construction waste on private land.

The Village Clear up – item 17 was highlighted.

5. County and City Councillors' Reports

- a. Essex County Councillor Report - The Planned change to the Hollow Lane junction with Chignal road is likely to go ahead with Hollow lane given priority. The lighting will be used at 'risk' areas on the new Hollow Lane. Library Consultation both Broomfield and Writtle are Tier 4 so at risk. North Melbourne library is used by several residents. The Consultation is available on line. Bus consultation underway. Children's services have been Ofsted as 'Outstanding'. Council tax will be capped.

- b. Chelmsford City Councillor Report – Apologies received

6. To adopt the Orchard Sub Committee minutes of 9th January 2019

Resolution: Adopted

7. To confirm the full Council Minutes of 12 November 2018

Resolution: Confirmed

Chignal Parish Council continued

8. Representatives' Reports: to note

- A) Playing Field Nothing to report
- B) Village Hall Liaison AGM of the Village Hall Mon 25th Feb 2019.
Provisional Car Park Contractor selected.
Shed selection has been delayed for other works to complete.
Hall is well used.
- C) Newsletter Including Website Bumper edition of the Chignal News issued.
Website requires updating.
- D) Gravel Liaison No progress on the bridleway.
No entry sign has not yet been in place.
- E) Community Safety Essex Crime rate increased by 11% (2 incidents Chignal)
FPPC looking to double the police precept
Chelmsford City Council updated on Village Hall for emergency needs
Fibre broadband reaching up to 50 mbps
Library Consultation for the future of Essex Libraries.
- F) Highways (to include Hedges) Nothing to report
Roadside Verges – Plant-life recommendation – Survey of Areas need marking for reduced cutting.
- G) Footpaths /Bridleways Due to dry weather the majority are in good condition
Community Group are surveying the furniture on the footpaths
- H) Telephone Box - Chignal St. James Nothing to report
- I) Tree Warden Nothing to report

9. Finance:

Account Balance:

Cheque Account	£ 5,935.06
Saving Account	£ 46,025.62

Income (in figures above)

3rd dec **£19.25 interest**

To Note Cheques signed between meetings

Cheque nr	Item	Cheque Value
100801	Orchard Expenditure	38.97
100802	DM PAYROLL	36.5
100803	CAS INSURANCE	40.52
100804	ORCHARD EXPENDITURE	39.87
100805	SALARY	165.86
100806	HMRC	40.80
100807	CHURCH NOTICEBOARD COMPANY	14.40
100808	PENSION	57.58

Resolution: All Payments approved

Chignal Parish Council continued

To Note Cheques to be signed and issued

Cheque nr	Item	Cheque Value
100812	ORCHARD EXPENDITURE-Cllr Feltwell	224.43
100800	TREE SURGEON – OWL BOX	300
100809	Pension	57.58
100813	HMRC	40.60
100814	Salary	162.91
100810	EEAOP- ORCHARD TREES	51.85
100810	Broomfield Parish Council - Consultants	948
100815	Chelmsford DBF – Parish News	130.51

Resolution: All Payments approved

10. **Chelmsford Local Plan:** update and approval of expenditure on consultants
Expenditure of £1000 was approved at a meeting on 10th September 2018
The Inspector will make a decision by March 2019.

Resolution: Payments of £948 was agreed.

11. **Defibrillator:** progress report
Location at the edge of the Village Hall Car Park.
Defibrillator is £999 for semi-automatic and up to £1535 for a fully automatic.
Electrical work may be required along with the Unit and a suitable cabinet.
Total Works estimated at £4400

Resolution: Expenditure of up to £5000 approved

12. **Croquet Courts proposal:** report on public consultation
As advertised in Chignal News, wider discussion needed with residents across the parish at a Community Event on 9th February on the types of leisure activities and facilities that should be provided in the Chignals, (a priority in the Parish Plan);
Further consideration of the proposal for constructing croquet courts and future uses of the playing field at the Community Event;
Additional information required by the Parish Council on the long-term intentions of the Croquet Club with regard to the development of the club, frequency of play and maintenance of the grass surface, (watering, cutting etc) plus an estimate of initial set-up costs of constructing the courts and on-going costs of watering, services and tools and equipment to maintain them in good condition
Outcomes of the discussions at the Community Event to be reported to 11th March meeting of the Parish Council.
Managed Sustainable Activity ideas will be sought.
13. **Community Event, 9th February:** approve agenda
Cllr Anstey and Middleditch Volunteered

Chignal Parish Council continued

14. Community Infrastructure Levy

- a. Report on projects awarded CIL funding:
 - i. shed and overflow car park for the Village Hall;
 - ii. Nestbox project;
 - iii. benches, mulch, trees and irrigation tubes for the Community Orchard;
 - iv. Tree planting on Chignal Road verge (Planting End of January) ;
 - v. Parish noticeboards.
- b. Approval of applications for CIL funding: erection of large nestboxes on trees.

Resolution: Additional Expenditure of £300 approved

15. Hearing problems in the Village Hall: request to the Village Hall Committee to consider possible improvements

A microphone system was used throughout the meeting.

Request for feedback and opinions to be sent in to the Village Hall committee

16. Planning Matters

- a. **Draft Warren Farm Master Plan:** approve Parish Council's response

Resolution: The response was approved.

- b. **Persimmon Homes development: update**

Landscaping – new native hedges and trees will be screening the new lane.

Highways – Lighting, illuminated bollards and illuminated signs seems very urban.

Contact Persimmon direct.

17. Parish Litter Pick: approve date in March

Resolution March 16th 09:00

18. Approval to purchase Stationary for Cllr Middleditch to do marketing / PR posters

- a. Pack 100 A3 laminating pouches £9.59 (Last order £15.71 2015)
- b. Pack 100 Avery A3 inkjet Poster Paper £42.94 (last order £28.62 2016)
- c. Pack 100 Avery A4 inkjet Poster Paper £29.42 (last pack donated by CA)
- d. 10 x T007 T009 Bland and Colour Cartridges £17.95 (last order £18.00 2016)

Resolution: Expenditure approved

19. Approval to purchase software for Chignal news

Adobe editor being reviewed but its an annual fee

Defer to next meeting

20. Items for next Agenda.

- a. **Cil Bids – Orchard Committee**
- b. **Septic Tank Regulations 2020**

11th March 7pm Parish Council Meeting

11th March 8pm Annual Parish Assembly

Meeting Closed 21.34

Will Adshead-Grant

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 two remaining dates for our 2018/19 winter programme in the Village Hall (7.30pm start) are:

Wednesday 20th March. Lorna Shaw from the Essex Wildlife Trust will be delivering a talk on gardening for wildlife.

Wednesday 17th April. Our annual AGM, followed by a quiz and plant swap.

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. We offer a free 'taster' session so you can see if you would like to come along more regularly or join the club.

For more information, please email gardening.chignalsmashbury@gmail.com or just turn up on the night.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Neighbourhood Watch is a national movement with nearly 2.5 million members, where people come together to make their communities safer and stronger and encourage people to look out for each other.

Neighbourhood Watch doesn't have a command and control structure, but volunteers liaise with a local co-ordinator who operates at a Local or District level.



At last years Community event 21 residents expressed an interest in having a Chignal community watch group in place throughout the parish. So far we have only received one volunteer to cover their local cluster of houses. If you are willing to volunteer to cover your local group of houses and liaise with the Parish co-ordinator to get the scheme of the ground please contact Steve Middleditch.

Steve.middleditch@btinternet.com

Cricket Club

We are arranging our preseason work party soon so some activity will be seen down the cricket ground.. hedges being cut, nettles knocked back, grass cutting etc.. We will also be finishing off the last bits with the roof/electrics.

We would like to invite anyone that's interested to come and see the work we have done on the roof. Our first home game is 4th May so maybe this would be a good time to see the completed work?

The cricket club would be happy to help with preparing the playing surface for the croquet club etc. Please let us know.. we will help where we can.

James Mawer

North Melbourne Library

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

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

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

Community Tea



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

Once a month on a Saturday at 2pm.

13th April, 11th May, 8th June

We continue to have 6 to 8 ladies and gentlemen who regularly join us for their monthly get together.

Community Led Scrabble, North Melbourne Library



Every Tuesday 2.00pm – 3.00pm

Please drop in for a fun game of Scrabble.

Rhyme Time & Community Led Stay & Play



Every Friday Morning

11.00 – 11.30 – Rhyme Time

11.30 – 12.00 – Stay & Play

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

Block Builders Construction Club



Saturday Morning 10.00 – 11.30

Mar 23rd, Apr 6th, Apr 20th, May 4th, May 18th, Jun 1st

North Melbourne Library

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

Adult Craft & Knitting Club

Get creative and join in the fun twice a month.

Tuesday – 10.30 – 11.30am

19th March, and 2nd April, for further dates contact the library please.

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

Forthcoming events.

To be confirmed on the library website.

**The Libraries Consultation closed on 21st February.
Thank you to all those who took part.**

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 Tablet sessions, fortnightly on a Saturday, when you can ask our staff any questions you may have.

Saturdays – these sessions are bookable.

Saturday 10.00 - 11.00am (fortnightly)



Please call 03330 132682 to book a slot and bring your own tablet along to the session

New Trees & Wildflowers on Chignal Road

You can't have missed the stunning new copse that has just been planted on the wide open green verge alongside Chignal Road, near to the junction with Copperfield Road. This scheme has been funded through a successful bid made by the Parish Council to the City Council for non-allocated surplus Community Infrastructure Levy money that had been paid by developers of Little Hollows. The City Council's Parks and Open Spaces service has worked with Chignal Parish Council to design, implement and manage the planting scheme.

A total of 52 trees will be planted, (15 English Oak; 7 Upright Oak; 15 Lime; 15 Norway Maple) along with 25,000 bulbs, (Daffodils and Crocus) and wildflower plug plants.

This new planting provides a landscaped buffer between the rural agricultural environment of Chignal St James with the hard edge of the built up area of the Newlands Spring estate and the new housing areas to the north of Copperfield Road. The project fits well with the Chignal Parish Plan's top priority to retain the rural identity of the parish.

It has several benefits:

- a. It will improve the visual interest and aesthetic value of this featureless open space that is mowed on a regular basis by the City Council on behalf of the County Council Highways;
- b. It will increase the bio-diversity of the area through the introduction of native and pollinator rich plant species which will provide habitats and food for local wildlife.
- c. It will improve the water holding capacity of the site and provide shade and improve heat absorption in hot summers;
- d. The planting of trees will improve air quality and help manage carbon emissions;
- e. The landscaping will serve to slow down vehicles travelling along Chignal Road by providing a greater sense of enclosure.

If you would like to help with the wildflower plug planting, please come along to the site on Tuesday 19th March from 2pm – 3pm.

For more information, please contact Lynn Ballard on 01245 440880.

Orchard News

Your Orchard Committee and Friends have been busy preparing for 2019 after a difficult 2018 due to “the Beast from the East” and the hot dry summer.

Three of the apple trees have been recently replaced. One with the same variety, Monarch, and two with a vigorous Essex desert variety, Tun. At the end of the winter, natural fertiliser and mulch will be applied round the trees to encourage growth.

The orchard now boasts a new shed which provides more space for equipment and supplies for maintenance and events. Thanks go to all who kindly donated time and boundless energy to extend the existing foundations and erect the shed.

Malcolm Feltwell, Chair, Orchard Committee.



Andy, Malcolm & Chris busy constructing the new shed.

There are three exciting events planned for 2019:

Spring Blossom Event
Sunday 14th April

Mid Summer Picnic
Sunday 23rd June

Fruit Celebration
Date to be confirmed



Barbara and Andy installing an irrigation tube in one of the 4 new apple trees. Two new “Tun” apple trees, (traditionally grown in Chignal Smealey) and another “Queen” and “Pearl” have been planted.

The orchard is always open for all to enjoy !

Would you like to become a Chignal Parish Councillor?

In May 2019 we will elect up to seven councillors to represent the parish for a maximum of four years. Some existing councillors may choose to stay and stand for re-election but it is likely that that we shall have some vacancies to fill.

Why become a Parish Councillor?

There's more to being a parish councillor than sitting in meetings in the village hall.

Many people seek to sit on the council because they want to give something back to their community: they are proud of it and want to protect its interests or help bring about change for the better. They wish to speak for the residents and make sure their voice is heard in any important decisions affecting the parish. Basically, they want to help. Their job is therefore to be active in the community, know what local people's views are and faithfully represent them to the parish council.

By becoming a parish councillor you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support. Seeing your community change for the better, as a result of decisions you have helped make, is something that can give you a sense of achievement.

What decisions do Parish Councils make?

Parish councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. Probably the most common topics that parish councils get involved with are planning matters (they are statutory consultees), crime prevention, managing open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities.

It's true to say that on their own, parish councils have limited powers to make decisions. But they do have the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence, those other organisations that do make the final decisions (such as the City Council, County Council, police etc).

In this respect parish councils are extremely powerful. The organisations that make the final decisions know that a parish council gives the best reflection of how a community feels about something, and its views will be taken seriously.

How much time does it take up?

Chignal Parish Council has a full meeting every two months in the village hall in Chignal St James to which members of the public are also invited. Meetings usually start at 7.30pm and usually last two hours, depending on the agenda. In addition to the regular meetings, councillors may be required to attend other meetings representing the council: for example acting as a representative on an outside body, community activities or helping develop a new project. Such meetings don't happen every day, so it's not going to take over your life.

Chignal Parish Council Elections Continued

Am I eligible to be a Parish Councillor?

First of all, you must be eligible to stand for election. To be eligible you must be **18 years of age or over**, a British or Irish citizen, or a citizen of a Commonwealth or European Union country, and have at least one of the following qualifications:

you are on, and remain on for the duration of your term of office, the electoral register for the parish, and/or

you have occupied, as an owner or tenant, land or premises in the parish for the whole **12 months** before the date of nomination and the date of the election, and/or

your main or only place of work during the whole **12 months** before the date of nomination and the date of the election is in the parish, and/or

you have lived within **3 miles (4.8 km)** of the parish during the whole **12 months** before the date of nomination and the date of the election

The process of standing for election is straightforward. You need to complete a nomination form, which you can obtain now from Chelmsford Civic Centre, and get two people to sign it in support of your nomination. You do, though, have to deliver it in person to the Returning Officer at the Civic Centre in Chelmsford, but it only takes a few minutes to check the form and confirm that it's alright for you to stand. For the elections on **2 May**, nominations can be delivered on any working day between **25 March** and **4pm on 3 April**.

If you do become a parish councillor you will have to sign up to the Code of Conduct. If you feel that you have something to give to your local community, why not stand for election to the Parish Council and help shape the future of Chignal? The best way to find out what it's like to be a parish councillor is to talk to someone who's doing it now. Come along to the next parish council meeting on **11th March**, or speak to one of our councillors and find out what they think of the job.

To find out more about being a parish councillor for Chignal, please contact the Clerk, Mr Will Adshead-Grant, by email: chignalpc@gmail.com.

Orchard Activities - February 2019



We had a marvellous sunny day in the Orchard for our first Hedge Social. A special thanks to the following people who came out this morning to cut back hedges and to collect up the trimmings;

Chris Anstey, Sandra Bailey, Malcolm Feltwell, Simon Leadbeatter, Barbara Miller, Geoff Pitts and Andy Scheidegger

Malcolm provided us with very welcome hot coffee and we all got some fresh air and exercise, and caught up with village news!

Here are some photos of the newly pruned hedges and some of the 4 apple trees that

Moira, Barbara, Andy and I planted last week. Two new “Tun” apples, (traditionally grown in Chignal Smealey) have joined another “Queen” and a “Pearl”. Barbara and Andy are shown installing a new irrigation tube that we hope will make watering more effective this summer.

We’re busy planning our next orchard event to celebrate the Spring Blossom on Sunday 14th April, 3pm – 5pm and will give you more details next month.

Best regards

Lynn and the Orchard Committee





Supporting

CHIGNALS & MASHBURY
VILLAGE HALL

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

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**Please Help Make
Our Villages Tidier**

CHIGNAL



**Saturday
16th March 9am**

**Meeting Points:
Village Hall, Woodhall Farm,
Three Elms P.H.**

Gloves, Hi-viz jackets
and Litter pickers provided

St Nicholas Church 'Bats In Churches' Project

See us at a number of
community events over
the next two years

St Nicholas Chignal Smealey is a grade II listed sixteenth century church of high archaeological, architectural and historical importance. The church hosts populations of Natters, Pipistrelle and Brown Long Eared bats, possibly with maternity roosts. The church tower has also historically been used as a bat hibernation site.

It is likely bats are roosting under roof tiles of the chancel and access the church where the tiles are broken. Another location of interest is a feeding perch in the roof apex of the tower.

Attitudes towards the bats are mixed. Some people are "used to the bats" and put up with their presence, others would like them excluded from the church. Some think that bats are just part and parcel of the church because it is rustic and in a rural setting. There is an attitude of 'we can live with the mess'.

Helen Towns: Church representative leading on the Bats in Churches (BiC) project
Ralph Cordey: Essex Bat Group

The St Nicholas Bats in the Church project was initiated by the Rev. Rose Braisby before she moved on to her current appointment to another church

Concerns about bat impacts only became prominent in the last few years after the church was visited by Natural England Bat Roost visitors during March 2014 to provide advice regarding works to the fabric of the church.

The main concern is damage to brass fixtures and the droppings scattered throughout the building. The church would like to protect its archeological features as much as possible.

Educating visitors about bats is also seen as an important objective of the 'Heritage Lottery Fund' project.

The National Lottery funded project will include capital works, educational lectures and working parties.

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

Work has been carried out at St Nicholas during a development year on the Heritage Lottery Fund project and has help shape the direction of the project including:

- A 'light-touch' bat survey to determine bat species and numbers, and how bats are currently using the church.
- Consultations with church representatives to discuss current and aspirational community engagement.
- Desk-based research to produce a community profile.
- Heritage consultant's visit and production of a statement of significance.
- Volunteer training survey and analysis was carried out to identify gaps in volunteers, skills and expertise.



St. Nicholas Church

The months of March and April celebrate many things, from the beautiful spring flowers we see dotted about our gardens and countryside, towards the end of March where the clocks go forward an hour and Daylight Saving Time starts. For many this is a relief as we move away from the Winter and the dark nights towards the Spring, budding with new life, however, we have been surprisingly blessed with beautiful sunny days at the end of February! I have enjoyed a few lovely walks taking in the sunshine, the Spring blossoms and the clear blue skies, although I know that it won't last and our gardens will be slightly confused by the sudden cold snap they will experience again.

I often look at creation and the things displayed in nature as signs of God at work in the world. I see the unexpected February sunshine as hope that has brought a relief to a long, dark, cold Winter amidst the turmoil of Brexit negotiations.

A reminder that God is compassionate towards us and often at work in mysterious ways. We may not always understand what we experience but we can take comfort in knowing that God draws near to us wherever we may find ourselves. Whether we are joyful and celebrate unexpected surprises or whether we feel like we are covered in darkness, and are even confused and unsure of what we see around us, God's light and love break in. Like the fresh spring flowers pushing their way through the earth and breaking the ground with their vibrant colours. Springtime is a wonderful time to be reminded that out of darkness comes light, out of the dust of the earth comes new life and wherever we may find ourselves, there is always hope and the possibility of something new. May your Springtime be blessed and may you be carried forward with joy,

Rev'd Jackie.



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