



# Chignal News



Winter weather and dark nights can make us all feel a little down, so it may cheer you to think of the Spring, when the bulbs that Helen, Tony and Lynn planted around our villages (photos above) will rear their heads and add colour to our lanes.

I expect you are all busy preparing for Christmas, planning menus, writing cards and buying presents. I have just finished writing my cards, but I must admit to sending more e-cards this year. E-cards are great fun, even though you can't put them on your mantle piece.

For those of you that are new to Christmas in the Chignals, I hope you will find time to attend one of the church services over Christmas, I always enjoy the crib service on Christmas eve. It is wonderful to see so many children; that actually live in our villages, in attendance. My other Christmas tradition is to attend the meet on Christmas eve, it is always a good opportunity to socialise with other villagers. Hope to see some of you. Linda



# Women's Institute

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Congratulations to all the local 'Gamesmakers'. At the WI we are very proud of our 'Gamesmaker' Angela Flynn who lives in Pickwick Avenue, Angela was involved in the transportation of the swimmers to the various venues. Angela is unfortunately leaving the WI as she is opening a tea shop in Chelmsford, at the lower end of Springfield Road, so will be fully involved with her new enterprise. We wish Angela great success she has been a wonderful asset to our WI. Do try to seek out Angela's tea shop as she will also be selling her superb cakes there. As it was our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary I gave a talk, in September, entitled 60 Glorious Years illustrated with flower arrangements. Major events such as the Coronation, 1966 World Cup and the Millennium celebrations were depicted and nearly everyone present won a raffle prize of a flower arrangement. In October Mr. Dudley Chignall returned with his excellent photographs and talked about The Canadian Rockies. In November, as this year was the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Charles Dickens Mr. Ron Cook gave us a talk about the life and times of the writer. In December we are looking forward to Mrs. Anita Howard giving a talk on the history of Pantomimes followed by our usual splendid Christmas tea. In January, on the first Thursday as usual, there will be a talk about the work of a charity in Felsted who help with the many problems of the people in the Chernobyl area. Our WI has already supplied knitted and crochet blankets, warm hats and jumpers together with washing powders. We will support this charity in the future. If anyone would like to be involved with this please contact Janet on 01245 440 223. Our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year has certainly been busy and eventful. Do come and join us in 2013.

Art Group Unfortunately due to falling numbers I will not be holding Art in the Village Hall from now on.

Myra Wilkins 01245 440 659

# Bowls Club

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The Club has recently played their match in the first round of the West Area Knock-out Cup. We played Terling at home and won - we are soon to play in the second round with a match against R.H.P. at home on the 13<sup>th</sup> December, so Good Luck All! In our Friendly Matches, we have played three recently, at home to Black Notley and away to both Ford End and Barnston, winning all three. The Club also had members playing in the ECCBA competitions at Braintree. We have also had one session of afternoon bowls in the Village Hall. An enjoyable afternoon, which we shall repeat if enough players want to continue with it. In November we had our Club Supper. This was held in the Village Hall with the catering done by Mike Shmaile. A very enjoyable evening with excellent food and service. Our Christmas Supper preceded by the bowling for the Shield will take place on the 14<sup>th</sup> December.

Ann Coates

# Dates For Your Diary

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CHIGNALS & MASHBURY  
VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Chignals and Mashbury Village Hall  
Future Whist Drive dates:

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held in  
the village hall on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2013  
at 8pm.

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2013  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013

All welcome

Start Time 7.30pm at the village hall.

Raffle prizes welcomed

# Gardening Club

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This Autumn the club has enjoyed three very different talks.

Thelma Wilson entertained us with a fascinating history of the development of the garden at *Warley Place, near Brentwood* by the colourful horticulturalist Miss Wilmott and her colleague Olive Baldwin explained the work of a band of dedicated volunteers who maintain remnants of the original garden as a nature reserve.

In October, Deborah Hart who teaches horticulture at Writtle College gave us a demonstration on designing and planting hanging baskets and containers for winter interest. She showed us how to use a variety of evergreen shrubs, herbaceous plants such as hellebores, evergreen grasses and bulbs. After watching Deborah create a beautiful hanging basket, we were delighted when she offered it as prize for our raffle.

Last month Prue James told us the results of her extensive research into intriguing story of her great uncle, Mr Bunting, whose horticultural business based in Colchester brought prosperity to an impoverished sub tropical island off the mainland of Japan. Today, more than 100 years later, the island's lily cultivation is the mainstay of its thriving economy.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2013** is "Easier Gardening" by Alan Adcock of Ford End Gardening Club. Alan will give us lots of useful advice and tips on how to take some of the hard work out of gardening without losing out on the harvest and appearance.

Looking ahead to **20<sup>th</sup> February** we welcome back Barry Kaufmann-Wright, one of the first Police Wildlife Liaison Officers who will take us through "Seasons of a Woodland".

Just to remind you, the club meets at the **Village Hall in Chignal St James at 7.30 pm** on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from September to April for fascinating talks on a wide variety of topics. There are three garden visits during the summer months and we provide the plant stall at the Village Fête. We're a very friendly club where you don't need to be an expert to enjoy the varied talks, demonstrations and visits.

**For more information, please contact Graham Andrews (Chairman) on 01245 442625 or Lynn Ballard (Secretary) on 01245 440880.**

# Wine Discovery Group

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October saw the return of one of our former members Warren Smith who presented 'Wines of La Rioja'. The region itself takes its name from its proximity to the River (Rio) Oja which is a tributary of the main river running across Northern Spain – the Ebro. The climate and soil conditions are similar to that of the Bordeaux region, and in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century an outbreak of phylloxera in Bordeaux saw the influx of many French winemakers to the region. Although now heavily influenced by the French, winemaking in Rioja dates back to Phoenician Times (approximately 3,500 years ago). A selection of 6 wines, from differing regions (Alta, Alavesa and Baja), winemakers, grapes and vintages enabled a good comparison, much discussion and a very enjoyable evening. Thank you Warren for an excellent tasting.

In November Norman presented 'Wines from Italy'. After a tour of the country and various winemaking regions we were purposefully presented with some of the less well known grape varieties selected exclusively from the M&S website. We were intrigued to try them – some surprised, some disappointed but we were united in our appreciation of the final wine of the evening – a Barbaresco Morassino made from Italy's top grape variety the Nebbiolo. Thank you Norman for an interesting and enjoyable evening.

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year. If you would like more information on, or wish to join the wine club please contact Dave Thomas on 01245 442474.

# Orchard News

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Following an open meeting to discuss plans for a community orchard at the village hall back in August, a small group has been meeting to source funding and consider what will need to be done to create the orchard.

Chelmsford City Council has offered to lease a site for the orchard at Howlett's Corner, opposite the village playing fields. The Heads of Terms were approved at a special Parish Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The Parish Council also agreed to support and endorse the orchard project and has set up 'The Orchard Committee' which will meet in public at the village hall. This committee will have responsibility for managing the creation, development and maintenance of the orchard. Day to day management of the orchard will be carried out by a small sub-committee that will meet monthly. It is envisaged that this sub-committee will have broadly the same membership as the small orchard group which has been meeting since the summer.

Edible Essex has offered the Parish Council some local fruit trees and assistance in preparing a management plan. We are nearly ready to go ahead with this; so if you have any requests about varieties that you would like to have in the orchard now is the time to let us know so they can be in the plan. We have space for plenty of varieties of apples, pears, plums, cherries, quinces, mulberries, nuts etc.

The Parish Council are led to believe from the Derbyshire Environmental Trust which is administering the Lafarge Communities Fund that our application will lead to a grant for up to £15,000 pounds to spend on developing the orchard. When this award is confirmed, a contractor will be appointed to secure the boundary with fencing and hedge, put in a pedestrian gate, plant some of the trees, and prepare the site for us. We are working on what we can afford, what is essential, and what we would like.

We are working to try to have money, the lease and the site ready to plant in February - March so watch this space, and be ready with your spade!

Malcolm Feltwell. Tel: 01245 441070. Email: [mandj@mjfeltwell.plus.com](mailto:mandj@mjfeltwell.plus.com)

Lynn Ballard. Tel: 01245 440880. Email: [lynn\\_ballard@btinternet.com](mailto:lynn_ballard@btinternet.com)

# Chignal Parish Council

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UNCONFIRMED REPORT OF THE MEETING OF CHIGNAL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2012 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

## CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

Steve Middleditch was co-opted to fill the current vacancy with Andy Jenkins appointed as Hon. Rural Officer.

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** – A parishioner expressed concern that, although some potholes have been repaired, other still need attention. Problems with drains in Chignal St. James are causing flooding to the gardens to some houses in the vicinity and County Councillor Aldridge will be contacted with details of the problem areas, requesting action be taken to rectify the problems.

**COUNTY AND CITY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS** – Neither Councillor was able to attend the meeting but Cllr. Aldridge had advised that salt will be delivered to Chignal Hall on 13.11.12. for distribution to various parts of the Parish.

## REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

**VILLAGE HALL** – the playing field has recently been used by a Caravan Club and the Parish Council received a small donation for the use. **NEWSLETTER incl. WEBSITE** – the editor requested contributions for the November issue as soon as possible for distribution by 10<sup>th</sup> December.

**GRAVEL LIAISON** – a meeting has been arranged for the end of November and a report will be made at the next meeting. It was reported that some repairs have been carried out by Lafarge to Pengymill Lane but the work has not been completed.

**VILLAGE WATCH** – a report from the local PCSO highlighted thefts of diesel in various areas of the Parish, a burglary at a private residence and the theft of bollards and garden pots in Chignal Smealey.

**HIGHWAYS** – an updated map will be forward to the Highways Department showing potholes throughout the Parish. Some have been repaired but others are still outstanding. The problems with litter reported at the last meeting have been resolved. The fingerpost at Beadles Hall Corner is still to be repaired and the

Highways Department has been advised of the length of time since the problem was first reported, requesting action as soon as possible. **FOOTPATHS/BRIDLEWAYS** – a programme of walks will commence after Christmas. It was reported that grass on some bridleways is too long and needs cutting.

**TELEPHONE BOX** – Chignal St. James – there has been no progress since the last meeting but it is hoped to paint the box in 2013.

**TREE WARDEN** – it was reported that daffodil and crocus bulbs have been planted in various areas of the Parish and thanks were expressed to all who helped with the planting. The poplar trees which have caused concern have been checked and declared safe.

**VILLAGE ORCHARD** – the committee are pushing the project forward and it was confirmed that the request to Lafarge for a grant has been successful. The Parish Council is in support of the development of a Parish Orchard and it was agreed that a meeting take place with the Parish Council to discuss the lease in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

## PLANNING

**Chignal Hall Farm** – siting of 4 storage containers for Young Farms Annual Show – the application has been approved.

**Howletts Hall** – removal and replacement of 2 dormer windows etc. – the Parish Council will advise the City Council of its decision.

## LATE URGENT BUSINESS

**Noise from Scout Jamboree** – the City Council will be contacted to clarify the licensing laws given for the recent Jamboree.

It was reported that Delmas Ashford, a City Councillor and former Mayor, had died recently

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – the next meeting will be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2013 in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30 p.m.

# St. Nicholas' Church

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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO YOU ALL FROM ST NICHOLAS CHURCH.

WELCOME TO THE CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> of December at 3pm.

UNITED VILLAGE.

CAROL SERVICE.

John , Bishop of Bradwell.

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> of December at 3pm.

CHILDREN'S CRIB SERVICE.

Dr.Diana Garfield Ph.D.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> of December at 9am.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION.

Mrs Rose Bradbury



N.B. There will be no service on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> of December

A very big thank you to all who helped or contributed to our harvest celebrations. The church looked beautiful. Approximately 40lbs of lentils plus a donation of money to cover transport costs was sent to Eastern Europe via Harvest for the Hungry, some other items of food were given to Age Concern.

Wishing you all peace and joy this Christmas time.  
Tony Towns (church warden 440241).

Sunday worship 11am as from January 6<sup>th</sup> everybody welcome.

You are welcome to join to us to decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 10 am. Your help would be appreciated.



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