



Bulb Planting in the Chignals



On Saturday 31st of October spring flowering bulbs were planted at two sites in the Village. The weather was mercifully dry but cool as parishioners and members of NEAT set about the planting at the Village Hall and around the telephone box on the corner of St James Green.

Both daffodil and crocus bulbs were provided by Chelmsford Borough Council and the activity was professionally organised by their Jackie Lane of the Neighbourhood Environmental Action Team (NEAT).

Both the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee thank all the volunteers (some of whom are pictured above) and NEAT members who turned up to help in the planting as we all look forward now to a brighter spring.

**Wishing you all a
Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year**

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St Nicholas Services

Saturday 19th 10 a.m. Decorating the church for Christmas
 Sunday 20th December at 3 p.m. The United Carol Service at the United Reformed Church.
 Wednesday 24th December at 3 p.m. Children's Crib Service
 Christmas Day at 9 a.m. Holy Communion
 Sunday 27th December
 N.B. No Service

Wine Discovery

The October tasting was hosted by a guest speaker, Colin Legg, a private individual who had presented to the group once before and who is also a wine tutor. The evening was based on wines from the Bandol, which is in the Provence region of France and is known for its Red and Rose wine. Bearing this in mind, it was no surprise to learn that we were to taste one rose and six red wines. As was the case on his first tasting, Colin was very knowledgeable about the wines and the region. He explained how the Bandol wines were made, which ones were ready to drink now and which ones would improve with age – some of the best keeping for 25 years or more. The highlight of the evening (for me) came right at the end with the Domaine Tempier “Touraine”, a wine made from only the mouvedre grape, it was very aromatic and being a 2004 vintage it was beginning to mellow nicely – it would be good to try the wine again in a couple of years time to see how it has aged. Thank you Colin for an excellent and informative evening.

November saw a totally different type of Tasting. Matt, from the Majestic Wine Warehouse presented an evening centred on matching food and wine. He explained how wine with high acidity would work well with oily foods, and wines with tannin (red wines) work well with protein – highlighting the classic white wine with fish and red wine with steak. To emphasise the points being made Matt had brought along some food and made us taste combinations that would not normally be tried. There were too many combinations to mention them all here but....the salmon that went well with the Chablis tasted awful with what would have been a delightful glass of Shiraz. Many thanks to Matt for a very educational evening and a tasting that I will remember for many reasons.

The club have their annual Christmas dinner in December so any prospective members will have to wait until January to join us. For more information contact Dave on 01245 442474.

Village Hall

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the hall on 22 February 2010 at 8pm. This is a public meeting so please come along if you can.

Chelmsford Borough Council provided the villages with crocus and daffodil bulbs recently and some of these were planted in the grass verge in front of the village hall and in the borders around the newly surfaced car park at the front of the building. The work was carried out at the end of October by volunteers from the villages under the supervision of the council – many thanks to the parish council and to those people who helped on the day. We look forward to seeing the results in the spring!

Yoga

Thank you to those that contacted me following my note in the last newsletter.

We will be starting a yoga class at the village hall on 5th January, which will initially run for 6 weeks through to 9th February.

Sara McKeon, a British Wheel of Yoga Qualified Hatha Teacher, will run the class. It will be gentle yoga, consisting of stretching and relaxation exercises aimed at maintaining and improving flexibility. It is suitable for all ages, and those with stiff joints or arthritis.

The class will start at 9.15am (finishing 10.45am) and cost £4.50 per session.

If you are thinking about coming along or would like more information please call either Sara McKeon on 358941 or Gill Thomas on 442474.



Women's Institute

In October we booked Dudley Chignall just because of his name and he turned out to be an excellent speaker. Dudley presented a talk on the Colourful Azores illustrated with top quality photographs which he had taken. Hopefully he will pay a return visit next year. In November we had our AGM and welcomed Angela Flynn on to the Committee. Wendy Cole has stood down from the committee as she is not at all well, but hopes to rejoin when her health improves. WI Secretary, Helen Towns, gave an excellent resume of the past year, it was quite amazing to realise all the things we had done both locally and on a wider scale. Another successful year. After the AGM one of our members, Anita Howard, gave us a delightful talk on traditions of the Victorian Christmas. Anita was using her new found skill in 'power-point projection', which was most enjoyable. Anita will be giving this talk, and others on related subjects, on a Caribbean Cruise over Christmas. On December 3rd. a representative from Saga told us about the holidays and cruises which they organise. This was followed by our usual splendid Christmas tea, if you are thinking about joining our WI next year come along to our first meeting in 2010 on January 7th which will be a very social 'Getting to know you' meeting. We meet in the Village Hall on the first Thursday each month at 2.30pm. Come and join us, we are a very friendly group.

Myra Wilkins 01245 440659

'Chignal 4 Art' This group meets on the 4th Thursday of each month (except December) from 12noon to 4pm. come and go at any time which suits you during this time. Lots of help available if you are a beginner. Again 'phone Myra if you are interested.

Gardening Club

At the last moment Moira Tarrant, a resident of Mashbury parish and a member of the Gardening Club agreed to give our November talk, when Wol Staines had to cancel due to ill-health. The talk on Orchids was very informative and was well received by members. So a big thank you to Moira for stepping so ably into the breach. The next meeting of the Gardening Club is at 7.30p.m. on Wednesday 20th January 2010 In the Village Hall. New members are always welcome to our talks just come along or contact John Denniss on 01245 440289 if you want any information about the club.



In Memory of Leon Owers 1925 - 2009

On 13th November Mashbury Salvation Army Hall was full to overflowing to celebrate the life of Leon Owers, who died on 31st October 2009.

Leon was born in Mashbury and lived in the Parish all his life. His parents were active Salvationists and Leon committed his life to the church he loved.

Mashbury Corps had a unique history having been founded at the turn of the 19th and 20th century by a Salvation Army travelling mission who stopped in the area on their way along what is now the A1060 from Chelmsford to Leaden Roding.

The Corps occupied a number of temporary buildings until Leon and others built the present hall in Barrack Road. He led the Mashbury Corps for 20 years of the 40 years until its closure in 2007. Leon was known in the Parish and in the Salvation Army for his complete commitment to whatever he promised and for his attention to detail. He would have been very pleased to hear the rafters lifted by the sound of the Brass Band and the singing of such a great number of family, friends and neighbours as they remembered his life and celebrated his 'Promotion to Glory'.

Essex County Council

Essex County Council is the Mineral Planning Authority for Essex and is thus required to produce plans for the provision of minerals - primarily sand and gravel - between now and 2026. In January this year the County Council sought further applications from landowners and interested commercial operators for potential sites to meet a projected demand of 39.025million tonnes. 43 sites have been suggested with a total yield of 121 million tonnes! The **Broomfield & Writtle Division** covers an area rich in aggregates and it is no surprise that a number of the proposed sites are located here; notably in **Gt. Leighs, Lt. Waltham and Roxwell**. None of the proposed sites have yet been assessed by the County Council but this will start once the current public consultation period ends. The County Council's assessment will be rigorous and will be consulting a wide range of specialists to contribute to a view on preferred sites. Further public consultation detailing this first assessment will be published in 2010. It should be noted that the preferred sites finally adopted will still require full planning permission before any work can commence. Parish Councils will be responding to the proposals and members of the

public can have their say either on-line at www.essex.gov.uk/MDD-consultation by email to Mineralsandwastepolicy@essex.gov.uk or by post to Minerals and Waste Planning, Environment, Sustainability & Highways, Essex County Council, Freepost CL 3636 County Hall Chelmsford. CM1 1QH. The formal deadline was determined as 12th November; but please let me know if you wish to add something after that date and I will endeavour to have it acknowledged by the Planners. On a more positive note, over the next four years each district in Essex will be offered by the County Council a one-off grant of £100,000 to spend on local projects that will be of benefit to the community. The **Chelmsford Borough** is not in the first tranche of districts to be considered (which will be Castle Point, Harlow & Tendring) but now is a good time for communities within the **Broomfield & Writtle Division** to consider whether they will have a project that could qualify in order that a bid may be put together.

If you have any problems about County Council matters please let me know on 01245 421524 or Cllr.John.Aldridge@essexcc.gov.uk

North Melbourne Library

When you have finished your shopping at Morrison's why not pop in to see us and pick up ideas for your Festive menus. We also have a selection of books on Christmas crafts and ideas to keep little ones busy during the holidays.

If you have never visited North Melbourne Library come and have a chat with our friendly staff. We have so much on offer for all tastes and needs. Our services are free for you to use and enjoy!

During the February half term we will be hosting a 'Bedtime Stories' session on Tuesday 16th February 6.00-6.30 - bring your pillow and a soft toy and listen

to some bedtime stories! For 7 year olds and under, accompanied by a parent/guardian.

We will also have an Elmer Day on Thursday 18th February 2.00 - 3.30 with stories, activities and crafts based around the character of Elmer.

As well as books we have DVD's to hire, stories to listen to, Newspapers/Magazines and free Internet Access as well as a whole host of other online services.

Mandy Simioni – Library Supervisor
Tel: 01245 442292



Chignal Parish Council

UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2009 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Two officers from Essex Police were in attendance and it was reported that two burglaries have occurred in the Parish recently, at the nursery and Chignal Hall Farm. It was confirmed that there is a police presence in the Parish on a daily basis. The next Neighbourhood Action Panel will be at 7.00p.m. on 14th January 2010 in Roxwell School. Matthew Hodgkinson, the Rights of Way and P3 Officer for ECC explained his role and confirmed that he can offer training and is able to supply equipment and tools for any work undertaken by a Parish Working Group to improve paths, bridges and gates, with financial support also available.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- a) A parishioner reported that the Electricity Board has recently lopped branches from trees near Chignal Hall Lane, which have fallen into the ditch. The damage will be investigated.
- b) Complaints were made that lorries are parking on the grass verge outside the Old Rectory causing obstructions in the road and damaging the verge. The Contractors will be contacted to ensure that the verge is restored to its original condition.

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLAYING FIELDS - the goal post has been examined and is in good condition. It was agreed that work be carried out to cut back the hedge.

VILLAGE HALL LIAISON – the official opening of the car park took place on 30th September 2009 and further improvements to the back of the Hall are ongoing..

NEWSLETTER INCL. WEBSITE – the latest edition has been circulated to parishioners and the last edition for 2009 will be distributed from 15th December.

GRAVEL LIAISON – the next liaison meeting will be held in the New Year.

FOOTPATHS /BRIDLEWAYS – Councillors have carried out a second walk of the footpaths and the Rights of Way officer has been informed of areas of concern. A further walk will be organised shortly on the Mashbury side of the Parish and Janet Campen, the parish representative for footpaths will be advised of the details.

HIGHWAYS – it was explained that surface dressing will not be carried out this year, but some potholes are being filled. Bad potholes between Langleys and the Church are to be reported to the Highways Department.

Concerns were expressed that a notice board from the Pig & Whistle is being placed near the edge of the road causing a hazard to motorists and the problem will be brought to the attention of the licensee.

VDS – it was confirmed that the Borough Council's Cabinet meeting on 22nd September passed the VDS as 'approved guidance'. Work has now begun on the design and layout which will be slightly larger than originally expected and the Parish Council agreed to provide funding for the additional costs

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

C. Cllr. Aldridge explained that the Minerals DWPC Appendix regarding the pit at Shellow Cross Farm Roxwell would include a processing plant on site but it would be located to the north of the area with access from the A1060.

Councillor Aldridge confirmed that concerns that the pit at Chignal processing plant would re-open, are unfounded.

Councillor Chambers explained that an exhibition of the proposals for the North Chelmsford Area Action Plan will be arranged shortly, the date to be confirmed.

PLANNING

Brittons Hall Farm – landfill site – the application was approved.

Westleas Chignal St. James – extensions – the application was refused but an appeal has been submitted

The Old Rectory – double garage – a decision is awaited.

Land between Marshalls and 4 Ash Rise – outline application for three bed house – an objection has been submitted by the Highways Department but a decision is awaited from the Borough Council.

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Telephone Box – No further information has been received from British Telecom regarding the sale of the telephone box at Chignal St. James but it was agreed that the maintenance will be undertaken by parishioners.
- b) A coffee morning is to be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 5th December 2009.
- c) Following correspondence with the Borough Council, bulbs were planted on 21st October around the telephone box and entrance to the Village Hall. Thanks were expressed to the volunteers.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 11th January 2010.

St. Nicholas' Church

Christmas Greetings to you all from the congregation of St. Nicholas Church. By the time you read this letter, most of the preparation for Christmas will have been made, cards sent, presents wrapped and the fridge beginning to get full of the edible treats, which we associate, with Christmas. Amongst the business of preparation, it is good to take time, to reflect on the real meaning of Christmas, the gift of God's son Jesus Christ, 'The Saviour of the World'.

The United Carol Service will be held at the United Reformed Church at 3p.m. Sunday 20th December. At St. Nicholas, we are holding a Children's Crib Service on Christmas Eve at 3p.m. and at 9 a.m. on Christmas Day there is a service of Holy Communion with carols; accompanied by local musicians, Julia

and Steve Smart. You are all warmly invited to all or any of the services.

A very big thank you to all who supported our Harvest Festival Celebrations. The church looked delightful. In the region of 144 tins of tomatoes plus some pasta was sent to Eastern Europe, £ 92.50 was donated to the association of Children's Hospices. The harvest tea was well supported and enjoyed by all.

We wish you all a very joyful Christmas and pray that 2010 will bring peace to the world.

Tony Towns (Church Warden)
Telephone: 01245 440241

From the Church Register:

Baptism: Jack Steven
Bridge of Chelmsford
November 15th 2009



Chignal Chapel

ADVANCE WARNING. CHRISTMAS IS COMING.

The year is running away summer is past - harvest is ended - even fireworks are now a memory.

We would like to extend an invitation to as many people as possible to THE VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE which will be at 3pm on Sunday 20th December at Chignal Chapel.

As last year, the offering will be shared between St Lawrence Children's Hospice in Romania and Little Haven Children's Hospice.

Every good wish and prayers for God's blessing in the coming year from all at Chignal Chapel.



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