



VDS Wins EALC Communications Award



The above photograph of some of the VDS committee with the EALC communication award certificate for the production of the Village Design Statement. We were especially commended for the high level of response to the survey sent out to all villagers. All the VDS committee were volunteers. Volunteering to help is a vital activity which helps to keep all villages "going" and our Village Hall Committee is in need of volunteers on Wednesday 1st June 2011 from 6.30pm to to help transport all the equipment for the annual garden fete and vintage rally to Woodhall and then put up two large tents. On Friday 3rd at 6.30 pm the gazebos will be put up and the stalls, tables and chairs etc put out. At the end of the fete on Saturday 4th June the process will need to be reversed from 5pm onwards. I am sure many of you will not be thinking of the summer; except wistfully, with the severe weather we have been experiencing and the approach of Christmas, but according to some Christmas research on the BBC, giving gifts makes us happier than receiving gifts, so please give the gift of your time and volunteer to help. The revenue from the Village fete is essential and this event needs to be organised well in advance, so if you can help please do contact any of the the following committee members: Gordon Hillyear – 231406; Norman Wastenev - 440947; Cherry Scott – 441241; Gordon Lee - 440485; Janet Campen - 440223; Martyn Towns - 440189; Gill/Mick Cater - 441484; Kate Middleditch – 440569; Norman Smith - 440339; Ann Coates - 441515. If you are not able to help on this occasion, please consider volunteering in the future, as all help is gratefully received.

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

Women's Institute

A big THANK YOU to everyone who came along to our Quiz night. As a result we were able to give a donation to the Village Hall and to 'Inter-act' which is linked to the MIND charity for mental illness. Recently we were also able to send a donation to ACWW, the international WI, which helps families in poorer areas of the world. In October Mr. Doug Killick gave us an interesting talk on Essex at war from the Battle of Maldon, 991, to the cold war in the sixties. Doug does valuable research on all the members of the Essex regiment so that each man is fully on record. Doug also helps with the regiment section of the museum at Oaklands. In November after our AGM, one of our members Mrs. Glenys Watkins brought along her team of line dancers to give us a demonstration and then many of our members joined in which was excellent. Glenys is a trained dancing instructor and the demonstrations were most professional. Some of our members have since been along to Glenys' class at Good Easter. In

December we are having a Christmas Social and a special tea and the new WI singing group 'The Harmonies' will be joining us, well, their voices will anyway. On January 6th we start the year with a 'Getting to know you' meeting which is always good fun so why not come along and join us in 2011. Nationally the WI movement is attracting a much younger age group which is wonderful, but young or more mature you would be very welcome to join us. The aim of the WI is friendship, fun and education, we certainly manage all three during a year.

January 6th 'Getting to know you' COME AND JOIN US!
Myra Wilkins 440 659

Art Group (CHIGNAL4ART)
There will be no meeting in December but it will restart on the 4th Thursday in January. Details from Myra

Bowls Club

The club played the first round of the West Area Knockout Competition away at Purleigh. We journeyed there on a foggy and frosty night only to lose the match, although our pair Geoff and Marion did us proud by winning their game. The blow was softened by very nice refreshments and a raffle provided by Purleigh and we wish them well in the next round.

Our Puddings evening was held in October in the Village Hall. This has proved to be a very popular

annual event which this year consisted of a three course meal with a Halloween theme to it. With illuminated pumpkins and what-not and all the various puddings and quizzes it made for a late but enjoyable night.

Our latest friendly match was against Little Waltham which we resoundingly won. Our Xmas fish and chip supper will be held on 17th December, including the fun competition for the Xmas Shield.

North Melbourne Library

Need ideas for your festive menus?
Come along and have a look at our range of Christmas cook books. We also have a selection of books on Christmas crafts and ideas to keep little ones busy during the holidays.
Do you need help in using a computer? During January & February we will be holding some

'Fingertip Facts' sessions with hints and tips on using a computer to suit beginners.
Mandy Simioni – Library Supervisor, North Melbourne Library (Attached to Newland Spring School), Dickens Place, Copperfield Road, Chelmsford
Tel: 01245 442292



From the Borough Council

Nicolette Chambers Member Chelmsford Rural West – DECEMBER 2010 Telephone 01245 456719 Email: n.chambers@chelmsford.gov.uk
Community Consultation

The Council is in the process of consulting with the community on the four draft planning documents which will drive development within the borough to 2021 and support the objectives of the Council's planning framework.

The consultation period ceases on Wednesday 1st December. The Site Allocations Development Plan Document allocates land for a range of uses including housing, community facilities and transport infrastructure. The Government's Planning Inspector will review this document in the light of your comments early next year. The document covers the whole of the borough except for the Town Centre and north of the Borough which have specific action plans.

Fly Tipping

Recently, a man from Chelmsford illegally dumped over 500 car tyres. He has been convicted of fly-tipping and sentenced to 150 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay costs of £2,080. Fly tipping destroys our countryside, please keep on the lookout and report incidents immediately to the Environmental Health team – 01245 606800

Customer Services update

Chelmsford Borough Council celebrated the first anniversary of its customer Service Awards. Throughout the year, residents and customers are encouraged to nominate staff they feel have demonstrated exceptional customer services whether from an individual or team. Many nominations are received from the public. So far, eight awards have been presented, and to celebrate a year of great customer service, each winning team and individual were considered for a

'champion of champions' prize. The prize has been given to the Council's Refuse and Recycling team who have received the most nominations so far.

The new Customer Services unit will be opened in January 2011.

Town Centre Management

I was very pleased to welcome Olly Murs to the county town's annual Christmas lights event to sing two songs from his brand new album and light up the High Street. Olly said "I am so pleased to be switching on the Christmas Lights in Chelmsford. I've been up and down the country for the last few months, so coming back to my home town for this means a lot and I am looking forward to singing for everyone".

As with previous years, the event is fully funded through street trading and income from sponsorship from local business.

Christmas Memorial Service in Chelmsford

A Christmas service of remembrance will be held this year at the Chelmsford Cemetery and Crematorium (South Chapel) on Sunday 12th December at 2.30pm.

The service provides an opportunity not only to remember loved ones but also to celebrate their lives. When booking, guests will be asked to give the names of the loved ones they are remembering. These names will then be read out during the act of remembrance and at the same time family members will be invited to light a candle in their memory.

This is the first Christmas Memorial Service to be held by Chelmsford Borough Council and it is expected to become an annual event if it proves popular with the public. Carols will be sung by the choir from the St John Payne School in Chelmsford. For further details telephone 01245 605630

Ancestral Searches

Our website must be viewed around the world, as we have received another request for information. This time the request has come from Jonathon Heath. Jonathon has been trying for 25 years to find information on his great-grandfather Robert Jonathan Heath, who is believed to have been born in Chignal Smealey in 1846 prior to emigrating to South Africa. If you know any information that would help Jonathon, please e-mail: jheath@arborline.co.za.

Essex County Council

Now that the clocks have gone we back, we can expect darker evenings and colder weather. Bearing in mind the severity of last winter we should be prepared to deal with ice, snow, rain and low sun which are all particularly hazardous. With last years extremes of weather the demand for salt was high and if the weather this winter is again extreme, the County Council is anticipating that the Government's rationing of supplies will be reinstated.

Salt bins are perceived by many as an important part of the local resilience in icy conditions but their use is unregulated and reliant on the goodwill of the people living nearby to spread the salt in times of need. To help meet demand the County Council has introduced a new scheme "The Salt Bag Pilot" which will supply a one ton bag of salt and sand mix to parishes, on request, which will enable them to decide how and where the salt is distributed. For every parish that participates in the Pilot it will be guaranteed one salt bag refill over the winter season.

For further information contact Catherine Gaywood [telephone: 01245 437262](tel:01245 437262) or [email: catherine.gaywood@essex.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.gaywood@essex.gov.uk)

The ECC Funding Team, which seeks to optimise the amount of external funding coming into the County, has secured a total of £8.5 million through Government and European funding streams, with the most recent win being a £371,000 investment, to create additional apprenticeship places for female engineers in Essex. With the future prosperity of the County relying on skills development and support for business innovation and entrepreneurialism, the

Council is keen to ensure it continues to secure a significant share of the multi million pot of funding available. This will be one way to provide training in valuable skills and subsequent full employment for young people in Essex.

November saw the launch of County Council's Retail Enterprise Fund - an initiative designed to support the rural services which make our small towns and villages such thriving, vibrant communities.

Grants of up to £5,000 will be available to owners of shops, post offices and pubs in rural areas, who wish to modernise or diversify their offering; in order to strengthen their businesses. Grants will also be available to community groups who wish to set up any of these services in their locality. The Fund is principally aimed at businesses which are finding it hard to access finance from more traditional sources.

The Fund was set up following recommendations made by last year's Essex Rural Commission report which outlined the need to strengthen Essex's rural economies by creating additional employment opportunities; giving residents access to essential services locally as well as ensuring the longevity of key community hubs.

For more information contact Rebecca Tite 01245 430094 or email rebecca.tite@essex.gov.uk or visit: www.essex.gov.uk/ruralcommission

If you have any problems about County Council matters please let me know on 01245 cllr.john.aldridge@essex.gov.uk.

Cllr. John Aldridge – November 2010

Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst M.P. Interviews 2011

Friday 7th January - **THAXTED**
The Guildhall, Town Street from 5.45 - 6.30 pm
Friday 7th January & Friday 11th March
SAFFRON WALDEN
The Old Armoury, 3 Museum Street
from 7.00 - 7.45 pm
Friday 4th February - **WRITTLE**
Writtle Village Hall, 18 The Green
from 5.15 - 6.00

Friday 4th February from 6.30 - 7.15 pm & Friday
8th April from 7.00 - 7.45 pm - **DUNMOW**
Foakes House, Town Council Office,
47 Stortford Road
Friday 11th March - **STANSTED**
Parish Council Office, Crafton Green
from 5.45 - 6.30 pm
Friday 8th April - **BOREHAM**
Village Hall, Main Road from 5.45 - 6.30 pm

No appointment necessary but if you require any assistance please ring

Chignal Parish Council

UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2010 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Mrs. Joy Darby the Chief Executive of the Essex Association of Local Councils presented an award to the Village Design Statement Committee and she added her congratulations for its achievement.

The Chairman and Councillors were thanked by the P.C.C. for arranging for the work to be carried out to the highway outside the church in Chignal Smealey.

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS

VILLAGE HALL LIAISON – the Committee has agreed that it is not a feasible option to have a Broadband connection in the Village Hall.

NEWSLETTER INCL. WEBSITE – deadlines dates for receiving items for the Newsletter have been agreed as 31st January 2011, 31st March, 31st July, 30th September and 20th November.

GRAVEL LIAISON – the latest meeting was held on 13th October 2010 when it was explained that the Cemex Plant is currently under demolition/removal and the work will be completed before the end of December. Once completed, the site will be assessed by Lafarge and a submission of details for restoration made to the Planning Department. Lafarge will install 17 additional gas wells within the infill site which will help to reduce gas seepage. The new wells will be installed before the end of December. An extension to the current completion date of 2012 for infilling is possible because of the shortage of waste delivery.

VILLAGE WATCH – no volunteer has come forward to take on the role of co-ordinator but it was agreed to invite Tony Wilkins, the present co-ordinator, to the next Parish meeting to thank him for all the work he has done in the past.

HIGHWAYS – the Chairman thanked Gordon Lee for all his work in ensuring that the Highways Department carried out the resurfacing work to

roads throughout the Parish. It was reported that a chevron has been damaged near Ivy Cottage and a pedestrian sign has disappeared between the Village Hall and Chignal Hall Lane.

FOOTPATHS /BRIDLEWAYS – New signposts – some sites have been agreed but notification on the siting of others is still outstanding.

PLANNING

The Bungalow – demolition and erection of new dwelling – the appeal was dismissed.

Broomwood Manor – retrospective application to alter roof on single storey element – approved
Broomwood Manor – single storey rear extension – approved.

NOTICE BOARDS – It was agreed to purchase four new notice boards before the end of the financial year. The relocation of one board from the Three Elms to the Green, adjacent to the telephone kiosk, was agreed.

LATE URGENT BUSINESS

- a) Telephone Box – a notice will be displayed in the kiosk confirming that Chignal Parish Council is the owner. To avoid vandalism of the box, it was agreed to organise the purchasing and fitting of a lock.
- b) The next police liaison meeting is on 8th December at 7 p.m. in the Village Hall.
- c) Future Parish Events:
A whist drive will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on 19th November.
A coffee morning will take place in the Village Hall on 4th December
The village Carol Service will be held at 3 p.m. on 19th December.
The Childrens' Christmas Service will take place at 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve.
The Village Fete will be held on 4th June 2011 at Woodhall Farm.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 10th January 2011.

St. Nicholas' Church

Christmas is fast approaching; we warmly invite you to join us in celebrating the birth of Christ.

The United Carol Service this year is at St. Nicholas, Sunday December 19th 3 p.m. to be conducted by the Rev., Jane Anderson known to several of you through your children's baptisms. The Christmas Crib service will be held at 3 pm., to be conducted by Diane Garfield who is becoming a very familiar face to the children of the parish. There will be a short service of Holy Communion at 9 a.m. on Christmas Day.

We are very grateful to Mr. Tony Daltrey of the Old Rectory, Chignal Smealey, the Parish Council and Chelmsford Highways Department for supporting us in getting the kerb outside the church repaired. I think you will all agree it is much improved.

We very much look forward to seeing many of you over Christmas festival. You

are all warmly welcomed to any of our services.

We wish you all peace this Christmas time.

Best wishes Tony Towns (Church Warden) Tel: 440241

Dates for your diary

Saturday Dec 18th 10 a.m. onwards, decorating the church, everybody welcome

Sunday Dec 19th 3 p.m. United Village Carol Service n.b. no morning service
Christmas Eve 3 p.m. Children's Crib Service

Christmas Day 9 a.m. Holy Communion
Sunday Dec 26th no service

All other Sunday Services at 11 a.m.

From the Church Register
24th October Baptism of Honor Marie Casey



*Church of
St. Nicholas*

**Editor: Linda Nelson
Ivy Cottage
Chignal Smealey
CM1 4TA**

**Tel: 01245 442625
Fax: 01245 442952**

**Email: chignalswe@btinternet.com Web:
www.essexinfo.net/thechignals**

**Articles to the editor by 31st January 2011 for
next publication on 1st March 2011**